

**From:** Ralston, Pamela <pralston@losmedanos.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 31, 2023 8:58 AM  
**Subject:** Fantastically Good LMC News!  
**Importance:** High

(sent bcc to all LMC employees)



Good morning, LMC Colleagues!

I am incredibly thrilled and extremely proud to share with you the news that **Los Medanos College has been named an “Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College” by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.** We are among only 150 community colleges – out of more than 1,000 across the country – eligible for the *2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence* and \$1 million in shared prize funds. LMC has now been selected for this honor in five consecutive Aspen Prize award cycles. This prestigious recognition is the direct result of your phenomenal work, a deep institutional commitment to student success, and the powerful and transformative educational experience that Los Medanos College provides our students and our community. Congratulations! **This fifth opportunity makes it possible to document the incredible gains we have made in supporting students to enroll, persist, complete degrees and certificates, and transfer to four-year institutions.**

The Aspen Prize is the signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America’s community colleges. The Prize comes with a monetary award: The \$1 million Prize purse is divided by the Prize Jury between the winner – which in most years has been \$600,000 – and finalists with distinction and rising star winners – which typically receive \$100,000. Based on publicly available data, eligible colleges are selected for showing strong, improving, and equitable student outcomes in key areas such as first-to-second year retention, credentials awarded, and completion and transfer rates.

The next phase of the competitive selection process includes submitting an application that addresses six critical areas identified by the Aspen Institute: teaching and learning; certificate and degree completion; transfer and bachelor’s attainment; workforce success; equitable access to the college; and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The application deadline for the Aspen Prize is December 12. A team of external experts – representing K-12, higher education, and the workforce – will then review our application. In June 2024, following leadership calls with some of the eligible institutions, the selection committee will announce the 10 Aspen Prize finalists. We will then receive student outcomes data that is specific to LMC and benchmarked to the Aspen Prize applicants. Stay tuned for updates on our progress!

A press release announcing LMC’s recognition by the Aspen Institute soon will be distributed to local media. You will be able to view it on our [LMC News webpage](#). Additional information about the *Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence* is available online at: <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>.

It is no small feat to be selected as an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College, but to be recognized five times is amazing. This is your recognition for the long nights, challenging days, and exceptional efforts to help students achieve, succeed, belong, and thrive here. Each of you – every classified professional, faculty member, and manager – has played an important role in receiving this national acknowledgment, as have our students, who continue to excel and better our college and community.

Congratulations, LMC – and thank you for your countless contributions to the success of our students and college!

With excitement and deep gratitude,  
Pamela

LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

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