

# Bond Program Biweekly Report

ending March 6, 2026

## City-side Colleges

### LACC Student Housing Town Hall #4 Highlights Community Priorities and Path Forward



On February 24, 2026, Los Angeles City College hosted **Student Housing Town Hall #4**, continuing the Districtwide student housing initiative. Key members of the housing implementation team, **Leigh Sata**, Vice Chancellor/Chief Facilities Executive, **Ann Volz** and **Mike Loganbill** of Volz Company, **Anton Blewett** of RSS Consulting, and **Edwin Van Ginkel** of BuildLACCD, provided an update on the implementation of this important effort.

The team reported out information received during last fall's town hall. **111 participants, 18 discussion tables**, and nearly **200 written reflections** reiterated that **stable, affordable housing is essential for student success**. The structured process, designed to model **transparency, shared governance**, and an **equity-minded participatory approach**, moved attendees through values, institutional expectations, and actionable recommendations.

Student participants described the challenges of balancing coursework with housing insecurity, while others shared how obtaining stable housing restored their **well-being, academic focus**, and **sense of possibility**. Community input emphasized the need to prioritize **underserved students**, including **returning adults with dependents, undocumented and part-time students, international students, veterans**, and **students experiencing homelessness**.

Across all discussion themes, several foundational expectations emerged. Housing must ensure **true affordability**, with **transparent pricing, income-aligned rents**, and **no hidden costs**, as well as **clear eligibility processes** and **equitable access**. Safety was identified as a **non-negotiable requirement**, including secure entry systems, proper staffing such as **resident advisors** and a dedicated housing director, strong community standards, and consistent maintenance. Participants also emphasized the need for robust **on-site resources**, including **mental health services, tutoring, food assistance, community kitchens, study spaces**, and **child-friendly amenities** to create a holistic residential environment that fosters **belonging and academic success**.

Finally, the District reaffirmed its **three-part housing strategy**, pursuing **building acquisition, buying or leasing beds**, and **constructing new housing**, with LACC remaining a strong candidate for future development.

## Valley-side Colleges

### Valley Academic Hall Achieves LEED Gold Certification



The new **Valley Academic Hall** (formerly Academic Complex 1) at **Los Angeles Valley College** has officially achieved **LEED Gold certification** from the U.S. Green Building Council, marking a major sustainability milestone for the campus and the LACCD Bond Program.

The **84,000-square-foot** classroom and laboratory building earned this distinction through a range of high-performance, environmentally responsible design strategies. Among the most notable achievements is a **37.57% reduction in indoor water use**, accomplished through the installation of low-flow toilets, faucets, and other efficient fixtures that surpass the LEED baseline standards.

Energy performance was also a driving priority. Through a comprehensive energy model and thoughtful building systems, the project team achieved **33.70% energy savings**, reducing both environmental impact and operational costs while enhancing long-term energy resilience. In addition, the project emphasized sustainable material selection, incorporating products with **Environmental Product Declarations, Material Ingredient Reporting, and low- or no-VOC finishes** to support healthier indoor air quality.

Last month, the **Business Administration, CSIS, Emergency Services, Mathematics, Psychology/Statistics, and Sociology/Ethnic Studies** departments began holding classes in the new three-story facility. The building not only modernizes academic space but also enhances the surrounding campus environment.

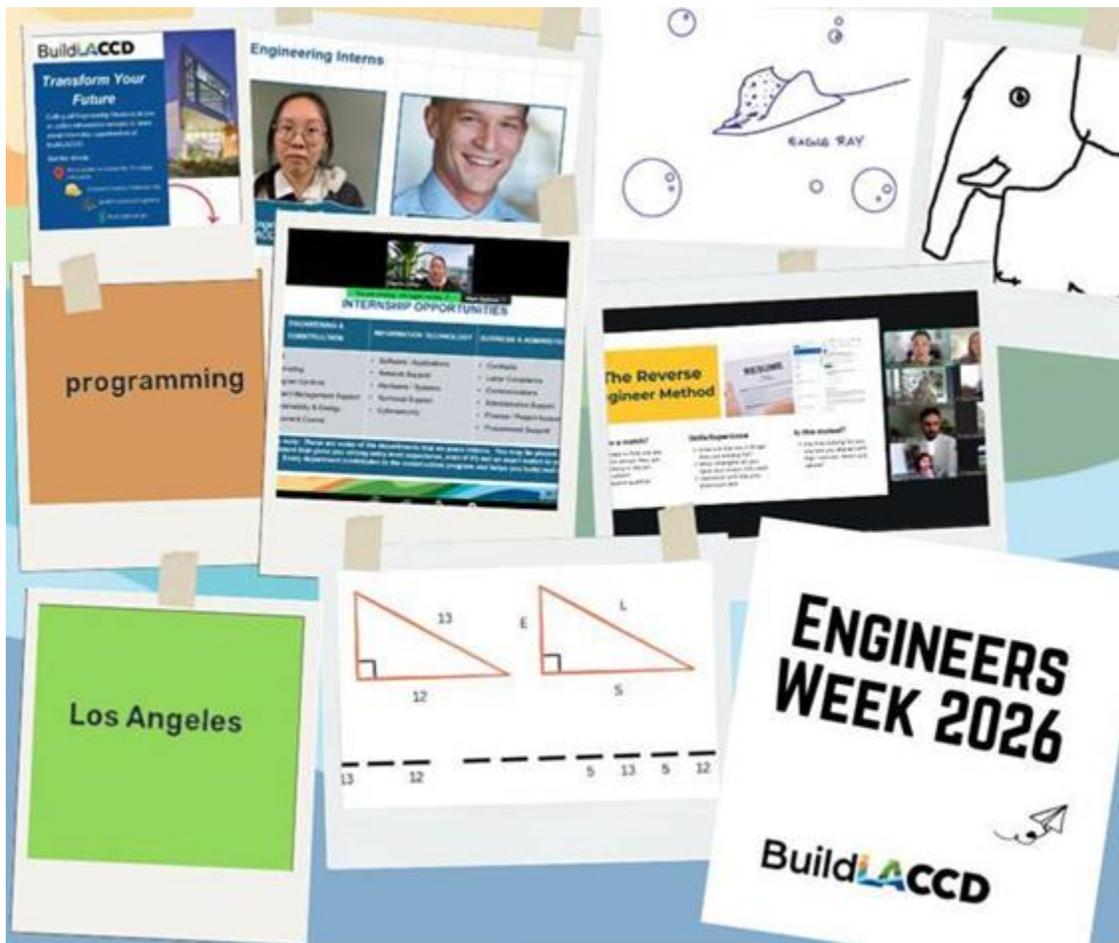
Exterior improvements include a revitalized historic quad featuring a **terraced garden, planetarium court, and roundabout arroyo**. Built above the campus stormwater capture system, these outdoor spaces offer welcoming, functional areas for students to gather, connect, and study while contributing to sustainable site design.

