



2013 | WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

# The Community's College







*Celebrating* 45

The establishment of West Los Angeles College in 1969 was the culmination of the neighborhoods we serve banding together to fight for a local campus.

Prior to then, students had to commute a good distance to Los Angeles City College or Santa Monica College. Several times over several years, the creation of West Los Angeles College was lowered in priority, stymied by a failed public bond effort, and argued against by entities with competing interests. But the community remained insistent that West should become a reality.

Following torrential rains, the college opened in the Spring with no electricity, a handful of “temporary” trailers and a “can do” spirit among the faculty, staff and students that remains today.



*West President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh at the Demolition Party which ended the use of the nearly 45-year-old “temporary” building that housed Admissions and Student Services.*

For the past several years, West focused inward and transformed the campus with four new multi-story LEED-certified buildings, a 1000-space parking structure topped by a solar farm, and new walkways and gathering places. In the midst of the dust, road detours, and relocating offices, we weathered an economic downturn, yet emerged fiscally strong.

Happily, I can report that more adequate funding has returned to the California Community Colleges and we are now comfortably settled into our new spaces. We are now able to return being a greater resource for those communities who fought to establish us. Again, West has Winter and Summer sessions in addition to the traditional Fall and Spring semesters and we have partnered with community organizations throughout the year to bring educational and civic events to the college including a **Los Angeles mayoral candidate forum; a Culver City Unified School District Board candidate forum; two Covered California healthcare information sessions; Relay for Life - a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society; an environmental and healthy living fair; and a fun science expo for over 2,000 children.**

Events such as these enhance the college’s learning environment and foster the value in our students of being active contributors in their communities.

Anniversaries lend themselves to looking back and reflecting – and we have. In fact, we have embarked on an effort to produce the story of West’s history for a website and coffee table book. Anniversaries also prompt us to look forward - evaluate what we are doing well and where we can grow. We will continue to fulfill our mission of providing a *transformative educational experience* to all we serve.

In addition to our long-standing university transfer and career programs, West must and is devoting more resources to preparing alumni to enter fields in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Equally important is training health care professionals to meet the increasing need as our older population grows.

This community report provides a little nostalgia and a look at some of the events and programs I mentioned above.

Wishing you a prosperous new year,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh".

*Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh*



*Yesterday*





# *West Today*



*looking  
forward...*





# WEST

Community and industry leaders, employers and educators, and studies agree that we must increase the pool of students prepared to work in and advance the areas related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Through grants and community partnerships, West is engaged in providing a continuum of STEM education for middle and high school students, college students and working professionals seeking to enhance or retool their skill set.



Thanks to a grant won by West from the National Science Foundation, academically talented, low income students may apply for \$5,400 annual scholarships which include enrichment activities and mentoring from our accomplished faculty who include.

Another grant funds the West Upward Bound STEM program which provides math/science tutoring, a Saturday academy, and science-related field trips to students from Dorsey, Crenshaw and Los Angeles High School.

STAR Education partnered with the college to bring over 2,000 grade-school children from around L.A. County to West. Here they explored fun, hands-on science and technology exhibits including the Aviation Technology and Motion Picture Television Crafts work rooms.





West's **Computer Science Information Technology** programs include degrees and certifications in Computer Science, Computer Network and Security Management, Web Design and Development, Business Application and Database Administration, and Mobile Application Development. Our students can prepare to enter the workforce from West or transfer to universities for more advanced training leading to careers in Software Engineering, Application Development, Network Engineering and Database Architecture. Working professionals are always among our students retooling and upgrading their skills while sharing their work experience with younger students.



**West recently became one of the few California Community Colleges to have a VMWare Academy.**

VMware VCP certification is currently among the most in-demand certifications in the IT world. VMware Virtualization Technology provides platforms and solutions

to power cloud infrastructures, build and run robust cloud applications, and supply end-user computing as a cloud-based service.



**Cisco Networking Academy Celebrates 10 Years**

West is one of the oldest Cisco Networking Academies and recently received an award for maintaining academy status for 10 consecutive years. West's academy is exceptional due to their deployment of NetLAB+ technology. NetLAB+ provides 24/7 remote access Cisco hardware. Additionally, though not

required by Cisco, West's academy instructors are CCENT (Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician) and CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate) certified.



