FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LBCC CONSIDERING REDUCTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS
State budget cuts force LBCC to consider discontinuing programs, faculty layoffs, and other reductions

Long Beach City College is considering discontinuing a number of instructional programs, faculty layoffs and other measures to cope with years of declining budget support from the state and reallocating remaining resources to fund programs that serve the certificate, degree and transfer readiness needs of our students. LBCC will implement a minimum of $2 million in reductions this academic year to close a structural budget deficit. However, those reductions could grow to $8.4 million if Proposition 30 on the November General Election ballot fails.

“Long Beach City College is facing devastating budget cuts that have been imposed on community colleges by funding reductions from the State of California,” said LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. “Unfortunately, we have no choice but to reduce the number of instructional programs but we are committed to reallocate our remaining resources to help as many students as possible to earn degrees and certificates and prepare to transfer.”

These cuts are being considered even though LBCC already implemented $5.1 million dollars in classified and management staff reductions this year. Those reductions included the elimination of 43 classified positions, 12 management positions, and the reduction in assignment of an additional 96 classified positions.

LBCC has been forced to absorb $10.9 million in revenue reductions over the last three years – a 9.7% reduction in its overall allocation from the state. LBCC is contending with an additional $2.3 million in unanticipated mid-year cuts this fiscal year because property taxes and student fee revenues under performed.

LBCC will carry out the process of program discontinuance throughout the fall semester. Final recommendations for reductions will be forwarded to the Long Beach Community College District Board of Trustees in early 2013. College leaders will also be considering additional management and staffing reductions during the fall semester depending upon several factors including: program reduction recommendations, the outcome of the November election and budget performance during the year.

“I am painfully aware of the tremendous impact these reductions will have on our students, faculty and staff and wish that declining support from the state was not forcing such wrenching decisions upon us,” said Oakley. “However, LBCC will continue to serve our local community and provide an excellent and affordable college education to as many students as possible in spite of any reductions.”

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About LBCCD: The Long Beach City College District is a single college district with two campuses and an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students each year. The education program’s primary purpose is to prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions, entry into work or career development and to support business and economic development. Long Beach City College serves the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill and Avalon.