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## **LACCD Releases Reports on Contract Scoring Processes at Two Colleges**

### *Report Recommends a Series of Changes to Improve the Scoring Process*

Los Angeles, September 21, 2011 – The Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD or the District) today released two reports on the results of investigations by the District’s Office of the Inspector General into contract scoring processes at two LACCD colleges. The reports examined the awarding of Design-Build construction contracts at Los Angeles Mission College (“Mission”) and West Los Angeles College (“WLAC”). The Inspector General recommended a series of reforms to the scoring of future Design-Build contracts.

The reports noted that investigations were launched into the scoring processes at the two colleges as the result of allegations reported to the District’s whistleblower hotline. The investigations found that in each case the eventual winner, FTR International (“FTR”), had not finished first after the initial tabulation of the scoring sheets of the evaluators, but that after later revisions to the scores, FTR finished first. In addition, the investigations found that at Mission the rescoring may have been influenced by college personnel, while at WLAC the rescoring appeared to be as a result of changes made by managers of the overall building program and the WLAC building program.

The reports also made the following recommendations for improvements in the Design-Build scoring processes:

- 1) All persons engaged in selection of Design-Build contractors after the initial technical screening of proposals should disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest and commit to maintaining confidentiality of the process.
- 2) Eliminate the practice of revising scores once the initial tabulation has been completed.
- 3) Ensure that the committees evaluating Design-Build proposals have a majority of college representatives.
- 4) Require a sign-in sheet for all scoring session attendees.
- 5) Require that all Design-Build scoring sessions utilize a standard procedure that is reviewed at the beginning of each evaluation session.

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“We continue to be serious about implementing reforms of the building program,” said Daniel LaVista, chancellor of the nine-college community college district since August of 2010. “I look forward to working with staff and program management on the implementation of the recommendations.”

“Our board continues to be committed to taking clear and decisive action to reform our building program, and these reports provide additional guidance to tighten the award of Design-Build contracts,” said Miguel Santiago, president of the LACCD Board of Trustees. “We will take any actions necessary to ensure that contracts are awarded fairly and that construction dollars are spent efficiently to produce the results we promised the taxpayers.”

Design-Build contracts are bid and awarded differently from more traditional low-bid Design-Bid-Build contracts. With Design-Build, potential contractors form teams to design and build the project from start to finish. After review for technical sufficiency, the various bids are scored according to a variety of criteria, including design quality, track record by the various team members and other factors. Design-Build leads to faster and more efficient construction process than more traditional methods.

The two reports are attached.

#### **About the Los Angeles Community College District**

The Los Angeles Community College District, the nation's largest community college district, serves one-quarter million students a year in more than 36 cities in Los Angeles County at its nine colleges. The District covers nearly 900 square miles and has educated and trained the region's diverse workforce since 1969.

#### **About the LACCD Building Program**

LACCD's Building Program is a 14-year, \$6 billion program funded mostly by taxpayer-approved bonds, supplemented by additional funding from the state of California. With approximately \$3 billion spent so far, the LACCD's nine colleges are benefiting from brand new and renovated academic buildings, sports facilities, arts complexes, administrative buildings, child development centers, and parking structures. The Building Program has completed hundreds of separate projects, with hundreds more in the planning or construction stages. For more information on the LACCD's construction program and a list of awards the District has received for its environmentally responsible projects, visit [www.laccdbuildsgreen.org](http://www.laccdbuildsgreen.org).

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