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WOMEN WORK!  
The National Network for Women's Employment

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### **Menifee Teacher Honored in Washington**

WASHINGTON, DC — Beatriz Valenzuela, teacher from Menifee, CA, has been named a *Woman of Triumph* by Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment. She will be honored in Washington on April 23 at the Women Work! National Conference for the strength and determination she displayed in overcoming enormous obstacles and achieving economic independence for herself and her children.

Each year, successful graduates of Women Work!'s nationwide network of job training and education programs are honored at the National Conference. Valenzuela—a graduate of Women Work! member the Women's Resource Center at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, CA—was forced to support her three children after the death of her husband. With no work history and little confidence in her English speaking and writing skills, the Women's Resource Center's 18-week College Success Skills course prepared Valenzuela to pursue an education.

“Beatriz's story is shining example of why Women Work! takes a holistic approach to helping women gain economic security for themselves and their families,” explained Jill Miller, Women Work! President & CEO. “Across the country, Women Work! member organizations provide the education and job training women need to launch their careers, as well as the support services that enable them to complete training and succeed at work.”

“Like so many of the women who come through Women's Resource Center, Beatriz had to deal with financial strain, housing transition, a lengthy commute and arduous care-giving responsibilities in addition to her schoolwork.” said Diana Avila, Coordinator of the Women's Resource Center. “But, Beatriz was determined to succeed and used every resource our program had available to help her build a better life for her family.”

Valenzuela completed her Associate's Degree with a 3.5 GPA. She earned a Master's Degree in Education and today is a Bilingual Resource Teacher at Bell Mountain Middle School. As the developer of the Menifee School District's first bilingual curriculum, Valenzuela is helping others avoid the barriers to employment she faced as a young woman.

**Women Work! The National Network for Women's Employment** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advances economic justice and equality for women through education, advocacy and organizing. Since 1978, the Network has assisted more than 10 million women to successfully enter, re-enter and advance in the workforce. Through supporting, advocating and increasing women's economic self-sufficiency, Women Work! members strengthen families and communities. For more information, visit [www.womenwork.org](http://www.womenwork.org) or call (202) 467-6346.