



# WestWords

A bi-weekly communique from the Office of the President

ISSUE #4: February 8, 2017

WLAC Colleagues:

First, a belated, but nonetheless heartfelt wish to each of you for the New Year.

Many issues and opportunities of significance have surfaced or have accelerated since the last publication of “WestWords.” In the coming months, the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and open communication will be vital as we

- Review and refine our goals related to the construction of a new facility as a result of Measure CC funding;
- Respond, in an affirmative and proactive fashion, to the expectation that West will continue its growth;
- Develop a strategic, position-oriented approach to planning so that we can achieve the aforementioned growth in a fashion that best utilizes our resources in human expertise, facilities, and location;
- Infuse throughout the campus the significant expectations to expand our career/technical education efforts through funding provided by the Strong Workforce/Doing What Matters initiatives emanating from the Chancellor’s office;
- Incorporate the concept of pathways and its multiple iterations as both an expectation and an opportunity; and
- Continue to maintain as a priority support for our students and their families who are or may be adversely affected by federal policies enacted under the new administration.

It promises to be an exciting spring semester, marked by several public meetings and the introduction (or return) of employee recognition events that celebrate the essence of who we are, and why, when students “Go West,” they “Go Far.”

So let’s get to business.

Sincerely,

*Jim Limbaugh*

Jim Limbaugh, President

## *Thank you...*

The Chancellor and the Board of Trustees have made enrollment growth as one of the District’s top priorities. Thanks to your combined efforts and the personalized attention you give our students, West is doing its part: We have posted, as of February 7, a 4% increase in enrollment over spring 2016—a trend opposite to the other eight LACCD institutions.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Campus-Wide Special-Topic Luncheon Meetings
- “Desserts and Discussion” Series
- Measure CC Funding Criteria To Be Established
- Celebration of Tenure/Years of Service/Retirements
- Food Pantry Planning February 21 Opening
- Name Badges For all West Employees
- Who Will Be “Caught in the Act”?
- Nagamatsu Art Donation
- Youth Events on Campus
- “Why We Do What We Do”

## Two Special-Topic Luncheon Meetings Scheduled for Spring 2017

The California Community Colleges have implemented multiple initiatives that filter down to affect local campuses on a daily basis. In order to ensure that as many people on campus as possible knew about these initiatives and how they affect every operation, I hosted a morning meeting and luncheon last month as an experiment to ascertain if such an approach was an effective delivery method to discuss issues and share information. Approximately 35 members from all sectors of the West community were invited to this inaugural presentation on a very timely topic: the Strong Workforce/Doing What Matters career/technical education initiative.

By all accounts, the morning was successful, with productive dialogue between and among multiple departments and units that continued over lunch. As a result, I am scheduling two more special-topic luncheon meetings this spring, and I am expanding the invitation list to include any member of the West community who is interested in learning more about programs and initiatives that have ongoing campus-wide impact:

**Tuesday, March 14, 10 a.m.—12:30 p.m., “Categorical Programs and Funding: SSSP, Student Equity, and Basic Skills;” and Tuesday, April 18, 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., “Community Outreach,” including dual credit and marketing.**

Both meetings will be held in SSB 414. If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Vicky Nesia at [nesiav@wlac.edu](mailto:nesiav@wlac.edu).

## “Desserts and Discussion” Series to Launch This Spring

As evidenced above, I believe strongly in holding campus-wide discussions on issues that affect all of us. To that end, this spring will see the introduction of monthly one-hour “dessert and discussion” sessions, each focusing on a single topic of concern that has been identified, either as the result of campus dialogues or through the monitoring of national and state trends that may have an impact on West and its students.

The first “Dessert and Discussion” is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 14, 3-4 p.m., in Winlock Lounge**. The topic: “What Does Being a Social Justice Institution Mean?” This subject was selected because West has self-cited as a “social justice institution” in two separate reports. But what are the impacts on West in terms of curricula, campus culture, and student services if we fully embrace this philosophy? If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Vicky Nesia.

Other “Dessert and Discussion” sessions are planned for **Monday, March 27, 2:30 – 3:30 pm** and **Thursday, April 27, 2:30 – 3:30 pm**. Topics and locations will be announced as the dates approach.

## Measure CC Funding Criteria To Be Established

With the successful passage of the \$3.3 billion Measure CC bond initiative, District leadership and the presidents of the nine LACCD colleges are discussing possible criteria to guide the submittal of proposals. While it is very early in the process, and while any criteria must be approved by the Board of Trustees, I am projecting that

- Proposals from each college will have to be supported by existing data regarding utilization of present space (which includes how effectively we schedule our existing facilities),
- Programmatic emphases—both current and future—will be a key point of consideration,
- Existing institutional strategic plans and mission statements will be expected to provide a strong base for any and all proposals, and
- Support for ADTs and CTE (career/technical education) initiatives will figure prominently in discussions.

I will continue to keep the campus abreast of this discussion and how it will relate to our strategic planning and resource allocation practices.

