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Los Angeles Community College District and Assemblymember Miguel Santiago to Hold Debt-Free College Enrollment Day in Koreatown

The groundbreaking program has been extended to all returning full-time students with the inclusion of AB 2266 (Santiago) in the 2022-23 State Budget

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) is teaming up with Assemblymember Miguel Santiago (D-53) to host a Debt-Free College Enrollment Day in Koreatown on Saturday, July 16, celebrating the inclusion of AB 2266 (Santiago) in the 2022-23 State Budget. The “Free Community College For All” bill extends the California College Promise program, allowing all returning full-time students to community colleges completely tuition-free.

“It is truly special seeing the program we have all worked so hard becoming a reality,” said Assemblymember Miguel Santiago. “Extending the California College Promise program to all full-time students will dramatically increase access to education for underserved students, and will help our state create a more equitable and dynamic economy.”

Saturday’s event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Koreatown Youth Community Center (KYCC), 3727 West 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020. Prospective students will be able to hear directly from Asm. Santiago, LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., and Mary Gallagher,

Ph.D., President of Los Angeles City College. There will also be stations and college staff available to assist prospective students to enroll in community college.

Launched in 2017, the Los Angeles College Promise (LACP) served an entering cohort of over 4,000 students. Since then, our program has enrolled more than 20,000 students. Over eighty percent (80%) of LACP students are low-income students of color, African American or Latino. Nearly eighty percent 80% of the students meet the income qualification for the California Promise Grant, and fifty-one percent (51%) are Pell grant recipients. Almost seventy-five (75%) of students persist to the next academic year, and a majority of those retain full-time enrollment status in their second year. In addition, we have seen an acceleration in passing college-level English and math, and a significant increase in two-year and three-year completions.

The Los Angeles College Promise was designed to increase college access, bolster equity, and increase student completion, and this has been proven true with significant strides in student performance since the start of the program. LACP includes benefits such as priority registration for classes; full-time enrollment; dedicated academic counseling support; additional financial support to assist with transportation, books, or food; a laptop and Wi-Fi connectivity; access to emergency aid funds; and a choice among hundreds of technical career certificates, Associate of Arts Degrees and Associate Degrees for Transfer. With the passage of this State Budget, these benefits are now offered to all returning full-time students. This program benefits students, the community, and the economy at large.

“This is a historic moment for our district, as the extension of LA College Promise helps us live up to our ideals of ensuring every Angeleno has access to quality education,” said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. “The District’s hard work advocating for equity has led us to this point, where we can provide a world-class education without making students take on increasingly expensive debt.”

The Legislature included \$25 million to expand the California College Promise Program in the FY 2022-23 State Budget Higher Education Trailer Bill signed by Governor Gavin Newsom last month, which also included several equity-first initiatives sponsored by LACCD.

“Higher education continues to be the greatest lever for economic and social mobility, especially for first-generation and lower-income college attendees,” said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “AB 2266 opens the door to numerous Californians with some college credit, but with no degree or

certificate so essential to compete in this economy. This forward-looking initiative extends the benefits from the very successful College Promise Program model to all full-time, returning students, improving access, equity, and college completion.”

A presentation on the popular transfer and certificate programs that Los Angeles City College (LACC) has to offer, assistance with the community college application process, financial aid application information, as well as other resources, will also be provided during the event.

“LACC has been a leader in providing college opportunity to so many Angelinos,” said Dr. Mary Gallagher, President, Los Angeles City College. “We continue our historical commitment to affordability by extending the College Promise Program model and we are proud to provide a pathway to higher education for all Californians.”

About Assemblymember Miguel Santiago

Assembly Member Miguel Santiago is the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization and Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Los Angeles County Homelessness. He also sits on the Assembly Committees on Public Safety, Health, Higher Education, and Utilities and Energy. He represents the 53rd District composed of the cities of Los Angeles, Huntington Park, and Vernon.

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 250,000 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 been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also 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.

About Koreatown Youth and Community Center

KYCC (Koreatown Youth and Community Center) was established in 1975 to support a growing population of at-risk youth in Los Angeles. Today, KYCC is

the leading multiservice organization in Koreatown, supporting children and their families in the areas of education, health, housing, and finances. We believe that if the family is healthy, our community will thrive. KYCC is committed to making Koreatown a safe and beautiful place to live and work. Visit us at www.kyccla.org.

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