



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

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**Los Angeles Southwest College awarded top college in California for career preparedness**

Competition included post-secondary institutions, community colleges, Cal State universities, and UCs

ACT, creator of the A.C.T. test administered at high schools across the nation has announced their Career Preparedness Exemplar Award to Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) as the top college in the state of California for career preparedness. The competition for this award includes all post-secondary institutions, community colleges, Cal State universities, and UCs. ACT Exemplars are honored at an ACT recognition event in Iowa City in October, 2017. LASC, along with other 50 state winners will be in the running for the top National Award presented by ACT's National Selection Committee of national education and workforce leaders from the State Councils.

ACT developed the Campaign to shine a light on the individuals and institutions doing more with less, overcoming personal or community obstacles, and serving as examples to others working to improve the condition of college and career readiness for all. At Los Angeles Southwest College, the CTE Division supervises an innovative Career/Transfer Pathways & Jobs Center (CTPJ) that has become a comprehensive one stop operation for student's career exploration, counselor advisement, career pathway planning, transfer options, work-based learning and job opportunities.

Through California Career Pathways Trust grant participation, LASC has become a model program throughout southern California region in career readiness. In November of 2016 the campus was awarded as the top Entrepreneurial College in the nation by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship attributed to the efforts of the Career & Technical Education department's focus on career development.

Dean Rick Hodge, who leads the School of Career & Technical Education states, "I have a phenomenal team of specialists, counselors, faculty, and directors that we call 'career coaches' that make all of this happen. We work hard on innovative ways to orient high school and college students for career and job readiness so that they can go on and have fantastic professions with good wages."

Los Angeles Southwest College, as the smallest of nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District, that happens to be the largest community college district in the nation, performs at a level in the career arena that is comparable to the larger colleges. This happens for students in three stages:

Exploring Your Career, Building Your Career, and Launching Your Career. Students are guided by career coaches and faculty in the process of building and launching their careers with an intentional and coordinated set of industry related activities and events. They enrolled 952 students in the first year of their pathways program, including Information & Communications Tech, Small Business/Entrepreneurship, Global Trade & Logistics, Healthcare, and Engineering.

The Center conducts orientations with high school students by using videos and salary information on occupations. They use an online work-based learning program called College Central that provides access to students with over 500 local employers who have signed on. Recently, Macys conducted an on-campus recruiting campaign with an attendance of over 400 and they hired over 140 students in one day. The campus has attracted other employers that have hired students, such as Home Depot, State Farm, LAPD, World Financial Group, LA Rams, Staples, Chase Bank, and Wells Fargo. A steady flow of information is provided to students with organized Major Fairs, Transfer Fairs, and Job Fairs throughout the year. These and many more activities provided garnered the attention of ACT's annual award.

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### **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).