Over the past nine months, it has been my pleasure to get to know an increasing number of faculty, staff, administrators and students. I consistently marvel at our students’ accomplishments and at the dedication of faculty and staff to our students and our community. In the last couple of weeks, two events stand out as representative of the values that our university embraces.

On October 22, I visited with students in the Erika J. Glazer Family Dreamers Resource Center and spent close to an hour with a large group of students, learning more about their dreams and the ways in which the university can help them achieve their goals. I met future health care professionals, artists, entrepreneurs, community activists—and a current marathon runner! Their challenges are often as big as their dreams—and I am deeply proud to be at an institution dedicated to their success.

Two days later, on October 24, I facilitated a panel discussion at the President's Council that provided an opportunity to spotlight faculty. The Council, composed of accomplished business and civic leaders, as well as distinguished alumni, learned more about the innovative approaches that our faculty take to teaching. Professors Tona Rodriguez-Nikl, Krishna Foster, Christopher Endy, and Kristina Ruiz-Mesa highlighted changes they had made to their teaching to enhance student learning. As each professor talked about the evolution of his or her individual teaching method, it became clear that there is no magic bullet—each use very different strategies and each has had great success. Council members were very impressed. Most importantly, as I told the President's Council, the dedication that these faculty members showed to improving student learning reflects a deep commitment on the part of Cal State LA faculty in general. Our students are very lucky indeed.
enrollment, with a headcount of 27,681, an increase of 3,193 students over last fall, and the number of full time equivalent students has risen by 1075 FTES over fall 2014 to 21,500. We have admitted more new students this fall term—634 more first time freshmen, 69 more transfer students, and 48 more graduate students. While we weather the inconveniences that go along with growth, it is heartening to recognize that we are enabling more students to pursue their academic dreams at Cal State LA.

Along with providing access to a high quality education, we are working hard to remove barriers to progress that students may encounter on the path to their degrees. On this front, too, Cal State LA reached two significant high points this fall: Our undergraduate students registered for an average of 12.81 units, and 86.9% of our undergraduates are enrolled full time. This has been made possible by the tireless work of advisors who help students to build appropriate schedules of classes; department chairs and administrative staff who carefully plan and revise the course offerings with an eye toward students' curricular needs; and of course faculty, who provide the educational experiences that attract and retain students in growing numbers to Cal State LA.

As we look ahead toward the Winter and Spring terms, we are focusing on increasing the tools that departments and colleges have to plan course offerings which best meet the needs of our students. This will also mean analyzing the courses our seniors need to graduate ahead of semester conversion. We will need to focus on bottleneck courses where there has been a history of high and unmet student demand. It will also involve scheduling more courses in the early morning and evening—and even weekends for some programs—to better use our classroom facilities, ease parking congestion, and serve our diverse students. All of these strategies will stand us in good stead in our home stretch as a quarter campus.

Spotlight on Faculty

Congratulations to our faculty who were recently awarded grants.

**Design Study of Dual System Youth PI: Denise Herz**
**Award Amount: $750,000**

Despite a growing body of research to develop knowledge of youth who touch both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (i.e., dually-involved youth), the extent to which we can measure the prevalence of the youth who crossover nationwide is limited. Several obstacles exist in developing national estimates of these youth, including (but not limited to): defining the population, data sharing and collaboration. A funded grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), will help us address these obstacles and develop a design to capture national estimates of dually-involved youth. Findings from the proposed design will have significant impact on how jurisdictions collaborate across systems and share
The Economic Development Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, is investing $3.2 million to help build a 20,000 square foot bioscience incubator that will provide bioscience start-up companies with wet-lab, dry-lab and office space, access to specialized laboratory equipment and other university resources, business assistance, access to financing, and student training programs and internships. The BioSpace LA Incubator at California State University, Los Angeles will serve as an economic development hub for supporting bioscience start-up companies and engaging industry partners, students and faculty. It will create new career paths, applied research opportunities, and generate high wage jobs and employment multipliers in East Los Angeles. This project is estimated to create 300 jobs and generate $95 million in private investment. To read more, visit the LA BioSpace website.

Thank you to all who shared your good news with our office. It's very exciting to hear about your recent accomplishments—publications, teaching awards, research grants, conference participants—that we're creating a Faculty Activity page to feature your success.

Contact the Office of the Provost with your comments and submissions here.