

December 7, 2020



To whom it may concern:

This letter is to convey Los Angeles City College's commitment to the collaboration between the Brain Technology Innovation Park aimed at fostering global partnership amongst biotechnology parks, NASA and US National Labs, academic institutions, non-profit and venture philanthropy organizations in order to rapidly introduce diagnostics and therapeutics for neurologic disorders.

Dr. Babak Kateb approached me with an opportunity for Los Angeles City College (LACC) and the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) to take a leadership role in the growing convergence of healthcare, science, technology, and business. Dr. Kateb is spearheading legislation to establish the California Brain Technology and Innovation Park (Cal-BTIP), which would include the creation of a state-of-the-art biotechnology and neurotechnology research, development, and training facility.

As an LACC alumnus, Dr. Kateb proposed housing the Cal-BTIP facility on the LACC campus. If built, the Cal-BTIP facility will provide unparalleled educational and career opportunities for LACCD students, create and fast-track the clinical commercialization of new and existing medical diagnostics and therapies, create jobs and infrastructure in Los Angeles, and provide life-saving solutions for patients around the world.

Throughout Los Angeles County, both public and private stakeholders have been engaged in recent dialogue centered on collaborative efforts to advance the field of healthcare, train the next generation of healthcare providers, and improve healthcare for the residents of Los Angeles. Most recently, LACCD has initiated discussion of a proposed Los Angeles Health Occupations Center (LAHOC) to provide our community colleges with the opportunity and infrastructure to train students to meet the growing healthcare workforce demand in Los Angeles that will allow new systems and processes to be replicated quickly throughout the county and then nationwide.

LACC is in support of the Cal-BTIP collaboration which will allow LACCD to be at the forefront of the technological healthcare movement. We can create pathways for students to enter the arena of biotechnology and neurotechnology with an eye toward not just research, but actual widespread integration and commercialization of new and existing diagnostics and therapeutics.

The on-campus Cal-BTIP facility will be part of a larger Creativity, Innovation, and Technology Park (CITY Park) concept with an innovation and idea incubator, a workforce training facility, and a collaborative research and development effort geared to facilitate the rapid progression of advanced diagnostics and therapeutics into clinical practice. Students will learn to facilitate, and indeed participate in, the transition from theoretical to practical innovation.

Given the interdisciplinary focus and potential impact of Cal-BTIP efforts, LACC will have the opportunity to modify existing or create new “Cal-BTIP integrated” certificate and degree pathways in healthcare, engineering, physics, chemistry, computer science, design and media arts, and more. Incentives for students would include the opportunity to begin their education with two years of tuition free at LACCD colleges; the ability to engage in hands-on experiential learning in the Cal-BTIP facility; potential participation in the President’s Scholars program to receive a free laptop and textbook support; and the opportunity for internships during or after completion of a CAL-BTIP-integrated pathway.

We wholeheartedly support efforts and projects such as this that support our communities, our students, and our faculty.

Sincerely,



Mary Gallagher, MBA, PhD  
President