

**Winners of the
2007 Excellence in Workforce Development Awards**

Category 1

Program: **Media Arts**
College: Los Angeles Valley College
Nominator: Dr. Laurie Nalepa
Program Directors Eric Swelstad, Arantxa Rodriguez
Brief Description: Jobs in the entertainment industry have fluctuated in number in recent years, along with the State economy. Yet indicators show that the industry as a whole will remain strong in the region and that LAVC is still placed in the heart of that activity. Our new AA degree and options for the Media Arts Certificate are designed to prepare students for access jobs in the industry from various portals of entry, providing a general survey/overview of the industry, with some specialization in four particular fields of interest: scriptwriting, producing, directing as well as post-production.

Category 2

Program: **Los Angeles Energy Career Pathway**
College: Los Angeles Harbor College
Nominator: Bobby McNeel
Program Director: Lauren J. McKenzie, Juanita Naranjo
Brief Description: In response to the Petroleum industry's urgent need for 150 to 200 workers over the next two years, Los Angeles Harbor College and the South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC) in collaboration with employers ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Valero, BP/Arco, the United Steelworkers, and area WorkSource Centers created the *Los Angeles Energy Career Pathway*. Supported by a WIA 15% Governor's Grant, the South Bay Center for Counseling recruited 40 students from a pool of over 300 applicants. The training program mirrors real-world conditions where employees typically work rotating shifts, and sometimes seven days a week, twelve hours per day for a period of at least six consecutive weeks. Ten (10) students dropped, and of the surviving 30 students all completed the 30 unit Certificate of Completion within sixteen weeks. All of the 30 students have been employed by local refineries making a minimum of \$21 per hour which results in \$70,000 per year because of overtime worked in the turnaround season.

Category 3

Program: **Respiratory Therapist Program**
College: Los Angeles Valley College
Nominator: Dr. Laurie Nalepa

Program Directors: Dr. Frank Sinsheimer, Gregory Morrison
Brief Description: The Respiratory Therapist Program at Los Angeles Valley College is designed to give students the skills they need to make expert clinical decisions in a high tech health care environment. This year, we upgraded our skills laboratory so students can get extensive experience in using life support system equipment. This allows students to give accurate patient assessments and provide appropriate therapeutic applications.

Category 4

Program: **Pierce College Business Center**
College: Pierce College
Nominator: Carole Delgado
Program Directors: Judith Trester
Brief Description: Pierce College Economic and Workforce Development Department opened an off campus Business Center in collaboration with Build Rehabilitation Industries and ACT*. Pierce College's Business Center offers classes and testing services to students and members of the community. The classes and testing services are conveniently scheduled and offered seven days/evenings a week. The Center has expanded to include a Performance Assessment Network (PAN) contract as well as various training programs and nationwide testing services, including the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB Clinical Examination, ASWB Advanced Generalist Examination, ASWB Bachelors/Associate ASWB Masters Examinations), the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the National Institute for Automobile Service Excellence (ASE), Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration-Pre-qualifying employment testing,, ATT-AON-Pre-Qualifying employment testing). Since it opened, approximately 2,200 participants have been tested at the Center.

Category 5

Program: **Computer Applications and Office Technologies**
College: Pierce College
Nominator: Carole Delgado
Program Directors: Lyn Clark, Jill Binsley, Greg Colf
Brief Description: Pierce College developed four new certificate programs to prepare students for the workforce, and to assist workers already in the workforce. The four certificates are the Office Clerical Certificate of Achievement; Website Construction and Maintenance Certificate; Desktop Publishing Certificate of Achievement; and the Legal Office Skills Certificate.

Category 6

Program: **CalWORKs**

College: East Los Angeles College
Nominator: Gayle Brosseau
Program Director: Angelica Toledo
Brief Description: The CalWORKs program at East Los Angeles College offers education and training as CalWORKs students transition into the workforce, and by assisting TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) recipients in obtaining educational degrees and certificates that will lead to sustainable employment. Students receive a comprehensive array of services designed to assist students in achieving long term self sufficiency. The CalWORKs department at ELAC has placed major focus on job placement for participants and best practices in service delivery, which consists of identifying goals, working with participants' strengths and providing participants with support when they have been hired by on and off campus entities. The Work Study component of CalWORKs is thriving as it has reached and surpassed its annual goals!

Category 7

Program: **Automotive Service Technology**
College: Pierce College
Nominators: Carole Delgado
Program Directors: Tom Rosdahl, Tom Fortune
Brief Description: Faculty and students from the Pierce College Automotive Service Technology program (Pierce AST Team) began marketing the AST program at San Fernando Valley high schools, making presentations about the program and automotive service career opportunities. Using the contact information collected at these events, the Pierce AST Team contacted each student and his or her parents by mail, inviting them to an open house barbeque beginning at 6pm so that parents could attend. Approximately 50 students and their parents attended the event which introduced them to the college, the AST facility including the cars, motor lab, service bays, and the advanced diagnostic equipment. Students in the Pierce AST program were also invited to attend the barbeque so that attending high school students could interact with current students. As a result, 32 of the participating high school students enrolled in Pierce's AST program in the fall 2006 semester.

Category 8

Program: **Carpentry Habitat for Humanity Program**
College: Los Angeles Trade-Tech College
Nominator: Marcy Drummond
Program Directors: Bill Elarton, Roger Dunn, George Woo
Brief Description: Through the Los Angeles Trade-Technical (LATTC) carpentry program—in the Construction, Design, and Manufacturing department—students enrolled in advanced courses to construct Habitat for Humanity homes.

With student volunteer labor and with donations of money and materials by individuals and businesses, simple, decent Habitat houses are built with the help of the homeowner (partner) families. The program was started in 1993.

Category 9

Program: **Dental Hygiene**
College: West Los Angeles College
Nominator: Abraham Farkas, Esq.
Program Director: Ara Aguiar, Lisa Takayama, Setnik McDaniel, Arvie Malik, Sandra Schneidewind, Cynthia Chambers, Dr. Pat Zuk, Carmen Jones, Jerome Samonte, Fariba Mehr, Phyllis Morrison, Dr. Joan Ottomo-Corgel, Dr. Donna Klauser, Dr. Eleanor Padnick, Dr. Steve Fink, Carmen Garrido, Donna Lawrence, Debi Gerger
Brief Description: The West Los Angeles College Dental Hygiene curriculum provides education in basic sciences, dental sciences, clinical dental hygiene services and leads to an AS in Dental Hygiene. This program has a retention rate of 97.5% for the past 5 years and 100% passing rate on national and state board exams.

Category 10 – Best Of

Program: **Dental Hygiene**
College: West Los Angeles College
Nominator: Abraham Farkas, Esq.