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**FORMER VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN HOLDS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN  
EVENT AT LOS ANGELES TRADE-TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

Former Vice President Joe Biden held a presidential campaign event at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College on Thursday, November 14, pledging to potential voters that he was the best choice to bring the country together with a focus on supporting the country's immigrants, especially Dreamers; addressing climate change; as well as ensuring that community colleges, such as Trade-Tech, receive the necessary support and funding to best educate students.

Biden, a front runner to be the Democratic nominee for the presidency, said that, if elected, on the first day of his administration he would make clear that students who are recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, or Dreamers, would be guaranteed a pathway to citizenship.

The former Vice President in the Obama Administration also noted that the climate crisis is the single most consequential thing facing America and that the way it is addressed currently can be changed overnight and in doing so can result in the creation of a wealth of well-paying jobs.

"If we don't bring the country together, we are in real trouble because it just means that all power moves to the executive branch," Biden said. "And I have a pretty good record of bringing people together."

Biden received strong support from the crowd of several hundred people who attended the rally on Trade-Tech's campus for his proposals that would boost education at community colleges.

"You are at a community college, and it should be free. I always tell you how I'd pay for things, it would cost \$6 billion a year to make sure that everyone qualifies for community college," Biden said. "If you eliminate one tax loophole called stepped-up basis, every single solitary person who qualifies for community college can attend community college for free."

Andra Hoffman, Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees President, said Biden's awareness of and support for the important role of community colleges has been made clear in the positions he has taken on issues important to the District and its nine colleges.

"Just last month, (Biden) released a plan for post-secondary education that reflects a depth of awareness of the issues we face and the important role community colleges play in the system of higher education," Hoffman said. "It is a plan that would make a free community college education available to every student, including undocumented and part-time students."

## Joe Biden visits Trade-Tech

This past October, Biden announced a \$750 billion plan of which making community college free was the main goal and detailed a pathway for students to get ready for the workplace with a two-year degree or industry certification. Biden's proposal also includes introducing a new grant program to assist community colleges in improving student success; making a \$50 billion investment in workforce training, including community-college business partnerships and apprenticeships; investing \$8 billion to help community colleges improve the health and safety of their facilities; and equipping them with new technology that will empower students to succeed in the 21st Century.

"We appreciate Vice President Biden visiting L.A. Trade-Tech today to underscore the important role that community colleges and workforce development play to sustain the economic vitality of this country," said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. "For several years, the vice president and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, have been strong supporters of tuition-free community colleges and today California offers all its residents two years of tuition-free education."

In 2015, President Obama supported a tuition-free community college education in his "America's College Promise Proposal." The idea has been modeled throughout the country, including in LACCD.

In September 2016, Biden's wife, Dr. Jill Biden, took part in the kickoff to LACCD's L.A. College Promise campaign. The L.A. College Promise initially provided one year of free tuition to all full-time students graduating from Los Angeles Unified School District schools. The program helped spur state legislation that now provides two years of free college to first-time, full-time college students. The legislation was signed into law by former Governor Jerry Brown, and, this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom funded a second year.

In LACCD, the Promise Program also provides students with priority enrollment, placement in math and English courses required to succeed in college, as well as career support and counseling.

Prior to introducing Hoffman, Nia Smith, a Trade-Tech student studying architecture, emphasized the work of LACCD students in recent years raising concerns about college affordability, food and housing insecurity, as well as environmental sustainability. She also highlighted that all nine of the colleges in LACCD would have polling centers on their campuses during next November's election to empower students to participate in the democratic process and to make sure that the issues that they care about are heard and that the policies they inherit will lead our nation in the best possible direction.

"Only three years ago Dr. Jill Biden joined our Chancellor and Board of Trustees to launch the L.A. College Promise Program and brought a tuition-free education to Los Angeles," Smith said. "It is bold ideas like this that will help move our country forward. It is bold ideas like this that will allow us to tackle the complicated issues of climate change, gun violence and ensuring that all in our country have their basic needs met."



**About the Los Angeles Community College District**

LACCD ([www.laccd.edu](http://www.laccd.edu)) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd>, @laccd, and Instagram, [https://www.instagram.com/laccd\\_edu/](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/), @laccd\_edu.

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