## West Receives Generous Art Donation from Ernest and Elaine Nagamatsu

West Los Angeles College is the fortunate recipient of a generous donation of art from the private collection of local dentist Dr. Ernest Nagamatsu and his wife, Elaine. Dr. and Mrs. Nagamatsu have been avid collectors of contemporary art, and West is fortunate to have received several pieces of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art as well as one-of-a-kind hand-made books.

With their gift, Dr. and Mrs. Nagamatsu have established the core of West's permanent art collection. Upon the completion of the appraisal and insurance processes, the pieces will be delivered to campus, and we will make arrangements to have a special gallery exhibition so that the entire West community can view the collection and thank Dr. and Mrs. Nagamatsu for their kindness.



Mike Kanemitsu, "For a Dream,"  
1988

## Celebration of Tenure/Years of Service/Retirements

Mark your calendars for a campus-wide event of special importance. On **Tuesday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m.**, the West community will assemble to honor...you! We want to recognize significant milestones in the lives of our faculty and staff:

- The achievement of tenure,
- The recognition of years of service to West and to the LACCD, and
- The celebration of our retirees and their contributions.

More information will be forthcoming, but be sure to arrange your schedule so that you're able to attend.

## Name Badges to Be Available for All West Employees

The first week I was on campus, two new students asked me who worked at West because "the only ones we are sure of are the housekeepers and facilities staff who wear West shirts."

It's important that students know who to approach when they have questions.

Therefore, we are having name badges made for all employees to wear to help our students identify us. The badges are being provided in two distributions. The first will be to full-time faculty and staff, who will each receive two badges. We will then have badges made for our adjunct faculty.

I have already been asked if there is a requirement that the badges be worn. No, there's no requirement; however, it is my hope that you will do so in order to make it easier for our students to identify us so that they can receive the assistance they need and deserve.



## West's Campus Alive with Youth Events

The weekend of January 28 / 29, the campus was full of potential West students.

- Over 60 teens participated in mentoring & skills programs sponsored by 100 Black Men and the Rotary,
- One hundred Culver City Middle School students performed in the Fine Arts Theater, and
- A large youth track meet was held on the athletic field.

100 Black Men  
and Rotary  
Workshops



Culver City  
Middle School  
Improv Night



## West Food Pantry Slated to Open February 21

Soon after my arrival on campus, Dr. Patricia Zuk sent out an all-campus email expressing concerns about our students' food insecurity (i.e., students coming to class hungry). That initial inquiry from Dr. Zuk mobilized several members of the campus community and, under the leadership of Mr. Tim Gilmore, we have made significant strides in making the Food Pantry a reality. Mr. Gilmore has been working with representatives of the UCLA food bank and with Westside Food Bank to be sure that we are implementing our operation in the best manner possible. In addition, the ASO has signed on to help support and co-sponsor the food pantry.

As a result, our plans are to quietly open the Food Pantry on February 21. The campus will receive further information about policy, location, opportunities to volunteer, scope of foodstuffs available, etc., at a later date. For now, however, please know that West has "risen to the challenge," and we will make sure that all students who are hungry on our campus will have access to basic nourishment.

As a further illustration of the spirit of giving that pervades this community, Mr. Albert Vera, Jr., owner of Sorrento's Market and whose family has been long-time supporters of West, heard of our efforts and will be providing gift cards to his establishment to further ensure that our students do not go hungry. Announcements about the distribution of these cards will be made when further details about the Food Pantry are posted. When you visit Sorrento's, please thank Mr. Vera for his kindness.

Thank you, Dr. Zuk, for asking the question that mobilized our collective action.

## Why We Do What We Do...

As we begin the spring semester, I want to share with the campus this image that Fran Leonard, Language Arts, forwarded to me. Posted outside a gas station in South Africa, the sign's message is one that is appropriate, especially in today's unsettled times, in re-affirming what we strive to do with our students every day.





*Announcing...*

## The “Caught in the Act” Award

Every day we all focus on the business of student success, working with students to meet their needs and to achieve their dreams and partnering with other faculty and staff to create a positive learning environment...all within our mission to “provide a transformative educational experience...through quality instruction and supportive services.”

However, we all know of fellow employees who personify our mission—who consistently go “above and beyond” in working with students, faculty and staff to achieve our vision that West will be “a gateway to success for every student.”

With the “Caught in the Act” award, we will recognize and celebrate the dedication of our fellow staff and faculty. “Caught in the Act” is an “occasional award,” given roughly on a monthly basis and presented when the honoree will least expect it.

**If you have someone you’d like to nominate, simply send an email directly to Vicky Nesia ([nesiav@wlaac.edu](mailto:nesiav@wlaac.edu)) that provides the following information:**

- **Name of the nominee;**
- **Position (e.g., English faculty, Admissions and Records Analyst, etc.);**
- **Why you think this individual personifies the mission and vision of West Los Angeles College; and**
- **An anecdote or example illustrating/supporting your nomination.**

We have so many dedicated individuals that make West a true community of educators. Please join me in recognizing their contributions by submitting a nomination.

Thanks.