



Resolution in Support of Building a New FabLab

Unanimously Approved on October 15, 2019

WHEREAS the Laney College FabLab serves as a learning resource for all Laney College students, serving over 1000 students since its opening in 2016.

WHEREAS the students the Laney College FabLab has served come from many departments across campus including, but not limited to, humanities, media communications, cosmetology, culinary arts, sociology, business, construction management, graphic arts, machine technology, wood technology, carpentry, architecture, psychology, welding technology, engineering, and art, as well as undecided students.

WHEREAS the use of FabLabs has been proven to increase diversity¹, equity¹, self efficacy², and creative confidence³ among students.

WHEREAS the current size of the Laney College FabLab is unsustainable for an increasing number of students visiting the lab. Currently, the fablab can only safely serve about 20 students at a time.

WHEREAS the Laney College FabLab engages students with diverse learning styles and provides students with the industrial tools and software needed to make almost anything while gaining an understanding of the machines, materials, design process, and engineering that goes into invention and innovation.

WHEREAS the Laney College FabLab provides students with opportunities to collaborate and share knowledge with students in different disciplines.

WHEREAS the Governing Board of Trustees of the Peralta Community College District passed resolution 18/19-31 acknowledging the value of Peralta's FabLabs and strongly supporting the further growth and development of the Laney College FabLab.

WHEREAS many FabLabs across the country are currently incorporated as part of a library. Examples include the UCSF Library, the College of San Mateo Library, the Hunt Library at NC State, the University of Texas at Arlington Central Library, the Douglas Library at Rutgers University, the District of Columbia Public Library, and the San Jose Public Library.

WHEREAS learning resources are defined as any tool that helps teachers teach and students learn.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Laney College Faculty Senate acknowledges the FabLab as a valuable learning resource for students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Laney College faculty senate recommend the FabLab be located in the new Library & Learning Resource Center, if possible, or to a larger and more accessible space on campus.

References

- ¹ Lorenzo, Covadonga, and Epifanio Lorenzo. "Enhancing Social Inclusion in Higher Education through Open Access to Digital Fabrication Laboratories."
- ² Dubriwny, Nicholas, et al. "Impact of Fab Lab Tulsa on student self-efficacy toward STEM education." *Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research* 17.2 (2016): 21.
- ³ Saorín, José Luís, et al. "Makerspace teaching-learning environment to enhance creative competence in engineering students." *Thinking Skills and Creativity* 23 (2017): 188-198.