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LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE SECURES OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR STUDENTS FROM UNDER-RESOURCED POPULATIONS

LOS ANGELES— Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) celebrated the awarding of \$1.5 million to fund a Re-Entry Initiative for Success in Education (RISE) Center and a Family Resource Center on its campus on Wednesday, March 23. The funds will both provide services and resources to students from underserved populations to help them continue and complete their education at Los Angeles Southwest College.

The federal funding was part of the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill, H.R. 2471, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022.” Procedural vehicles for these allocations are Community Project Funding, which provide for direct funding for specific projects in larger spending bills. LASC’s proposal was sponsored by United States Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA 43rd District).

“I am delighted that I was able to secure \$1.5 million for Los Angeles Southwest College to launch new student support centers,” said Congresswoman Waters. “These centers will provide services and resources to students from underserved populations to help them continue their education, thus reducing barriers to higher education and promoting economic mobility in our community.”

The proposed RISE Center aims to support student Anti-Recidivism and Gang Intervention efforts, primarily focused on supporting justice-impacted individuals. The proposed Family Resource Center looks to be transformational in support of retention and student success efforts for student-parents.

“Thank you, Rep. Waters, for decades of investing in our community. We appreciate you working with LACCD to bring much-needed federal dollars to the South Los Angeles community. Together, we will support and empower Los Angeles Southwest College students to achieve and succeed,” said Trustee Nichelle Henderson.

“These centers will integrate higher education and job preparation for underserved populations within our service area,” LASC President Seher Awan, Ed.D. said. “We are especially excited that, in alignment with our mission of social justice, our college will be able to leverage existing partnerships with numerous community partners, including the County and City of Los Angeles, to combat the systemic inequities that exist within our service area.”

The RISE Center will offer students case management services, dedicated counseling and peer mentorship, academic support tailored to need, job readiness and soft skills, accelerated retraining and educational opportunities, and more.

Student-parents receiving services from the Family Resource Center will be offered student parent programs, parenting workshops, infant and toddler playgroups, free children’s clothing exchange, emergency aid and stipends, access to family events and more.

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“The District is very appreciative of our Congressional representatives for the seven Community Project Funding allocations that we received to support our colleges, and especially Congresswoman Waters for championing the two Centers at LASC,” said LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D. “These centers will provide key services and resources to LASC students and a stronger pathway to success by advancing their economic mobility by reducing barriers to higher education and to jobs.”

Student populations engaging with both facilities will also be able to take advantage of existing, additional special programs available at LASC, including College Promise, EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs.

The lone college in South Los Angeles, LASC’s service area encompasses Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Los Angeles as well as the unincorporated communities of Westmont and West Athens. The Family Resource Center funding is critical as LASC has more than 2,000 student parents enrolled each year, about 25 percent of its enrollment. The RISE Center will look to support students in an area that the Race Counts projects says incarceration was its most disparate indicator measured.

“We want to thank Congressmember Maxine Waters for fighting for our District and helping us to secure this transformative funding for our neediest students,” said LACCD Board President Gabriel Buelna, Ph.D. “These two Centers will transform so many lives.”

LACCD’s campuses span several Congressional districts, and the District succeeded in securing federal funding from multiple representatives to support specific programs at each college. In total, colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District received more than \$6 million in dedicated funds through H.R. 2471 for crucial student services, such as transportation, workforce development and basic needs.

The LACCD colleges include: [Los Angeles City College](#); [East Los Angeles College](#); [Los Angeles Harbor College](#); [Los Angeles Mission College](#); [Los Angeles Pierce College](#); [Los Angeles Southwest College](#); [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#); [Los Angeles Valley College](#) and [West Los Angeles College](#).

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation’s largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California’s diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, [@LACCD](https://www.facebook.com/LACCD), and on Twitter, [@laccd](https://twitter.com/laccd) and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ @laccd_edu.

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