



WestWords

A bi-weekly communique from the Office of the President

ISSUE #16: April 25, 2018

WLAC Colleagues:

I want to begin this newsletter with some very good news.

West Los Angeles College is projected to achieve its enrollment target for 2017-2018.

Here's the data as distributed on April 11 to the Board of Trustees' Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Committee.

Date	FTES Enrollment	% of Previous Year
Summer 2017/2	143	+35.9%
Fall 2017	3396	(3.85%)
Winter 2018	558	+16.87%
Spring 2018	3371	+0.81%
Summer 2018/1 (projected)	830	+0.02%
☛ Total 2017-2018 PROJECTED	8298 FTES	
2016-2017 Final re-calculated FTES Report: 8289 FTES*		
Projected FTES +/- compared to base	9.43	

*(*remember, this base number reflects last year's 7.09% enrollment increase over 2016-2017 base)*

Last fall, I shared the sobering news and subsequent updates (in "Westwords" issues dated October 2, October 18, and December 12) regarding the District's enrollment and the importance of working together to achieve our enrollment goal to meet or exceed our 2016-2017 enrollments. To have done so—and to have this accomplishment projected as early as the third quarter of the fiscal year—is truly reflective of an intense and dedicated campus-wide effort.

Sincere thanks go to all of you who made this possible, including

- The faculty and the academic department chairs for their willingness to add extra students to their classes and for their flexibility in creating late-start classes and additional on-line courses;
- Vice President Aguiar, the academic deans, and the entire staff of Academic Affairs for their strategic management of course offerings, exhibited by daily monitoring of enrollments and establishment of sections in response to student demands and who, in partnership with Student Services, have developed a successful program of dual enrollment offerings in high schools throughout west Los Angeles;
- Counseling, EOPS/Care, DSPS, TRIO, CAFYES, CalWORKS, Black Scholars, the Learning Center, Puente, Veterans' Center, POPP, Year Up, High School Outreach, International Students, Assessment Center, SSSP, the Dream Center, Athletics, and the Welcome Center, who provide invaluable guidance and direction, both formally and informally;
- Our staff in Admissions & Records and Financial Aid, who most often are the first members of the West community that our students meet;
- Our hard-working custodians, grounds personnel, and tradespeople who labor every day to make sure that the beauty of the campus is maintained as a key component of student retention; and

- Members of the Enrollment Management Strike Force, whose weekly meetings have provided a direction for both current and future enrollment initiatives.

Cordially,

Jim Limbaugh

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Special Announcement

This spring's Commencement marks the beginning of the College's year-long celebration of its 50th year of service to Los Angeles.

On February 10, 1969, WLAC first opened its doors to students, eager to provide a quality education even though, according to Captain Ron Engen, the College's first Chief of Police, "Half the campus wasn't finished...Buildings were still being built, the single story administration building was the only building reasonably finished, and across from that, the library was still an unfinished building." Further, recalls Mr. Engen, "That first day, there was only one telephone on campus—in the library that was still being built...The library building had open walls—and it rained, and it rained, and it rained." (quotes from the commemorative publication, "*West Los Angeles College: 1960s through 2010s*," page 16.)

From this inauspicious beginning, WLAC has grown to the progressive institution that it is today, hosting the only baccalaureate degree in the District and providing outstanding programs in areas as diverse as film production, computer science, allied health, business administration, the humanities, the social sciences, and the STEM disciplines.

Throughout the coming year, various events and observances will be held to reflect on our past and celebrate the potential of our future.

The President's Vision for West Los Angeles College

To realize our vision of serving as "a gateway of 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. These programs and related services will be delivered in an environment exemplifying compassion and an authentic focus on the well-being of every student.

Measure CC Presentations (The Path to a 21st Century HLRC)

Several opportunities are available for you to learn about the schedule for construction of the new HLRC, our #1 priority under the recently-passed Measure CC bond project:

- Thursday, May 3, 1 p.m.: College Council. SSB 414. Open to the entire campus community.
- Tuesday, May 8, 12:45 p.m.: Academic Senate, SSB 414. Open to all faculty.
- Thursday, May 10: Town Hall #1, 12:45 – 2:15 pm, SSB 414. Open to the entire campus community.
- Monday, May 14, 3-4:30 p.m., SSB 414. Open to the entire campus community.

