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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 39 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO COUNTY PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Awardees Recognized During the 2016 Reality Check Conference



Los Angeles, July 21, 2016 -

The Los Angeles Community Development Foundation (LACDF) awarded over \$54,000 in Housing Authority Resident (HAR) Scholarship funds to 39 public housing and Section 8 participants attending a

four-year university, community college, or vocational program. Awardees were recognized during the 2016 Reality Check Conference held at The California Endowment Center in Los Angeles. This one-day conference, exclusively for participants of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) pursuing higher education, focused on educational workshops, career panels, educational resources, and more. A sampling of workshop presenters included: African American Board Leadership Institute, Los Angeles Southwest College, Health Net, Pierce College, and the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium.

Conference attendees were very attentive during the keynote panel discussion made up of current and past HAR Scholarship recipients moderated by local host and comedian Lewis Dix. Panelist, and current LACDF Advisory board member, Rosie Vasquez, spoke on the importance of self-confidence and resilience. As a former HACoLA participant, Rosie spoke of her journey from college to her current career as a nurse. Her story of using higher education as a vehicle to end generational poverty was both inspiring and timely.

Annually, the LACDF offers HAR Scholarships as it fulfills its mission to end generational poverty in public housing and Section 8 by providing positive life-changing opportunities. This year's recipients included top high school graduates and first-



generation college students aspiring to succeed in their chosen careers, such as several students pursuing studies within the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Since 1997, nearly \$271,000 in scholarships have been awarded by LACDF.

“The 2016 Reality Check Conference allows HACoLA participants to gather with their peers, and learn how best to reach their goal of a college degree,” stated Sean Rogan, HACoLA Executive Director. “Listening to individuals share their stories about how they reached their goal helps students set their own path.”

Scholarship funds made possible through the generous donations of the California Community Foundation, Edison International, and the employees of the Community Development Commission/HACoLA. To hear more amazing and inspiring stories or to provide scholarship fund donations, please contact Shelly Thompson at (626) 586-1899, or visit [www.lacdf.org](http://www.lacdf.org). All media may contact Elisa Vásquez, HACoLA Public Information Officer, at (626) 586-1762.

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