LACCD is also pursuing certification through **LADWP's Zero by Design program**, further demonstrating the District's commitment to energy-efficient, forward-thinking campus development.



## Program-wide

### BuildLACCD celebrates “Transform Your Future” in honor of National Engineers Week



Aligning with this year’s National Engineers Week theme, “Transform Your Future,” BuildLACCD hosted a series of events intended to create the bridge between academics and professional progress. From highlighting engineering in a team builder to facilitating technical career workshops, the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup> focused on developing talent and supporting student success.

The week commenced with a team builder on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, where 16 interns were deliberately grouped with students from another college, with different majors, and in different departments.



Working in small teams, the interns navigated “engineering-spirited” challenges using logic and ingenuity. The team builder encouraged interns to engage with new people and embrace creative problem-solving approaches, emulating the multidisciplinary world of managing construction projects.

On February 25th, an online Information Session for LACCD engineering students featured the scale of BuildLACCD’s capital construction program. Students from across LACCD’s nine campuses gained insight about the projects shaping and improving their campus, in addition to making a positive impact in the Los Angeles community. The session shone a spotlight on **Jay Crawford** and **Amy Chen**, currently interning with **LACC’s College Project Team** and **Program Controls**. Internship Program Manager, **Mareta Zuniga**, provided an overview of the paid internship opportunities available year-round.

To round out the week, BuildLACCD collaborated with **Patty Weisbach-Leach**, Senior Manager for College & Career Success at BEAM, for a Resume & Networking Workshop on February 26<sup>th</sup>. This session, specifically for BuildLACCD interns, propelled beyond the basics by inspiring interns to “think like a recruiter.” Patty provided specific examples of how to leverage AI to identify focus areas and deliver a consistent tone. Interns learned the principles of “intentional sharing of experiences” — ensuring that every networking interaction showcases how their specific strengths solve industry challenges.

Beyond National Engineers Week, BuildLACCD is dedicated to fostering professional development and expanding talent pipelines to ensure quality training for today’s LACCD students and tomorrow’s workforce.

## BuildLACCD celebrates Women in Construction Week!



*From left to right: Natalie Mason, Peggy Quijada, and Maricela Gomez*

Women remain largely underrepresented in the construction industry. Nationwide, approximately **11.3%** of the construction workforce is made up of women<sup>1</sup>- highlighting a persistent gender gap in one of the nation's most critical industries. At BuildLACCD, we are committed to changing that trend.

Women represent approximately 38% of the BuildLACCD Program team, many in management roles. Notably, **two of the four Regional Project Directors are women**, showing the next

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<sup>1</sup> 2025, [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

generation of construction professionals that a successful career is possible and attainable. BuildLACCD's Spring Semester Intern cohort is nearly gender-balanced, reflecting the growth seen in women entering the construction industry, particularly as construction managers and first-line supervisors ([IWPR, 2024](#)).

However, many barriers remain.

The [National Center for Construction Education and Research](#) reports that the composition of construction trades remained at 95.7% men to 4.3% women in 2023. That disparity is reflected on BuildLACCD project sites as well. In 2025, women completed only 1.67% of all construction hours worked across all projects on the nine college campuses.

This underscores the critical call to action to expand access, remove barriers and build pathways to the construction trades. **Isabel Guillen, BuildLACCD's Labor & Economic Development Specialist**, played a significant role in mentoring single mother **Iliana Abarca**. As a 2025 Construction, Maintenance, and Utilities program graduate, she connected and started her career with Pan Pacific on the Construction Technology Building project at her alma mater, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Isabel recruited Iliana and guided her through the process of building a portfolio, preparing for interview, and ultimately signing with **Plumbers Local 78**. Continuing to assist women in navigating the construction industry supports the next era of this long-standing industry.

During **Women in Construction Week**, we celebrate the women and allies that strengthen the team, deliver the projects and contribute to a better, more resilient built environment. "Level Up. Build Strong!"



For more information on all **BuildLACCD active projects**, please see the following:

- [Active Design Projects Status Report \(as of January 31, 2026\)](#)
- [Active Construction Projects Status Report \(as of January 31, 2026\)](#)