This project, which is currently slated to be completed in 2025, includes the demolition of all remaining “bungalow” (the “B” buildings by Lot A), the original Science Center, the greenhouse, Career A & B, and the current HLRC. Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art learning resource center/student commons/instruction space/meeting space that will serve as West’s signature building for years to come.

All are invited to attend one of these meetings to learn more about the Measure CC building process.

Recognition of WLAC Programs by State Chancellor’s Office

Van Ton-Quinlivan, Executive Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Digital Futures (State Chancellor’s office), has informed the College that “multiple programs at your college have been named as Strong Workforce Stars because they have outstanding post-college outcomes in employment, earnings gains, and regional living wages, based on Strong Workforce Program LaunchBoard data.”

Programs attain the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Star recognition because graduates attained one or more of the following thresholds for economic mobility:

- An increase in earnings by 50% or more,
- Attainment of the regional living wage by 70% or more, and/or
- 90% or more are employed in a job similar to their field of study.

Programs that have earned a **BRONZE STAR** (attained threshold outcomes on one metric) include

- Aviation Airframe Mechanics: 112% increase in earnings;
- Aviation Powerplant Mechanics: 123% increase in earnings;
- Accounting: 100% of students are employed in a job similar to their field of study;
- Health Occupations, General: 73% increase in earnings;
- Medical Assisting: 153% increase in earnings;
- Film Production: 210% increase in earnings; and
- Paralegal: 76% of students attained the regional living wage.

SILVER STAR recognition (attained threshold outcomes on two metrics) is awarded to

- Business Application & Database Management: 66% increase in earnings and 80% of students attained the regional living wage.

West’s **GOLD STAR** awardee—Dental Hygiene—attained threshold outcomes on all three metrics. This department posted a 303% increase in earnings, 78% of students attained the regional living wage, and 100% of students are employed in a job similar to their field of study

Our sincere thanks go to the faculty of these departments whose excellence in teaching has provided students with the skills and aptitudes they need to be successful.

West Joins National Online Portal

Dr. Eric Ichon, Dean of Distance Learning, is proud to make the following announcement.

“In 2015 West launched our international portal to promote our online programs to prospective students studying from outside the U.S. In addition to enrolling students from Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas the College became a popular choice for international students who were enrolled in on-campus courses at other U.S. colleges and needed an additional class they could take online.

“Building on that experience, West is pleased to announce the development of our new national portal. West’s national portal provides easy access to fully online degrees and certificates (excluding Math) in popular disciplines including Accounting, Administration of Justice, Anthropology, Business, Business Administration, Child Development, Computer Application Office Technology, Computer Science, Economics, Fire Technology, Hospitality, Liberal Arts, Marketing, Philosophy and Real Estate.

“Prospective students have easy access to our online application and enrollment systems, online counseling, technical support and more. West has state authorization to offer our online programs to residents of 21 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, our tuition is less expensive than that of colleges and universities in many of them. Students will be able to access required courses and recommended sequences which will also assist us in the development of Guided Pathways for all our students.

“I would like to acknowledge the dedicated efforts of Deanna Gossett, Michelle Long-Coffee and Clarissa Castellanos in developing this portal. We still have work to do finalizing the content and correcting typos, etc. but we will be ready to launch soon.”

Aviation Students Place at National Conference

Rudy Triviso, Aviation Technology, shares this exciting news about our students’ accomplishments.

“From April 8 through April 13, 2018, students enrolled in Aviation Technology program participated in the 2018 Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC) presented by Snap-On Tools and the Aerospace Maintenance Council. Our team consisted of five students (Yolanda Gong, Carlos Urias, David Cortez, James Lee, and Jose Valencia). We placed 4th out of 25 school teams and 16th out of 68 overall teams consisting of licensed maintenance professionals in the Air Force, Coast Guard, Army, Marines, general aviation, domestic and international airlines as well as other schools.

“Our team competed in a rigorous three-day event comprised of 28 aviation maintenance-related events. The events and judges are sponsored by professional airlines, aircraft manufacturers such as Boeing, and other schools. Thus participants are given the unique opportunity of networking as well as demonstrating their talent to potential employers and recruiters overseeing the events.

“Yolanda Gong, our WLAC Team Captain, has already had her application reviewed, completed a phone interview, and scheduled her written exam as part of her interview process with United Airlines. In addition to our successful recruiting experience with United Airlines, our team is also now in contact with managers and human resources representatives from FedEx, Boeing, New Tech Aviation Services, Kalitta Airlines, and Northrop Grumman. They earned numerous nominations from the event judges for the United Airlines Team Professionalism Award.

