



Los Angeles Southwest College, 1600 W. Imperial Hwy., Los Angeles, California

---

College Contact: Benjamin Demers  
Public Information Officer  
323-241-5401, [demersbk@lasc.edu](mailto:demersbk@lasc.edu)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Los Angeles Southwest College to celebrate its Commencement on June 6** Congresswoman Maxine Waters to serve as Commencement speaker

With a theme of "50 Years of Breaking Barriers and Building Futures," Los Angeles Southwest College's 2017 Commencement will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 6, at Cougar Stadium (LASC's football field).

LASC, in the midst of celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year, will have more than 450 Spring 2017 candidates for graduation, 208 Fall 2016 graduates, and 58 Summer 2016 graduates at this year's Commencement.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today, will serve as Commencement speaker. Waters serves as the Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, which is responsible for oversight of our nation's housing market, the financial regulatory agencies, banks and financial institutions, and Wall Street. She is the first woman and the first African-American from either party to serve as Ranking Member on this powerful committee. She has represented California's 43rd Congressional District for more than 23 years.

LASC's valedictorian is Soraida Saballos-Rodas, 25, of Los Angeles, who led her class with a 3.959 grade-point average. Salutatorian Claudia Perez, 44, of Gardena had a 3.955 grade-point average.

LASC's youngest candidate for graduation is Middle College High School student Kelechi Udeze, who turned 15 in March. While attending LASC, she achieved a GPA of 3.870. She is a spring 2017 candidate for a Liberal Studies degree. The oldest candidate for graduation is 72-year-old Frances Harris. She is a candidate for a transfer degree in Psychology. She also received a degree in Liberal Arts in fall 2014.

---

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Los Angeles Southwest College is part of the Los Angeles Community College District. For more information, visit [www.lasc.edu](http://www.lasc.edu).