



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**L.A. COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GIVES BOOST TO LOCAL
BUSINESSES**

*\$42.6 million – 85% of total value of contracts - won by Los Angeles-area
businesses*

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Community Colleges announced today that \$42.6 million of the \$50 million in contracts issued for its Proposition A and AA bond construction program in 2004 went to local businesses. This figure represents 85% of the total bond dollars spent during 2004.

"We are proud to have substantial participation from our local businesses," said Mission College President Dr. Adriana Barrera, who recently hosted a successful contractors outreach fair in February 2005.

Additionally, small businesses earned \$27 million, more than 54% of the contract dollars issued in 2004. In the second half of 2004, small businesses earned more than \$13.5 million, reflecting 66% of the contract dollars issued during the period.

With the amount of contracts going to small and local businesses last year, the District far exceeded its participation goal of 28% of its Proposition A and AA spending going to local, small, and emerging companies.

"Local businesses are the foundation of the Community Colleges' construction program," said Larry Eisenberg, Executive Director of Facilities Planning for the Colleges. "They've earned our contracts because they have offered us the best quality work and workmanship at the best possible price."

"Working with the Community Colleges has been an incredibly positive experience," said Terry Hellinger, President of Mako Systems, Inc., a Sun Valley firm that is installing fire life safety and security systems at Mission College. "The team approach the District has used with their vendors, along with the fact that they have made a special effort to hire small and local businesses, has created positive economic benefits right here in our community."

The Community Colleges' construction and modernization projects receive funding from Propositions A and AA, two bond measures overwhelmingly approved by Los Angeles voters. Propositions A and AA have provided over \$2.2 billion for extensive new construction and renovation at each of the nine community college campuses.

Eligible businesses may inquire about contracting opportunities by visiting www.propositiona.org

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