*After being laid off, IT Professional Rita Walsh enrolled at West to enhance her skills. She was referred to, and won, a SQL Developer internship at American Apparel where she was able to apply what she was learning in Oracle Data Base Administration, Access, and ASP.NET. "The classes enhanced my versatility as a program developer," she said. Today, Rita is a developer for a major health care provider with over 3,500 employees.*

BACK TO WORK



AT UCI

*Karine Banuelos, pictured with college president Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, transferred to UC Irvine after successfully completing the STEM Scholars program. She is majoring in Biological Sciences.*

*Supplemental instruction for STEM scholars has included field trips, symposium, science writing, exploring earthquake faults in Greater Los Angeles, water evaluation, and experiments with computer simulations.*





# Allied Health

As the number of older Americans rises, the demand for health care professionals is increasing dramatically. In fact, the average job growth is expected to be 30% between 2010 to 2020 in the areas in which West provides training - Dental Hygiene, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Medical Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Pharmacy Technician. This is much faster than the average for all occupations. In response, West is growing its program offerings while maintaining top quality instruction.

**In 2011, West received a grant to prepare students to become Medical Assistants.**

This one-year program trains students to perform medical office administrative tasks and clinical tasks including patient check-in, drawing blood, giving immunizations, and conducting EKGs. 100% of the students who attempted the professional exam at the end of the program passed. The success of the program, along with rising demand were so great that Medical Assistant training has become a permanent offering of the Allied Health Division which will graduate its second class of 39 students in January 2014.

**This year, West received \$2 million from a \$19 million grant to be shared by the nine LACCD colleges.**

The award was from the Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training program (TAACCCT) to train a diverse population of students for careers in health care and to level up the skills of currently displaced and unemployed health care workers. It will also connect program completers to California health care employers who are grant partners. These include Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Kaiser Permanente, the Southern California Hospital Council and others.



1ST MEDICAL ASSISTANT GRADUATES





The dental hygiene program remains a premier program of the college, graduating approximately 25 students each year. 100% of West's graduating classes consistently pass the professional exam. And, since the opening of the Math Science Complex, dental hygiene students work in facilities comparable to those found at nearby UCLA or USC.

This year, dental hygiene students provided free oral health screenings at campus events including the Covered California Town Hall and EarthFest LA.

**In just 8 weeks, students can be ready to work as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)** in hospice care, convalescent homes and other settings where patients need assistance with bathing and personal hygiene, dressings changed, and vital signs checked. CNAs also assist nurses in a variety of tasks and assist with keeping a patient comfortable. A second 8-week course of study allows graduates to provide similar care to people in their homes as a Home Health Aids. West graduated 119 CNA students in 2013.

**Through a successful partnership with UCLA Extension, students are able to train for a career as an EMT** and receive college credit which they may apply toward a degree or higher credential later.

**And, through West's Extension program, we offer a 10-month Pharmacy Technician training program** preparing students to work in retail pharmacies and clinical pharmacy settings, including acute care hospitals and assisted living, home care, and long-term care facilities. Full-time Pharmacy Technicians earn between \$30,000 and \$40,000 per year.



*Rossy Soria, seen above at her recent graduation, was pleased to report that she passed the California Examination Board to be a Certified Medical Assistant and was hired, soon after, by the LA County Urgent Care Department - Ambulatory Care Network (ACN). "I love my job and feel proud of myself and how bright my future is going to be."*

ON TRACK



**SPREADING THE WORD**

*Congresswoman Karen Bass' Office worked with West's Allied Health Division to provide a town hall on the Affordable Health Care Act and Covered California. In addition to information, attendees could receive free health screenings including oral health screenings provided by West's dental hygiene students. Participants were able to sign up for health insurance plans at the event. USC students, funded by a grant to outreach to young adults, were also part of an outreach effort at West.*



WEST  
LOS  
ANGELES  
COLLEGE



# Community Resource

Welcome to  
**A Day @ West**  
I.A. COLLEGE







“We know that not all of education occurs in the classroom. At West, we want our students to understand the importance of being active in the community and aware of what is happening in government from the local to the Federal level. As an institution, we strive to role-model this through the civic activities of faculty and staff, many of whom are involved in local political, charitable and faith organizations, and by making the college available as a resource to community organizations,” explained West President, Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh.

**A DAY @ WEST:** brought counselors and high school students to West to learn more about community colleges and our transformed college.

**DIALOGUE WITH BLACK LA:** Mayoral candidates Wendy Gruel and Eric Garcetti participated in interviews at the end of a panel program discussing issues facing the Black community in Los Angeles.

