Student Success Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 1—September 2012
Los Angeles Southwest College—Student Services

Freshman Year Experience

"Failure is not an Option!"

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE
STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION OF LASC

If you have story ideas or questions, please contact Robert Klier at klierrm@lasc.edu
or Dean Oscar Cobian at cobianom@lasc.edu

Visit the Student Success Newsletter on the web at
http://www.lasc.edu/students/studentsuccessnewsletter.html

On The Cover: FYE Students Awarded Book Vouchers in Fall 2012
Below is a summary of the recently approved SYSTEM-WIDE ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES designed to increase student success and to ensure more students reach their educational goals. The new policy will be implemented in Fall 2014.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors approved changes that will establish system-wide priorities designed to ensure classes are available for students seeking job training, degree attainment or transfer, and to reward students who make progress towards their educational goals.

New students who meet the following criteria will now have priority over students who do not meet these criteria:

1) Completed college orientation
2) Completed assessment testing
3) Developed an education plan

Continuing students who meet the following criteria will now have priority over students who do not meet these criteria:

1) Good academic standing
2) Have not exceeded 100 units (not including units in Basic Skills, English, Math, or ESL)

Among these students, active-duty military and veterans and current or former foster youth will continue to have first call on courses, followed by students in EOPS and DSPS.

Colleges will begin to inform current students of the new policy in the spring of 2013 terms, so those students on probation will have an opportunity to seek help to improve their academic standing, and so those nearing the unit cap can carefully plan their remaining courses. Districts will be required to develop an appeals policy and process for students who lose priority due to circumstances beyond their control, and there will be other areas for discretion at the district level.

Chancellor Jack Scott said, “Now that colleges have had to cut back on the courses they can offer, students [who had accrued over 100 units or done poorly in all their courses] were taking up seats in classrooms and crowding out newer students focused on job training, degree attainment, or transfer.”
The Freshman Year Experience (FYE) completed its Summer Program this past August, focusing on the theme: “Together Everyone Achieves More” (TEAM). This free-of-charge program for new LASC students featured a series of workshops and daily team-building activities, including discussion, group interactions, and a scavenger hunt, all designed to help students succeed academically and build a strong peer network.

From July 16 through August 16, 2012, FYE Summer Program students came to campus Monday to Thursday from 8:30am until 3:00pm to learn about the variety of survival skills necessary to succeed at LASC. Breakfast and lunch was provided and students had the chance to tour the campus, visit the various offices and buildings, and prepare themselves to navigate the campus once Fall classes were in session.

Upon completion of the program, students also received one unit of Personal Development 17, transferable to a CSU school; eligibility information regarding EOPS and TRIO programs; reading, writing, and/or math courses; and a mentor to help guide the student toward his or her goals.
Through the FYE Summer Program, many of our incoming students were able to learn about…

- **College Success** (presented by Lisa Ford)
- **Study Skills & Learning Styles** (presented by Roxanna Sanchez)
- **Career Center** (presented by Shirley Lockridge & Tangelia Alfred)
- **Student Services & Campus Resources** (presented by Michelle Williams)
- **EOPS, TRIO Scholars, and TRIO STEM** (presented by Rose Calderon, Erika Miller-Washington, and Angelita Salas)
- **Study Abroad** (presented by Angela Jenks)
- **Library Resources** (presented by Shelley Werts)
- **Financial Aid** (presented by Maisha Jones)
- **ASO & Student Life** (presented by Ali El Krim)

LASC received a Title III Predominately Black Institutions grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund our five-year Freshman Year Experience (FYE) project in 2011. FYE’s goals are to cultivate academic achievement and interpersonal competencies and to lay the foundation for lifelong success.

