



Media Contact:

Steve Springer

(818) 522-5900

steve.springer@email.laccd.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LACCD BOARD CONDEMS BOYCOTT of ISRAEL**

**The Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees adopted a resolution at its Wednesday meeting urging the American Studies Association to rescind its boycott of Israeli universities.**

**“We stand up loud and clear to say it is not okay to stand in the way of academic freedom,” said Trustee Scott Svonkin, vice-president of the LACCD board. “What the American Studies Association did was repugnant and unacceptable. Freedom of thought and the intellectual exchange of ideas have long been core values of this district. They are values that benefit the students we serve.”**

**The resolution, co-sponsored by LACCD board president Miguel Santiago and former board president Steve Veres, says the boycott is “even more objectionable given that many other nations in the region and around the world have much more troubling records when it comes to academic exclusion, including many nations that bar large numbers of their nation’s residents from educational inclusion due to race, class, gender, national affiliation, or sexual or religious status.”**

**The resolution asks the University of California Board of Regents, the California State University Board of Governors and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to join in opposing the ASA boycott.**

**The American Studies Association describes itself as the nation’s oldest and largest association devoted to the interdisciplinary study of American culture and history.**

-- more --

**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.