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LACC AND UCLA TEAM TOGETHER TO STREAMLINE TRANSFER PATHWAY FOR MUSIC STUDENTS

February 21, 2019 - An agreement between Los Angeles City College (LACC) and the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will streamline the transfer pathway for music students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree at UCLA.

The agreement, which was celebrated Feb. 19 at the LACC music department's Herb Alpert Music Center, aims to insert more certainty into a process that can often be complicated and confusing for students and their families. The agreement identifies specific courses that LACC students will be required to complete before transferring to UCLA as well as UCLA's coursework and credit requirements. The arrangement also designates certain LACC faculty and advisers who will support students through the transfer process.

Community colleges are a vital building block of the U.S. higher education system, providing students with an affordable path to the expanded opportunities for learning, professional growth and economic mobility that four-year colleges and universities provide.

"The opportunity to transfer from LACC to UCLA has not only helped me become a better musician, but also a better human being," said Moses Aubrey, who earned a Herb Alpert School of Music LACC Transfer Scholarship and is now a fourth-year student at UCLA. "I know the lessons learned here will help toward my career goals."

At the ceremony, Aubrey, a bass player, gave a solo performance of classical works and one of his own compositions.

Karen Contreras, a UCLA undergraduate ethnomusicology student who transferred from LACC, said the partnership will give students like her a chance to focus on their crafts as they work to build a foundation for their careers in music.

"The time I spent at LACC allowed me the freedom to discover my musical and creative interests, and UCLA has provided me with the opportunity to live on campus and dedicate my time to my musical studies," Contreras said.

Supporting students like Aubrey and Contreras is of special importance to Herb Alpert, who has been a generous supporter of both UCLA and LACC and is a longtime advocate for supporting music scholars and future music professionals. In concert with the new partnership, the Herb Alpert Foundation renewed its annual gift of \$200,000 for scholarships to the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and added \$50,000 per year specifically to support music students transferring from LACC to UCLA.

“I love that LACC has helped so many low-income students who, despite their financial challenges, have succeeded in maintaining a strong commitment to education and to self-improvement,” Alpert said. “And it’s great to know that UCLA and LACC are now working together to give these hardworking students a chance to continue their education at UCLA, which will have an immeasurable impact on their futures.”

Building and serving a diverse student community that embraces transfer students is also a priority for Eileen Stempel, dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, whose research on transfer students is nationally recognized. Stempel is devoted to expanding access to higher education for students from traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities.

“We must strive to provide visible and viable pathways forward for community college students like Moses and Karen,” Stempel said. “Our community colleges serve a diverse population, and public institutions like UCLA have a special role to play in assuring that the musicians, scholars, music educators and music industry players of tomorrow look more like our communities in Los Angeles. We must strive to be elite without being elitist.”

“This agreement enables our students easy access to a streamlined transfer pathway enabling them to achieve their dream of attending UCLA as a music major,” said Dr. Mary Gallagher, President of Los Angeles City College.

Christine Park, professor and music department chair at LACC, said the partnership will enable her students to save both time and money while also maintaining momentum toward their degrees.

“Community college students often face a variety of obstacles that delay or prevent them from attaining their degrees,” Park said. “With this partnership in place, students will know exactly what is required for them and will be prepared to be competitive with their peers for admission into UCLA’s program.”

About Los Angeles City College

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs, and certificates to more than 18,000 students. In the past decade, a total of 6,651 students have transferred to four-year colleges and universities, including 4,040 students attending Cal State universities and 1,086 students transferring to UC campuses. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of

state and private colleges. Ranked in the top three Best Southern California Community Colleges by *USA Today News*, LACC provides students and adult learners vital pathways to more advanced education and enhanced employment. During 2019, LACC celebrated its 90th anniversary.

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