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CONTACT: Shaena Engle  
Manager, Public Relations  
213.200.4728  
[engles@lacitycollege.edu](mailto:engles@lacitycollege.edu)

## **LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE AND PEPSICO FOUNDATION OFFER SMILE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS**

**Los Angeles, CA (February 13, 2025)** – Los Angeles City College (LACC) and the PepsiCo Foundation have opened applications for the 2025 *PepsiCo Foundation S.M.I.L.E Scholars program*. This scholarship and support services program is designed specifically for graduates of LACC from underserved and under resourced communities, who are looking to transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree.

“At Los Angeles City College, we are committed to providing our students with opportunities that empower them to achieve their academic and career goals. We are thrilled to partner with the PepsiCo Foundation once again to offer the S.M.I.L.E. Scholars program, which will provide critical financial support and resources to help our students successfully transfer to four-year institutions. This initiative reflects our dedication to equity and access, ensuring that students from underserved communities have the tools they need to thrive,” said Dr Amanuel Gebru, President, Los Angeles City College.

The *S.M.I.L.E (Success Matters in Life & Education) Scholars program* is a part of the PepsiCo Foundation's broader commitment to dismantling systemic and economic barriers for underserved communities and unlocking access to education, employment and prosperity.

The PepsiCo Foundation community college program, including the *S.M.I.L.E Scholars program*, is designed with a holistic approach to promote access to education advancement by addressing the obstacles such as retention, completion, and workforce readiness, that disproportionately impacts students from underserved communities. The scholarship is specifically designed for first-generation college students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We believe in the power of community colleges as a unique pathway for students seeking an affordable and flexible education which creates economic opportunities and enables them to secure jobs in industries with growth potential,” said C.D. Glin, Global Head of Philanthropy, PepsiCo & President, The PepsiCo Foundation. “Through the *S.M.I.L.E* scholarship, the PepsiCo Foundation and LACC are proud to work together, continuing to break down barriers of inequality and feeding the potential of students who aspire to continue their educational journey.”

The S.M.I.L.E Scholars program is unique in that it provides more than just financial support. The PepsiCo Foundation is committed to providing support services including access to emergency grants, mentorship, networking, financial literacy courses and access to career coaching to help set the scholars up for future success. This scholarship can be used for education costs along with expenses for childcare, transportation, and basic living costs.

Graduates of Dallas College, City Colleges of Chicago, Westchester Community College, Colorado Community College System, Valencia College, Los Angeles Community College District, Prince George’s County Community College, St. Louis Community College, Ivy Tech Community College and Miami Dade College can apply for the S.M.I.L.E. Scholars program, with preference given to students in select Business or STEM fields. Program applications are accepted through March 10<sup>th</sup> and eligible students can apply via Scholarship America at <https://learnmore.scholarsapply.org/pepsicosmile/>

### **About LACC**

Established in 1929, Los Angeles City College is one of the oldest of the California Community Colleges. Located in the heart of Hollywood, LACC provides a dynamic innovative learning environment offering more than 100 vocational and professional programs including degrees, transfer programs and certificates to more than 18,000 students. Los Angeles City College is home to one of the most vibrant and diverse campuses in the country. The campus provides a wide range of professional and vocational programs at a fraction of the cost of state and private colleges.

### **About the PepsiCo Foundation**

The PepsiCo Foundation, the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, invests in the essential elements of a sustainable food system with a mission to support thriving communities. Working with non-profits and experts around the globe, we're focused on helping communities obtain access to food security, safe water and economic opportunity. We strive for tangible impact in the places where we live and work—collaborating with industry peers, local and international organizations, and our employees to affect large-scale change on the issues that matter to us and are of global importance. Learn more at [www.pepsicofoundation.com](http://www.pepsicofoundation.com).

