



WestWords

A bi-weekly communique from the Office of the President

ISSUE #12: October 2, 2017

WLAC Colleagues:

As I observe my first-year anniversary of service to the West community (October 1), I want to thank you for the continued opportunity to be part of an educational institution that maintains an authentic focus on student success in the classroom and via the array of student support services that we provide.

During the past year, I've often been asked about my own vision for the future of the College. I have made the conscious decision not to prematurely share such a vision, because an institution's future is predicated very much on its past and present. Therefore, I have focused on "getting to know us" in all aspects: our programs, our history, our faculty and staff, our students, our participatory governance process, and the community which we serve. I have had the privilege of conversing with many of you and learning about your goals for West for the 21st Century. Additionally, I have had benefit of comments and insights provided by members of the Culver City community, who have indicated a true interest in the College and its potential to be a partner in exciting City initiatives.

These conversations, along with two prefacing statements I made in June and August of this year (which you can review on page 4 of this newsletter), have coalesced into my personal vision for West Los Angeles College—one that supports our institutional vision of becoming "a gateway for success for every student:"

West Los Angeles College will be recognized for its academic centers of excellence that are responsive to the needs of the communities and region that it serves. It will deliver these programs and related services in an environment exemplifying compassion and an authentic focus on the well-being of every student.

Additionally, this vision statement will serve as a "case statement" to succinctly explain the future of the College as I work to re-build the West Los Angeles College Foundation and as I engage with potential donors.

My best to each of you for the coming academic year.

Cordially,

Jim Limbaugh

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The Enrollment “Big Picture”

As of Friday, September 28, West Los Angeles College is at 95% of its credit enrollment compared to this time last year, as reported by our Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

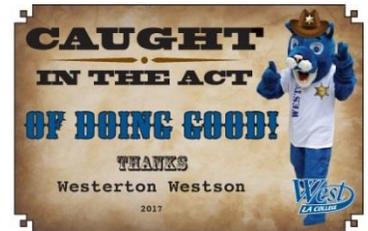
- Our FTES target this year is 8,371, which includes a 1% growth projection over last year’s final FTES of 8,288. However, the District began the current school year 1,782 FTES in arrears due to shifting summer enrollment in order to make base enrollment expectations in 2016-2017. As a result, the District must make up this enrollment—approximately 1.75%—in order to make 2017-2018 base. Locally, the 1.75% deficit converts to 146 more FTEs—or a revised 2017-2018 enrollment target of 8,517—for West Los Angeles College.
- The #1 impact on student enrollment this fall has been the implementation of the PeopleSoft student information system, as stated to the Board of Trustees’ Budget and Finance Committee on September 20, 2017.
- Still, we are optimistic that this fall’s late start classes combined with a robust winter session, a strong summer, and expanded activity in the non-credit sector will contribute to our ability to meet our enrollment target.

“Caught in the Act!”

Cyrus Helf, multimedia specialist in our Distance Learning unit, was recognized as the most recent recipient of West’s “Caught in the Act!” Award. Three separate WLAC employees nominated Cyrus for this award, noting his willingness to “go above and beyond to help students and faculty,” his professional demeanor, his “unflappability,” and his enthusiasm for helping.

“He understands how a teacher thinks, so he’s able to get right to the problem,” observed one nominator. Another said, “Cyrus’s expertise makes me look good.”

Our sincere thanks, Cyrus, for exemplifying the spirit of West Los Angeles College.



Where is the Dream Center?

You may have noticed that our Dream Center—established to support our DACA students—was originally part of the Welcome Center...and then it wasn’t. In response to student concerns about privacy, we have separated the two centers and are currently considering options for another, more discreet location. Ms. Marcela Hernandez, Counseling, will continue to be our on-campus DACA contact person as we finalize a location.

In the meantime, please encourage DACA students to stay in school and to continue to pursue their educational goals. Both the College and the District are watching closely the events in Washington as Congress negotiates during a six-month “reprieve” to find an acceptable solution that will continue to support our DACA students.

