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## News Release

### For Immediate Release

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### **West LA College Students Ask Officials to Restore Critical Shuttle Service for People with Disabilities**

(Culver City, CA – January 5, 2018) On Wednesday, January 10, students and other community members plan to ask the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees to restore a valuable shuttle service that students with mobility disabilities depended on to get to class on the hillside campus.

The LACCD Board of Trustees will convene at the WLAC campus on Wednesday for their regular public meeting. A slate of speakers, including WLAC students, plan to share their personal experiences with Board members about the dire consequences that termination of the campus shuttle has had on their lives.

One of those students is Army veteran Charles Guerra, who studies psychology and drug/alcohol abuse counseling at WLAC. Since the shuttle service ended, he has fallen multiple times on campus pedestrian routes in recent months. Twice, he has had to be transported to the hospital by ambulance for treatment. He uses a walker due to a spinal cord condition that makes traveling long distances painful. “I can only imagine that the

members of the Board have no idea what impact the cancellation of the shuttle has had on people like me,” he said. “If they understood how hard it was for people who can’t walk the long distances and slopes on campus, I can’t believe they wouldn’t do something about it.”

The issue is the subject of a pending federal lawsuit. But with the start of Spring classes fast approaching, students and community members hope that this grassroots effort will lead to a timely resolution. They will ask the Board to reinstate a campus transportation service that allows people with mobility disabilities to participate in classes, programs, and events on the WLAC campus without having to worry about whether they can navigate the campus or putting their safety at risk doing so.

“It’s never too late to do the right thing,” said Disability Rights California attorney Autumn M. Elliott. “We know the Board’s mission is to ensure a Los Angeles community college system that welcomes all-comers. Now they’ll have a chance to hear directly from people with disabilities who need access to campus – and don’t have it.”

WLAC is one of nine schools in the Los Angeles Community College District, the largest district in the country. While dozens of community colleges and universities in California provide a shuttle service to assist students with disabilities, LACCD has refused to restore the campus shuttle service or to provide any other form of on-campus transportation assistance for students whose disabilities make it difficult for them to utilize campus pedestrian routes.

Disability Rights California, along with *pro bono* co-counsel at the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, represents three students in the federal court case. For more information go to [www.disabilityrightsca.org/advocacy/guerra\\_vs\\_west\\_la\\_college/index.htm](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/advocacy/guerra_vs_west_la_college/index.htm).

Disability Rights California is a non-profit organization founded that protects the rights of people with disabilities. Visit [www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org).