The grant allows the LASC FYE to serve 125 incoming first-time college students per year and to implement the following programs and services:

- Extended Orientation
- Summer Bridge
- Learning Communities (linked courses, intrusive counseling, mentoring, and service learning)
- Supplemental Academic Assistance (tutoring and supplemental instructions)
- Faculty Professional Development

To learn more about the LASC Freshman Year Experience Program, contact Ming-huei Lam at 323-241-5389, or lamm2@lasc.edu. Visit the FYE webpage at www.lasc.edu/students/fye.html
A DISCUSSION WITH FYE STUDENTS

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ROBERT DURAN, BRIONNA TAYLOR, WILLIAM NORWOOD, NEICHKA INA, JASON SERRATO, AND BARBARA WELCH

These students fully completed the tasks for the Freshman Year Experience and were each awarded a $200 book voucher. FYE students completing all tasks and receiving book vouchers earned an average 3.52 GPA!

PLEASE TALK A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT YOU THOUGHT AND FELT AS YOU WERE GETTING READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FRESHMAN YEAR EXPERIENCE.

NEICHKA INA: I had not been to school in 20 years and I went into the FYE for two reasons. First, I was able to earn Personal Development credit through a 4-day workshop. Second, I always loved school, but not having been in a school environment in so long, I needed to get my feet wet. It turned out to be the best experience.

WILLIAM NORWOOD: I happened to be waiting in a very long line for the Assessment Center when I saw a flyer for the FYE and became interested in earning course credit, getting a book voucher, and learning about the campus. Going into the program, I was nervous because I hadn’t been to school in ten years, but there was so much staff and peer encouragement along the way. My first year, I earned a 3.87 GPA, so I think the FYE did a good job of helping me succeed.

BARBARA WELCH: I was scared when I first started since I had never stepped on a college campus before. I didn't know anyone on the campus but FYE gave me a push to open up to people and communicate. It breaks you out of your shell. I started to feel like I was getting a handle on the basics.

ROBERT DURAN: Being in a new place is nerve-wracking. FYE helped us meet people and find a group.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ABOUT THE FYE AS AN INTRODUCTION TO LASC AND WHAT IT OFFERS?

NEICHKA INA: We were able to familiarize ourselves with the campus and discover what certain offices did through a tour and the scavenger hunt. I felt like we were a step ahead of the game and would even be able to help out our peers. After the first few days, this place felt like home.

JASON SERRATO: After not being in school for 22 years, FYE helped me form connections with other people and groups, like a family. So much information and help was given to us versus just having to fend...
...for ourselves with no introduction to the campus. There is nothing like having peer support. **William Norwood:** I appreciated being able to meet professors and start to make connections with them. Through this initial interaction over the summer, I learned to not be afraid of them and that the professors are here for your education and to help take you to the next level.

**Did you have any favorite sessions at the FYE?**

**Brionna Taylor:** The team-building activities, especially when we were able to all come together and ask questions about each other.

**William Norwood:** I enjoyed breaking off to do skits. It was good to give things a shot and extend myself to other people— you get to see if your offer of friendship or help is rejected or accepted.

**Robert Duran:** The team-building activities— you were able to see people’s true colors and see how people will react to each other while in school.

**Barbara Welch:** The icebreaker activities were very good. It was interesting and nice to have everyone sharing and just smiling at each other.

**What would you say about the FYE overall? Would you recommend it to others?**

**Barbara Welch:** FYE and especially Mr. Barron gave me that extra push. I would encourage everyone to go, even if you haven't been to school in 50 years. FYE will take you step-by-step. Don’t say you “won’t” or “can’t” - no negative words! Ms. Lam sees the potential in us and explains why we need to do certain things. She cares about us.

**William Norwood:** I would tell new students that this is a college atmosphere now and is not high school. It’s time to step up and FYE gives you the opportunity to get books, college credit, and a whole team of people on your side.

**Brionna Taylor:** There are so many benefits and you learn about the courses and the teacher. And you make lifelong friends. I don’t know what I would’ve done without the FYE. Ms. Lam helps us afterward too and has an open-door policy to see us—in fact, I just saw her today!

**Jason Serrato:** I would urge students to attend the FYE to earn that college credit and to learn about programs that can help them. And you can get a $200 book voucher! You’ll learn that students can be leaders and not just followers. FYE helps with school and school can maybe help you not fall back into some of things you were doing before.