**RELAY FOR LIFE:** West was pleased to welcome this annual Culver City fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society to the Wildcats field for the first time this year.

**ASK 2 KNOW:** West’s 400 seat theater was filled with Culver City High School, Middle School and elementary school students and parents assembled to hear from and ask question of the Culver City Unified School District Board candidates.







**BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** This year's activities included guest speakers Jeraldine Saunders Herbison, Music Laureate of Virginia and Dr. Eddie Meadows, Jazz expert, author and San Diego State University professor emeritus. The Omega Gents of Morningside High School provided an exciting stepping demonstration.



**ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH:** California State Controller John Chiang; Consulate General of Japan Kuniko Nakamura; and LACCD Trustee and former Assemblyman Mike Eng (above) spoke to a full hall of students, faculty and staff. Trustee Eng shared his reflections on the Asian-American experience in recent history and his own personal triumphs and challenges.

**MANIFEST YOUR DESTINY:** Actor Hill Harper, best known for his role on *CSI: NY*, founded Manifest Your Destiny to provide underserved youth a path to empowerment and educational excellence through mentoring, academic enrichment, information about entering and succeeding in college, and the facilitation of psychosocial development strategies. The Harvard Law graduate and his organization work with West to provide a summer academy at the college and periodic Saturday workshops.



### “THE ART OF AGING” EXHIBITION

opened at the WLAC Fine Arts Gallery in November 2013 and featured artwork from Alice and Richard Matzkin. Alice, who is in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian, painted a series of nudes of aging models and portraits of famous women in the arts. Richard, was the key artist in the monumental equestrian piece displayed in the Camarillo train station in Ventura County. The show's message, explained Alice, “is don't close your eyes to aging. It is not the end of life, but can be a positive new beginning and the crowning culmination of a lifetime.” The WLAC Gallery hosts outstanding shows by prominent artists throughout the year as well as student exhibits. Information can be found at [www.WLAC.edu/Art](http://www.WLAC.edu/Art).





## USC Civic Engagement



With encouragement from then Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell, EarthFest LA approached West in 2012 to discuss moving the annual environmental/healthy living fair and concert to the college. With support from the college, Culver City, governmental agencies and corporate donors, the 7th Annual EarthFest LA was held at West and included a screening of “Gasland,” addressing the controversial practice of fracking, followed by an information fair and smooth jazz concert.

EarthFest LA returned to West in September 2013 and combined the efforts of a diverse group of community partners to produce an environmental/healthy living expo and concert. In addition to support from West, USC’s IGM Gallery took on a key role by coordinating the distinguished speaking panels. “Demystifying Obamacare” panelists included Dr. Mark A. Pearson who is leading a seminal study at USC on the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act and Dr. David M. Carlisle, president of Charles R. Drew University and past Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.



LACCD Trustee Nancy Pearlman (above) took part in the second panel, “Architecture for Social Change.” Also participating were West President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh and e7 Architecture Studio Director Michael Rendler.

A team from First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” program led event goers in a gentle workout, followed by an easy listening concert featuring double Grammy-winner Paul Brown, Grammy-nominated band Ambrosia, and R&B/Latin music veteran Freddie Ravel.



# 2013 EARTHFEST LA





## ALVARO A. CORTÉS

Executive Director of Beyond the Bell Branch

*Our alumni -- business and civic leaders, elected officials, professionals, skilled tradespeople, and front line staff -- are the most valuable resource West provides to the community. Alvaro A. Cortes, WLAC class of 1972, is one such example.*



Cortés knew early that he wanted to work with children, although initially he thought it would be as a pediatrician. But after wading into some of the required course work, he decided medicine was not his path. Instead, he would go on to impact the lives of thousands of children as a teacher, principal, administrator, and today, as the Executive Director of Beyond the Bell Branch (BTB). BTB provides after school and enrichment programs to nearly 500,000 LAUSD students at more than 600 schools.

The S.T.E.A.M. Nation event (see page 4) is one such program and it brought Cortés back to his alma mater. Cortés, who graduated from West in 1972, was impressed by how nicely the campus has evolved. While he remembered his days at West fondly, the college was a little “dull looking” then and the only place to hang out was in the middle of a road. But he appreciated the small college feel that is still part of West’s culture today. “I knew the people on the [football] team, in my classrooms, my teachers... It was a wonderful transition from high school to university life.”

