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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESIDENT OBAMA STRESSES JOB TRAINING IN APPEARANCE AT TRADE TECH



Barack Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Los Angeles Trade Tech College Thursday, speaking about the importance of job training in front of a crowd of approximately 2,000.

“This is a school that does good work helping the unemployed retrain for new careers,” President Obama said. “Today, I’m here to focus on the one thing we should be doing which is training more Americans to fill the jobs we are creating. Right now, there are more job

openings in America than at any time since 2007.”

A strong advocate for community colleges since entering the White House, Obama pointed out that Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, teaches at a community college. Obama also told the story of a woman working as a waitress who enrolled in a community college and, today, is an accountant.

“I’m always impressed by people who have the courage to go back to school, especially later in life,” Obama said.

Three days ago, he signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. “It can help,” he said, “communities update and invest in job training programs like these (at Trade Tech).”

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“Our strength in the Los Angeles Community College District,” said LACCD Board of Trustees president Scott Svonkin, “is our ability to connect business and industry, no matter the sector. Both can bring employers to the table to help develop course curriculum, tell us the skills that are needed in the future, and support internships and work-based learning. All these elements are in alignment with President Obama’s opportunity agenda.”

Late last year, Trade Tech was the recipient of a \$19.2 million grant from the Dept. of Labor that focuses on healthcare and involves all nine LACCD colleges in collaboration with major hospitals and other healthcare providers.

“The president’s appearance is a testament to community colleges as places where jobs can happen,” said Svonkin. “His appearance is also a tribute to our faculty and staff who work so hard to turn people lives around and make dreams come true.”

“I am living proof that you can do anything you want with hard work and determination. You can go from being a high school dropout to being president of the board of the largest community college system in the nation.”

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.