

## Program Highlights

May 2015

### LACCD Leadership

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### BuildLACCD

Terri Mestas

*Director, Program Management  
Office*



### Steve Veres to retire from LACCD



Vice President Steve Veres

When I was first elected in 2011 to serve on the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees, the

District was at a crossroads. The District was in the middle of the largest community college construction bond program in the country and needed a unifying voice to guide it through the remainder of the program. Today, I am very proud to say that I leave a much more open, transparent and responsive District.

During my tenure, we implemented clear procedures that have brought about fiscal accountability, promoted transparency, and cleaned up the district's construction problems. Now, the LA Community College District has balanced its budget, improved bond ratings, and expanded critical job training programs. Our construction bond program has incorporated recommendations that have resulted in putting the program on track to finish construction by the end of 2018.

During my tenure as President of the Board in 2012 and subsequently as chair of the Board's Facilities Master Planning and Oversight Committee,

I shared a vision of non-complacency and a commitment to strive for continuous improvement in all functions of the LACCD. Although we have had our growing pains, the District has been rewarded by having our bond rating increased and having each of our colleges receive a full and clear accreditation.

Our District is now better prepared to meet the needs of our changing student demographics. We now offer more classes and certificates in Dental and Nursing, Green Technology and Film/Television industries than ever before – all in state-of-the-art facilities that are the envy of four-year colleges. Our students, faculty and residents are entitled to the very best college experience that will provide an excellent education not only for students entering the workforce for the first time but also for the thousands of workers that will need to add skills or training to meet the needs of tomorrow's job market. I have been very fortunate to have been part of LACCD's educational renaissance.

Thank you.

## AECOM CEO Visits ELAC

On May 27, 2015, Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin, Trustees Mike Eng and Mike Fong, and East LA College (ELAC) President Marvin Martinez welcomed AECOM President and CEO Michael Burke to ELAC for a tour and briefing on the progress of bond-funded projects. The construction projects at ELAC are part of the \$6.2 billion BuildLACCD construction bond managed by AECOM. ELAC, one of nine colleges in the LACCD, is in the last third of its construction program. The BuildLACCD projects represent the largest campus construction program since the school was relocated to its present site in 1948.

East Los Angeles College has a multicultural, international student body and serves 14 communities in its primary service area. The 82-acre campus is located 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, in suburban



**AECOM President and CEO Michael Burke overlooking the future ELAC Student Success and Retention Center.**

“The purpose of this tour was to demonstrate how the work that AECOM, through its program management contract, impacts the lives of thousands of students, faculty and neighbors touched by the BuildLACCD program at ELAC.” said Svonkin.

The tour began with a quick safety moment that highlighted the potential hazards of entering an active construction area. From there, participants were escorted to view completed and in-construction projects. Highlights of the tour included stops at the Theatre Arts Building (completed), Science Career & Mathematics Complex (in construction), the Student Success and Retention Center (in construction) and the Campus Bookstore (in construction). The tour concluded with a brief stop at Bailey Library (completed) before returning to the Administration Building.

“It was a pleasure to join our clients and colleagues on a tour of East Los Angeles College,” Burke said. “What brought the project to life for me was meeting the students, and hearing them talk about the difference that attending college will mean in their lives. It makes me proud to see how AECOM is contributing to Los Angeles in a very meaningful way.”

Thanks to the voters of Los Angeles and their passage of Propositions A, AA and Measure J, the ELAC campus is transforming into a 21st Century state-of-the-art educational institution.



**(L to R) Trustee President Scott Svonkin and AECOM President and CEO Michael Burke**

Monterey Park. For more than 70 years, the campus has accommodated its educational needs with a mixture of permanent and temporary buildings. Many of the structures are more than 40-years-old, requiring extensive routine and deferred maintenance.



Director's Corner



PMO Director Terri Mestas

Despite droughts, time constraints and the ever looming DSA plan check, I am very happy and proud to report that the

BuildLACCD program is in full forward progress and we are on track to hit our goal of completion of the majority of our projects by the end of 2018. Over the past 25 months, we have seen many changes to the overall structure of the program management office. Although we had some detractors that said the status quo could not be changed, our entire team pulled together to put our plan in action and make this program the best it has been in the history of this bond pro-

gram. We have had many “program firsts” in the last 2 years such as key performance indicators to track performance, internal audits, quality and risk program, web-based comprehensive standard operating procedures and one of the most important Strategic Execution Plans for each of the colleges and our central accounts that align to the funds remaining. We just completed the eighth Boot Camp wave and all of our team, both at the campuses and at the PMO, have received the same training that is essential to working as one team going in the same direction. However, the changes don't stop there. Because of our hard work, Wall Street has raised the District's bond rating making an investment in LACCD a safe and lucrative

opportunity. All of the colleges have received their accreditation and the District received approval to offer a Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene thanks, in part, to the new state of the art dental lab at West Los Angeles College. Long are the days were audits were a source of trepidation. We work in tandem with our external auditors because we are now able to demonstrate the much needed processes and procedures across the large program. This success is due, not to a handful of individuals but to the entire team. Thank you for your countless sacrifices and attention to detail.