In fact, it was at West that Cortés took the first steps toward a career in education.

He took a part-time afterschool coaching job at Broadway Elementary. Working with kids “seemed like a natural flow,” he recalled.

After West, Cortés completed his Bachelor’s degree at CSUN and his Masters in bilingual education at CSULA. He then taught for nearly a decade at Hoover and Cahuenga Elementary Schools. As a former English language learner and a graduate of LAUSD, Cortés is passionate about serving the disenfranchised students in the District, specifically students who are newly arrived to the United States.

After serving in his second assignment as a principal at one of the District’s year-round schools, Cortés was promoted to the position of Facilitator for the Annenberg Grant in the North Hollywood Complex of Schools. The \$10 million grant focused on enhancing student literacy as well as assisting in the education and empowerment of parents whose children attend LAUSD schools. Cortés also served as Director of School Services for 6 years in the eastern San Fernando Valley. As Director, he was responsible for the supervision of both the instructional and operational programs of 15 schools (K-12) in Local District 2. In 2006, Cortés was appointed Executive Director of the Beyond the Bell Branch in 2006.

“Burn out,” has never been an issue for Cortés. “Why do something you don’t love?” he explained as he described his current role. “Beyond the Bell is the most fun job in the district,” said Cortés. There is great variety of projects to work on from academic interventions to fun activities and rewarding personal interactions with kids of all ages.







**ALLIED HEALTH:**

Yervant Boghos

**AVIATION:**

Rudy Triviso

**BIOLOGY:**

Patricia Zuk

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT:**

Dolores Gallegos

**CDC DIRECTOR:**

Katy Kelley

**COUNSELING:**

Murrell Green

**DENTAL HYGIENE:**

Joy Ogami-Avila

**ENGLISH:**

Kimberly Manner

**LEARNING SKILLS:**

Tim Russell

**LIBRARIAN:**

Susan Trujillo

**MATH (BASIC SKILLS):**

Manushak Movsisyan

**MATH (STEM):**

Jim Castro

New Hires

This academic year began with welcoming 12 new instructors to the ranks of our full-time tenure track faculty. This was the culminating event of a shared governance process of evaluating the existing and anticipated instructional needs of the college and our expected resources. The newly filled positions are in Allied Health, Aviation, Biology, Child Development, Counseling, Dental Hygiene, English, Learning Skills, the Library, Math - Basic Skills, Math - STEM and director of our Child Development Center. A number of these new full-time faculty had been outstanding long-term adjuncts at West.

The experience these new faculty bring to the classroom is impressive. One such example is Dr. Patricia Zuk, Professor of Biology, who has been connected to West since 2005. In addition to teaching at West, Santa Monica College and other community colleges, Dr. Zuk has worked with stem cell research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA for six years. Under her direction, the UCLA Department of Surgery's research team at the Regenerative Bioengineering and Repair (REBAR) Lab was the first lab in the world to describe the isolation and potential uses of a novel population of adult stem cells isolated from human adipose tissue obtained through liposuction.

Faculty News





## STUDENT PROFILE

Total	10,285 Students
Gender	40% Male 60% Female
Age	51% 19 - 24 27% age 25 - 34 22% age 35 or greater
Study Load	21% 12 units or more 42% 6 to 11 units 37% less than 6 units

## FACULTY / STAFF PROFILE

104	Full-Time Faculty
236	Part-time Faculty
145	Staff
14	Administrators

## UNIVERSITY TRANSFERS & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

375	A.A. Degrees Awarded
336	Certificates Earned
318	University Transfers
174	UC / CSU Transfers
60	Private School Transfers
84	Out-Of-State/Other

### Distinguished Online Program

West is distinguished as having an online program that enjoys the same student retention rate as our traditional classroom based program. This has been achieved through great attention to course design and faculty training. Approximately 25% of classes offered at West combine online and in-class instruction or are completely online. This allows students the opportunity to maximize their class load by combining in-person instruction with lessons they can experience at home or anywhere they have internet access.

# SATURDAY

# April 19, 2014

# OPEN HOUSE

[www.WLAC.edu/OpenHouse](http://www.WLAC.edu/OpenHouse)

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

9000 OVERLAND AVENUE  
CULVER CITY, CA 90230

Additional entrance at;  
10100 JEFFERSON BLVD  
*East of Overland*

