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News Release

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Local District South and Los Angeles Trade Tech Innovate to Create New Pathways to Higher Education

LOS ANGELES - In a sweeping expansion, Local District South of the Los Angeles Unified School District announced today that seven additional area high schools will join Mervyn M. Dymally High School in partnering with Los Angeles Trade Technical College to offer dual enrollment programs.

The high schools include King/Drew Medical Magnet, Rancho Dominguez Prep, Carson Academy of Medical Arts, along with continuation and options high schools, such as, Avalon Continuation High School, Eagle Tree High School, Moneta Continuation High School, and Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

"I am very pleased that many of our Local District South students will have yet another dual enrollment opportunity as provided by Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Access to higher education should not have a cost-barrier, and by providing simultaneous enrollment for students still in high school, precious time and dollars can be shaved off of post-high school educational pathways, and enable our students to have a clear, affordable road to success," said Board Member Dr. Richard Vladovic, who represents the region on the Los Angeles Board of Education. "I want to especially praise the work of Local District South Superintendent Christopher Downing, for all his hard work in creating a better future for the students of his local district."

"This is wonderful news for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Michelle King. "This expansion provides them with even more options in higher education."

The plan seeks to place high school students on a college trajectory by offering a dual enrollment program allowing students to complete up to 18 college semester units, while at the same time, fulfilling their L.A. Unified's A-G requirements upon graduation. Participating students may select from several career pathways that include: Advanced Transportation and Manufacturing; Applied Sciences; Business, Child Development, Labor Studies (Public Services); Construction, Maintenance and Utilities; Cosmetology; Culinary Arts, and Design and Media Arts.

Regarding the partnership's potential, Larry Frank, president of Los Angeles Trade Technical College, said: "Concurrent enrollment serves as an opportunity for high school students to see themselves in a college environment, to challenge themselves with curriculum not always found in high schools and to move closer to their goals for higher learning. The college's partnership with L.A. Unified supports student success, and is a true gateway to higher education for so many communities."

Starting this school year, participating students may take college classes, either at their high school complex, or at the college. Through successfully completing an identified pathway's required coursework, students can earn either a certificate or an Associate of Arts degree.

In addition to exposing students to rigorous college curricula, promoting college readiness, and expanding college opportunities to students who may be underrepresented on college campuses, this dual enrollment program will provide families with significant cost savings for their undergraduate studies or technical training programs. High school students, who graduate with 18 college units, will save thousands of dollars in college tuition and fees.

Putting a fine focus on the partnership's benefits to local students, Local District Superintendent South Christopher Downing said: "We are honored and pleased to extend our work with Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Each agreement we reach with an institution of higher education guarantees our students greater opportunity, more options, and additional pathways to college and career success."

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