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Los Angeles Community Colleges' Accreditation Status Reaffirmed
WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE RECEIVED 9 COMMENDATIONS

The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) received formal notice from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that eight of its nine colleges received reaffirmation of their accreditation status based on a comprehensive evaluation. One college was issued an accreditation sanction and remains accredited. All nine colleges went through a week-long formal accreditation review process this past March.

LACCD colleges that received reaffirmation are: Los Angeles City College, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles Harbor College in San Pedro, Los Angeles Mission College in Sylmar, Los Angeles Pierce College in Woodland Hills, Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Los Angeles Valley College in Valley Glen, and West Los Angeles College in Culver City. Los Angeles Southwest College received a Warning sanction, though it remains open and fully-accredited during the process to address the recommendations. A Warning is issued when the commission finds that a college deviates from the accreditation standards.

“Each of our nine colleges are fully committed to meeting the high standards for institutional performance and view the accrediting process as an opportunity to affirm what is working well and to improve where necessary,” said Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., Chancellor for LACCD. “Our accreditation is fundamental to providing public assurance of quality instruction and support services so our students may pursue and achieve their educational goals. Being accredited also means our students can receive federal financial aid and veteran benefits and be assured their course work will be accepted when they transfer or enter the workforce.”

There were a number of commendations noted by the visiting teams at each college ranging from the commitment to student success and sense of community to new, innovative facility designs and resource conservation efforts. The district received commendations including forward-looking efforts in professional development of staff, effective use of technology, excellent internal audit functions and maintaining an environment of continuous quality improvement.

WEST RECEIVED NINE COMMENDATIONS INCLUDING:

- Praise for “broad publication of its mission to the campus community. Of note are the numerous art displays and posters that support the mission by showcasing students and programs that emphasize the transformative focus of the mission. In addition, WLAC routinely emails students, linking them to YouTube videos that profile successful students. WLAC should be commended for the work of the Digital Design Studio, which includes creation of

these YouTube videos supporting student learning and enhancing achievement of the mission.”

- Commended “for building a support framework of resources to move the College into the next level of student learning outcome assessment (SOLA). This includes providing release time for a faculty SLOA Coordinator, stipends for facilitators, a half time SOLA researcher, and oversight of an academic dean. The Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment team provides college-wide support for implementation of a new management system to improve assessment and to increase department and college-wide dialogue for continuous quality improvement.”
- Commended for developing ten accelerated transfer pathway programs to guarantee acceptance into Cal State Dominguez Hills. The structured two-year curriculum (along with the boot camp and non-credit enhanced support courses) allows students to complete the Associate in Arts degrees while simultaneously fulfilling requirements for transfer to UC and CSU campuses.”

This was an historic event for the district on several fronts: LACCD is the first multi-college district to be reviewed under the new ACCJC standards, this was the first time all nine colleges simultaneously underwent the accreditation reaffirmation process, and the LACCD office was also reviewed comprehensively as part of the process. Ten separate visiting teams consisting of more than 100 community college educators and administrators from throughout California and the Pacific region took part in the accreditation review. ■

About the Los Angeles Community College District

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation’s largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region’s diverse workforce since 1969.

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