Fostering STUDENT SUCCESS at West

ATDetails

Fall 2014 Semester Kickoff, (photos on right)

West’s Student Success Committee (a committee of the Academic Senate) has adopted the Achieving the Dream framework to accomplish its goal of increasing student success.

Upcoming Events
Student Success/ATD Core Team Meeting
Oct 2 | Nov 6 | Dec 4
2:30 pm | GC 210K

ATD Data Team Meeting
Sept 26
1:00 pm | GC 210K

ATD Coach Visit
TBD

Achieving the Dream uses a student-centered model of institutional improvement focused on creating a culture of evidence in which data and inquiry drive broad-based institutional efforts to close achievement gaps and improve student outcomes overall.

ATD College Priorities
• Successful completion of the English sequence from English 21 through English 101
• Successful completion of Elementary Algebra through Intermediate Algebra
• Successful achievement of degrees and certificates

Intervention Strategies
• Enhanced Tutoring
• Professional Development
• Navigating West (Enhanced Communication with Students)

View the full Proposal at

CORErespondence

Core Team News

Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

Here is an update on West’s three intervention strategies:

NAVIGATING WEST, The Student Success Committee/ATD Core Team met throughout the summer to plan the Fall 2014 Semester Kickoff, which was held on Wednesday, August 27th. This year’s Kickoff had the greatest faculty participation of any Kickoff so far with more than fifty members of West’s faculty participating in the day’s events. In addition to the faculty members who attended, countless other West team members from our Assessment Center and Transfer Center staff to our Distance Learning support team to our Plant Facilities staff, ASO officers, and Bookstore team worked with others to make the Kickoff a success. During the Kickoff, students toured the campus, were exposed to educational technology like Etudes, learned about programs and services available on campus, and met faculty members from various academic programs and divisions. We will report in more detail the result of the Kickoff in our next edition of ATDetails.

Under the leadership of Helen Young, this year, a Discipline Advising program is being piloted at West. The pilot will include the following programs: Allied Health, Aviation Maintenance Tech & Aircraft Electronics, Computer Science, Film Production, Administration of Justice, and Paralegal Studies. Be on the lookout for more details about Discipline Advising at West.

ENHANCED TUTORING, We are pleased to report that under Timothy Russell’s leadership, an official Supplemental Instruction (SI) program is also being piloted at West this semester. Seven West student SI leaders were trained by University of Missouri Kansas City faculty in August, and Professor Russell will be following up with additional training throughout the semester. The SI leaders are working in six English classes and three math classes this semester. Stay tuned for updates on SI at West.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, In early June, Kimberly Manner and Walter Jones attended BSILI, the statewide institute facilitating Leadership for Curricular & Institutional Transformation where they networked with colleagues across the state and worked on West’s Professional Learning plan.

In August, West hosted its second Five-Day Experiential Learning Institute (FELI), and twenty-three members of the West community participated. See p. 2 for more details and photos!

Nancy Sander has assumed her new role as West’s Reading Apprenticeship (RA) Coordinator, and co-led two breakout sessions at Professional Development Day with Professor Alice Taylor where they engaged faculty members with an accreditation standard using an RA routine. The RA Focused Inquiry Group (FIG) is expanding and it will meet twice a month starting on Sept. 23 at 2:00 and Sept 29th at 1:00. Location to be announced. STEM faculty, contact Nancy to enroll in the 3CSN STEM REGIONAL TRAINING in RA at West!

October 3rd from 8:30 to 3. Contact Nancy Sander for more information 310-287-4584/sandern@wlac.edu.

West Los Angeles College

www.wlac.edu/studentsuccess/atd
Five-Day Experiential Learning Institute (FELI) Experiences

Attending FELI was an enriching experience for me. The materials including those about bio-reaction, perceptions, working styles, communication cycles, and community building help transform my learning experience and working relationship with others and the students. Also FELI is not all work and no fun. Through the Light and Lively activities, I learned how much fun my colleagues can be, and how dangerously competitive they can be (no names, but you know who you are).

- Vicky Nesi, President’s Office

Through FELI, I realized the diversity of working styles; I will use this knowledge to help students understand their strengths and talents. I also learned to respect the different working styles of others.

I realized that I have not followed the Do’s and Don’ts about “listening”, I am not a good active listener. I always ask questions when I am supposed to listen.

- Anna Chiang, Computer Science

The FELI experience was a great opportunity to connect with colleagues, clarify working styles and redefine our models for communication. I would recommend this training for everyone at the college especially new faculty and staff.

- Dr. Walter C. Jones, Academic Affairs

In my FELI, I was able to reflect deeply on my teaching and how I interact with colleagues and students, and reminded gently but emphatically that many community college students suffer from PTSD, and they need their “facilitator” (a great word for teacher) to tell them: YOU CAN DO IT! In my developmental writing classes, I have already incorporated my FELI learning. My students are writing their The Hero's Journey, explaining how they have transcended obstacles to their success (proof: their presence in a college classroom), and how they will continue to do so in the future. Poverty, racial profiling, negative past educational experiences, a lack of confidence — these are hurdles or brick walls that they can soar over or kick down with the powerful magic we “facilitators” can put in their heads: a fierce belief in the appropriateness of their sitting in a college classroom.

- Nuala Lincke-Ivic, English

FELI, amongst many things, reminded not only to listen but also how to listen. This has since affected both my private and professional life. In doing so, it encouraged me to be more involved in helping students to succeed in achieving their academic goals. Overall, it was an inspiring experience.

- Kareen Martin, Science

FELI has been a wonderful experience for me professionally and personally. It brought faculty together and achieved an educational, fun camaraderie. FELI brought diverse disciplines together and taught us how we can connect, engage, and expand our teaching methods and approaches. It was an honor and a privilege to participate with FELI here at WLAC.

- Noami Duckworth, Humanities & Fine Arts

West’s Own Student Success Conference

Mark your calendars for West’s Innovative Teaching and Service Strategies to Increase Student Success (Without Decreasing Academic Rigor) Conference on Friday, February 6, 2015 from 8:30 to 2:30.

Faculty and staff will be given an opportunity to showcase innovative teaching/service methods and strategies that engage students and lead to greater success. Conference attendees can find one or two strategies they can implement immediately to make the Spring semester better than ever.

Proposals for one-hour panels and interactive sessions are due by 5:00 p.m. November 3. A request for proposals will be sent out soon.

This month’s CoreNerd is Yervant Boghos. He is an Allied Health/Medical Assisting Instructor.

FUN FACT: In his spare time, he loves reading poetry and cooking baby back ribs and eggplant kebabs.