



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Honors California State University, Long Beach Students for Poll Worker Recruitment and Training Efforts

Only College in State to Receive Federal Grant for Innovative Programs

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson recognized students from California State University Long Beach (CSULB) today and congratulated them for being awarded \$16,992 in federal grant funds by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The grant funds will be used to recruit and train students to serve as poll workers in Los Angeles County.

“I am here to congratulate the Associated Students of California State University, Long Beach for being chosen as one of just 19 schools nationwide to receive this grant from the EAC,” said Secretary McPherson. “Their innovative approach to encourage students to serve as poll workers on Election Day is commendable. When young voters see their peers participating, when they see dedicated and enthusiastic people working at the polling place, the confidence in our democracy is strengthened.”

U.S. Election Assistance Commission member Gracia Hillman, who met with program officials and students in 2004 said, “We applaud California State University, Long Beach for its sustained commitment to involve college students in the democratic process. Los Angeles County and its voters stand to benefit from the dedicated service of these college poll workers, who have joined the ranks of America’s champions of democracy.”

The EAC provided a total of \$300,000 in grants to develop programs to recruit and train college students to serve as nonpartisan poll workers and poll assistants. On August 9th the EAC announced out of 55 applicants, 19 grantees were selected to receive the grants. The awards are part of the Help America Vote College Program, which was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). The program’s goal is to encourage college student involvement and to assist state and local governments in the administration of elections.

CSULB plans to recruit and train more than 400 college poll workers in Los Angeles County for the November 7th General Election. Recruitment activities will include a media campaign, extra credit support from political science professors and hosting five poll worker training sessions on campus.

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