Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

The ATD DREAM Conference is happening from February 17-20 in Baltimore, Maryland. This year West is only sending Clare Norris, our ATD Faculty Coordinator. There, in addition to networking with colleagues from across the nation and attending breakout sessions from exemplary programs, Clare will have the extraordinary opportunity to hear Dr. Jill Biden speak and attend a meet and greet reception with Dr. Biden. Clare will also meet with our ATD coaches and then, Christine McPail, who missed last semester’s visit, will be on campus on February 26th, getting to know West.

We are also excited to support the continuation of West’s Student Poster Showcase with a Showcase Director position advertised through our Academic Senate and offered with a $1,000 stipend.

Below is an update on West’s intervention strategies:

ENHANCED TUTORING. West offered another Supplemental Instruction training session for new and returning SI leaders on February 4th. This semester five English classes, two math classes, and one Communication Studies class are all scheduled to be equipped with SI Leaders.

In an effort to support effective instructional support, the Student Success Committee made a motion to form a workgroup to explore and discuss West’s Instructional Support Services for student success including our learning center, learning skills classes, library, etc. If you are interested in joining the workgroup, please contact Clare Norris.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

West held its second annual Spring Summit on February 6 where West faculty and staff leaders presented on innovative strategies for supporting students. Kimberly Manner and Clare Norris are helping to plan the two Spring LACCD ATD Summits. The first summit will happen on Friday, February 27th at Los Angeles City College in conjunction with Discipline Day, and the focus is redesigning developmental education pathways. The following summit, focused on Culturally Relevant Training, is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at East Los Angeles College.

West will be hosting Habits of Mind for Student Equity in conjunction with Pierce College on Friday, March 6 from 8:30 to 2:00. Lunch will be served. Everyone is invited, but registration is limited to the first 100 to sign up at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/habits-of-mind-for-student-equity-at-west-los-angeles-college-los-angeles-regional-network-tickets-15343335329.

Faculty, staff, and administrators are invited to join the Professional Learning Workgroup, a subset of the Student Success Committee tasked with meeting EMP Goal 1.4.1: Establish an exemplary professional learning program. We will meet once a month to discuss issues related to professional learning at West.

Under Nancy Sander’s leadership the Reading Apprenticeship (RA) Focused Inquiry Group (FIG) is meeting February 17 and March 17 from 12:45-2:00 pm in GC210K. Contact Nancy Sander for more information 310-287-4584/sandern@wlac.edu.

The “One Book” Focused Inquiry Group, led by Susan Trujillo and Nancy Sander, met on February 12 at 2:00 in HLRC 316. The group is considering the best model of a “One Book” initiative for West to adopt.
STUDENTalk

By Fevy Valencia, SI Leader, English 101 Fall 2014

After performing as a Regional Business Development Manager for ten years, I realized that corporate America wasn’t my true calling but rather a career in Psychology. In my career in Business Development I learned how to foster relationships and loved to develop connections with others. Through my journey I realized I wanted to help those who need help the most, at risk children and youth. Over the years, reading and learning about Psychology caused me to develop a love and admiration for the human mind and our ability to grow and evolve. My goal is to transfer into UCLA’s Psychology program to complete a B.A. and follow with a Ph.D. in Psychology.

Returning to school after a twelve year hiatus was extremely intimidating, but I realized that I truly enjoy the journey of learning and developing myself. During Fall 2014 semester I had the privilege of working with Professor Norris and her English 101 students by supporting the students as a Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader. Through this experience I have learned how to guide and support students through challenging assignments. It has been a growth experience for me as well as rewarding in many aspects. Watching a student who believes that he/she isn’t capable of structuring a research project and guiding him or her to find the words to express their thoughts and opinions has been very inspiring.

Being an SI Leader has given me the opportunity of leadership and to challenge myself to lead others. Through the process of SI I have learned a great deal about myself and know that I love helping others learn.

Data Bytes

Update from the Data Team

By Agyeman Boateng, Data Team Tri-Chair

During the last Data Team meeting in November, we got a chance to exchange ideas with our new Data Coach Ted Wright Ed.D. At that meeting, Dr. Wright offered some of his insights from his career in institutional research and his long-term involvement with Achieving the Dream. As the Spring gets underway, we look forward to our Data Team members contributing to the newly forming Instructional Support Workgroup and proposed Professional Learning Workgroup, and reporting on the results of the tutoring survey later in the Spring.

Upcoming Details

Development Education Pathways Summit (in conjunction with Discipline Day)
February 27 | Los Angeles City College

Habits of Mind for Student Equity
March 6 | West Los Angeles College

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Summit
March 27 | East Los Angeles College

Look who got CoreNerd!

This month’s CoreNerd is Susan Trujillo. She is a Librarian. FUN FACT: Inspired by an exercise during FELI 2014, Susan is learning to play guitar, something she has been wanting to do for years.

Spring Summit 2015 | Six Word Summaries

During the Closing Keynote, we created six-word summaries of the day’s events. Here are some of them.

Innovative strategies for moving forward creatively

Without a wall, there’s a breakthrough.

Flipped class: Voki zoom, creative dance

Don’t be afraid to be wrong

Curious beings bonding, sharing, creating, growing.

Risk it: suspend judgement and play.

Think create, Innovate, animate, and listen.

Found Solutions for Students Seeking Success

Very interesting, helpful, useful, immediate application.
- Buck Stapleton

Essential for collegiality and professional development
- Janelle Blount

We came, we saw, we unboxed.
- Linda Alexander

Eye opening, inspirational and thought provoking.