

# EDUCATION MATTERS ADVOCACY BRIEF

## 2024 LACCD FALL UPDATE



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
CITY / EAST / HARBOR / MISSION / PIERCE / SOUTHWEST / TRADE-TECHNICAL / VALLEY / WEST



### A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR RODRIGUEZ

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support and leadership in advocating for landmark legislation transforming community college higher education across our state and nation. I am extremely proud that our work has centered on creating accessible pathways for all students, to achieve their dreams through higher education and ensuring the long-term success of our colleges.

This year, the Los Angeles Community College District sponsored four groundbreaking legislative initiatives, including AB 2093 (Santiago), AB 2931 (Fong), AB 3142 (Jones-Sawyer), and SB 895 (Roth), which we have co-sponsored with the United Nurses Associations of California (UNAC) and several private, non-profit organizations and other community college districts. Despite three bills being returned without a signature, our advocacy represents a commitment and a step forward in empowering our next generation of leaders. By investing in education, we have demonstrated a promise to a brighter future for students and the communities we serve. Your advocacy and partnership with the LACCD have set the foundation for equitable and affordable access to education, paving the way for innovation, workforce readiness, and lifelong learning opportunities for all. We look forward to continuing to collaborate as we strive to make higher education more inclusive and impactful for every student in our state.

Many of you may be aware that I have announced my retirement effective November 2, 2024. This decision comes from my need to focus on my family, especially to care for my aging parents. I am incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity to spend valuable time with them in the years ahead.

Serving as the LACCD Chancellor for the past 10 years has been the honor of a lifetime. Together, we have made strides in advancing access to quality education for all students, fulfilling our social justice and educational equity mission. I am confident that LACCD will remain committed to ensuring that our students—especially those from underserved backgrounds—are empowered to thrive and equipped with the knowledge and skills to build a brighter, more equitable future for themselves and their communities. As I step down, I do so with full confidence that LACCD will continue this important advocacy work with the same dedication and spirit of innovation that has always defined our District.

Thank you for being a part of this mission and for your invaluable partnership in this critical work. Your contributions have been instrumental in creating lasting change and impact that will be felt for years to come.

With my deepest respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Francisco C. Rodriguez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

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# I AM LACCD ADVOCACY



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Office of Legislative and Government Relations proudly presents [I am LACCD Advocacy](#), a powerful educational advocacy video that discusses a few LACCD legislative accomplishments from the student perspective. These videos are not only a testament to the impact of our advocacy work on the diverse Los Angeles Community College District student body, but they are also a reflection of our commitment to inspiring progressive change, increasing access to high-quality post-secondary education, and igniting a passion for learning across our communities.

We are delighted to share that these milestones were made possible through the leadership of the Board and current and former Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Chairs, including Board Vice President Kelsey Iino, Trustee David Vela, and former Trustee, now Assemblymember Mike Fong. We also want to emphasize the significant role of Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, whose unwavering support and substantial contributions have greatly benefitted LACCD and community college students statewide.

