

PRESS RELEASE

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WEST LA COLLEGE TEAMS WINS BIG

Track & Field Takes WSC Championship Titles
Aviation Maintenance Earns Wins Five Events



Two West Los Angeles College teams brought home big wins in recent competitions. Both the men's and women's track and field teams secured the Western State Conference Track and Field Championships, while the Aviation Maintenance team won top awards at the Annual Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC).

These teams have a record of success at their respective competitions. The WSC title is the fourth-consecutive championship for the women and their ninth title in 12 years. The win also marks the third time in college history that West has swept both titles in the same season. The five-student Aviation Maintenance team placed second overall out of 29 school teams and took first place in five events. In the last four years, West has earned three top team placements.

TRACK & FIELD: The Wildcat men won with a total of 149 points, edging out host team Moorpark College by eight points. The women won with a total of 171 points, defeating Cuesta College by an astounding 68.5 points.

Among the outstanding performances were local high school alumni. **Steven Ashby, Culver City High School graduate** placed first in the long jump with a mark of 22 feet 7 inches. Sophomore **DeChanelle Govnes, a Westchester High School alum**, won both the triple jump and high jump with marks of 37 feet 7 inches and 5 feet 1 inch, respectively. **Aria Calhoun, a former Dorsey High Don**, won both the 100 meters with a time of 12.01 seconds and the 200-meter dash with a time of 25.42 seconds. Calhoun also ran first leg on the victorious 4x100 relay and anchor leg on the first place 4x400 relay team.

"We put ourselves in good position last week by getting virtually all of our students through to today's finals and everybody stepped up and contributed," head coach Dan Fitzpatrick said. "It was a true

team effort as we had big-time performances all day long. We basically had personal bests across the board.”

The 4x100 races can be viewed on the team Instagram account at [Instagram.com/WestLATF](https://www.instagram.com/WestLATF).

AVIATION MAINTENANCE: While the Wildcats dominated on the track, West’s Aviation Maintenance team traveled across the country to compete at AMC. The contest, held in Atlanta, brought together teams of students and licensed professionals in the Air Force, Coast Guard, Army, Marines, Navy, Royal Canadian Air Force, general aviation, domestic and international airlines.

West team members Jose Valencia (Team Leader), David Cortez, Edwin Gamez, Junhee Lee and Brandi Williams faced off against their former team member Yolanda Gong, who took top honors last year and was hired by American Airlines then placed on their Chix Fix team.

West took first prize in the following events: FedEx Turbine Engine PDU Removal and Installation; Cable Rigging, sponsored by Boeing; Boroscope Inspection; Boeing Fiber Optics Light Loss Test; and the written exam based on the first aircraft mechanic, Charles Taylor. These wins earned the college over \$5,000 in gifts and awards including a Tensitron ACX-1 tension meter valued at \$1,400 which will allow future students to train with the newest technology available. Student Brandi Williams also received the Phobe Omlie Scholarship.

“Our team demonstrated outstanding professionalism and camaraderie during the competition,” said Rudy Triviso, WLAC Aviation Tech Instructor. “The events and judges are sponsored by professional airlines, aircraft manufacturers such as Boeing, and other schools. Thus participants are given the unique opportunity of networking as well as demonstrating their talent and skills to potential employers and recruiters overseeing the events.”

More information about the Aviation Maintenance program will be available at the West’s Open House on Saturday, May 18. Details can be found at www.WLAC.edu/Open-House .

West Los Angeles College is located at 9000 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230. The college is a ACCJC-accredited community college providing full-time, part-time and online paths to university transfer and career preparation.

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