

A federally designated Title III and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), Cal State L.A. was the first four-year public institution in the state to be a full member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. It has grown from 136 students to approximately 20,000, of whom 53% are Hispanic, almost 22% Asian American/Pacific Islander, 9% African American, and 16% white, non-Hispanic. The campus enrolls the largest number of Hispanic students among all 23 campuses of the California State University system (CSU). Most are native speakers, although over 70% are from families with another language spoken in the home. Females constitute about 60% of the student population; males, 40%. Approximately 30% of the student body is enrolled at the postbaccalaureate level.

Located five miles from downtown Los Angeles, Cal State L.A. is bordered on the northeast by East L.A., the largest Hispanic community in California with a population of 126,000 that is 94.7% Hispanic (U.S. Census, 1990). The entire northeast L.A. area, which includes Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles, Lincoln Heights, and El Sereno, is within the campus service area. Its combined population of 200,000 is 80.9% Hispanic (U.S. Census 1990).

Consistent with the University's mission, Cal State L.A.'s educational and cultural programs address these surrounding communities as well as the student population. In 1985, the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts was the first comprehensive high school on a CSU campus, and in 1995, the Harriet and Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex was the first privately- and state-financed multicultural arts center in the CSU. Both are located at Cal State L.A. and are particularly noteworthy for the programs they provide both for students and for the surrounding Hispanic communities.

### **Some Academic Program Area Strengths –**

#### Maximum Accreditation of Programs

The University received its most recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation in 1999 for the maximum 10 years. All eligible academic programs that have applied for accreditation from the relevant professional organizations have received them. For example, the Charter College of Education, which has a 50% Hispanic student population, continuously receives accreditation from NCATE. It was also the first college of education to be granted full accreditation by the California Committee on Accreditation.

#### Strong Outreach to Hispanic Community

Committed to serving its community, Cal State L.A. has outreach projects that span the disciplines and encompass wide geographic areas. Major emphasis is on the surrounding, primarily Hispanic and low-income service area. Projects include the Hispanic Youth Violence Prevention and Leadership Program, Healthy Start, University Preparatory Program (UPP), Bridges to the Future with Los Angeles City College and East Los Angeles College, Centro de Ninos y Padres, and the Community/University Forum and Seminar Series.

#### Exemplary Academic Programs to Improve Outcomes of Hispanic and other Underrepresented Students in Science, Math and Engineering

Cal State L.A. has graduated more Hispanic students going on for Ph.D.s than any other university in California. Extensive opportunities exist for student and faculty collaboration in original research

and training programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Among the most distinguished programs are the new S.P.A.C.E. lab funded by NASA, the Center for Environmental Analysis funded by NSF, and the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program funded by NIH. The latter is one of the most successful programs in the nation, with 59% of the 605 students served since its inception going on to pursue graduate degrees. The campus is also home to a CISCO Regional Networking Academy, which prepares network analysts and administrators.

#### Extensive Use of Technology to Improve Student Access and Learning

Computers are instrumental in the learning environment at Cal State L.A. They are available in almost every learning environment, from technologically enhanced multimedia classrooms and lecture halls, discipline-specific labs, and department labs to student open access labs, the Faculty Instructional Support Center, and various student hubs targeted across campus. The ultimate goal at Cal State L.A. is to make all such technology areas available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – and from anywhere. All Cal State L.A. students are given their own network accounts that provide access at any student-focused computer facility across campus and from remote locations. A Laptop Loan Program offers low-cost laptop rentals to students for anytime, anywhere access to campus resources. A growing number of technologically enhanced classrooms provide high standard, multimedia equipment for more sophisticated delivery of instruction, which enhances teaching and learning. Approximately 67% of faculty surveyed in 1999 use the equipment as part of their course delivery, and that number will increase as more facilities are established.