PRESS RELEASE

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WLAC PARTNERS WITH HALL OF FAME PHYSICIAN TO COMBAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE, HIV AND HEPATITIS

West Los Angeles College recently received an $85,000 grant from MayaTech Corporation under their agreement with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to increase awareness of Substance Abuse, HIV, and Hepatitis prevention and to promote healthy living behaviors. The grant supports West’s Alcohol and Drugs, Sex & Knowledge (ASK) program. Student Peer Educators (SPE) will be recruited and trained. With expert guidance, SPEs will formulate plans to determine and implement effective prevention strategies and social marketing activities to provide peer-led education and student awareness activities. Workshops, speakers, distribution of brochures, information booths and conducting activities tied to World AIDS Day are all planned.

A partner in implementing this grant is Team HEAL (Helping Enrich Athletes’ Lives), a non-profit foundation which provides comprehensive medical care, certified athletic trainers, and rehabilitation centers for West and underserved high school athletes. The organization was founded by Dr. Clarence L. Shields, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Southern California Department of Orthopaedics. Dr. Shields will be inducted into the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine’s (AOSSM) Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2006, he received the AOSSM’s Mr. Sports Medicine award. Dr. Shields has spent most of his career in private practice at the Kerlan-Jobe Clinic in Los Angeles, during that time he developed the Kerlan-Jobe Sports Medicine Fellowship Program which has produced more than 300 alumni. He served as team physician for the Los Angeles Rams from 1973 to 1995, and has acted as team physician for his alma mater, Loyola Marymount University, since 1980.

“We are honored to work with such a prestigious partner,” said West President Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh. “As a community college, our charge extends beyond just English 101 and Physics. Many of our students have grown up with limited access to accurate health care information. We must be active in the communities we serve to address some of these deficiencies.” He added, “a more health literate student body becomes a nexus of information for their communities.”

West Los Angeles College, an accredited community college located just south of Overland and Jefferson, has been providing excellent university transfer and career training programs to the community for over 40 years. For more information on “West,” visit www.wlac.edu.

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