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**LOS ANGELES
 SOUTHWEST COLLEGE**

LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE RECIPIENT OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PBI GRANTS TOTALING \$1.7 MILLION

Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) has been awarded a Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) Grant through the United States Department of Education totaling more than \$1.7 million. Funding will support LASC's transformational efforts to increase college enrollment and success among African-American students at the college in South Los Angeles.

"These timely grants will significantly bolster LASC's ability to provide much needed resources to support the success of the college's current African-American students and future students who want to attend college," said Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District. "The African-American community in South Los Angeles has been especially hit hard by the pandemic, which has led to substantial personal and financial challenges. This grant empowers and enables LASC to remove barriers to accessing and graduating from college."

Grant monies will go toward enhancing LASC's efforts to create a college-going culture from an early age, provide focused professional development and curricular activities that enhance the African-American student experience inside and outside of the classroom, and build a sustainable legacy of funding to support African-American students through the establishment of a significant endowment and expand the college's fundraising capacity. LASC will receive \$352,289 each year until 2025, totaling \$1,761,445.

"I'm grateful that the U.S. Department of Education recognized the incredible work at Los Angeles Southwest College, but also that there is much more that needs to be done," said LASC President Seher Awan, Ed.D. "LASC is committed to breaking systemic barriers and generational poverty through higher education. The establishment of a significant endowment and expanding the college's fundraising capacity will go a long way in supporting those efforts."

The U.S. Department of Education granted the funds after reviewing LASC's five objectives that the monies will go toward. They are:

- Generate additional revenue for the college to provide meaningful financial support to LASC's African-American student population
- Expand K-12 outreach capacity
- Develop a sustainable dual and concurrent enrollment infrastructure to build capacity for increased enrollment
- Increase marketing, outreach, and in-reach to the African-American community
- Reduce equity gaps across completion, transfer, time to completion, and job placement rates

Los Angeles Southwest College, part of the Los Angeles Community College District, caters to students' personal and professional needs, providing premier instruction, small class sizes, and customized student support services. From traditional, full-semester offerings to online, evening, weekend, and short-term, eight-week courses, LASC offers classes that will help frame the academic success of all students from Los Angeles, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood and beyond.

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"We are truly appreciative to the U.S. Department of Education for understanding the needs of LASC and its African-American students," said Nichelle Henderson, LACCD Board of Trustees member. "I'm confident that these grants will make an incredible difference at LASC as its students will be able to utilize these funds to find success on the college's campus and support themselves into becoming active contributors and leaders in our economy. The best news is that this another step toward providing all residents with a more equitable society."

The U.S. Department of Education's PBI Program makes grant awards to eligible institutions to plan, develop, undertake and implement programs to enhance the institution's capacity to serve more low- and middle-income African-American students; to expand higher education opportunities for eligible students by encouraging college preparation and student persistence in secondary school and postsecondary education; and to strengthen the financial ability of the institution to serve the academic needs of these students.

"LASC is pursuing academic excellence in all levels and is devoted to empowering students to find their voices, their passions, and achieving the freedom to live the lives they want to live," Awan said. "We take our commitment to our community seriously and strive to be a responsive community partner. These grant monies will support us in this effort to ensure that we continue to focus on the success of our African-American students on-campus and within our community."

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