I. Background and General Information:

The Los Angeles Community College District is one of the largest community college districts in the world, educating more than 130,000 students at nine campuses, spread throughout 36 cities in the greater Los Angeles area. The colleges each offer unique programs and services but share a common mission: to provide quality education at a reasonable price. Forty percent of the students enrolled are below the poverty line and over 1/3 of the students are seeking a vocational education in the hopes of securing a job after graduation and ultimately securing a better life. The ethnic breakdown of the students is as follows:

- Latino-46%
- African American-16.7%
- Asian-15%
- White-19.5%

Our students are finding it harder and harder to get the classes they need to graduate and to pursue either jobs or further education. This burden is even heavier on the large number of economically disadvantaged students who must juggle work with a difficult class schedule.

To help answer this crisis, the Los Angeles Community College District Foundation was established. The Foundation was primarily charged with supplementing and finding student scholarship opportunities in the private and philanthropic sectors. The current Chancellor, Dr. Mark Drummond and the Board of Trustees support the District Foundation. The Foundation has a current Board, which represents business and philanthropic interests.

One of the challenges of the Foundation is to identify economically disadvantaged students that may be overlooked by the current financial aid system. Many students may not qualify for some aid due to their income level combined with their parent’s income. What is not often considered is that many of our students are holding down full time jobs, raising children and often also helping to supplement their parent’s incomes. We have also sought to give those students assistance taking into account all of their circumstances. Therefore most of our scholarships require that to qualify for a District Foundation scholarship the student must maintain a 2.5 average instead of a 3.0 or 3.5 required by many scholarship programs.
Community Colleges confer economic benefits that cannot easily be assigned a specific dollar estimate. The extent to which local commerce, industry and public services are dependent on the colleges for a competent available work force is incalculable. Training for entry-level skilled positions in such areas as clerical, data processing and health occupation, etc. are most easily available in the colleges at minimal costs. This is particularly true in the vocational programs offered at the colleges.

An economic study recently released by the Association of Community College Trustees has found that each taxpayer dollar invested in a community college yields $3.00 in benefits back to the taxpayers that support it. Because community colleges add to regional economic growth, tax receipts to state and local treasuries are increased. Add to these, savings associated with improved lifestyles (reduced crime, improved health habits, reduced welfare dependency and unemployment) and the result is a significant return on investment. The measurable economic impact of the Los Angeles Community College District on the Los Angeles Region is $6.7 billion. This includes total district expenditures; student spending and income increase due to education.

II. Scholarship Criteria

The LACCD District Foundation is in a unique position of being able to offer the donor the opportunity to define the criteria that they would like to establish for their scholarship program. Most of the grants to the students are unrestricted allowing them to use the funds for tuition, books or living expenses. We have received many letters from students telling us that a $500 or $1,000 grant has been the difference in them being able to remain in school. A small amount goes a long way in student’s success within the system. Therefore, a large number of students can be affected with a grant to the LACCD Foundation.

A good example of a scholarship program established by a donor is the LA Police Foundation Scholarships supported by Chief William Bratton. Recognizing the need to continue to train and encourage students to pursue careers in law enforcement, the LA Police Foundation established a scholarship program for students at the eight Los Angeles colleges with Administration of Justice Programs. Promising students were given $1,000 grants to help with their education. Chief Bratton handed out certificates and the checks at an event held at the District headquarters.
III. All of Your Donation Goes Directly to the Students

The LACCD Foundation is administered by Rix Bradford Consulting in an agreement that is funded by the District, and supported by the Board of Trustees. As a result, there is no overhead paid out of funds raised and 100% of your donation goes directly to the students.

IV. Methodology for Administering Scholarships

Rix Bradford Consulting works directly with the financial aid offices and the Vice Presidents of Administrative Services at the nine campuses to pick the scholars who fit the criteria, and have the most financial need. In that way the overall financial condition of the student can be assessed and balanced with other financial opportunities.

V. Current Partners

The LACCD Foundation is proud to work with the following partners:

- The California Community Foundation
- Stieb Scholarship Program
- Fred J. Aves Scholarship Program
- LA Police Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente
- Verizon
- Gary Winnick Family Foundation
- DMJM
- Turner Construction
- Sempra Energy/ The Gas Company
- Kotai Scholarship Fund
- Lasseville Scholarship Fund
- California National Bank
- California Credit Union