

# INSTITUTIONAL SELF STUDY

2008



**Long Beach Community College District  
Institutional Self Study Report  
in Support of  
Reaffirmation of Accreditation**

*Submitted by*

Long Beach Community College District  
4901 E. Carson St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808

*to*

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

August 2008



## Certification of the Institutional Self Study Report

July 8, 2008


To: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges,  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges


From: Long Beach Community College District  
4901 E. Carson St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808

This Institutional Self Study Report is submitted for the purpose of assisting in the determination of the institution's accreditation status.

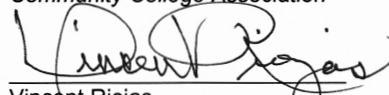
We certify that there was broad participation by the campus community, and we believe the Self Study Report accurately reflects the nature and substance of this institution.

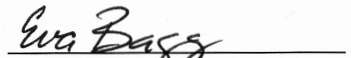
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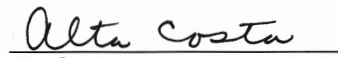
  
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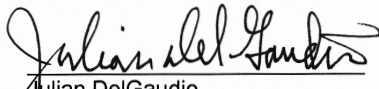
  
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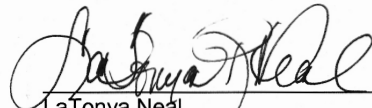
  
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## INTRODUCTION TO THE SELF STUDY

### History and Description

During this evaluation period, Long Beach City College (LBCC) celebrated its eightieth anniversary as one of the oldest and largest community colleges in California. Established in 1927 as Long Beach Junior College, legislative action in 1970 separated the college from the Long Beach Unified School District, creating the Long Beach Community College District. Beginning with a student body of only 500, the college's enrollment in fall 2007 reached over 29,000 students. During the college's 80-year history, the LBCC faculty has grown from 20 to over 340 full-time faculty with more than twice that number of part-time faculty. Currently, there are more than 500 administrators and classified staff working to help advance the college's ongoing efforts.

Today, the Long Beach Community College District (referred to community-wide as Long Beach City College) is a single-college district that operates two principal campuses. The Liberal Arts Campus (LAC) occupies 112 acres in suburban northeast Long Beach, while the Pacific Coast Campus (PCC) is located on a 30-acre site in an urban setting in central Long Beach. Specialized instructional services are offered at the college's two Child Development Centers, one located on a 2.3-acre site north of the LAC and the other at the PCC. The district also leases office space near LAC to accommodate the growing economic development activities of the district.

Long Beach City College has become one of the most diverse community colleges in the state, a reflection of the fact that the city in which most of its students reside is considered one of the most diverse metropolitan areas in the US. The college's student population mirrors the community it serves in terms of ethnic composition. About 36 percent of LBCC students are Latino, 26 percent White, 17 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, and 13 percent African American. Adding to this diversity is a large cohort of International students who come to Long Beach City College to study at the American Language and Culture Institute (ALCI) to improve their English skills in preparation for college admission.

Transfer education and occupational training are two main functions at LBCC, but the college also offers many basic skills courses and general education programs. New programs and services are continually being developed to meet the needs of the community, an increasingly diverse student population, as well as business and industry. The college has added cultural and ethnic studies, developed computer-assisted instruction, expanded multimedia efforts, created a series of student learning communities, and increased collaborative efforts with both the Long Beach Unified School District and California State University, Long Beach. The college has received state awards for its associate degree nursing and child study programs and is widely known for its extensive and technologically-advanced commercial music and electronics programs. In addition, it has several special training partnerships with area corporations.

LBCC is governed by a five-member, publicly-elected Board of Trustees. The Board provides leadership and sets policy for the College. The Superintendent-President is responsible for implementing policies and directives approved by the Board.

Long Beach City College prides itself on its long history of service to the community. The close ties with the community are illustrated by the support the College enjoys from the Long Beach City College Foundation, a nonprofit organization operating independently of the College to raise funds for scholarships, faculty initiatives, and facility enhancements, which contribute to the College's outstanding and evolving learning environment. Since it was founded in 1978, the Long Beach City College Foundation has raised more than \$25 million dollars to benefit the College community. In each of the past five years, the Long Beach City College Foundation has averaged over 700 scholarships totaling more than \$500,000, over \$500,000 in program support, and more than 50 departmental grants totaling over \$30,000.





### ***Significant developments since last site visit***

As the college celebrates its eightieth anniversary and continues to perform the duties and responsibilities of a full service institution of higher education, it operates in the midst of a number of major transitions. This is a time of change and challenge. Between the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002 and today, the college has faced and met many major challenges and is moving decisively forward with appropriate planning to deal holistically with an uncertain future.

The future of the college will be greatly influenced by trends and conditions in the external environment, which when combined will have a direct bearing on the college's program of instruction and support services both now and in the future. The most important external influence was the severe financial reversal the college experienced in 2005 due to increases in unit fees for students and the subsequent drop in enrollment. The college entered a period of stabilization in 2006-2007 due to a drop in enrollment. While this was a system-wide phenomenon, its local impact on the college was severe. Fortunately, a reduction in unit fees, coupled with a more sophisticated approach to enrollment management, allowed the college to increase enrollment and to come out of stabilization in 2007-2008.

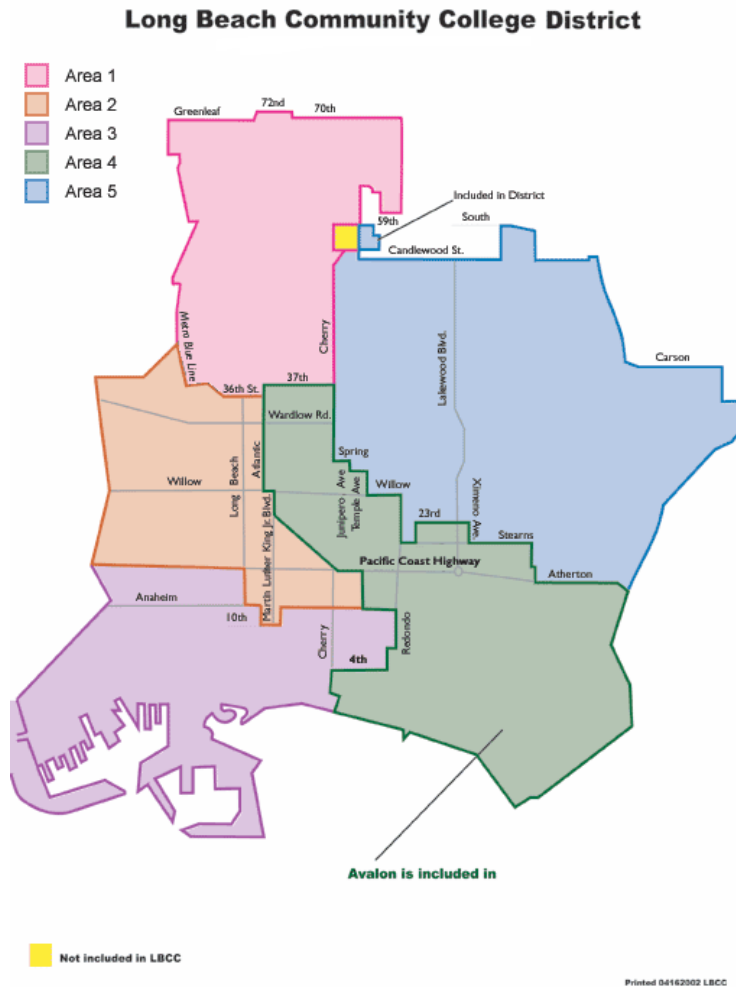
Other significant developments since the college's last self study are discussed at length in this Introduction, in the section entitled *Overview of Progress on 2002 Planning Agenda*. This section describes changes in the institution's planning structure and process; a major student success initiative that was carefully framed after extensive assessment, both internally and externally conducted, on the college's basic skills program; significant advancement in numerous areas of the college's student learning outcomes assessment; and major facilities construction and renovation projects enabled by the passing of two Measure E Bonds totalling over \$600 million. This section also considers the college's deep and extensive inquiry into issues of diversity and equity and complementary development of a comprehensive Staff Equity Plan.



## Demographic Information

### Long Beach City College District Service Area

The Long Beach City College District services an area of approximately 128 square miles and includes five main service areas. Each of the college's Board of Trustees provides governing oversight for one of the five service areas shown in the map below.



Four cities are served by the District, including Long Beach, Lakewood, Avalon, and Signal Hill. Based on U.S. Census data from the year 2000, the population for the largest of these cities, Long Beach, the fifth largest city in the state of California, was 461,522. The city of Lakewood had 79,345 residents, and the cities of Signal Hill and Avalon followed with 9,333 and 3,127 residents respectively.

In 2006, the total population of these communities was over 550,000 residents, with 466,718 reported for the city of Long Beach and 79,345 for the city of Lakewood. This marks a 1.1 percent population growth for Long Beach and 12.5 percent population growth for Lakewood between 2000 and 2006. Although the population and household growth rate trails the state's rate, the city of Lakewood exceeds the state in terms of population growth, as shown in the table below.