



LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-PRESIDENT

DATE: February 17, 2015

TO: Trustees

FROM: Eloy O. Oakley, Superintendent-President

SUBJECT: Midyear Evaluation - Board Meeting 2/24/15

The 2014-2015 academic year began with several major challenges pending. The accreditation site evaluation team came to the college to review our Self-Evaluation Report and the college faced ongoing contract negotiations with the full-time faculty and the classified staff. In addition, the college district had welcomed two newly elected trustees and went through the appointment process to select a third. Re-elected Board President Kellogg and Board Vice President Otto were the only two remaining trustees from the previous academic year. This transition presented both opportunities and challenges. In addition, the college welcomed 55 new full-time faculty members to the college and responded to student demand and increased funding by publishing a class schedule that provided for increased course offerings and four terms - fall, winter, spring and summer. Furthermore, the college's construction program continued to move forward with the groundbreaking of the C Building, the opening of the AA, BB, DD, EE Buildings and significant progress of the Math & Culinary Arts Building. These projects are tied to my performance goals.

The college successfully navigated the accreditation process despite concerns raised about employee morale and Student Learning Outcomes. In February, the college received notification that its accreditation had been reaffirmed with no sanctions imposed. This fulfilled one of my performance goals for the year. Our accreditation was reaffirmed despite several challenges from members of the college and miscommunication from a governing board member. Leaders of the CCA and AFT bargaining units refused to sign the accreditation Self-Study Report. Those leaders were part of the self-study coordinating team from the very beginning, but when it was time to sign the report they refused. They used the self-study as a tool in negotiations. Complicating matters, the site evaluation team expressed concern that a governing board member had made remarks that the college district did not conduct a proper board member orientation and that the college leadership was not satisfactorily responding to faculty concerns of low morale. I was given the opportunity to address these concerns before the site evaluation team chair and provided evidence to the contrary and assured them that the governing board member's actions were not malicious. Fortunately, the Commission saw through these issues, and not only reaffirmed our accreditation but also found that the concerns related to morale had been adequately addressed by the college. Finally, the college successfully concluded negotiations with the full-time faculty with the ratification of a three-year contract.

With regards to opportunities and challenges for the college in the second half of the academic year, I have the following thoughts. Never has the college been better positioned to reap the benefits of new funding streams and policy changes. The work that the board and college leadership accomplished over the last five years has positioned LBCC as a state and national leader in terms of the policy directions that state and federal leaders are pushing in higher education. That is why I had the great fortune of receiving the James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award on behalf of our work, why the Governor appointed me to the Board of the UC Regents, why we were invited by the White House to present at two college opportunity summits and be the only community college on a panel to discuss the Long Beach College Promise. Furthermore, the college received funding from various federal and state agencies to include the largest grant awarded through the Career Pathways Trust Fund. The Governor put into the 2014 state budget the Award for Innovation in Higher Education, which I directly worked on with the Department of Finance and was modeled to promote more College Promise partnerships. President Obama also borrowed from the LBCC playbook by launching America's College Promise in January. Our vision for higher education has become the norm for the country.

Unfortunately, disruptions at the governing board level have caused the college to lose focus and shift human resources to respond to the disruptive nature of the board's functioning. The disruptions have led to several key executive team members, including myself, to consider other professional opportunities. Let me be clear, my desire is to serve the LBCCD and to lead the college to become a national model of innovation and student success. However, if the commitment from the majority of the governing board is not clearly aligned with this direction, then the future relationship between the board and myself will be jeopardized. I put forth a clear challenge to the governing board at the State of the College Address, to come together and work with me to raise the bar for our success rates and to change the national dialogue on how we should measure student success and serve the economic development needs of our region. This challenge cannot be met under the current conditions. The way the governing board operates must reflect good governing practices, the board must develop means to address the communication challenges between the board and Superintendent President and develop one voice that articulates the vision for the college district. If the board makes a clear commitment to these goals, then I believe the college can achieve the aggressive agenda it has embarked on.

Through the aforementioned challenges and opportunities the college, under my leadership, accomplished several key milestones. Below is a summary:

Key Programs and Initiatives Launched

- Innovation Fund SoCal
- Cohort 3 of the Promise Pathways
- Extending the Long Beach College Promise to include the City of Long Beach
- Launched the Career Pathways Trust Initiative
- Launched the NBC Learn faculty content tool
- Established the LBCC Entrepreneur in Residence funded by the Kauffman Foundation

Presentations, Keynote Addresses, Testimony, Media Addresses

- Presented on a panel at the invitation of the White House at the President & First Lady's College Opportunity Summit
- Testified before the Governor's Award for Innovation in Higher Education Committee
- State of the College Address
- California Economic Summit Co-Chair
- Hosted Lt. Governor Newsom for the Committee on Economic Development Higher Education Report
- Participated in a roundtable discussion with Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom on the LA regional economy
- Hosted Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson for a press event on the LBCC Career Pathways Trust Initiative
- Article published in the Wall Street Journal regarding LBCC and the Promise Pathways Initiative
- Invited by LA Mayor Garcetti to participate in an regional roundtable with US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew
- Featured video speaker on the Lumina Foundation sponsored Strategy Lab website
- Participated in the Long Beach College Promise press event and signing ceremony with LB Mayor Garcia
- Featured panelist at the Viridis Higher Education Summit at LA Mission College
- Featured on KPCC radio shows Air Talk and Take Two regarding education issues
- Feature story in the PBS News site and Hechinger Report on the Promise Pathways Initiative
- Hosted Fresno City College, Fresno Unified, Fresno State, Southwestern College & Sweetwater Unified to learn about the Long Beach College Promise

Appointments, Commissions, Boards

- Appointed by Governor Brown to the University of California Board of Regents

Other Notable Events/ Activities

- Groundbreaking for the new nursing building at the LAC
- Ribbon cutting for the renovated multi-disciplinary building at the PCC
- Conducted a successful accreditation site evaluation team visit and received notice of reaffirmation of accreditation from the ACCJC

Boards and Associations

- Academic Uprise (Honorary Board Member)
- American Association of Community Colleges, Board of Directors, Executive Committee
- California Forward Leadership Council
- California Economic Summit Co-Chair
- CCO Campaign for College Opportunity Board Member
- CCEJ California Conference for Equity and Justice Board Member
- College Access Foundation Board Member

- CSULB Ed.D. Program Educational Leadership Advisory Board
- CSU Chancellor Advisory Committee
- Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- NAACP National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Presidents' Alliance for Excellence in Student Learning and Accountability
- Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board for the City of Long Beach
- Rotary Club of Long Beach
- SB1440 (Transfer Bill) Implementation Taskforce
- UC Board of Regents
- YMCA of Greater Long Beach