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L.A. College Promise Student Enrollment Districtwide Jumps Up 25 Percent

LOS ANGELES—Free tuition is a hit! With thousands of students back in the classroom at the Los Angeles Community College District’s nine colleges, preliminary figures show student participation has jumped up about 25 percent in the second year of the Los Angeles College Promise Program that provides free tuition to qualifying first-year, full-time students.

“The message is out: if you want tuition-free college, come to any one of our nine outstanding colleges,” Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., said. “The L.A. College Promise has struck a positive cord with high school students and their parents who can see how the free-tuition program makes college a reality for students and makes it more affordable for families.”

Preliminary enrollment numbers gleaned during the first week of classes show about 5,000 of the incoming, first-year students for the Fall 2018 term are on track to receive a year of tuition-free college under the Los Angeles College Promise program, now in its second year.

The districtwide figure is 1,000 more students above the approximately 4,000 students who enrolled a year ago for the Fall 2017 term as part of the first-ever Los Angeles College Promise cohort, a 25 percent jump, according to Ryan Cornner, Ed.D., LACCD Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness.

The preliminary numbers won’t be finalized for another few weeks as staff tracks more student data for analysis, Dr. Cornner said. Some of the colleges with low enrollment figures last year saw the biggest jumps this year as more students learned about the program. For example, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College had only 83 students enrolled in the L.A. College Promise Program in 2017. This year, the figure has mushroomed to more than 300, he said.

“Thank you so much to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges for their amazing support of the L.A. College Promise that is embracing the hopes and aspirations of thousands of students,” LACCD Board of Trustees President Mike Fong said. “LACCD created a life-changing program in partnership with Mayor Garcetti and LAUSD to generate a community of college graduates in the LA region and we’re doing just that.”

The L.A. College Promise program first began in 2017, helping then to spark a 40-percent increase in enrollment by local seniors who graduated from Los Angeles Unified School District high schools. To qualify, L.A. College Promise students must enroll full time at an LACCD college beginning in the fall term, taking between 12 to 15 units per semester. They also must participate in summer transition sessions immediately prior to the Fall semester; take a structured educational schedule including required classes and participate in success coaching.

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California’s diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/, laccd_edu.

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Thousands of students flocked back to classrooms at all nine colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District, including Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, where more than 300 students are now taking advantage of the free tuition offered by the Los Angeles College Program to new, first-time, full-time, first-year students. Districtwide, L.A. College Promise student enrollment was up by about 25 percent, according to preliminary enrollment figures.





The Info Booth at Los Angeles Trade-Tech did a brisk business during the first week of classes, helping students answer a variety of questions about classes, support services, books, schedules and campus life.