**Full Video Link (10:00):** <https://youtu.be/TP9ggaLcWks>

**LACCD Student Diversity and In-Language Bill (0:40):** <https://youtu.be/mtZIN5RLGGY>

**College Promise Highlight featuring East LA College Students (2:33):**

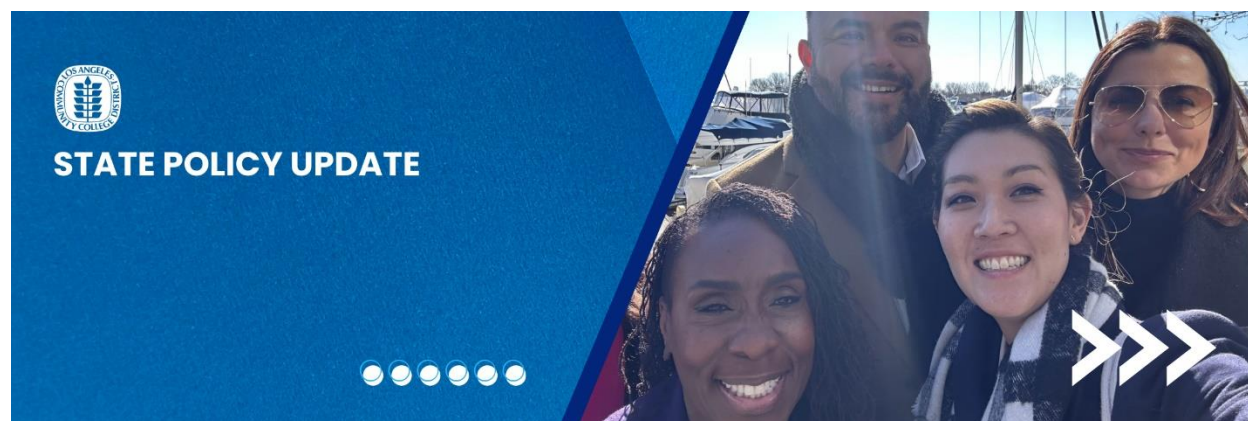
<https://youtu.be/4pEh9V918j8>

**Community College Baccalaureate Degrees Highlight featuring West LA College Students**

**(1:55):** <https://youtu.be/P6yYYRs6lO>

**Student Basic Needs Highlights featuring LA City College Students (3:46):**

<https://youtu.be/0Rs0UFbSwzM>



Every year LACCD advocates for state policies that ensure the District and its students thrive for the long term and are prepared to succeed in the workforce. With strong support from statewide partners in the State Legislature, LACCD and its advocacy team sponsored four bills designed to improve accessibility and equity in higher education. One bill this year was signed

into law.

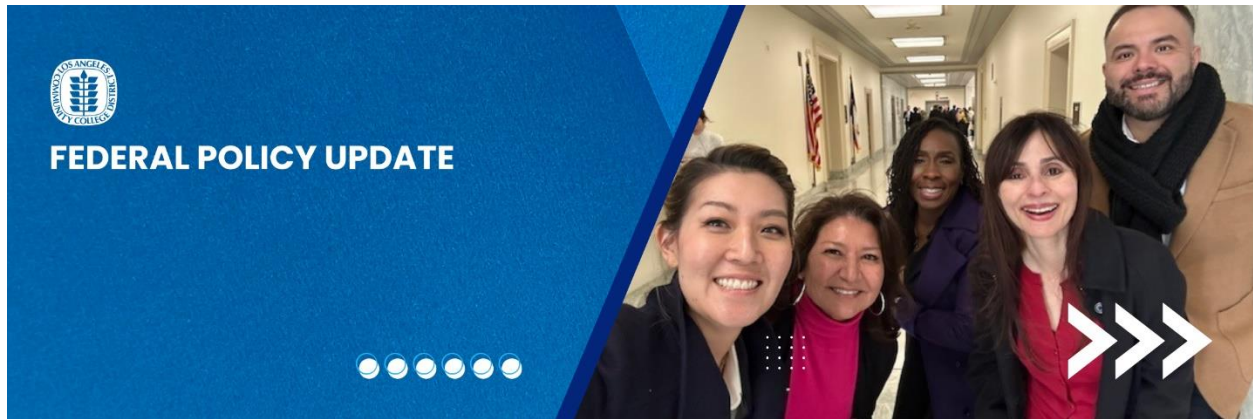
[Community College Part-time Student Tutors—AB 2931 \(Fong\)](#): This bill treats part-time students enrolled in merit districts like their full-time peers and simplifies their hiring process to work as part-time student tutors. It passed the Legislature on August 29, 2024, and it was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom. Amends Section 88076 of the Education Code, Chapter 422, Statutes of 2024, filed on September 22, 2024.

[Tuition-Free Community College Baccalaureate Degree—AB 2093 \(Santiago\)](#): This bill extends the California College Promise fee waiver by an additional two years for students enrolled full-time in a community college baccalaureate degree program, for four years of eligibility. It passed the Legislature on August 29, 2024, however, it was not approved by Governor Gavin Newsom.

[West Los Angeles College Climate Center – AB 3142 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#): This bill codifies the existing California Center for Climate Change at the West Los Angeles College in the Los Angeles Community College District and creates the California Mobile Unit for Climate Change Education to assist the Center in promoting hands-on learning opportunities throughout the region. This bill passed the Legislature on August 20, 2024, however, it was not approved by Governor Gavin Newsom.

[Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing—SB 895 \(Roth\)](#): This bill provides a significant step towards addressing the nursing shortage in California. It requires the California Community College (CCC) Chancellor's Office to establish a Community College Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program, authorizing 10 community college districts with nationally accredited nursing programs to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree. This bill passed the Legislature on August 29, 2024, however, it was not approved by Governor Gavin Newsom.

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LACCD also works closely with its advocates in the federal government, including both California Senators and multiple members of Congress, to ensure its campuses have facilities that support increased access and job-training opportunities for the economy of the future.



**Los Angeles Harbor College (LAHC) Community Engagement and Workforce Development Center:** U.S. Representative Nanette Barragán (D-CA-44) requested \$850,000 for the Los Angeles Harbor College Community Engagement Center to expand workforce opportunities for LAHC students. (Status TBD)



**Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) Pacoima Center Land Acquisition Project: U.S.**

Representative Tony Cárdenas (D-CA-29) requested \$2,000,000 to support the purchase of land acquisition to construct a parking structure adjacent to LAMC Pacoima Center. (Status TBD)



**Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) Community Engagement & Enrichment Center: U.S. Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA-32) requested \$850,000 for LAPC for the creation of a Community Engagement and Enrichment Center at the College Arboretum. (Status TBD)**



**Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis Recognizes Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-54) and Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez: On Tuesday, September 17th, 2024, Supervisor Hilda Solis honored Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-54) and Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez at the Los Angeles County Supervisors meeting two higher education leaders.**





## LACCD UNVEILS NEW USER-FRIENDLY WEBSITE



The Office of Legislative and Governmental Relations has been hard at work refreshing the Legislative and Public Affairs website page and outreach materials. We are proud to archive and showcase the significant achievements that the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and Board of Trustees have accomplished. We couldn't have done it without the support of our elected representatives, Chancellor, College Presidents, District employees, and individuals like you, who are interested in our work and play a crucial role in our advocacy efforts.

We invite you to visit the newly updated website page here:

<https://www.laccd.edu/offices/advocacy>



## L.A. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETINGS





On July 24, the Los Angeles County Community College Government Relations Officers held its inaugural meeting. The meeting was a resounding success, marking a significant step in fostering collaboration among Los Angeles County's 21 community colleges and advocacy partners. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss the exciting work we are all doing and to start envisioning ways we can support each other in future legislative years. The overwhelmingly positive outcomes of our discussions and the shared enthusiasm for our mission have set a promising tone for our future collaborations.

We were joined by Assemblymember Mike Fong (D-CA-49), Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, who expressed his strong support for our mission. We received a warm welcome to LACCD from Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez. A special thanks to Los Angeles Trade Technical College President, Alfred McQuarters for hosting us at the beautiful Culinary Building. We were also joined by Eric Robles, Political Director for UNAC, and Senator Richard Roth's staffers Mikaila Kruse and Rob Wilcox, who provided an update on SB 895 (Roth).



**A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF  
THE LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Dear valued advocates and supporters,

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated legislators and tireless advocates for their unwavering support of the Los Angeles Community College District and the students we serve. Your commitment to advancing access to quality education and your determination to get important legislation across the finish line has made a profound difference in our ability to uplift and empower our communities. Together, we are ensuring that higher

education remains a pathway to opportunity for all, and your efforts have been instrumental in this shared mission.

I also want to recognize and express deep gratitude to Chancellor Rodriguez, who will be retiring after ten years of outstanding service. Under his leadership, LACCD has made remarkable strides in supporting student success, expanding access, and improving equity across all nine of our campuses. His legacy will continue to inspire us as we move forward, and we thank him for his exceptional dedication to our students and our District.

With gratitude,



Kelsey Iino, Ed.D.

Board Vice President & Chair of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee  
Los Angeles Community College District

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#### **Members of the LACCD Board**

Nichelle Henderson, President | Kelsey K. Iino, Ed.D., 1st Vice President | Sara Hernandez, J.D., 2nd Vice President | Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. | Andra Hoffman | David Vela | Steven F. Veres | Ambyr Cynthia Baham, Student Trustee

#### **About the Los Angeles Community College District**

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD ([www.laccd.edu](http://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>, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> and Instagram, [https://www.instagram.com/laccd\\_edu/](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/).