

From: [Gribbons, Barry C](#)

Subject: Campus Update and Thanksgiving Message

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 11:43:45 AM

Dear Monarchs,

Thanksgiving presents a perfect time to express my appreciation for all of your hard work in service of our students. Let me share some updates and then return to a Thanksgiving message.

Updates:

- **Concert in Honor of Kabwe Chanda.** The Herb Alpert Music Center and the LA City College Department of Music is holding a special music concert in honor of Kabwe Chanda tonight, Wednesday, November 25 at 6 p.m. on YouTube Live. To access the concert, go to [YouTube](#).
- **COVID-19.** As of Monday, the COVID-19 numbers for LACCD were 216 positive cases, with 41 suspected, and 129 exposures. Note that the number of positive cases includes all cases regardless of whether or not they were on a campus. For Los Angeles County, Monday's report saw a record 6,124 new positive cases, bringing the total to 370,636. In one light, the number of cases for LACCD compared to LA County demonstrates that our measures have been effective. At the same time, the LA County numbers are an important reminder to remain vigilant. On Monday, you received information on a [new Travel Advisory](#). The County has implemented additional restrictions and has signaled that a new Safer At Home order may be issued sometime between Friday and Monday. Please continue to exercise precautions this holiday week and moving forward.
- **Fundraising Efforts.** We have two fundraising efforts that I want to put on your radar. Phi Theta Kappa will have a matching funds campaign in coordination with Helping Hands for our students that are experiencing food insecurity. The second is for Operation Santa, which will provide gift cards to local families in need. Keep an eye out for the announcements for these fundraisers, or simply go to the LAVC Foundation webpage to make a donation. When donating, please note that your donation is for PTK or Operation Santa.
- **Zoom Backgrounds.** Since we are all spending so much of our time on Zoom, Jennifer Borucki just published some more backgrounds you can download and use on the [LAVC Zoom background page](#). Thank you, Luiza, for your help designing these!

Now for my Thanksgiving message.

I have had this image of 15,000 people crowding the center of campus, filling the grassy areas and walkways from Humanities, past Campus Center, past ACA, ASU, LARC, Theater, Art, all the way to the new VACC site. 15,000 people. This represents the scale of impact you are having and the number of students progressing towards their educational goals, creating new, life-changing opportunities. It's important to acknowledge the struggles everyone has faced. Our students disproportionately face barriers and uncertainty, including food insecurity, housing insecurity, undocumented status with legal uncertainty, former foster youth, recently unemployed, simply unable to find a quiet place to study, and a host of other obstacles. The pandemic has only exacerbated the barriers and created increased levels of anxiety and stress. Despite this, our students are demonstrating resiliency in forging ahead and in many ways, even thriving.

Over the past month, I have had inspirational opportunities to listen to our choir's performances, watch our students' submissions in the Media Arts Showcase, read thank you notes from students expressing appreciation to our faculty and staff for their support, visit the student Art Exhibit, view pictures of students receiving support packages, attend the Manufacturing Academy Graduation, and visit one of the few in-person classes seeing our students learn to provide healthcare. To know that this is happening for thousands and thousands of students is quite simply breathtaking.

All of this is possible because of you. I can list pages and pages of challenges in work and personal lives that have been experienced. And yet, your tireless efforts, commitment, resiliency, innovation, courageous experimentation, and support for each other is helping our 15,000 students have life-changing experiences and opportunities.

Your impact is amazing and I am truly honored to be a part of this Monarch community. Thank you!!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Monarchs, and as always, please let me know how I can support you!

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