**Neichka Ina:** FYE is the most beneficial workshop you could take as a freshman, whether you’re coming out of high school or coming back to school. How many of us students are walking around without direction? Having you sit in front of a motivational speaker and really looking at your life is truly eye-opening. We learned that “Failure is not an option”. We now know about people we can ask for help and resources we can use. And because of the FYE group, we now have each other to be responsible to. Mr. Barron and Ms. Lam helped give us a sense of accountability to them, to each other, and to ourselves.

**Robert Duran:** Whatever fears one has about college, FYE will get rid of those fears.
LACCD is providing all students district-wide with an email address. The email account will be hosted by MicrosoftLive@edu cloud service and will replace any student email systems currently in use at LACCD campuses. The student email addresses will appear as follows: <Account Name>@student.laccd.edu

Why is LACCD Providing Student Email Accounts?
- This will provide a consistent email experience for all students throughout the district and offer email accounts to campuses like LASC that have not been able to make available student email.
- Students will be able to access their email from anywhere, including via smartphones
- Students will have access to Microsoft Office Web Apps such as Excel, PowerPoint, and Word.
- Students have 25 gigabytes of file storage and 10 gigabytes of email storage.

Key Dates for Student Email Implementation
- All students will have an account by Fall 2012. Fall 2012 is the piloting period.
- In Spring 2013, the new system will become the official default communication method between LACCD and students.

Key Facts
- Email Account Name is up to 12-digits: <first 6 letters of last name><first & middle initials><random 4-digit number>
- The Password is initially the same as the PIN for the Student Information System (SIS)
- Accounts will be kept until 2 major terms pass without enrollment
- Students will get primary support from Admissions & Records
- It’s a work in progress, with more capabilities to be added.

BE AWARE OF THE NEW STUDENT EMAIL SYSTEM!
For an Email Starter Guide and a Student FAQ sheet, go to:
http://www.lacolleges.net/student_email/
**EARLIER DROP DATE (WITH NO ‘W’)**
The period of time to drop a course without record of enrollment has been reduced. The deadline to drop a Fall 2012 class without receiving a “W” grade was Sunday September 9th, 2012. Drops that occur after this date will result in a “W” grade.

**ONLY 3 ATTEMPTS TO PASS A CLASS**
A student may now only attempt to pass the same class 3 times! Receiving a “W”, “D”, or “F” counts as an attempt to pass a class. Students who unsuccessfully attempt to pass a class 3 times must enroll in the class at a non-LACCD school or go through an appeal process with Admissions.

**FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY CHANGES**
**NEW FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS NEED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A GED!** Students who are first-time applicants for financial aid must have earned either a high school diploma or their GED to qualify to receive financial aid funds.

**PELL GRANT 12 SEMESTER LIMIT**
Students are now limited to 12 semesters of Federal Pell Grant eligibility during their lifetime. This change affects all continuing and new students regardless of when or where they received their first Pell Grant.

**INTEREST ON STUDENT LOANS**
For federal student loans made after July 1, 2012, there is no longer a 6-month grace period on interest charged. Interest will begin accumulating immediately after graduation.
STUDENT LINGO ONLINE WORKSHOPS are available to LASC students 24/7! Student Lingo offers workshops related to personal management, academic exploration, learning strategies, reading/writing strategies, test-taking skills, and much more. Some workshops are available in Spanish.
For more information, visit: www.studentlingo.com/lasc

Please welcome Kaman Ng, our NEW COORDINATOR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM OFFICE. Ms. Ng comes to our LASC Student Services Division with much experience in working with international students. Prior to coming on board with LASC, she worked full time in the International Student Office at Los Angeles Harbor College and served as the Designated School Official (DSO). She is also a part-time Nursing Counselor at LASC.

~ Submitted by Oscar Cobian

OSHER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
3:00pm, Thursday September 27, 2012
Students can earn a scholarship of up to $1,000!
For more information and application materials, students should visit the Transfer Center (SSB 229).

~ Submitted by Tangelia Alfred
**Welcome Back LASC Students!**

The EOPS and CARE staff is happy to welcome returning and new students to campus. As we begin the new academic year, you may have noticed some **changes to our program**. We hope this transformation will produce a “model” Student Services program that will better serve you, the students of LASC.

