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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fuel Cell Discussion to Kick-Off Sustainability Institute

Los Angeles (October 26, 2010) -- The LACCD Sustainability Institute will host its first public event on October 27, a lunchtime presentation on fuel cell technology by Carlos Urrutia, a lecturer in the College of Engineering, Computer Science and Technology at Cal State Los Angeles.

The institute's inaugural Sustainability Collaborative will be held in the third floor hearing room at the Los Angeles Community College District office at 811 Wilshire Blvd. from noon to 1 p.m.

"This topic is an excellent beginning for the institute's Sustainability Collaborative sessions. This technology is undergoing rapid change and, because fuel cells produce no emissions when fueled by hydrogen, it will help us in our quest to reduce the use of fossil fuels," said Mona Field, a member of the LACCD Board of Trustees.

The Sustainability Institute was established in May to promote environmental awareness in curriculum, job training programs and daily practices at the nine colleges in the District.

George Leddy and Alexis Navarro, interim curriculum coordinators for the institute, are now assisting the District's nine colleges in developing and coordinating their campus' sustainability programs.

"The institute reflects a commitment by the District and the Board of Trustees to embrace sustainability in all aspects of campus life, from how our new buildings are designed and constructed to incorporating green topics into our courses," said Leddy, who is also an adjunct professor of environmental science at Los Angeles Valley College.

"The institute is involved in various projects at the colleges and has already implemented workshops by Sustainability Works for students at East Los Angeles College," said Navarro, an assistant professor of architecture and alumnus of East L.A. College.

"Months of discussion by faculty, administrators and staff committed to a green agenda have culminated in an excellent start for the Sustainability Institute," said David Beaulieu, the District's Academic Senate president. "In the coming year, the institute will assist our nine colleges by promoting new green courses and offering LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) seminars, to give just two examples."

Federal grants are providing the funds for the Sustainability Institute.

Participants for the October 27 discussion should bring their lunch and are encouraged to use public transportation to reach the venue. The 811 Wilshire building is accessible via the Red and Blue lines, DASH and METRO buses. Parking is not provided.

For more information, please contact Alexis Navarro at Navarraj@elac.edu or George Leddy at gleddy@mac.com.