



"Creating a Better Future for Our Community through Advocacy, Mentorship and Education"

**PROPOSAL
FOR BUDGET REQUEST FOR
LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT
PATHWAY TO LAW SCHOOL
MENTORING PROGRAM**

**PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IN ACTION
18017 CHATSWORTH STREET, SUITE 337
GRANADA HILLS, CA. 91344**

**TELEPHONE : (800) 894-7201
TELECOPIER: (818) 375-4939**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OVERVIEW OF PESA AND THE PROPOSED PROJECT.....	3
2.	DETAILS OF THE PROJECT.	7
3.	BUDGET.....	10
4.	LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.....	11
5.	FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.....	13

OVERVIEW OF PESA AND THE PROPOSED PROGRAM

Parents, Educators/Teachers and Students in Action (hereinafter referred to as "PESA") is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission statement of PESA is "Creating a Better Future for Our Community through Advocacy, Mentorship and Education."

PESA has a strong relationship with the legal community. Under the guiding hand of the President of PESA, Seymour I. Amster (an attorney and past president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association), PESA has tremendous support for its programs from the bar associations, the judiciary and the legal community as a whole. Thus PESA is in the unique position of harnessing the knowledge and experience of the legal community to influence the young minds on our community college campuses to become successful members of our legal community as well as respectable members of our community. Thus creating a true partnership between the private and public entities of our community in order to provide us all with a better future, this is what PESA does.

As a result of PESA being an integral part of the Teen Court Program of the Los Angeles Superior Court, a strong partner of the Pathway to Law School Program and the lead non-profit of the Neighborhood School Safety Program of the Los Angeles City Attorney Office, PESA is in an unique position to create a successful mentoring program for the Los Angeles Community College District not only for students considering the legal field as a career but for other students on these campuses as well.

Through its "Teen Court Project for Justice", PESA is the primary non-profit that provides needed funding and infrastructure support to the Teen Court Program of the Los Angeles Superior Court (hereinafter referred to as "Teen Court"). Teen Court is an alternative early intervention program that involve young people in various roles in the trial of the juvenile offender. It is a juvenile diversion and prevention program that links students, schools, teachers, parents of juvenile offenders, local police, civic organizations, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles Probation Department, and the Los Angeles Superior Court in a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions.

The Teen Court trial occurs on a high school campus, with the jurors being high school students. The Teen Court is presided over by a Superior Court judge. The high school students deliberate and determine culpability and a recommended sentence. When the juvenile is found culpable the judicial officer imposes a sentence accepting the recommended sentence from the jury as he deems appropriate. If the juvenile offender completes the sentence the case is never filed in Superior Court and the juvenile can request for their arrest record be sealed.

PESA has created volunteer opportunities for Community College students to be involved in Teen Court. The volunteer opportunities consist of assisting in the proctoring of the jury, as well as assisting in making presentations to the high school students. Commencing this upcoming school year, opportunities will exist, with the appropriate funding, to have Community College students assist with the monitoring of juvenile offenders while they are on informal probation. This opportunity will exist not only for the Community College students interested in a career in law but for those students interested in a career that involves child development. PESA has partnered with the Social Work program at the University of Southern California, and funding this aspect of the program will allow PESA to create the foundation of a pathway program between U.S.C. and the Community College students interested in a career in social

work. In addition an opportunity exists to create a pipeline between the students at the Teen Court High Schools and the Community Colleges in the Pathway to Law School Program. Many of these high school students involved in the Teen Court program would benefit from commencing their college experience at a Community College. Thus by exposing these high school students to the Pathway to Law School programs at the Los Angeles Community Colleges, these high school students will learn about the benefit of commencing their college experience at a Community College campus. This pipeline has already commenced in the San Fernando Valley. LAMC professors are teaching law related courses for credit during the school day at San Fernando High School and Northridge Academy High School, two Teen Court High Schools. There are plans to expand this in the upcoming school year to other high schools in the San Fernando Valley. Joint field trips have occurred to law school campuses with the Teen Court high school students and the Pathway to Law school students. As a result of this interaction the first group of high school graduates from the Teen Court Program have enrolled at the LAMC , Pathway to Law School Program.

