# empoweru BY Characte Strong Los Angeles Catholic Schools: Creating a Culture of Change



EmpowerU's resilience program proves critical in improving educator and student well-being.

## **Situation**



Twelve K-8 Los Angeles Catholic Schools were recipients of the "Fostering Culture Change Grant" provided by Loyola Marymount University. The schools were identified for their desire to create **positive and lasting cultural changes** that would benefit the community for years to come. Of primary focus was improving the mental health and well-being of all students and educators. Like many schools across the country, LA Catholic Schools were seeing a rise in mental health needs, along with declining resilience and focus of both students and educators.

Loyola Marymount University executives were instrumental in conducting research to find a program that would support the grant's mission and **drive positive, measurable outcomes in well-being.** 

### **Partnership**



In the spring of 2023, Loyola Marymount University selected EmpowerU to provide its Educator Resilience and Mental Health professional development course to nearly 150 educators in schools across the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Their decision to start with a focus on educator mental health had the purposeful goal of creating buy-in and beginning cultural change from the ground up. Educators were given a stipend for their time completing EmpowerU's self-paced online course, designed to support well-being and help rekindle their sense of purpose and commitment to work.

Educator participants immediately felt the impact and especially benefited from the **personalized 1:1 asynchronous support** provided by EmpowerU's online instructors. EmpowerU instructors provided encouragement and motivation to each educator as they set individual goals and learned skills to achieve them.

{

"Thank you to my instructor for pushing me to take time for me and for always being available. This was an awesome experience!"

**Educator Course Participant** 

# Case Study: Los Angeles Catholic Schools

# Driving measurable positive change

Staff participation in EmpowerU's educator program proved to lay a successful and supportive foundation. During the following fall, these same LA Catholic School educators utilized EmpowerU's student programming in 112 classrooms, with a much deeper understanding and excitement for the positive impacts this program can have.



### **Educator Testimonials**

"EmpowerU has given me tools to help my students take charge of their emotions, feelings, and fears. The program has been amazing."

#### **LA Catholic School Educator**

"Focusing on educators' mental health first played an important role in creating a culture of change. Educators improved their own well-being and were better prepared to teach EmpowerU to their students in the fall."

Sr. Rosemarie Nassif, SSND, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University

### **Educator Outcomes**



Rated course as helpful to well-being and confidence



Rated 1:1 EU coaching support as crucial to success

### **Student Outcomes**



Made significant goal progress



Rated the course helpful to their well-being