

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Michelle Long-Coffee, Dir. PR & Advertising
(310) 287-4597 | longcofm@wla.edu
9000 Overland Ave. - Culver City, CA 90230



WEST & CDU Partner to Increase The Number of Health Care Professionals in Underserved Areas



CDU Dr. Steve O. Michael and President Dr. David M. Carlisle and West Interim President Robert Sprague and Vice President Ara Aguiar.

West Los Angeles College and Charles Drew University recently formalized a partnership to increase the number of students who complete training to provide health care in underserved communities. At a friendly afternoon ceremony held at CDU, West Interim President Robert Sprague reflected on the missions and founding dates for the two colleges, 1969 and 1966. "We [West & CDU] are that which arose from the conflicts of the 1960s...we are that point of hope - points of light."

"This is not a mere transfer program," explained Dr. Steve O. Michael, CDU Provost. "What we are building today is a Baccalaureate completion program. Therefore West Los Angeles College is not a junior partner in this deal but rather an entry-point to a four-year science and health professional degree... Our partnership is a declarative intent of two institutions with overlapping missions to tackle a shortage of health professionals with a primary focus to serve the underserved."



CDU President Dr. David M. Carlisle added that undergraduate transfer students have the advantage of coming to a campus where they can be completely immersed in health care. CDU, where the president is a physician and deans and faculty are all health care professionals, is exclusively devoted to health care professions. Moreover, the undergraduates are surrounded by graduate students in medicine, nursing, and public health and they are across from the new Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital and Outpatient Center. West offers several paths of study well-aligned with the university including chemistry and biology, entry-level nursing, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, paramedics, and dental hygiene. The dental hygiene was one of only 15 California Community College programs of any sort recently granted permission to offer a Bachelor's degree.



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In addition to the transfer program available to students, the two colleges plan to engage in exchanges of guest lecturers, some jointly taught classes, and opportunities for joint professional development for faculty.

Just weeks ago, West entered into a partnership with the University of West Los Angeles (UWLA), best known for its graduate law school. Recently, UWLA added a school of business and an international program. The language academy at West Los Angeles College offers an outstanding convenient resource for UWLA's international students to improve their English skills. UWLA students who need to complete a few general education requirements can also do so at West.

West students will benefit from having another university that offers them a seamless "2+2" program. This means they can complete a prescribed set of classes in approximately two years at West then received guaranteed admission to UWLA where they can complete a Bachelor's degree in 2 more years.

West Los Angeles College is an accredited community college offering full-, part-time and online paths to university transfer and career preparation. West is located at 9000 Overland Avenue (near Jefferson), Culver City 90230. There is a second convenient entrance at 10100 Jefferson between Overland and La Cienega.

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