

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

Supporting Small Business/Partners

LACCD's commitment to best practices extends to the way we do business. The District is committed to making sure that a significant portion of the \$2.2 billion in bond construction funds is being directed to businesses that are local and/or are owned by women, minorities, veterans, or the disabled. Through early 2006, fully 85% of contracted funds met these criteria. Below are some of the programs that LACCD is undertaking to make sure that these firms benefit from the Los Angeles Community College District Bond Construction Program.

Boot Camp

LACCD holds classes throughout the year to help educate small contractors about bidding on public projects. Because the District wants to both provide educational opportunities and expand the pool of qualified contractors, the District partners with the LA Unified School District Small Business Boot Camp. To date, Small Business Boot Camp graduates have been awarded more than \$21.7 million in contracts from LACCD and LAUSD.

Commitment to Recycling Furniture

Funds from Proposition A/AA also provide the nine colleges with the resources to replace office and classroom furniture throughout their campuses. The new furniture, purchased in bulk, is manufactured with long-lasting sustainable materials – see the Furniture Value Program, page 22. However, the old furniture will not be sent to landfills.

The District is undertaking a program to sell all of its used furniture to other educational and government agencies that can use it. The items that are left over are then distributed to needy schools and not-for-profit agencies through the innovative agency L.A. Shares. This past year the District held an event at Trade Tech College where a variety of non-profit organizations were able to get furniture for free.

Bond Surety Program

Like any public works project, the Los Angeles Community College District requires that bidders be “bonded.” This protects the District and guarantees that the project will be completed as specified by the contract and that subcontractors, laborers, and material suppliers associated with the project are paid on time.

Bonding is one of the major hurdles for any small to midsize contractor preparing to bid on a project. For many, the daunting task of applying for and obtaining such bonds is a barrier to a successful bid submittal. To assist contractors in the bonding process, the District has created the innovative LACCD Surety Bond and Finance Assistance Program.

The Program objective is to increase the pool of contractors able to bid on District projects. The administrators of the program help contractors obtain the necessary bonding, identify a knowledgeable broker, as well as offer educational seminars and workshops.