



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Media Contact: David Ysais, Public Relations Manager | ysaisdp@latcc.edu

BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE; NEW OFFICERS SELECTED FOR 2021

LOS ANGELES—Newly elected and re-elected members of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees took the Oath of Office Wednesday during a ceremonial opening to the Board’s meeting December 16, 2020. The meeting also served as the Board’s annual organization for selection of Board officers for the coming year.

“We come to this meeting with new leadership and new expectations to continue the important mission of the District at a time of great uncertainty; a devastating pandemic and terrible economic losses,” said Trustee [Steven Veres](#), who was elected by the Board to be the new Board President. “I am honored that my Board colleagues have entrusted me to be next Board President and I will work hard to ensure our voice, and our needs, are heard at the federal, state and local levels in order to serve our students while providing our faculty and staff with the resources to be successful.”

The Oath of Office was conducted for newly elected Trustee [Nichelle Henderson](#), Board Seat 5; and re-elected Trustees [Andra Hoffman](#), Seat One; [David Vela](#), Seat Three and [Mike Fong](#), Seat Seven. The four trustees were each elected to four-year terms. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti administered the oath to Hoffman and Fong. California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara did the same for Vela while Henderson’s husband, Mark Henderson, who serves as Mayor Pro Tem for Gardena, did the swearing-in honors for the Board’s newest Trustee. Trustee Hoffman was recognized for her leadership as Board president for the past 17 months, navigating unprecedented challenges in the district’s delivery of unmatched education. Re-elected Trustees Vela and Fong also expressed their commitment to student success, and a district which provides equitable pathways for all students.

Trustee Henderson said she was grateful to the support and encouragement from the District’s faculty in seeking election. Ms. Henderson said she wants to focus on elevating educational access for Los Angeles’ Black community and for all underserved people of color.

“I want to put the community back into the L.A. Community College District,” Henderson said. “The clarion calls for racial equality and social justice have never been louder or more important than they are today. We must take a hard look at what the District does and how it does it to achieve equality and social justice in education for all,” Henderson said.

Henderson is a college faculty and union organizer and a strong advocate for education, labor, women’s reproductive health and political empowerment. She is currently employed at California State University, Los Angeles, where she is a Faculty Advisor and Clinical Field Supervisor with the CSULA teacher preparation program to support new and pre-service teacher candidates seeking multi-subject teaching credentials.

In addition to President Veres, the Board selected Trustee [Gabriel Buelna](#), Ph.D., to serve as Vice President and David Vela as the Board’s Second Vice President. Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., congratulated all of the trustees for their elective accomplishments.

“We have an excellent complement of Trustees, who each will bring their passion, intelligence and skills to the Board. I am energized, full of hope and have confidence that this Board will work extremely well together to position our future at LACCD,” Rodriguez said.

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The LACCD colleges include: [Los Angeles City College](#); [East Los Angeles College](#); [Los Angeles Harbor College](#); [Los Angeles Mission College](#); [Los Angeles Pierce College](#); [Los Angeles Southwest College](#); [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#); [Los Angeles Valley College](#) and [West Los Angeles College](#).

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (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, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

Members of the Board

Steven F. Veres, President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D., 1st Vice President | David Vela, 2nd Vice President
Mike Fong | Nichelle Henderson | Andra Hoffman | Ernest H. Moreno | Elias Geronimo, Student Trustee