



October 23, 2017

Dear Superintendent-President Romali and Board of Trustee Members:

As you are aware, LBCCFA is currently in negotiations with the District. One of the issues we hope to address is a meaningful salary increase. LBCC's Strategic Plan, Goal 4, addresses the need to "invest in people and support structures for transformation." As faculty, we are an integral part of this goal; we share the College's commitment to providing our students with quality instruction and opportunities to achieve equitable student success. We practice innovation, excellence and dedication to our students' achievements on a daily basis—whether it be in classrooms, labs, or in the field. We would like to share a snapshot of how our work helps build student success.

Here are a few of our students' voices and achievements:

*Chamroeunpaul (Paul) Chhean, RN, BSN, PHN, former Honors student:*

I've been so fortunate in the last few years of my life that I sometimes wake up wondering if I deserve all of it, yet I am so grateful regardless. LBCC gave me my start and not just in regards to academics, but especially in work ethic and humility. During my time as an honors student at LBCC, Maureen Mason and the other honors faculty and students gave me a much needed community that helped me through when I needed it the most. I had designated honors courses and higher priority registration that helped me enroll in the classes I desperately needed.

From LBCC, I had the best science professors I've ever had to this day. Specifically, Dr. Gayle (anatomy/physiology), Dr. Downey (microbiology), and Dr. Akhavan (biology) went so far beyond what was required of them and met me weekly for all of my many academic and life questions. They were also key in giving me my research experience with the CSULB bridges to baccalaureate summer research program as they informed me of it and eagerly provided me recommendations. After all of the universities and institutions I've been privileged to be a part of, I've never forgotten what these professors did for me nor how amazing they were in actively cultivating me. I also wanted to thank the LBCC scholarship office for funding my trip to Sacramento when I was awarded to the All California Academic team as a Coca Cola scholar.

I transferred into UCLA's School of Nursing which is UCLA's most difficult program to get in with a 1% acceptance rate. Worried I wasn't able to perform on par, I found myself accelerating far beyond most of my peers not just in academics, but in all forms of leadership, community volunteering and scholarships. I attribute much of this due to the work ethic that LBCC instilled in me. From UCLA I graduated with my BSN and a double minor in civic engagement and public affairs and then worked at LA City Hall for Mayor Garcetti's EmpowerLA team, where I was able to provide neighborhood city councils with governmental support to actively change their communities as they wanted it. I was then recruited to the White House to work under President Obama. I coordinated all 50 of our federal agencies under his leadership and later specialized in managing our healthcare agencies. It was among the greatest honors of

my life to serve in a position in which I could without hesitation do my best while following my values and advocate for those who needed a voice. I later decided to leave the White House and enter the US Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee (Health Policy team specifically) under the ranking member Senator Murray. I worked with the Democratic Senators, including Warren and Sanders, in order to improve the welfare of the American people while further learning of our legislative process in depth.

I now am a graduate student in the UCSF School of Nursing's Health Policy program where I integrate my governmental experience, nonprofit experience, and healthcare practitioner experience into a reformative role where I can reform our entire delivery system beyond the confines of what we consider it today. Really looking forward to what is to come and beyond grateful for everything in life so far.

*Connor Nance, Fire Science student:*

Last year I signed a contract with the USAF as a Firefighter, and today I have passed my 1 year mark in the military serving as a firefighter for the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs! I just wanted to thank you for everything you taught me while I was going through the program at LBCC and because of all the things you taught me I have been able to come out on top of all my classes and all my peers as the honor grad and not scoring below a 95% on a single test. You really motivated me to be one of the best firefighters I could possibly be. Made life a breeze while I was going through the fire academy over the summer because everything they taught us was out of the same books we used in the program, I still to this day reference all the tips and tricks that you taught me to remember all the different types of fires, building construction, all the stories, and just all the small tips you learned on the job. I have been through some incredible life changing training and some serious life changing calls and just wanted you to know that everything you have taught me stuck very well and I enjoy my job more than anything in the world!!

