



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Los Angeles Community College Delegation
Advocates for Legislative Priorities to Support Student Success**

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) traveled to Sacramento earlier this week to participate in the Community College League of California's (CCLC) annual legislative conference and advocacy day. LACCD's delegation included Board Vice President Trustee Mike Fong, Trustee Steve Veres, Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, and students from three of the nine colleges.

"The Los Angeles community colleges are proud to stand with our colleagues across the state to advocate for our shared legislative priorities," said Sydney Kamlager-Dove, President of LACCD's Board of Trustees. "California's community colleges make up the nation's largest higher education system and the largest provider of workforce training in the country. We want to ensure that our legislators understand the transformative roles that many of our schools play in their local communities."

The delegation met with 35 legislative offices as well as the Governor's office to discuss LACCD's 2018 legislative priorities. This year the District will advocate for streamlining the Community College application process, extend the Cal Grant program eligibility from four to six years, and will fight for establishment of a "work-study look alike" program for undocumented students. "Community colleges provide affordable pathways to a higher education, workforce development, and economic empowerment for some of the most vulnerable communities in California," said Mike Fong, Vice President of LACCD's Board of Trustees "Every public dollar invested in community colleges provides a significant return for our students and our state. When we talk to our legislators about our budget priorities, we're talking about how we can help more Californians gain access to these life-changing educational opportunities."

"Community colleges are on the front lines of addressing some of our nation's greatest challenges, from the growing student debt crisis to the need to retrain our workforce for a rapidly changing economy," said Trustee Steve Veres. "Last year, our legislative leaders made a bold investment in our state's future by providing a free year of higher education through the California Community College Promise program. We met with them this week to reinforce the importance of funding that commitment." Governor Jerry Brown allocated \$46 million in the 2018-19 Budget for implementation of the California College Promise program. LACCD currently has 4,099 LAUSD graduates enrolled in the Los Angeles College Promise program. Now, the District will be able to offer this program to high school graduates from all other school districts.

The delegation had sit-down meetings with Senate Pro-Tem Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles) and with Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Los Angeles). "The most important voices in all of our advocacy meetings are those of our students," said LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Ph.D. "By sharing their own personal stories and struggles, they are helping to reshape the conversation in the Capitol. When they ask legislators to fully fund the Community College Promise or extend Cal Grant eligibility, they are discussing policies that will have a very real and immediate impact on their own lives and the lives of their classmates."

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

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