



# WestWords

A bi-weekly communique from the Office of the President

ISSUE #7: March 22, 2017

Colleagues:

In this issue of WestWords, you'll see recognition of achievements in service to West and to our profession as educators, an act of "down-home kindness," and the reaction of our first official recipient of the "Caught in the Act" Award.

I also encourage you to attend the Employee Recognition ceremony on Thursday, March 29, on HLRC's fourth floor, as we distribute years-of-service awards and recognize our faculty who have achieved tenure. You'll be receiving an official announcement from Michelle as well as an RSVP request if you're one of the honorees. Please come and celebrate the achievements of fellow members of the West community.

Finally, our next "Dessert and Discussion" meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m., in SSB 414. These one-hour sessions are designed to bring together individuals who are interested in engaging in a discussion about a matter of campus-wide interest or concern. On Monday, we'll address the following question: "Basic Skills: Where are We Now and Where Do We Want To Be?" If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Vicky Nesia so that we can ensure adequate desserts and drinks.

Cordially,

*Jim Limbaugh*

Jim Limbaugh

In several shared governance sessions, department meetings, and issues of "WestWords," I have expounded on the future, both near and distant, of West with regards to enrollment management, acquisition of new buildings through the Measure CC bond program, and the expectations of innovation in program options and delivery. My goal is that every member of our community is fully-versed in the opportunities and challenges facing us. If you would like to include this conversation in an upcoming staff meeting or employee gathering, please let me know, and I will be glad to attend.

## Cristi Lizares: “Caught in the Act”

Tuesday, March 14, began as another day in the International Students office for Cristi Lizares, Student Services Assistant.

Then the “Caught in the Act” crowd arrived.

A contingent of West supporters—led by West the Wildcat—converged on Cristi’s office to present her with the first “Caught in the Act” award, given to those employees nominated by their colleagues who exemplify, on a daily basis, the vision of West to “serve as a gateway of success for every student.”

Cristi’s nominator highlighted Cristi’s demeanor, her professionalism, and her focus on meeting the needs of every student she encountered. “She is a true asset to this institution,” noted the nomination. In attendance to celebrate Cristi’s contributions were Sharon Rouzan, Michael Goltermann, Shalomon Duke, Vicky Nesia, and Angel Viramontes.



Thank you, Cristi, for representing West in such a professional and conscientious manner.

The “Caught in the Act” award is truly a blitzkrieg event, established to recognize, without previous notice to the employee, individual achievements in service to West. If you’re wondering what happens, take a look at [this short video](#).

Interested in making a nomination? Take a look at the second page of this newsletter and you’ll find the details.



## West Faculty Recognized at A<sup>2</sup>MEND Conference

The African American Male Educational Network and Development (A<sup>2</sup>MEND) organization “is comprised of African American male administrators who utilize their scholarly and professional expertise to foster institutional change within the California community college system” (as quoted from their website) and to enhance the professional development of African-American administrators and faculty within the California Community College system. At the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference, held recently here in Los Angeles and attended by over 1,000 students, faculty, and staff, several members of the West community were recognized for their contributions to African-American student success.



Murrell Green (left), Counseling Center, and Clare Norris-Bell (right), English faculty, received Outstanding Faculty Awards.

Walter Jones (Dean, Academic Affairs) and Shalamon Duke (Dean, Student Services) received Presidential Awards as past presidents.

West is also fully represented in the work of A<sup>2</sup>MEND, as Walter, Shalamon, and Murrell are all members of the Board of Directors. Shalamon is also a founding member.

Thanks to all of you for the contributions you make to the success of students, not only at West, but throughout the State.

## Congratulations, Dr. Hunter

Casey Hunter (Counseling, Community Outreach) is now officially Dr. Casey Hunter, having recently completed his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership at the University of Southern California.

## Who Do You Want to be “Caught in the Act?”

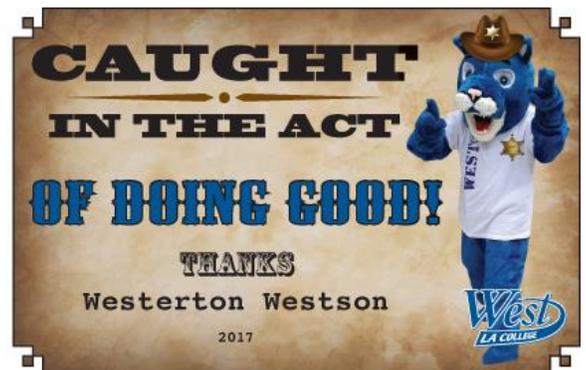
Every day we all focus on the business of student success, working with students to meet their needs and to achieve their dreams and partnering with other faculty and staff to create a positive learning environment...all within our mission to “provide a transformative educational experience...through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



## “Don’t Mess with West”

Since my arrival on campus, I’ve received some good-natured kidding about the blank walls in my office (“so when are you going to hang anything?”). Coming to my rescue are the good-hearted and creative staff of C2C (College 2 Career, a program within Disabled Students Programs & Services) who created a very special wall hanging by playing off my Texas roots and saluting a famous Texas slogan (“Don’t Mess with Texas”).



The result? “Don’t Mess with West,” embellished with our school colors of blue and gold.

A sincere note of thanks is extended to Charles Flemings, Yesenia Garcia, Bri Bunch, and Janlyn Underwood for their kindness and true West spirit.

*Left to right: Charles, Janlyn, Yesenia, and Bri*

## Special-Topic Luncheon a Success

On March 14, almost 40 members of the campus community converged for our second special-topic luncheon and conversation to learn more about three important categorical-fund programs: Student Equity, SSSP (Student Success and Support Program), and Basic Skills. The session was facilitated by Michael Goltermann (interim Vice President, Student Services); Mary-Jo Apigo (Dean, Teaching and Learning), Patty Banday (Director, SSSP) and her staff; and Tim Russell (Basic Skills coordinator).

The purpose of these three spring luncheons (the first on workforce education; the third to be announced for mid-April) is to expand our community’s knowledge of important initiatives and programs so that we will be able to better integrate our services in support of our students. If you have ideas for future luncheon topics, please let me know.

*Patty Banday makes a point about SSSP during our recent luncheon.*

