Cal State LA awarded Amgen Foundation grant to boost careers in bioentrepreneurship

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Cal State LA has received a $100,000 grant from the Amgen Foundation to establish the community education component of the Cal State LA BioSpace incubator, which is leading the university's efforts to promote a thriving bioscience ecosystem in the heart of Los Angeles.

Cal State LA BioSpace will partner with the California Community Colleges Statewide Offices of Life Sciences/Biotech and Business & Entrepreneurship, in order to educate and inspire women and ethnically diverse community college students to pursue leadership careers in biotechnology through bioentrepreneurship.

“The goal is to give students insight into the biotechnology industry as well as to provide them with the necessary tools to create innovative business plans and launch early-stage startups,” said Howard Xu, director of incubator development and programming and professor of microbiology at Cal State LA.

Funded by the Amgen Foundation, the main philanthropic arm of the global biotech Amgen, the online bioentrepreneurship training program will enhance the existing curricula at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Los Angeles Pierce College, and Rio Hondo College.

“Reflecting the foundation’s mission, this project aims to advance excellence in science education and inspire the next generation of innovators,” Xu, an Alhambra resident added.

The Cal State LA BioSpace initiative was created to address critical shortages of bioscience entrepreneurs and lab space for startup companies, and promote the bioscience industry in Los Angeles. The incubator, housed in the university’s Rockwood Na Bioscience Innovation Center, is developed by grants from Los Angeles County and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

California State University, Los Angeles is the premier comprehensive public university in the heart of Los Angeles. Cal State LA is ranked number one in the United States for the upward mobility of its students. Cal State LA is dedicated to engagement, service, and the public good, offering nationally recognized programs in science, the arts, business, criminal justice, engineering, nursing, education, and the humanities. Founded in 1947, the University serves about 27,000 students and has more than 250,000 distinguished alumni.

Cal State LA is home to the critically-acclaimed Luckman Fine Arts Complex, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, Hansberg-Davis Forensic Science Center, Hydrogen Research and Fueling Facility, Billie Jean King Sports Complex, and the TV, Film and Media Center.

As the principal corporate philanthropy channel for leading biotechnology company Amgen, Inc., the Amgen Foundation advances excellence in science education, inspires the next generation, and invests in strengthening the communities where Amgen staff members live and work.

All Souls Catholic school expands dual language programs

All Souls Catholic School, 29 S. Electric Ave., broke ground Sept. 23 on a new two-story building that will expand its dual language program.

All Souls School is at the forefront of dual language education in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. As early as 2012, its parochial school began dual language classes in Mandarin/English and Spanish/English, where subjects are taught in two languages. Twenty elementary school students from TK to eighth grade were served that first year. Today there are nearly 400 students in the program, the first of its kind in the country.

“Bilingual and biculturalism are hallmarks of an education at All Souls,” said Principal Marion-Elena Navarro. “All Souls is a pioneer of this new and growing educational goal.”

The building will house seven classrooms, a performing arts and music room, and a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) room along with faculty offices, storage rooms, and restrooms. The entire school community raised funds, and the Steff Family Foundation made the donation that allowed construction to begin.

Parents, students, and faculty were in attendance as well as representatives of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. “Alhambra is excited to see this wonderful little school grow into a world class academic center,” said Alhambra Mayor Katherine Lee, who also attended.

More funding will be needed when the construction is complete. Tax deductible sponsorships are being sought to provide capital funding for the new building. For more information, call 626-282-5695, or learn more online at https://www.allsoulsla.org.

The All Souls dual language program is a journey of learning through language and faith.

Un camino de aprendizaje a través del lenguaje y la fe.

一段透過語言和信仰的學習之旅。

Alhambra Civic Center Library

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Wednesday: 11:00 am - 08:00 pm
Thursday: 11:00 am - 08:00 pm
Friday: 10:00 am - 05:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 05:00 pm