HOORAH Builders!

Los Angeles City College Celebrates Opening of Kinesiology Building

May 13, 2015 (Los Angeles, California) – Los Angeles City College celebrated the opening of the college's new Kinesiology Building, a beautiful physical education facility that houses a gymnasium, a fitness center, a pool, a judo room, classrooms, offices, locker rooms, and a training room. The celebration was attended by three members of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees and two members of the Los Angeles City Council, among other dignitaries.

“As the son of a junior high school physical education coach, I understand the importance of physical fitness and taking care of one's body as well as the mind, which is why it's such a thrill to see students practicing judo, self-defense and dance in this new facility,” said Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin. “This

facility is a resource for not only our students, but also faculty, staff, and the community around City College.”

The 40,000-square-foot, two-story, \$26 million facility is the new home of City College's Kinesiology Department. The building expects to be certified LEED™ Silver for environmental design.

“Our new Kinesiology Building is the result of a great collaborative effort among faculty, students, and the construction team,” said Renee Martinez, president of City College. “This project is just one of many that are remaking and modernizing City College to serve the needs of our communities.”

“This building is yet another resource serving the City College community,



(L to R) Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Prof. Aykanush Gevanyan, Prof. Dan Cogwill, LACC President Renee Martinez, Trustee Mona Field, Trustee President Scott Svonkin, LA Councilman Tom

one of the most diverse in the nation,” said Tom LaBonge, a member of the Los Angeles City Council and a City College graduate, as he presented a loaf of his famous pumpkin bread. “Special thanks to Los Angeles

## Los Angeles City College (continued from Page 3)

voters for approving the bonds that have helped today's celebration become a reality."

"Los Angeles City College and the other eight member colleges of the Los



**LACC students practicing Judo in new Kinesiology Building.**

Angeles Community College District are truly the Ellis Islands of our time, because from here you can go anywhere," said Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, chancellor of LACCD. "First responders, including fire fighters

## LACCD Receives a \$15 M Grant

The Los Angeles Community College District has received a \$15 million grant, a portion of \$244 million awarded by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to 40 programs that blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields such as information technology, advanced manufacturing, health care and software development.

"This grant is a win-win-win for the students, the employers, and our colleges because we know that when we work together to create career pathways, the economy grows and the whole community benefits" said LACCD Trustee Mike Eng, who

chaired the Board committees having oversight over the District's application process.

The grants are provided through the California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT), the largest program of its kind in the nation. It is providing nearly \$500 million in career tech grants over a two-year period.

"This project has helped elevate the District's visibility as a major unifying mechanism for higher education, workforce development and local government," said LACCD Board of Trustees President Scott Svonkin. "The project is very timely because it includes resources that will make systemic enhancements such as work-based learning and dual/concurrent enrollment. The fact that it includes a very robust list of corporate partners is very telling, clearly demonstrating how educators are recognizing the importance of working closer with business and industry. We are very fortunate that the California Department of Education has recognized the project's strength and capacity to make a positive difference in the lives of so many students."

Preparing LACCD students to enter the workforce is nothing new for the District. At the direction of the Board of Trustees the BuildLACCD program has been able to implement several programs that have benefitted the local workforce. First and foremost is one of the most comprehensive project labor agreements (PLA) in the country. The PLA ensures labor harmony during the construction program by establishing labor policies for the employment of construction workers on the projects. An important objective of the PLA is to provide the framework for BuildLACCD's Community Economic Development Program, which includes a 30 percent local worker participation goal and a commitment to



**Instructor John Olszewski, with a student from the Carpentry, Youth Build, FED OSHA program.**

provide Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTTC) students and graduates with opportunities to enter union apprenticeship programs and work on District construction projects

The BuildLACCD also has a college internship program to place students with business partners throughout the district and a program to help military veterans enter construction careers.

"The Board has made it a priority to have tax payer bond dollars stay in the local communities we serve. We will continue to work with the trade unions and our faculty to develop a pathway to apprenticeship programs and sustainable careers in the construction fields and beyond," said Svonkin.

Implementing the program will be the Los Angeles Regional Career Pathways Project, one of the largest collaborative models in California. It unites community colleges, high schools, unified school districts, labor unions, workforce investment boards, and industry-specific employers.

"This state investment in building human capital incentivizes collaboration and innovation, and allows our nine community colleges to serve as a bridge between students at our local school districts and the workplace," said Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, LACCD chancellor.