The Story on Our Outdoor Sculpture



I believe that the atmosphere of a campus is enhanced with the addition of art in public spaces. Therefore, I want to publicly thank Molly Barnes for her efforts in securing for West the aluminum sculpture that now adorns the Slope area of West immediately adjacent to MSB. Through her efforts, the sculpture is on long-term loan to West.

The piece, entitled "War Baby," is by noted Los Angeles sculptor [Guy Dill](#), who is recognized for his monumental sculptures in marble and bronze. His abstract pieces "depict the duality of tension between surface and volume," according to the news release for a recent gallery opening in Aspen, Colorado.

I hope you enjoy this beautiful addition to our campus.

Donations Needed for Food Pantry

The West Los Angeles Food Pantry is again available to our students in need. Located in Building A-9, this fall's operating hours are

- Mondays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and
- Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to direct students to the Pantry who are experiencing significant food insecurity. While the selection changes, every effort is made to keep an assortment of foods that can be eaten both on campus or at home.

Donations are always accepted and can be taken to the ASO office. Right now, we are in particular need of

- Paper bowls, napkins, cups, and disposable utensils;
- Microwavable noodles/soups/macaroni and cheese cups, and mini cereal bowls;
- Toiletries, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, and toothbrushes.

The Pantry is made possible by the Associated Students Organization, the West Los Angeles College Foundation, the Exchange Club of Culver City, and the generous donations of West faculty and staff.

Graduation of WLAC/LAOE Class

West Los Angeles College, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, celebrated the completion of the inaugural Child Development Associate Teacher Program with the graduation of 20 students on September 23. The students are primarily single parents from GAIN and GROW (Welfare to Work) programs. Dr. Dolores Gallegos was the primary coordinator of the program, and Evelyn Gomez-Villaflor (new faculty in Child Development) taught several of the classes throughout the Winter, Spring and Summer.

The Child Development Associate Teacher training program began on Jan. 3 and ended Aug. 4. The students completed nine Child Development classes (28 units) over that period and earned Infant and Toddler Studies Skill certificates. They are about four-five classes away from completing all the CD courses for either an AA degree or Certificate of Achievement.





President’s Interpretation of West’s Vision | October 2017

In June of 2017, after eight months at West, I made **initial observations** about achieving our vision to be a “gateway of success for every student.”

1. Inculcate an environment that promotes, supports, and rewards entrepreneurialism.
2. Re-envision our organization to be more nimble and efficient in responding to the needs of our students and of the broader community.
3. Embrace risk-taking in identifying and implementing programs focusing on student success.
4. Reflect current best practices in community college education, both at the regional and national levels.
5. Offer unparalleled service to students by demonstrating a genuine level of care for every student by every member of the WLAC community.
6. Develop and maintain productive, mutually-beneficial community partnerships.
7. Collaborate as a community of educators by recognizing and celebrating the contributions of every employee.

Then, in **August of 2017**, I further refined those general thoughts by identifying a series of President’s **operational priorities** (Fall 2017-Fall 2020).

1. Capitalize on our institutional strengths in the provision of academic programs and services that best reflect our capabilities and the needs of our students and our service region.
2. Fully implement an integrated guided pathways model as outlined in Chancellor Oakley’s “Vision for Success” (2017).
3. Continuously evaluate and refine our services, programs, processes, and operations to focus fully and completely on student success.
4. Improve our students’ performance in the metrics of the Student Success Scorecard.
5. Ensure that all faculty and staff have ongoing opportunities for professional development.
6. Maintain fiscal solvency and accountability.
7. Ensure that the College’s three primary construction projects (Technology Learning Center, Watson Center, and Heldman Learning Resource Center) move from design to construction and completion.
8. Engage with the community of Culver City and our service region to develop productive and fruitful partnerships that will be of mutual benefit.

Now, in **October of 2017**, these two documents have coalesced to inform my “**global vision**” of West Los Angeles College—a **vision that supports and complements our institutional vision and that will serve as the foundation for my leadership and my engagement with the participatory governance process.**

West Los Angeles College will be recognized for its academic centers of excellence that are responsive to the needs of the communities and region that it serves. It will deliver these programs and related services in an environment exemplifying compassion and an authentic focus on the well-being of every student.