*Former student, Amanda Ambroff, Liberal Studies major at CSULB:*

I feel like I benefited most from LBCC by using their resources to enhance my own education. Being in the EOPS program forced me to constantly stay on top of my time spent at LBCC by going to mandatory counseling 3 times a semester. An EOPS counselor guided me academically and helped alleviate some financial difficulty by giving book loans and grants. Being involved in the Future Teachers Club allowed me to feel more welcome and involved in my school. Being in the club let me explore leadership roles and allowed me to know some of the students and staff on a different level as well as participate in school and community events. I have also benefited from LBCC's scholarship office as a three-time award recipient as well as receiving other recognitions such as the Viking Award, Senate Star Award, Leadership Recognition Award and Dean's List with Honors. I believe that being in EOP, PTK, using LBCC's Scholarship office, and being a leader and member in the Future Teachers Club has helped me in every aspect of my life and shape my path as a student on my path to be an elementary school teacher.

*Jesus Ortiz and Jillian Sederholm, Journalism students:*

Jesus Ortiz is a former LBCC journalism student who worked on the Viking in the early 1990s before transferring to Texas A and M to earn a bachelor's degree. He is the lead sports columnist at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a position he has occupied since April 2016. Before that, he was the national baseball writer and Houston Astros beat writer at the Houston Chronicle for 15 years. He previously covered the New York Mets for the Star-Ledger. He is a voting member of the writers who select inductees for the National Baseball Hall of Fame and used his bilingual skills in English and Spanish to cover a Major-League Baseball game in Mexico City.

Jillian Sederholm states, "I owe everything to LBCC--largely my time at the Viking." She earned an associate of arts degree and journalism certificate at LBCC after starting at the college about 1997. She transferred to U.C. Berkeley in 2002 and earned a bachelor's degree in 2004 in cultural anthropology. In 2011, she moved to New York City to attend the Columbia School of Journalism and earned a Master's of Science in journalism with a concentration in digital media in 2012.

*Gina Ciaramitaro, Nursing student:*

The way I've been studying for boards still makes it feel like I am in school. Update, I'm scheduled to take boards in a couple weeks. Am I terrified? Yes! But I know that I can do it, and I am so ready to start my new life with excitement and positivity! So, I will definitely send you an email when I am officially known as Gina Ciaramitaro, RN!!

On a side note before I let you go... THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING you did for me throughout the last two years. You literally dried my tears at times, always had something nice and encouraging to say and always brought a level of positivity to everyday that you shared with us. That did more for me than you know, because I get easily overwhelmed at times and tend to be too hard on myself and you helped me through more things than you realize. I just wanted to tell you how greatly appreciated you are!

*Jamie Maldonado-Gomez, Sociology student:*

First and foremost, I want to thank you for all your help and teaching while I was at LBCC. I also wish you a really good semester. As I probably mentioned to you, I successfully transferred to CSULB where I am studying Sociology. I want to tell you that the classes I took with you prepared me for this new chapter in my education. I feel confident about my self, and I know I will succeed here as well. Also, your written/essay exams (even though I hated them at one point) helped me a lot. In most of my SOC classes I have essay exams as well. I found it funny on the first day because while some students were whining about the essay exams I was sitting at my desk; and I accidentally blurted out "Oh that's a piece of cake"! I learned a lot in your classes.

Thanks to you and your classes I fell in love with Sociology!!

*Brett Bruhanski, former LBCC Honors student and current U.C. Berkeley student:*

Long Beach City College gave me a chance to realize my potential and provided me with the tools to achieve success both on and off campus. My life prior to LBCC was devastated by poverty, abuse, and depression, affecting my sense of self-worth and ability to get into a 4-year university. Enrolling in community college provided me with a clean slate, and I cannot begin to adequately describe how much the opportunity at LBCC motivated me. I quickly registered with the Honors Program, where staff, faculty, and administration provided me with more knowledge, time, empathy, and compassion than anywhere else in my academic career. Their support allowed me to graduate with a 4.0 GPA and transfer to UC Berkeley in two years. Once at Berkeley, I quickly realized that the quality of LBCC's honors program, student government, administration, and supportive staff allowed me to compete and excel at the best public university in the world.

LBCC has a distinguished 90-year history in this community and we are a significant part of this reputation, the Strategic Plan, and our students' success.

With Viking Spirit,

Long Beach City College Faculty