As an organization founded on educational excellence, opportunity and access, and dedicated to the principles of equity, justice and community, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) must lead by example, and make structural and permanent change to root out the ill effects of racism and bias from our classrooms and our workplace.

The horrific, inexcusable killing of George Floyd, the shooting death of Andres Guardado, a student at Trade Tech College, and the beatings and killings of other unarmed men and women and people of color are absolute, unwarranted tragedies. These deaths also represent a tipping point for our national consciousness and our actions, where as a society we have been neglectful or remained uncomfortable in discussing the impact of race in this country and at our institutions of higher education. LACCD must be deliberate and purposeful in educating around being anti-racist, while internalizing anti-racist and eradicating anti-Blackness policies and practices.

The following Framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice speaks to the values of our organization and directs specific action steps and commitments that will allow our colleges and District to set a cultural tone and to actively build anti-racist organizational capacity and resilience, and move forward towards a more socially and racially-just academic community. The action steps are intended to complement, not supplant, specific activities and programs at the nine colleges, where some of this work has already begun.

To provide continuity and accountability, the District will establish a Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Black/African American Student Affairs to provide advice, guidance and expertise to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees on issues impacting the Black/African American faculty, staff and student community. Amongst its first charges, the Advisory Committee will develop an Equity, Anti-racism and Inclusivity Statement for LACCD to use as our “North Star” for the District’s social justice and racial equity framework and values. Through its employees and students, LACCD has tremendous assets and personal narratives to draw from. As such, LACCD will commit to create and sustain safe spaces for open dialogue, and courageous and crucial conversations on race and equity through scheduled and coordinated forums and Town Halls.

This spring, the District became a founding member of the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance through the Race and Equity Center and its work with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Community College Bureau’s contract for services, policies and practices related to community policing, de-escalation techniques, risk assessment and establishing mandated cultural proficiency, anti-bias and cultural responsiveness training.

In consultation with each of our six employee groups and unrepresented groups and senior management:

- Support the alignment and availability of professional development and training around diversity, equity, inclusion, equitable teaching practices, implicit bias, micro and macro-aggressions and anti-racist behaviors; and
- Review the employee evaluation process to improve performance, cultural responsiveness and outcomes.

Engage with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Community College Bureau to begin an immediate review of the Community College Bureau’s contract for services, policies and practices related to community policing, de-escalation techniques, risk assessment and establishing mandated cultural proficiency, anti-bias and cultural responsiveness training.

Engage and invest in Districtwide advocacy efforts aimed at introducing and supporting state and national legislation focused on racial equity, inclusion and diversity.

Coordinate and promote a Districtwide civic awareness and volunteerism campaign to bolster civic engagement, voting, and full participation in the democratic process.

In Solidarity We Stand,
Members of the Chancellor’s Cabinet:

Francisco C. Rodriguez
Chancellor
Barry C. Gribbons
President, Los Angeles Valley College
Melinda A. Nish
Interim Deputy Chancellor
Seher Awan
President, Los Angeles Southwest College
Mercedes C. Gutiérrez
Interim Vice Chancellor, Human Resources
Monte E. Perez
President, Los Angeles Mission College
William H. Boyer
Director, Communications and External Relations
Jeffrey M. Prieto
General Counsel
Ryan M. Corrner
Vice Chancellor, Edu. Programs and Institutional Effectiveness
Otto W. K. Lee
President, Los Angeles Harbor College
Alberto J. Roman
Interim President, East Los Angeles College
Ronald D. Delahousseye
Director, Personnel Commission
Carmen V. Lizard
Vice Chancellor/Chief Information Officer
James M. Limbaugh
President, West Los Angeles College
Ruben C. Smith
Chief Facility Executive
Mary P. Gallagher
President, Los Angeles City College
Katrina A. VanderWoude
President, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College
Jeanette L. Gordon
Chief Financial Officer/ Treasurer
Alexis S. Montevirgen
President, Los Angeles Pierce College

LACCD ACTION STEP COMMITMENTS

1. Create and empower a Districtwide Race, Equity and Inclusion Human Resources Workgroup to bolster the focus and work of the Human Resources Division, Personnel Commission, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the District EEO Advisory Committee. The Workgroup will be charged to review all district policies and practices aimed at identifying structural and systemic barriers to the recruitment, hiring, onboarding, promotion and performance of historically underrepresented and marginalized communities, with an emphasis on the historical barriers for Black/African Americans.

2. Begin an immediate review of campus-based Equity Plans and strengthen the investment in proven practices that advance diversity, equity and inclusion (e.g. EOPS, APASS, DSPS, Umoja, Puente, Dream Resource Centers, re-entry programs and services, Veterans’ Resource Centers, Black Scholars, LGBTIQ(A)+) aimed at eradicating currently existing equity, opportunity and achievement gaps and review and recommend policies that close the equity gaps and advance student success.

3. Support the faculty’s efforts to construct and redesign curriculum intentionally and strategically to support and build upon equitable, anti-racist classroom environments and professional learning, beginning with the review of curriculum germane to the study of race, class and equity, administration of justice, and first-responder training, including the investigation of an ethnic studies requirement for LACCD.

4. Engage with the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Community College Bureau to begin an immediate review of the Community College Bureau’s contract for services, policies and practices related to community policing, de-escalation techniques, risk assessment and establishing mandated cultural proficiency, anti-bias and cultural responsiveness training.

5. Develop student leadership opportunities that promote equity and that celebrate and respect the differences that make up multiracial communities, with an emphasis on the historical barriers for Black/African Americans.

6. Support the alignment and availability of professional development and training around diversity, equity, inclusion, equitable teaching practices, implicit bias, micro and macro-aggressions and anti-racist behaviors; and

7. Review the employee evaluation process to improve performance, cultural responsiveness and outcomes.

8. Engage and invest in Districtwide advocacy efforts aimed at introducing and supporting state and national legislation focused on racial equity, inclusion and diversity.

9. Coordinate and promote a Districtwide civic awareness and volunteerism campaign to bolster civic engagement, voting, and full participation in the democratic process.