DEMOLITION BASH AT WEST
Farewell to the Temporaries

As part of its on-going campus transformation funded by voter-approved construction bonds, West Los Angeles College will begin demolition of 43-year-old “temporary” buildings during the Winter break. To mark the occasion, the college will hold a Demolition Bash at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11. All are invited to participate in the farewell photo. Be sure to wear your favorite 1970s and/or construction worker apparel. Get your photo taken swinging a ceremonial sledge hammer then graffit your thank you message to these well-used buildings on one of our walls. Following the event, guests are invited to explore the dramatically renewed campus with three new LEED certified, multi-story buildings and lovely new walkways and courtyards. The new Café West is open for lunch and the adjacent expansive lawn behind the Student Services Building offers a great view of Culver City. Parking will be free in Lot #5.

When the college opened in Spring 1969, the student paper referred to the trailers, known as the A Buildings, as the interim campus. “With expansion, the interim facilities will be removed and the area they now occupy will be used for additional parking.” Four decades later, the useful life of these temporary trailers has been fully exhausted. Most of the trailers were vacated in March 2012 as they were no longer suitable or safe for occupancy. One serviceable trailer will be spared the wrecking ball for three more years until campus construction is concluded.

~ continued ~
Until recently, the A Buildings housed Admissions and Student Services as well as classrooms and science labs. Today, Admissions and other student services have been consolidated under one in the new Student Services Building which includes electronic information boards, meeting rooms for workshops, a café and bookstore. Science courses are now taught in modern labs in the Math & Science Complex and in classrooms with the capacity for multimedia presentations.

The removal of the dilapidated buildings will make room for the expansion of existing parking lots. The new spaces are expected to be available later in the 2013 Spring semester.

Also commencing in December is the construction of a bus turnaround near the new Student Services Building. The new traffic circle will allow the Culver City bus, which provides on-campus service, to bring students closer to the heart of campus and at a spot more accessible for disabled students while keeping bus circulation away from neighboring homes. The traffic circle is also scheduled to be completed during the 2013 Spring Semester. During construction, the bus will continue to provide on-campus service using the existing route in from Overland and up and down Albert Vera. After construction is complete, the bus will still enter and exit using Albert Vera. However, it will turn deeper into the campus using B Street.

The combined cost for the demolition, parking lot creation, and bus turnaround construction is just under $3 million. The bond-funded projects also include removal of old utilities and infrastructure and replacement of water and gas pipes. McCarthy Construction is the contractor for the demolition/parking lot expansion. Torro Enterprises will handle the bus turnaround project.

###