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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles Southwest College's Career and Technical Education recognized by state

Program earns California Community Colleges' Strong Workforce Stars recognition at Gold Star level

Los Angeles Southwest College's Career and Technical Education Department and its Registered Nursing program has earned the California Community Colleges' Strong Workforce Stars recognition at the Gold Star level for its success in improving student employment and wage outcomes through its innovative Registered Nursing program.

Strong Workforce Stars is an annual recognition for career education programs, also known as career technical education, within the California Community Colleges system whose graduates show significant gains in factors important for advancing social mobility – a substantial increase in earnings, attainment of a living wage and a job closely matched with the field of study.

“We are thrilled to receive this recognition for having a positive impact on student economic mobility in the healthcare sector,” said Rick Hodge, Dean of LASC's CTE program. “To be recognized with the Gold Star is powerful evidence of the effectiveness of the work being done at Los Angeles Southwest College and in its Career and Technical Education Department. These awards are especially gratifying because they are based on the California Community College's Strong Workforce program metrics.”

The 2018 Strong Workforce Stars were given to career education programs throughout the state in 12 industry sectors based on earnings' gains, living wage attainment, and employment in field of study.

Those named Strong Workforce Stars met one or more of the following thresholds:

- An increase in earnings by 50 percent or more, based on a match to the state wage file, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2015-16.
- Attainment of the regional living wage by 70 percent or more, based on a match to the state wage file, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2015-16.
- 90 percent or more are employed in a job similar to their field of study, according to the Career Technical Education Outcomes Survey, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2014-15.

This year, the Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, and Gold Stars levels were introduced, with each winning program receiving recognition in one of those categories. Bronze Stars programs met one or more thresholds, Silver Stars met two, and Gold Stars met all three.

LASC's Registered Nursing program met all three goals and achieved 100 percent of students securing employment in their field of study. The department's faculty interactions and relationships with clinical sites and nursing facilities as well as student participation in community healthcare learning activities were contributing factors to this success. LASC was one of just 30 community colleges to receive this honor.

"We truly believe that providing a valuable service to our students begins with creating an atmosphere where we put their future first and foremost in mind," Hodge said. "The successes that our students have had on and off of our campus is evidence that we are accomplishing that at LASC."

LASC's CTE program has received several high-profile honors in recent years. ACT, creator of the ACT test administered at high schools across the nation, awarded LASC and its CTE program the Career Preparedness Exemplar Award as the top college in the state of California for career preparedness in 2017. LASC's CTE program was also awarded the prestigious Entrepreneurial College Award by the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship in 2016. NACCE honored LASC and its CTE program for its leadership in implementing entrepreneurially minded programs as well as its assistance to and celebration of thinkers and doers.

About Los Angeles Southwest College

Founded in 1967, Los Angeles Southwest College serves more than 8,000 students with associate degree programs in 34 disciplines, occupational certificates in 47 disciplines, community services and ESL/citizenship classes. Coupled with a strong focus on student success, the campus has undergone a massive expansion and technological upgrade that will make it a model for community college education in the 21st Century. Los Angeles Southwest College is part of the Los Angeles Community College District. For more information, visit www.lasc.edu.

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