Thus connecting the Teen Court high schools with the Pathway to Law School Community Colleges, have benefits for both programs. The Pathway to Law School LACCD Community Colleges are:

- Los Angeles Mission College in Sylmar, California
- Los Angeles City College in Los Angeles, California
- West Los Angeles Community College in West Los Angeles, California
- East Los Angeles Community College in East Los Angeles, California.

The high schools in the County of Los Angeles participating in the Teen Court Program that are within the vicinity of these Community Colleges are:

- Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory - El Sereno
- Benjamin Franklin High School - Los Angeles - Highland Park
- Canoga Park High School - Canoga Park
- El Rancho High School - Pico Rivera
- Esteban E. Torres High School - City Terrace
- Fairfax High School - Los Angeles
- John Burroughs High School - Burbank
- Los Angeles High School - Los Angeles

- Maya Angelou High School - South Los Angeles
- Northridge Academy High School - Northridge
- San Fernando High School - San Fernando
- Santa Monica High School - Santa Monica
- South Gate High School - South Gate
- Susan Miller Dorsey High School - Los Angeles- West Adams
- Theodore Roosevelt High School - Los Angeles - Boyle Heights
- Ulysses S. Grant High School - Sherman Oaks - Valley Glen
- Van Nuys High School - Van Nuys
- Venice High School - Los Angeles - Mar Vista
- William Howard Taft High School - Woodland Hills
- Woodrow Wilson High School - El Sereno

The Office of the City Attorney of Los Angeles has instituted Neighborhood Justice Courts. These courts are a diversionary program with community representatives acting as jurors. Many of the offenders are young adults. These offenders have complained that the juries are not reflective of individuals of their age. As such the Office of the City Attorney of Los Angeles has reached out to PESA to address this issue. In response to this request, PESA has created another opportunity for the Community College Students. PESA has proposed to have these students properly trained and participate as jurors. The Office of the City Attorney of Los Angeles has accepted this proposal.

As a result of its relationship with attorneys involved in Teen Court, PESA will be able to recruit these attorneys to be mentors to the Los Angeles Community College Students involved in the Pathway to Law School Program. Then PESA will provide training to the Los Angeles Community College Students involved in the Pathway to Law School Program on how to work at a law office. This will create opportunities for the Community College Students to receive internships at the law offices. This will then result in letter of recommendations for the Community College Students, this will then translate to enhancing these students chances of becoming employed in the legal community. This will then allow these students to fund their education by working in the law field, providing them with knowledge and experience that they will be able to use through their professional life.

In addition to the above PESA will create workshops concerning opportunities for all

Community College students. For example the City of Los Angeles will be providing more opportunities for individuals to work for the city. PESA can coordinate work shops on this and other related opportunities so students understand what they need to do to take advantage of these opportunities.

In addition PESA can utilize its connections with the local bar associations to foster a strong partnership between the Los Angeles Community Colleges Paralegal programs and the attorneys involved in these bar associations. The purpose being to create a pipeline for certification for the paralegal working at the law offices from the Los Angeles Community Colleges.

Thus this proposal will benefit all of the stakeholders involved. This beneficial relationship will enhance student achievement, bring needed resources to the Los Angeles Community Colleges, and strengthen our community as a whole.

DETAILS OF THE PROJECT

Best practices will be followed in this project in order to implement a program that will cause the Community College Student's to have a successful educational and career path. This will be done by developing a structured, trusting relationship between the mentor and the mentee. The mentoring will focus on providing support and guidance around the skills required to pursue a legal career, as well as general encouragement on life challenges through meetings, activities and information communication.

The first step will be to create the infrastructure for mentors and mentees. PESA will designate a mentoring manager to oversee the entire program. Then PESA will designate individuals who will be known as "Law Club Advisors" to coordinate the program at the Community College Campuses. A faculty member at each Community College campus will be recruited to assist with the project. A PESA representative will be assigned the role of recruiting mentors from the legal community.

PESA will design a Standard Operating Procedures (hereinafter referred to as "SOP"). This SOP will include all of the parameters of the program. It will define the procedures, regulations, roles, goals and will include all other necessary aspects of a proper SOP.

