Welcome to the spring 2016 semester! Whether you are a new or continuing student, you will find positive changes on campus. A brand-new Student Center, set to open this semester, will bring much-needed space for expansion of the Associated Student Union, the bookstore, and student recreational and study areas.

A building you cannot possibly miss noticing is the new Student Success and Retention Center, standing five stories tall, directly across from the E7 Technology Center. This state-of-the-art facility is home to all the Language Arts—English, English as a Second Language, Modern Languages (formerly Foreign Languages), and Communication Studies—as well as the Learning Resource Center, Chicana/o Studies, and the Honors Program. The Writing Center is in that building with greatly increased facilities to assist you with your papers. Something we haven't had in many years, a modern, state-of-the-art Language Lab, is installed to serve both Modern Languages and ESL. These are exciting times for faculty, staff, and students who have been waiting so long for these facilities.

Let me add something on a personal level. Many of you will find that attending college is another layer of stress on top of work and family responsibilities. All of us at ELAC—administration, faculty, staff, and your student peers—want you to know that help is available whether you need crisis intervention, mental health counseling, or just someone to listen. In this schedule, you can find the telephone numbers and hours for the Student Health Center and the ELAC Women’s and Men’s Support Center. These offices can also put you in touch with many community resources. Whatever you are going through, be sure others are going through it too. A helping hand is there if you will reach out.

I hope you will think of ELAC as part of your extended family, both while you are here and wherever your life takes you.

Marvin Martinez
President, East Los Angeles College