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ECMC FOUNDATION AWARDS LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION \$85,000 TO SUPPORT LACC HONORS STUDENTS IN THE RALPH BUNCHE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

(Los Angeles, CA – March 1, 2023) – The Los Angeles City College Foundation was awarded a \$85,000 grant from the ECMC Foundation to support the Ralph Bunche Scholars Program (RBS). The RBS Program is committed to meeting the needs of academically motivated and intellectually curious students who aspire to transfer to an elite university.

The honors program is named after Ralph Bunche, the great political scientist, diplomat, and recipient of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize. In the 1920s, he attended UCLA, which was then located on Vermont Avenue, currently LACC's campus. Bunche, a graduate of Jefferson High School, was denied membership in the citywide honors society because of his African-American heritage, but he went on to graduate as valedictorian at UCLA before earning a Masters and PhD at Harvard.

Dr. Lisa Nashua, Executive Director of the LACC Foundation, says, "The support from the ECMC Foundation provides important resources to increase student success towards their goal of transferring to the four-year college or university of their choice. Many of our students have faced obstacles in their lives and reflect the grit to overcome like Ralph Bunche. He serves as a model to our students and we are grateful for this support from the ECMC Foundation which allows the LA City College Foundation to serve as a partner for student success."

Bunche noted that when he was at UCLA, his professors were accessible and challenging. LACC honors students are expected to perform at their highest level and are given special and enriched assignments by their professors.

Scholars who complete four (for STEM) or five (non-STEM) honors classes are given priority consideration when applying to transfer. In particular, students can apply to the College of Letters and

Sciences through the UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), and UCI offers honors-to-honors for high GPA transfers.

Interested students can apply by contacting the RBS Program Director, Professor Evan Kendall. He shares, “It can take three or four semesters to gain certification, so students are encouraged to plan ahead. They must have taken twelve units with a GPA over 3.3 to apply. Similar rules exist for students coming straight from high school. We offer a more affordable pathway to the same destination for many majors.”

About Los Angeles City College Foundation

The Los Angeles City College Foundation (LACCF) develops philanthropic support by working with donors and community partners to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for the students of Los Angeles City College. LACCF develops and provides student services and financial support to increase college access and to enable college success for economically disadvantaged students and other historically underserved student groups. The Foundation supports students with scholarships, awards, book vouchers, emergency loans and other financial support including basic needs.

About Los Angeles City College

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs, and certificates to more than 18,000 students. In the past decade, a total of 6,651 students have transferred to four-year colleges and universities, including 4,040 students attending Cal State universities and 1,086 students transferring to UC campuses. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges., LACC provides students and adult learners vital pathways to more advanced education and enhanced employment.

About ECMC Foundation

The Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC) group is a nonprofit corporation focused on helping students succeed – especially underserved populations by providing services including financial literacy, student loan repayment counseling and default prevention.

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