PESA will recruit mentors from the legal community. These will include judicial officers as well as attorneys. The recruitment process will first be directed towards those judicial officers and attorneys involved in the Teen Court program. The recruitment process will be forever expanding reaching out to the local bar associations as well as judicial officers and attorneys not involved in the Teen Court program.

On each Los Angeles Community College where a Pathway to Law School Program exists a Pathway to Law School Club will be created if one does not exist already. PESA will assign a member of its organization to act as an advisor to the Law School Club. The purpose of the PESA advisor will be to advise the Club members. The Advisor is not to run the club but only assist as an advisor when needed. The purpose of the advisor will be to help coordinate the club members to be involved in this project.

PESA will work with LACCD personnel to determine what would be the proper way to have students who are not attending a Los Angeles Community College where a Pathway to Law School Program exists to become involved in the program. This may include establishing a law post at these Community Colleges and then have them attend project programs at the Los Angeles Community College where a Pathway to Law School Program exists.

Then mentees will be recruited to be part of the project. Mentors will already have been recruited and have committed to the project prior to the recruitment of the mentees. Then a time schedule will be established where the mentors meet with the mentees in a group session. Then a schedule will be designed where individual sessions between the mentor and the mentee can occur as well.

As part of this project PESA will create, plan and present a series of training programs to provide the mentees with practical knowledge they need to actually work in a law office. These will be a series of workshops with the participants receiving a Certificate of Completion of the Program from PESA once they have attended the workshops. In addition PESA will coordinate with the Pathway to Law School Club and other appropriate entities to publicize the Internship Training Program and the workshops that will be presented at the campus.

Furthermore PESA will coordinate internship opportunities for the students who have completed the Internship Training Program. PESA will accomplish this through presentations at bar associations about the program, sponsoring students to attend bar functions, contacting local law firms for the purpose of arranging interviews, providing funding for appropriate insurance so that the law firms can be part of the internship program, arrange that the interns will receive a reference letter at the conclusion of the internship to utilize to obtain employment with a law firm.

PESA will also coordinate employment opportunities for the mentees who have completed an Internship with a law office. PESA will accomplish this through presentations at bar associations about the program, sponsoring mentees to attend bar functions, contacting local law firms for the purpose of arranging interviews, and contacting employment agencies to make them aware of the program.

PESA will create, plan and organize community service opportunities for the mentees participating in the program. The community service opportunities will be law related. They will include but not be limited to participation in the PESA Teen Court Project for Justice Program as well as the Los Angeles City Attorney Neighborhood Justice Courts.

In addition PESA will explore a Special Education Buddy System. This will occur by working with the personnel at the Community Colleges to determine if there are special education students that could benefit from a mentee assisting the special education student attending the Community College. Community College students who are interested in child development studies will also be recruited for this project if this is deemed appropriate. The purpose being of this program would be to recruit Community College Students to assist and help special education students at the Community Colleges with their education and other needs.

In addition PESA will create, plan and organize networking opportunities for the mentees participating in the program. The networking opportunities will be law related. They will include but not be limited to attending events that PESA is hosting, being sponsored by PESA to attend bar events and other events that are law related.

Furthermore PESA will create, plan and organize field trips for the mentees participating in the program. The field trips will be law related. They will include but not be limited to trips to Law Schools, government entities, and other law related entities and activities.

PESA will create, plan and present a series of workshops to ensure those students involved in the Pathway to Law School Program are appraised of the options for law school they have available to them upon completion of the Pathway to Law School Program.

Also PESA will coordinate with the Pathway to Law School Club and other appropriate entities to publicize the Pathway to Law School Community Service and Networking Program at the campus.

PESA will foster discussions at the Los Angeles Community Colleges that they have created this program at to determine if said Community College is interested for a similar program to be created in a field not related to law. If PESA becomes appraised of this interest will design a program to be considered by the Los Angeles Community Colleges in the future.

In addition PESA will coordinate a relationship between the high schools involved with

the Teen Court Program and the Los Angeles Community College offering a Pathway Program within geographical proximity of the Community College. This relationship would be similar to the one already created with San Fernando High School and Northridge Academy High School.

In addition PESA will foster a Paralegal Program Pathway. The purpose of this component would be to promote with the bar associations in Los Angeles County and law firms to have the paralegal in their firms become certified paralegal through a Los Angeles Community College Paralegal program.

PESA will also assist in creating a Paralegal Employment Assistance Program. The purpose of this program will be to help those graduates of a Los Angeles Community College paralegal programs find employment. Through its contacts with local bar associations PESA can help connect these graduates with potential job opportunities.

In addition PESA can create and coordinate workshops for other employment opportunities for Los Angeles Community College Students: IATZE 33 (Union for Stage workers) has expressed an interest in instituting workshops and training programs to train Los Angeles Community College Students to be interns and then potentially receive employment opportunities while they are attending school. The City of Los Angeles also will be expanding its workforce as a result of an agreement recently agreed to with the Teamsters. PESA will coordinate with these entities to conduct workshops for Los Angeles Community College Students to be able to take advantage of these opportunities, and be able to attend school while employed.

All aspects of this project will include a statistical analysis component. The purpose of this will be to provide data concerning the impact the project is actually having.

BUDGET

LINE ITEM	AMOUNT
Creation of Infrastructure and SOP	\$ 40,000.00
Recruitment of Mentors	\$ 70,000.00
Creation of Law Posts	\$ 15,000.00
Recruitment of Mentees	\$ 10,500.00
Creation and Implementation of Training Programs	\$ 40,000.00
Coordination of Internship Opportunities	\$ 35,000.00
Coordination of Employment Opportunities	\$ 30,000.00
Plan and Organize Community Service Opportunities ; Special Education Buddy System	\$ 45,000.00
Coordination of Networking Opportunities	\$ 17,500.00
Plan and Organize Field Trips	\$ 55,000.00
Law School Options Workshops	\$ 17,000.00
Coordination relationship with Teen Court High Schools	\$ 60,000.00
Paralegal Program Pathway	\$ 30,000.00
Paralegal Employment Assistance Program	\$ 20,000.00
Workshops for other Employment Opportunities	\$ 15,000.00
TOTAL	\$500,000.00



Los Angeles Mission College

One of the nine Los Angeles Community Colleges

13356 Eldridge Avenue • Sylmar, CA 91342-3244 • (818) 364-7600

David Jordan, Esq. – Director,
Paralegal Studies Program
jordandc@lamission.edu
818-364-7720

April 26, 2016

Los Angeles Community College District
Board of Trustees
770 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90017

Re: **Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action Mentoring Program**

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees,

I am the faculty champion for the California Community Colleges Pathway to Law School Program at Los Angeles Mission Community College (LAMC) located in Sylmar, California. (support for this program approved by a Resolution of the LACCD Board of Trustees on December 11, 2013). I am writing this letter in support of the funding request by Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action (PESA). I strongly recommend and urge that this funding request be granted.

PESA has been an exceptional partner to work with in the Pathway to Law School Program. The mentoring program as well the other aspects of their request that they are proposing would aid all of the Community Colleges in our district with their career pathways in law. In addition it will enhance student achievement not only for the students involved in the Pathway program, but for other programs as well. It will also strengthen our relationship with the judiciary as well as the bar associations. This will bring great strength to our program and help us create a model program.

PESA has already started to lay the groundwork for many of the parts of the program being requested to be funded. For with their help we have established a pipeline to our Pathway program of high school students who are primarily from lower socio-economic backgrounds who will provide diversity to the bar when they become lawyers.

With the help of PESA we have fostered a relationship with San Fernando High School and Northridge Academy High School. This has allowed us to have LAMC Professors teach introductory law courses (for college credit) at these high schools to students during the school day. Many of these students then become aware of the Pathway to Law School Program, and because of economic reasons as well as other reasons chose to pursue their educational studies at LAMC. Once they are in the program at LAMC we are then able to guide them on how they can pursue obtaining a law degree at other colleges or universities once they have completed their educational studies at LAMC. But we need help in accomplishing this, and with this funding

PESA can provide needed help.

