As I am writing this, we are coming to the conclusion of a very exciting year. When we began academic year 2012-2013, ELAC was confronting a significant budgetary crisis that was forcing us to reduce course offerings and services to our 30,000+ students. Along with all the community colleges in the state, we had long waiting lists and many students were unable to get the classes that would enable them to move forward with their lives and careers. Fortunately, the voters of California backed Governor Brown’s Proposition 30, which increased taxes to help restore funding to education. In both Winter and Spring we added additional classes and we will continue doing so in academic year 2013-2014. We will also be hiring additional faculty and staff to teach and assist you.

The state Legislature has passed legislation aimed at assisting all of you in attaining your academic and career objectives. The Community College Board of Governors has even developed a “score card” to help measure whether each community college is improving its success rates. To better help beginning students at ELAC, I have allocated $1,000,000 to innovate new programs that should make your transition to higher education easier and potentially more successful. These include enhanced orientations, counseling, bridge programs in summer, accelerated Math and English classes, and general education classes for students who have successfully completed their first year program. Look for advertisements for the new “first year experience.”

Though you may experience some inconvenience, you will see a tremendous amount of construction activity on campus during the next several years as result of our bond projects. By fall, the Student Success Building and the Math/Science complex will be under construction. Student Success will house English, Foreign Languages, Non-Credit, Chicano Studies, Speech, the Writing Center, the Honors Program and the Learning Resource Center. Math/Science will house Math, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Respiratory Therapy, Health Information Technology and the Math Tutorial Center. We will also begin construction of the Student Center that will house our food services, bookstore, student government and health center. When these building are completed the inconvenience will be proven to have been worthwhile. We have also been given the go-ahead to begin development of a new South Gate Educational Center.

I would like to encourage each of you to take advantage of the many resources we offer that can increase your potential for success. If you need tutoring, go before you have fallen behind in your classes. We have an excellent writing center and math lab. We also have a fine Learning Resource Center for help with many of our general education classes. I would also ask you to think about getting involved with one of our many clubs that are sponsored by the Associated Student Union. Studies have shown that involvement in clubs helps develop new friends and can also prepare you for your future, as many of the clubs are linked to academic departments and majors.

One final point: ELAC will be conducting Program Reviews of all academic programs, student services and college services during the next year. We would greatly appreciate your involvement if you are asked to fill in surveys. Your contributions are invaluable in helping to make East a better college.

Thank you and have a great year!

Farley Herzek, Interim President
EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE