WLAC’s “WISE” Choices
Are Supported by Multi-Million Dollar Grants

Recently, West Los Angeles College’s Institute for Student Excellence (WISE) was awarded two, Federally funded, multi-year, grants totaling over $1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Education, TRIO. TRIO programs are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The grant funds support the continued operation of WISE Educational Talent Search (ETS) and its Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). ETS serves 600 students per year and is a middle and high school program. Participants are from Marina del Rey and Webster middle schools, and Dorsey High School. EOC serves 1000 participants who are 19 and older within the county of Los Angeles.

Also housed under these efforts are Upward Bound, Student Support Services and CalWORKs. Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. Participating students are from Crenshaw, Dorsey, Hamilton and Los Angeles High School. Student Support Services and CalWORKs serve low income and unemployed West Los Angeles College students. The programs focus on some or all of the following: grade level readiness and high school completion through tutoring; skill-building workshops; personal development; financial literacy; college success; degree/certificate completion; and university transfer. Information about community college and university requirements are integrated with direct assistance on the application processes, including entrance exam preparation.

By securing new grants and renewing existing ones, West has offered special programs like these since mid 1990. Combined, these programs serve over 2500 participants each year.

WISE is also currently sponsoring collaborative programming with community non-profit organizations which include, Educating Young Minds, Manifest Your Destiny, South Central Scholars, Urban Compass and Young Black Scholars. These organizations are aligned with the mission of the college and the objectives of the grants. Such partnerships provide year-round learning opportunities for students and participants from, pre-middle school through high school and beyond.

For more information on these organizations, visit


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.