Fostering STUDENT SUCCESS at West

CORerrespondence

Clare Norris and Mary-Jo Apigo, Core Team Leaders

Clare Norris, our ATD Faculty Coordinator, attended the ATD DREAM Conference in February. Read her report on the Conference on page 2.

We are also excited to announce the selection of Arnita Porter as West’s Spring 2015 Student Poster Showcase Director.

ENHANCED TUTORING. West’s Supplemental Instruction team has been providing Supplemental Instruction to the Black Scholars English and Math classes, our Accelerated English courses, as well as providing academic support to several ESL classes. The SI team has held review sessions since the third week of this semester and has helped students gain a better understanding of course content. Several of West’s SI Leaders will participate in the 2nd Annual Tutoring Expo to be held Pierce College Friday, March 20.

The Student Success Committee’s Instructional Support Workgroup met twice this month, and at its first meeting discussed extensively the history and current state of Instructional Support at West. Meetings are ongoing. Please let Clare Norris know if you’re interested in participating in the Workgroup.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Kimberly Manner and Clare Norris helped to plan the February 27th Spring LACCD ATD Summit focused on redesigning developmental education pathways.

The following summit, focused on Culturally Relevant Training, is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at East Los Angeles College. West hosted Habits of Mind for Student Equity in conjunction with Pierce College on Friday, March 6.

Under Nancy Sander’s leadership the Reading Apprenticeship (RA) Focused Inquiry Group (FIG) is still meeting monthly. The group met on Tuesday, March 17 from 12:45-2:00 in GC210K. Contact Nancy Sander for more information 310-287-4584/sandern@wlac.edu.

We are pleased to announce that the “One Book” Focused Inquiry Group, led by Susan Trujillo and Nancy Sander, has chosen West’s inaugural book: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. See more details about the FIG on the FIG Leaflet: One College, One Book.

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)


April 1 | May 6
3:00 pm | GC 210K

March 25 | 1:30 | Location TBD

Core Team News

- Tim Russell
- Matthew Robertson
- Patricia Banday, Chair
- Chuck Amaugo, Co-Chair
- Elizabeth Bell, Co-Chair
- Agyeman Boateng, Co-Chair
- Karen Quitschau
- Vidal Valle
- Helen Young

Data Team
- Celena Alcala
- Linda Alexander, Co-chair
- Chuck Amaugo
- Elizabeth Bell, Co-Chair
- Agyeman Boateng, Co-Chair
- Patricia Banday
- Art Lara
- Matthew Robertson
- Tim Russell

*Student Success Committee Members

Upcoming Events

ATD College Priorities

Overall.

Students

Nancy Sander,

has chosen West's

Henrietta Lacks.

Phyllis Braxton

Shalamon Duke

Adrienne Foster

Dolores Gallegos

Manushak Movsisyan

Clare Norris, Faculty Leader

Karen Quitschau

Matthew Robertson

Tim Russell

Melinda Smith

Robert Sprague

Buck Stapleton

ATD DREAM Conference

photos on right)

ATD Data Team Meeting
March 25 | 1:30 | Location TBD

LACCD ATD Summit
Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning
March 27, 2015 @ East

ADetails

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.

West ATD Website

Volume 4, Issue 5 - March 2015

West Los Angeles College

An Achieving the Dream Institution

West ATD Website
By Taneka Hamilton, West SI Leader

After years of trying to figure out which career would be best and offer financial stability, I realized that I shouldn’t be motivated by money. I’ve always enjoyed helping people, so becoming a nurse and a lawyer was ultimately the best fit for me. Before relocating to California from Chicago, I tried the medical field; however, it was emotionally draining, and I decided not to pursue law. I did discover my passion for education and helping others. For years, I have volunteered at churches and my daughter’s school where I often seek children who are labeled as “bad”. Working with these children is important to me because I was labeled as one. Realizing that educating others is my passion, I was motivated to go back to college to obtain my degree in business with a minor in education. My goal is to open a K-8 school, which focuses on innovative practices to help students succeed.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an innovative practice I was introduced to at West Los Angeles College. Becoming an SI Leader in Fall 2014 has given me the opportunity to learn, lead, gain patience, compassion and experience. Helping students in English allows me a greater understanding of what’s being taught and that every student learns differently. This experience will help me in my future goal of becoming an educator. I love being an SI leader because helping others realize their potential makes me happy.