We have formed a Law Club at LAMC. With the help of PESA the students in our law club have become involved with the Teen Court program at San Fernando High School and Northridge Academy High School. Of course this is of immense value to our students who are given the opportunity to interact with judicial officers and lawyers, and is also of immense value to the high school students at these schools. The high school students involved in the Teen Court program are able to interact with the LAMC students and realize that their hopes and dreams of becoming a lawyer are not just wishful thinking but a real possibility. But we need help in continuing with this, and with this funding PESA can provide needed help.

PESA has also helped this interaction occur by helping arrange and obtain the funding for joint field trips with the high school students and the LAMC students. One of the field trips that occurred last year was to USC law school. The students were able to interact with a community college student who is now attending and excelling at USC Law school, attend an actual law class in property law and learn what a day at law school was really like. This was of immense value to all the students. But we need help in continuing with this, and with this funding PESA can provide needed help.

We are also expanding our relationships with other high schools in the community to increase the pipeline for the Pathways to Law School program. PESA has agreed to help us with this expansion and support to this endeavor. But we need help in continuing with this, and with this funding PESA can provide needed help.

Thus this funding request will allow PESA to duplicate what they have been able to accomplish with us at the other Community Colleges involved in the Pathway to Law School Program. In addition this funding will enable us to take what has already been established one step further.

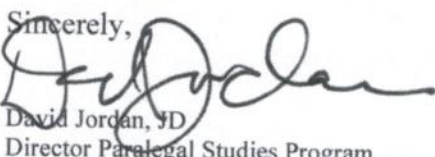
In February at the Pathway to Law School Summit held at UC Davis Law School, LAMC was awarded the Pathway to Law School Community College Diversity Champion Award. This was awarded to us because of the strength of the foundation we had built with our program as well as the pipeline we had established with the local high schools. This would have not been possible without PESA.

It is a pleasure working with PESA. They are helpful, eager and have an amazing "can do attitude." They truly demonstrate that they care about our community and know how to get institutions to work together for the betterment of our community.

I believe that with this funding we can create a successful career pathways in the law at all of our community colleges and create a template for future programs as well. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

If you have any questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



David Jordan, JD
Director Paralegal Studies Program
Faculty Champion Pathway to Law School

EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Department of Social Sciences
African American Studies, Asian American Studies,
Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology

1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez
Monterey Park, California 91754-6099

(323) 265-8829



May 2, 2016

Los Angeles Community College District
Board of Trustees
770 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017

**RE: PARENTS, EDUCATORS/TEACHERS & STUDENTS IN ACTION (PESA),
MENTORING PROGRAM**

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

I am a Professor and the Program Coordinator of the Pathway to Law School Program at East Los Angeles College (ELAC) located in Monterey Park, California. I am writing this letter in support of the funding request by Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action (PESA).

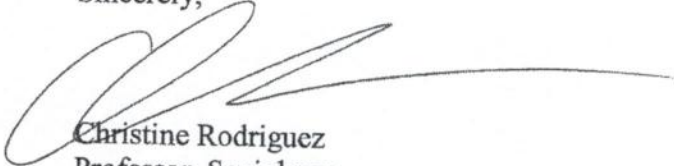
PESA has been an exceptional partner to work with in the Pathway to Law School Program. The mentoring program would not only aid ELAC, but all community colleges in our district with a Pathway to Law School Program. PESA's mentoring program will bring positive outcomes and great networking opportunities for students. This funding will help strengthen students' relationships with the judiciary and local bar associations, and expose students to new and exciting opportunities that they may never had considered.

ELAC is expanding its relationships with other high schools in the community to increase the pipeline for the Pathway to Law School Program. PESA helped us reach out to local high schools in order to educate our community of the Pathway to Law School Program, and agreed to continue to support our outreach and expansion. The funding will undoubtedly help PESA continue to strengthen our mutual endeavors, and ultimately, to help our students grow personally, academically, and professionally.

It is a pleasure working with PESA. They are helpful, eager and have an amazing "can do attitude." They truly demonstrate that they care about our community and know how to get institutions to work together for the betterment of our community.

I strongly recommend and urge that this funding request be granted. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Christine Rodriguez
Professor, Sociology
Coordinator, Pathway to Law School Transfer Program

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact :

Seymour I. Amster
President
Parents, Educators/Teachers & Students in Action
18017 Chatsworth Street, Suite 337
Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

Cell Phone Number: (818) 943-0613