



Dear Monarch Family:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 academic year at Los Angeles Valley College! Even though we still have several hot, summer-like months to go, it's time to think about the Fall semester and welcoming our new and continuing students back to campus.

Accreditation

Well, I am sure that y'all saw my July 8th email informing you that following our comprehensive visit in early March, LAVC has been fully reaffirmed for 18 months! Now, some of you are probably wondering why I am excited by only being reaffirmed for 18 months rather than the full seven years, which is now the current accreditation cycle. The reason is twofold: First, as the ACCJC web site shows, excepting colleges that have been placed on Warning or some other sanction, every college in the last year has been reaffirmed for 18 months pending a report on some follow-up items; second, the issues which precipitated our accreditation reaffirmation timeline are primarily focused on issues identified in eight District Recommendations for Compliance. The District also had four Recommendations for Improvement, as did Valley. In fact, if you have read the Visiting Team report closely, you will find that LAVC is 100% compliant with all ACCJC accreditation standards and eligibility requirements, which few colleges in the state have achieved. While the District has already begun to work on the eight Recommendations for Compliance, the College's primary task for the coming year will be to revisit our institution-set standards for student achievement, which was noted both during my time with the ACCJC Commission in June as well as in the Action Letter sent on July 8th. The ACCJC's request that we revisit and consider setting more challenging standards for student achievement was based on recently-articulated higher expectations at the federal level. That said, LAVC is a ROCK STAR when it comes to meeting accreditation standards and hosting Visiting Teams!

Budget

For the second year in a row, the College ended the year with a positive balance! This is great news for us, especially since if we are able to end the 2016-2017 year in black, we will be able to request that our remaining debt to the District be cut in half. However, this is going to be a challenging year and we will need everyone to help the College reach this goal. Our enrollment target last year was to grow by three percent. Unfortunately, we only grew by .6 percent, so we had to pay the district back for the rest of the growth funds that they had advanced to us. Our ability to end this past year in the black was due to the fact that we did a good job of growing in the 2014-2015 year; that we held the line on expenses and did not exceed our budgets; and because the District allocated to the colleges some additional funds from previous mandated-cost reimbursements. The coming year will be more challenging because enrollments are soft across the District and across the state. Because our District budget allocation model is built entirely on growth funding, we have to continue to strive to grow in order to continue to receive the funds necessary to run the College. Our initial target this year is two percent growth, but we have also been given an opportunity to receive additional funds to grow another one percent; the important

caveat on that one percent is that if we take the money to grow but our enrollment does not grow by that amount, we only have to return 50% of the one-percent funding to the district. Academic Affairs has done a great job of scouring the schedule to determine where we might be able to grow the most, especially to make sure that we have the classes we need to achieve our enrollment targets.

So, I respectfully request that y'all take as many students as you can in your classes because every student counts. We also need to KOBITBAOEOT or "keep our budgets in the black and our enrollments on track," even though it's harder to remember than QOTDW!

Construction

Sometimes it seems as though we take one construction fence down just as we are putting another fence up and this year will be no different.

- By the time classes begin, the Football Practice Field and Parking Lot F will be completed. While there will be a fence adorned with Monarch pride that protects the practice field, once the project is complete, faculty, staff, students and the community will be able to get their walks in on the horseshoe-shaped walking path adjacent to the field. Be on the look-out for an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the entire Monarch Athletic Center area.
- Another ribbon-cutting ceremony is in the works to officially celebrate the new Student Union that we opened in time for Spring 2016. We tried to arrange a ceremony for the end of May, but the timing didn't work out. Stay tuned for a date and time to celebrate this beautiful space for students.
- The Administration and Career Advancement building is on schedule for a late October completion. If you haven't been to campus since the end of Spring, you will be shocked to see how much progress has been made. Some areas will move into the building prior to the Winter break, including my office, while others will move during the Winter Intercession. I am excited about my new office for many reasons, and I've already thought of my new moniker: QOTTH. This building will be a game-changer for LAVC, thanks to the welcoming architecture, a wonderful new location for many divisions on campus, some amazing new large classrooms that we desperately need, and the bank of conference rooms that will no doubt bring businesses and the community to our campus,.
- The final contract for the Valley Academic and Cultural Center (VACC) building will be on the August 10th Board Agenda for approval. While the building and the initial contract had already been approved by the Board, the final costs for the building after the completion of sub-contractors bids exceeded the originally-approved price of \$67 million. Once this contract is approved, the fences will go up and the site will be readied for construction. As soon as the site is prepared, we will schedule an official ground-breaking ceremony.
- Other equally important projects that are in the planning and bidding process include the Thermal Energy Storage tank, which will allow us to expand our cooling capacity across the campus, as well as the ADA improvements to many areas of the campus.

At a special meeting on July 20th, the Board of Trustees voted to place a bond for \$3.3 billion on the November 2016 ballot. If the bond passes and LAVC is awarded its proportional share, it would mean an additional \$248 million to campus. There will be much discussion of how the money will be divided among the nine campuses if the bond passes, but it is clear that the Board will expect the majority of the money to be spent on building classrooms and completing

projects already articulated in our master plans. I appreciated the dialogue we had in many committees last Spring regarding a potential project list for a new bond, and I look forward to more conversation in the Fall.

In the coming months, I will be sharing information about the “LA College Promise,” a joint effort on the part of Mayor Eric Garcetti, LAUSD and LACCD to provide, beginning in Fall 2017, a year of free college to every LAUSD graduate who chooses to attend one of our nine colleges. This is a huge effort that will require coordination within the district, clearly defined partnerships with LAUSD, and a fundraising effort to pay for the program.

Now for the important topic: Football! It’s Fall, which means it’s my favorite time of the year, and this year promises be great. Why? Because even though I would never call myself a Rams fan, I am beyond excited that Los Angeles once again has an NFL football team, and it’s only fitting that it should be the Rams, since my earliest memory of attending a Dallas game was when they played the Rams in the 1970s. I predict that my Dallas Cowboys will continue to struggle this year, mostly because I long ago lost faith in the quarterback and the coach. However, I am a rabid fan, so I will support them whether they win or lose. I am also looking forward to the USC/UCLA game again this year, which will be in Pasadena rather than in the Coliseum. The teams look to be evenly matched, and I am happy to report that even though my favorite Bruin Bear, Dr. Larry Nakamura, has retired, he has agreed to our bet once again this year. I look forward to seeing him in cardinal and gold at our Wonderful Winter Wonderland event in early December.

As always, I deeply appreciate all of your hard work! I feel fortunate to come to work every day at LAVC.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Erika Endrijonas (aka QOTDW)

President