ATD DREAM Conference 2015

By Clare Norris, Core Team Leader

I was so pleased to have the opportunity to attend this year’s DREAM Conference: Achieving the Dream’s Annual Institute on Student Success with more than 150 colleagues across the country and over thirty colleagues from our District. I was pleased to get a chance to meet and network with so many colleagues committed to student success on their campuses. My primary focus in attending conference sessions was to learn more about professional learning programs at colleges around the country and about innovations in developmental education.

I attended three sessions related to professional learning. In those sessions I was looking especially for insights on effective ways to assess professional learning. In one breakout session led by Harper College in Illinois, the leader described Harper’s program where the coordinator gets a full reassignment for a three-year term. He coordinates an annual faculty kickoff retreat, where the ongoing emphasis on collaboration is reiterated and the theme for the year is introduced. The importance of colleges having a space dedicated to professional learning also came up along with the value of making personal connections with colleagues. As for assessing programs, Harper’s research office does regular focus groups with faculty members, staff members, and students to assess the professional learning. They also implement Northeast Wisconsin Technical College’s rubric for their Faculty Progression Structure. Finally, accountability for professional learning is included in faculty evaluations.

I also attended a breakout session in which a panel discussed the American Association of Community Colleges AACC Summit on the Redesign of Developmental Education and presented a list of fifteen draft recommendations as a summary of the key ideas from that summit. Here are the four that stood out most to me: (1) Utilize multiple measures to assess readiness; (2) Pursue models of acceleration to gateway courses; (3) Create holistic advising, including success coaches; and (4) Reduce the number of levels (shorten the sequence) of developmental math and English.

Outside of the conference sessions, I attended a meeting of all LACCD attendees. At that meeting we gathered with our chancellor and our ATD coaches. I met with the leaders of the Culturally Responsive Training movement at Community College of Baltimore County. I also mingled with my colleagues across the District and learned more about actions being taken at other LACCD colleges to promote student success.

In the plenary sessions I heard our chancellor, Francisco Rodriguez, and Second Lady and community college faculty member, Dr. Jill Biden speak. I even waited in line to briefly meet Dr. Biden after she addressed the closing session.

Overall, I benefitted from attending the conference. I had access to opportunities that I would not have had without attending. I just hope that West is able to send a larger team to future DREAM Conferences, especially with ATD’s emphasis on data and leadership, a researcher from our campus would have benefitted from a number of the resources available in addition to administrator in a leadership position.

Professional Learning

Update from the Professional Development Coordinator

By Kimberly Manner

With the Reading Apprenticeship FIG, the One Book FIG, the Cultural Competence FIG, and a robust Tech Fair, there are many opportunities for faculty and classified staff to continue to grow professionally as they develop new strategies for increasing student success and closing achievement gaps at West. The photos in this edition of the newsletter highlight some of the most recent professional learning activities that have taken place.

The Professional Learning Subcommittee (of the Student Success Committee) held its first meeting on March 10. We discussed developing a professional learning community that includes all college employees. For our next meeting, committee members will look at the Educational Master Plan and the Equity Plan to see where professional learning fits (not just where it’s mentioned). We’ll examine what the role of professional learning is in getting us to our goals as a college. If you are interested in this conversation, please join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, April 14 at 3:15 p.m. in SSB 414.

You can view the calendar of Professional Learning Events at [http://www.wlac.edu/Professional-Learning/Professional-Learning-Events/index.aspx](http://www.wlac.edu/Professional-Learning/Professional-Learning-Events/index.aspx).

Look who got CoreNerd!

This month’s CoreNerd is Mary-Jo Apigo. She is Dean of Teaching & Learning and the ATD Administrative Leader. FUN FACT: Mary-Jo has loved magic for years and is an Associate Member of the Magic Castle.