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Los Angeles Community Colleges Making Great Progress

The \$2.2 billion Proposition A and AA Bond Program is having a strong impact on students and local communities

March 31, 2006 (LOS ANGELES) – The Los Angeles Community College District, consisting of nine Los Angeles-area colleges, has made great progress in modernizing and renovating its nine colleges across Los Angeles, thanks to the voter approved Proposition A and AA Bonds.

The program is funded by bonds overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2001 and 2003. Construction projects are underway at all nine colleges with numerous additional projects well along in the planning and design process. In the next few months, some buildings will be completed and put into full use.

“We are quickly turning our community college campuses into modern learning institutions, thanks to L.A. voters,” said District Chancellor Darroch “Rocky” Young. “This investment is critical to providing a broadly educated workforce to meet the needs of the 21st Century Los Angeles economy.”

To date, the Los Angeles Community College District has already used \$363 million on 95 projects and by March 2007 is projected to spend \$1.1 billion on 168 projects.

“These colleges, without exception, have needed these improvements for decades,” said Larry Eisenberg, executive director of Facilities Planning and Development. “Since voters originally approved the bonds, we have made great progress in designing, building and renovating facilities at our campuses across Los Angeles.”

The District is not only transforming its campuses to meet the needs of its students, it is doing it in a way that minimizes environmental impacts. To this end, the District is undertaking the largest publicly funded, sustainable or “green” building program in the nation with a deep commitment to environmentally sensitive building practices.

Every building being constructed is LEED certified, according to the sustainable building standards of the United States Green Building Council. In 2004, LACCD was honored for its commitment to sustainable design with the prestigious Green Cross Millennium Award from Global Green USA and Green Cross International, a non-profit organization dedicated to and founded by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Most recently, LACCD was recognized for its green building efforts in 2005 with the first-ever Visionary Leadership Award from the United States Green Buildings Council, Los Angeles Chapter.

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Some of the sustainable technologies to be incorporated at the nine colleges include new furniture made from 100 percent recyclable materials, insulated roofs with high thermal insulation values, on-site solar and micro turbine generation systems, drought-resistant landscaping, ultra-low wattage lighting, and energy saving mechanical equipment. The District has also shown strong leadership in its adoption of sustainable energy principles with the goal to self-produce 25 percent of its energy needs by utilizing photovoltaic cells.

Through its e7 Internship Program, LACCD has committed to connecting students with internship opportunities available at firms that provide products and services to the nine LACCD colleges under the Proposition A/AA Bond Program. To date, more than 700 students from the nine colleges in the District have enrolled in the e7 Internship Program.

Graduates of this internship program are helping to fill the need for Los Angeles' next generation of skilled workers. Because of e7, students are emerging as well-trained, well-skilled, problem-solving individuals with a better chance of landing a career in their field upon graduation. Graduates of the e7 program have gone on to be hired as permanent staff by local architecture, design, information technology, and engineering firms.

The Proposition A/AA Bond Program is also making a positive impact on local and small businesses. As part of its commitment to promoting community economic development, LACCD is seeking the maximum possible participation by Local, Small, Emerging and Disabled-Veteran owned businesses with expertise in a variety of areas on construction and renovation projects funded by the Proposition A/AA Bond Program. Since the inception of the Bond Program through the end of June 2005, the District approved contracts with small contractors that total more than \$90 million.

The Los Angeles Community College District's construction and modernization projects receive funding from Propositions A and AA, two bond measures overwhelmingly approved by Los Angeles voters in 2001 and 2003. Propositions A and AA are providing more than \$2.2 billion for new construction and renovations at each of the nine community colleges. For more information on the bond program, visit the Web site at www.PropositionA.org.

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