



**LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**Library and Academic Resource Center**



MEDIA RELEASE  
October 27, 2014

CONTACT: Glenn Gritzner - (310) 923-1551  
Coby King - (310) 489-3280

## Los Angeles Valley College Celebrates Groundbreaking of New Student Union

*New 41,000 square foot Student Union features a state-of-the art library, plus a variety of new facilities to promote learning, and is built to high sustainability standards*

October 27, 2014 (Valley Glen, California) – Los Angeles Valley College today celebrated the groundbreaking of the college's new Student Union, which will bring together student-centered services and feature a new student gathering places. The Student Union is built to high sustainability standards, and is expected to receive Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification.

"As a former community college student, I know how important it is to have a central gathering place for students, where they can develop leadership through participation in school clubs and other activities and take advantage of the college's student services," said Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin. "Student success starts in the class room and continues in the library and then increases when students work together in groups like the student government activities in which I participated. Our number one priority is our students, and today's groundbreaking shows that our building program is making sure they have all the services and experiences to achieve their dreams."

Located at the heart of the Valley Glen campus on the site of the former cafeteria, the 41,000-square-foot Student Union will house a cafeteria, campus bookstore, student health center, business office, and the Associated Student Union (ASU) offices. It will also be home to the new Lion's Den, a dedicated space for students to gather and relax between classes, as well as a coffee bar.

"Our new student union will be the beating heart of Valley College, where students will be able to gather and take advantage of a full college experience," said Dr. Erika Endrijonas, president of Valley College. "This new facility will continue Valley's modernization thanks to the LACCD Building Program, and will preserve Valley's reputation as one of the top community colleges in Southern California."

One of the highlights of the new Student Union will be a unique "skybox" feature with panoramic views of the campus from the outdoor patio and walkway, with sheltered seating underneath for student

gatherings. In addition, the new cafeteria dining area opens up to the covered outdoor patio that can be used as a student event plaza. The building is expected to be completed in 2015.

The new building is being paid for with funding approved by voters as part of the \$6 billion Los Angeles Community College Building Program. Valley is one of nine colleges that make up the LACCD. Valley College is in the midst of a \$612 million program to renovate, modernize, and expand the campus to better serve the San Fernando Valley and all of Los Angeles.

#### **About Los Angeles Valley College**

Los Angeles Valley College has met the educational needs of the San Fernando Valley since 1949 by offering courses for transferring to a four-year university, career training and lifelong learning. The college has nearly 200 full-time faculty and more than 400 part-time instructors who serve more than 20,000 students.

Most Valley College students come from Van Nuys, North Hollywood, Valley Village, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino, Lake Balboa, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley and Burbank.

#### **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.

#### **About the LACCD Building Program**

LACCD's Building Program is a 15-year, \$6 billion program funded mostly by taxpayer-approved bonds, supplemented by additional funding from the state of California. With more than \$4 billion spent so far, the LACCD's nine colleges are benefiting from brand new and renovated academic buildings, sports facilities, arts complexes, administrative buildings, child development centers, and parking structures. The Building Program has completed hundreds of separate projects, with hundreds more in the planning or construction stages. For more information on the LACCD's construction program and a list of awards the District has received for its environmentally responsible projects, visit [www.laccdbuildsgreen.org](http://www.laccdbuildsgreen.org).

###