



PERSEVERENCE:

When you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I saw the movie **Precious** on opening day. I have to admit that I was a bit wary. I was looking for relaxation and a movie about a young woman who has suffered unrelenting abuse did not seem to me to be the place to find relaxation. But nevertheless, I (and theaters full of others) decided to give it a try. Surprisingly, I did not leave the theater sad and depressed as I feared but buoyed by the human spirit I saw reflected on the screen. I also left with insight and a feeling of having watched kindred spirits at work. Why? Because the movie reminded me that we are surrounded by Precious every single day that we come to Southwest College. Precious may be that young woman in the front row of your class who asks unrelenting questions, that young man in the back row who comes to class and listens without ever saying a word or that student who tells you deeply personal stories from her life after having known you for all of two weeks.

Go see the movie and I promise you that you will walk away with pure admiration for this young woman's drive and her perseverance in spite of her circumstances, her reality. Then come back to LASC and look at our students in a new light. Appreciate their struggles. Understand the sacrifices that many are making to come to school, day after day. Yes, they may come to class unprepared, without materials until halfway through the semester, with attitudes that cause us frustration. But then, take a deep breath and maybe get to know them. Ask questions, express interest in them and some will blossom right before your eyes. Ask yourselves how we can support our students.

We often say that the community colleges are the last stop for many in the educational arena. Many do not believe in themselves so it has to be our jobs to believe in them for them until they can pick up the baton. As hard as it may be for us, we have to provide support and guidance to help move them along the path. You never know what small thing you say to someone that could make a huge impact in their lives, either positively or negatively, so it is imperative that we remain conscious of our words and our actions when working with our students and with each other. And that we remember why we are here. This is a mission, a calling.

Included within the pages of this month's issue is a flyer from Student Services listing student services offices, locations and contact information. You might find this information helpful as students come to you for guidance. We don't always have the personal resources or information to assist, but perhaps the information on this directory will provide you with the information to refer students to the proper place to get needed assistance.

The semester seems to be rushing right on by. It's already November and finals will be here before we know it. Persevere!!! Happy Thanksgiving.

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ *There's still time to renew your Senate membership. Your Senate needs your support. Please renew today—\$40 for full-time faculty and \$25 for adjuncts*
- ◆ *The next Senate meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10th at 12:30 p.m. in room SSC 314 (the old Student Services building) Lunch is served at 12:30, meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.*

Los Angeles Southwest College
ACADEMIC SENATE

FACULTY CODE OF ETHICS

Los Angeles Southwest College faculty members, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subjects is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, faculty members devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise good judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although faculty members may follow subsidiary interests, these interests should not seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.

As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly standards of their discipline. Faculty members demonstrate respect for the student as an individual, and adhere to their proper role as intellectual guides and counselors. Faculty members make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that evaluation of students reflects their true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between faculty member and student. They avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage. They acknowledge significant contributions from students when appropriate. They protect the academic freedom of students.

As colleagues, faculty members have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Faculty members do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates. In the exchange of ideas, faculty members show due respect for the opinions of others. Faculty members strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. Faculty members accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.

As members of an academic institution, faculty members seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although faculty members observe the stated regulations of their institution, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. Faculty members give due regard to their paramount responsibilities within their institution in determining the amount and character of work done outside it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, faculty members should give due notice of their intentions.

As members of their community, faculty members have the rights and obligations of all citizens. Faculty members recognize these obligations and their responsibilities to their subject area, students, profession and institution. When they speak or act as private persons they avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for their college. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty members have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

Any issues regarding the code of ethics shall be referred to the academic senate. Approved, Academic Senate, April 2006

CaSTRS—ISSUE OF THE MONTH

Each month, you contribute 8 percent of your salary to CaSTRS— 6 percent is credited to your Defined Benefit (DB) account and 2 percent is credited to your Defined Benefit Supplement (DBS) account. Starting January 1, 2011, CaSTRS will credit the entire 8 percent of your monthly contribution to your DB account, and you will no longer make regular contributions to your DBS account. You will still contribute to your DBS account if you receive a salary bonus or if you earn more than one year of service credit.

How will this change impact your retirement savings and plans? Were you even aware that you have a Defined Benefit Supplement account or what this account is? All of these questions and more will be answered at the CaSTRS workshop scheduled to be held at the Spring Flex Day on February 4, 2010. Faculty attending this workshop will have the first opportunity to sign up for a one-on-one consultation with the CaSTRS representative. Last time, the interview spots filled quickly. Don't be left out.

The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places.
~Author Unknown

YOU ARE A GOOD INSTRUCTOR—BECOME A GREAT INSTRUCTOR

The *Los Angeles Community Colleges's Student Success Initiative Steering Committee* invites you to participate in its 2010 *Faculty Teaching and Learning Academy (FTLA)*, part of our ongoing efforts to build a "Success Network" for the development of institutional cultures and environments that are learning-centered and technologically advanced. As our Interim Chancellor Tyree Wieder and DAS President David Beaulieu note, "the FTLA seeks to promote the recommendations of the district's *Framework for Student Success* and the state's *Basic Skills as a Foundation for Student Success in California's Community Colleges*. It is the centerpiece of our efforts to invest in the faculty through programs that stress innovative instructional design and teaching practices."

Set to begin on January 19, 2010, the FTLA will feature presentations by expert college and university practitioners, as well as hands-on activities such as designing and scaffolding collaborative learning activities. It will emphasize creating syllabi that stimulate student motivation, increase critical thinking skills, and integrate support services and academic resources. FTLA enrollees may receive **3 units** of course credit **applicable to step/column advancement** on the district salary scale as well as flex credit. Upon completion, a Board-issued certificate of achievement will be awarded. Most importantly, FTLA graduates will establish long-lasting communities of practice with colleagues across the disciplines and the campuses of our district. Please see a member of the Executive Committee of the Senate for more information.



SAVE THE DATE !!

Spring Flex Day will be held on **February 4, 2010**. Specific details will be provided prior to the end of the fall semester. This is the Thursday prior to the start of the spring semester. It promises to be an informative and interesting day, well worth your time. Mark the date in ink!

Graduation will be held on **Wednesday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m.** Please plan to be present to support and congratulate our graduates. It means a lot to the students when faculty are at



**LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE
ACADEMIC SENATE**

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Los Angeles, CA 90047
Office Location: Cox 418E

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Email Address: lascacadsenate@lasc.edu

Next Meeting:
November 10, 2009 at 12:30 in SSB 314

**Check Us Out Online at www.lasc.edu
from the "For Faculty and Staff" page,
click on "Academic Senate"**

**Join The
Community:**

Senate membership dues now due
See Joan Ann Mrava: x5332

The Academic Senate of Los Angeles Southwest College is the representative body for LASC faculty consisting primarily of elected representatives. As the official voice of the faculty in matters of campus-wide concern, LASC's Academic Senate provides the means for faculty to participate in the shared governance of the college. It strives to further the academic mission and integrity of the college as a community of scholars and professionals dedicated to providing an environment for quality learning. The Senate acts as a whole, or in committees and task forces, to address a wide range of academic, professional and administrative issues. These include the primary concerns of representing the faculty of LASC in all academic and professional matters, and seeking to support the mission, vision, and values of Los Angeles Southwest College.

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