



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 30, 2023

News Media Contacts:

Maria Luisa Veloz, LACCD Legislative and Government Affairs Officer, (213) 431-7337, VelozML@laccd.edu

LACCD Applauds Ongoing Funding to Support Critical Services for LGBTQ+ Community College Students

LOS ANGELES (August 30, 2023) – The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) applauded Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus for funding support services for LGBTQ+ community college students. Through the LACCD-sponsored budget request, community colleges will receive \$10 million through the Budget Act of 2023 (AB 102), signed in July. In addition, they will receive ongoing funding for three years for a total of \$30 million to support LGBTQ+ students.

Community college districts across the state currently serve a significant population of LGBTQ+ students, and several districts have set aside general funds, Equity Funding, or philanthropic funds to provide much-needed wrap-around services, safe spaces, and other supports for LGBTQ+ students.

“LACCD applauds the leadership of Governor Newsom and the LGBTQ Caucus to ensure that vulnerable students have access to the services and the support they need,” said LACCD Board President David Vela. “LGBTQ+ students are an essential part of the fabric of our student community and deserve an opportunity to have a rewarding and fulfilling educational experience.”

“The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus is deeply committed to making sure all students feel a sense of belonging and pride when on their school campuses. One of the most effective ways to do that is by investing in our community college system, the largest system of higher education in the country. This ongoing funding will go a long way to uplifting LGBTQ+ students across California, especially in our more rural areas to be seen, valued, and empowered on their campus, said the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus Representative.”

Under the program:

- Funding would be allocated on a sliding scale based on the size of the college;
- Funds would be allocated with equity metrics in mind, meaning that funding would have to go to both urban and rural community colleges;

- As a condition to receive the funds, districts would have to demonstrate best practices that have shown success in serving the LGBTQ community with the first round of funding from 2021-22; and
- Colleges would be required to report on the uses of the funds and outcomes after the funds had been fully expended.

LACCD sponsored the 2021-22 California state budget request that provided \$10 million in one-time funding to support vital services for LGBTQ+ students.

"This proposal would make the initial investment of \$10 million for LGBTQ+ funding ongoing. LGBTQ+ students are often some of the most marginalized on community college campuses," said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. "These funds will allow colleges to create "Pride Centers" and other safe spaces and learning communities so that LGBTQ students can feel more connected to their respective campuses and each other."

With districts having exhausted the initial funding that made a difference on campuses, this proposal would provide \$10 million in ongoing Proposition 98 funding to community colleges across the state to bolster and support established programming for LGBTQ+ students. The funds will bolster pride events such as "Lavender Graduations" that some districts – including LACCD – conduct or promote LGBTQ Month. Other proven methods of successful support services for the LGBTQ+ community would also be authorized.

###

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 200,000 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 provided an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while 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, [@laccd](https://twitter.com/laccd) and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.