Some of the major changes we will be monitoring throughout the year include:

- Students must take English and Math as part of their course load each semester until their degree or transfer requirements have been met
- Students must declare a major no later than their third semester
- Students must follow their student education plan

Our objective is to help students identify their educational goal and to develop a student education plan. These will become the road map you will follow until you complete your goal.

The EOPS and CARE staff is focused and determined to help you move forward in your quest for student success. If you have any questions about these changes and how they may affect your eligibility for our program, please come in to see one of our counselors! We are located in the Student Services Building, SSB Room 218.

**EOPS Tutors Needed!**

EOPS is looking for a few good English and Math tutors! Below are the minimal qualifications needed to apply. We are looking for day and evening availability.

- Must be a full time (12 Units) student within LACCD, LASC student preferred, or a full time university student;
- Provide a copy of current unofficial transcripts to verify the 3.0 gpa requirement;
- Provide a copy of current class schedule;
- Must have completed English 101 and/or Math 125 to be considered.

Submit a completed **Instructor Reference Form for Student Tutor Applicants** for each subject area. (This document must have the signature of the department chair of this specific subject area to be eligible to work as a peer tutor on campus.)

Interested students should inquire at the EOPS/CARE office, SSB Room 218.

~ submitted by Rose Calderon
Three Los Angeles Southwest College Educational Talent Search (ETS) participants received scholarships for maintaining 3.3 or above grade point averages, for participating in extra-curricular activities, and for being accepted into a four year university.

These students received their scholarships on April 21, 2012, from the Giving Back Corporations, an organization funded by African-American actors and actresses. Among those in attendance were Lorretta Devine, Lou Myers, Della Reese, Marla Gibbs, and a number of others.

From left to right...

**Traveon Frazier**, a participant with the ETS program since the completion of 5th grade, will be attending Wilberforce University in Fall 2013.

**Javon Bradford, Jr.** has been enrolled in the ETS program since the completion 9th grade. He will be attending Washington State University in Fall 2013.

**Kevin Walcott** has been enrolled in the ETS program since the completion of his 5th grade and will attend San Diego State University.

I am elated that these young brothers followed their dreams and goals.

~ submitted by Sidney Cosby
Welcome Fall 2012 Students!

The Passage Program would like to send out a big welcome and introduce our exciting program available to male students at LASC. Our program is academically centered with an emphasis on a shared learning experience which is cultivated by our five learning community courses. Passage Program provides a variety of resources such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, and informative workshops. We also provide book vouchers and school supplies to our active students.

The Passage Program has started the year off strong. Currently we serve over 400 students! This past summer we took a group of students to Lake Arrowhead for a three day retreat which was a powerful experience that focused on workshops tailored for men. Students described the experience as informative, reflective, and an opportunity to bond. This year, four of our students were selected to attend the Men of Color Leadership Institute hosted by the Presidents Roundtable in Arizona. We are also premiering our new mentor program this month. Additionally, we will have our Rites of Passage Ceremony on October 2nd.

Learn more about the great opportunities our program provides by stopping by Library Village 116.

~ Submitted by Tyffany Dowd
During the Associated Student Organization (ASO) elections in Spring 2012, Los Angeles Southwest College students approved a **Representation Fee** of $1.00.

Education Code section 76060.5 allows the ASO to conduct an election to establish a student representation fee of one dollar ($1.00) per semester. Since the Spring 2012 voting turnout was at least the same as the average turnout of the last three ASO elections and since two-thirds or more of the students voting approved the fee, this fee will now be assessed to ALL students at LASC.

The fee will support governmental affairs representatives who will state their positions and viewpoints before city, county, district governments, and offices and agencies of the state government. ASO plans to use these funds to send LASC students to the State Capitol in Sacramento in March 2013 to advocate on behalf of all students for more funding and initiatives to increase student success. These funds will also be used for advocacy training for LASC students.

A student may, for religious, political, financial or moral reasons, refuse to pay the fee by submitting a written form to the college.

**Click below to watch video highlights of LASC ASO participation in the Spring 2012 March for Higher Education in Sacramento, California.**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Zjvi7H_OKrw#!
The Space Shuttle Endeavor flies over LASC on Friday September 21, 2012