



**ASPEN INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES PASADENA CITY COLLEGE IN PASADENA, CA, AS ONE OF TOP TEN FINALISTS IN NATIONAL PRIZE COMPETITION**

*\$1 Million Prize Recognizes Excellence in Equitable Outcomes for Students During and After College*

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**WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2, 2019** — Today, Pasadena City College in Pasadena, California, was recognized in an award ceremony in Washington, DC, as one of the top community colleges nationally in the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. During the ceremony at the Newseum, Pasadena City College was honored for the notable way the school's leadership, faculty, and staff have coalesced around a shared vision of equity and student success.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize, awarded every two years since 2011, recognizes outstanding institutions selected from an original pool of more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide. With a singular focus on student success, the Aspen Prize assesses institutional performance in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, high rates of employment and earnings for graduates, and equity in access and success for students of color and low-income students.

"Pasadena City College is committed to building a culture of equity that permeates every aspect of the college, starting with its hiring practices and professional development for all faculty and staff," said Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. "As a result, the college achieves high and continually improving outcomes in completion and transfer."

The Prize winners, Rising Stars, and finalists were announced by Aspen Prize Jury co-chairs Ángel Cabrera, president of George Mason University, and Kathy Warden, chief executive officer and president of Northrop Grumman. Cabrera and Warden led a distinguished Prize Jury of higher education experts to select the top colleges, part of a rigorous review process that included the examination of extensive data on performance and improvements in learning, graduation, workforce, and equitable outcomes, along with multi-day site visits to each of the ten finalists.

The College Excellence Program thanks Pasadena City College for participating in this year's Aspen Prize process, and for helping define excellence for community colleges nationwide. For

more information on Pasadena City College and the national press release, visit:  
<https://bit.ly/2FK6HkM>.

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**The Aspen Prize** is generously funded by ECMC Foundation, Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and Siemens Foundation.

**The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program** aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes, especially for the growing population of low-income and minority students on American campuses. The program is part of The Aspen Institute, which has a mission of fostering leadership based on enduring values and providing a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. For more information, visit <http://highered.aspeninstitute.org/> and [www.linkedin.com/showcase/aspenhighered](http://www.linkedin.com/showcase/aspenhighered) and follow [@AspenHigherEd](https://twitter.com/AspenHigherEd) on Twitter.

**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).