



news release

Los Angeles Valley College

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L.A. VALLEY COLLEGE NAMED A BELLWETHER AWARD FINALIST

The Strengthening Working Families project is one of 10 community college programs nationwide being nominated for a prestigious 2018 Bellwether Award

VALLEY GLEN, Ca. – Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) has been selected as a finalist for a 2018 Bellwether Award. LAVC's *Strengthening Working Families* project is one of 10 programs in community colleges across the country to be nominated in the award category of Workforce Development.

"L.A. Valley College is honored to be named a finalist for a prestigious 2018 Bellwether Award," said LAVC President Dr. Erika Endrijonas. "Our *Strengthening Working Families* project is designed to address some of the work/family balance barriers that impact job seekers, displaced workers, parenting students, and their families throughout California."

Los Angeles Valley College piloted the *Strengthening Working Families* project in 2016, which provides workforce academy participants and low-income parents—particularly single mothers—with access to job training and family resources to help them balance family obligations, and obtain living wage jobs. In addition, participants learn skills needed for building their own community of support, and receive mental health counseling to help with the transition into employment.

"Working with our award-winning Workforce Training Department, we created a holistic 2-generation approach that benefits not only the parent, but also their children who are future members of our workforce," said Marni Roosevelt, director of Family Resource Center at LAVC. "This project also provides participants with an opportunity to develop a sense of empowerment and connection to the college that in turn helps them remain on track to meet their educational goals while balancing the demands of family life. We believe in a cradle-to-career approach."

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"I am excited that our *Strengthening Working Families* project is helping to move the needle by layering wrap-around supportive family services for workforce training participants and their families," said Dr. Doug Marriott, dean of Workforce Training at LAVC. "I am optimistic that the benefits of this approach and best practices will be replicated by other colleges and workforce training programs."

The Bellwether Awards are presented annually by the University of Florida College of Education and recognizes outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. The Workforce Development category highlights community college programs that feature public and/or private strategic alliances and partnerships that promote community and economic development.

Los Angeles Valley College will be presenting the *Strengthening Working Families* project at the Community Colleges Futures Assembly in Lake Buena Vista, Florida in January 2018. The winner will be announced at the Closing Session & Bellwether Awards Luncheon.

For more information on Los Angeles Valley College, visit www.lavc.edu.

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About Los Angeles Valley College

Los Angeles Valley College is a public two-year college that provides residents of the San Fernando Valley with transfer education, career technical education and lifelong learning. Since 1949, L.A. Valley College has been meeting the needs of the community by offering associate degrees, courses for transferring to a four-year university, career training programs and personal enrichment courses. Valley College serves the communities of Van Nuys, Valley Village, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino, Lake Balboa, Panorama City, Sun Valley and Burbank. The college has approximately 200 full-time faculty and more than 400 part-time instructors serving approximately 20,000 students.