“Judges also nominate one outstanding student out of 130 for the Snap-On Professionalism Golden Wrench Award. Our own Yolanda Gong won the Golden Wrench Award and marked the second year in a row that a woman from West Los Angeles Aviation has won this prestigious award. Yolanda also represented West Los Angeles College two

more times on the award ceremony stage, once as a recipient of the Phoebe Omlie Scholarship Award and again as the competitor with the overall fastest time in the Spectro Scientific Oil Analysis event. The Phoebe Omlie Scholarship Award is presented to four deserving students based on merit and need. For placing first in the Oil Analysis event, Spectro Scientific has presented West Los Angeles College with an \$11,000 oil spectrometer for education and training enrichment.”

West Hosts Free Tax Prep Day

Charles Daniel, Accounting Faculty, coordinated a Free Tax Prep Day on Saturday, April 14 at WLAC. The appointment slots were filled throughout the day. Charles reports that eighty-two (82) students and community members were helped representing ninety-one (91) tax returns (some prior-year reports were also completed).

Thank you, Charles.



Year Up Los Angeles Graduates Second Class

Year Up Los Angeles held its Class Two Graduation on February 13, recognizing 30 participants who are also students at West Los Angeles College. This program, the only one of its kind in Southern California, is a one-year intensive training program that provides low-income young adults, ages 18-24, a combination of hands-on skills development, college-level coursework, and corporate internships.

At the ceremony, Dr. Allison Tom-Miura, West’s Dean of Adult and Continuing Education, was recognized with the “Year Up Corporate Partnership Award,” given to partners “whose investments of time and resources have significantly contributed to both the present and future success of Year Up.” Dr. Tom-Miura developed a special slate of noncredit course offerings to complement the mission and programs of Year Up.

Shoes for the Homeless

West Los Angeles College proudly serves as the host site (the blue cargo crate on Lot 5 adjacent to the Sheriff's Office) for the collection of shoes donated to Shoes for the Homeless. The organization's mission is to provide shoes to the homeless and to those in need, free of charge, in our local communities. They collect new and lightly-used men's, women's, and children's shoes from various sources throughout the United States.

This past Saturday was their monthly processing day, and it was a privilege to participate and to learn more about their goal to "help the homeless, one step at a time." In the picture, you'll see a portion of the dozens of volunteers who gathered to sort shoes by condition and type (e.g., men's dress shoes, women's casual shoes, etc.). Then they are bagged in groups of ten pairs and stored in the blue cargo crate, ready for distribution locally to such worthy organizations as

- Union Rescue Mission,
- Los Angeles Mission,
- Long Beach Mission,
- St. Joseph Center,
- Midnight Mission,
- Upward Bound Home,
- Hope Gardens,
- Downtown Women's Center,
- A Place Called Home, and
- Mental Health America.

Shoes for the Homeless was founded by and is directed by Dr. Ira Diamond, local podiatrist.



West One of 15 CCs to Participate in Statewide Enrollment Management Initiative

West Los Angeles College has been selected to be one of only fifteen community colleges statewide to participate in the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Program. The SEM Program is a comprehensive one-year program that provides training, coaching and resources in SEM. Participating colleges will build upon their SEM knowledge and learn engaging and impactful practices to help move their campus SEM initiatives forward.

Our project is "Destination West: Creating an Educational Community that Attracts and Retains Students", focusing on communication and community-building as a key component of student persistence and success.

A team of ten faculty and administrative staff will attend a two-day workshop in early June, and then the College will benefit from ongoing coaching and support for the entirety of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Announcement of Safety and Security Project

LACCD's Division of Human Resources/Office of Safety and Emergency Services (William Ramirez, Director), announced at the April 20, 2018, meeting of District Administrative Council the following.

SAFETY AND SECURITY PROJECT INSTALLATION OF DOOR LOCKS ON ALL CLASSROOMS

"The District plans to retrofit door locks on all classrooms in order to have the ability to be locked from the inside. An assessment and scope of work is currently being developed to get these retrofits done expeditiously.

"Once the scope of work has been defined, the Division of State Architecture (DSA) will need to review and approve the door lock retrofits and plans for compliance with [codes related to] fire, life, safety, and accessibility. Once approval is received, the retrofits will commence and will be implemented according to the following criteria.

- "All locksets will be installed with a key override and will have a lever handle on the inside and outside that is lockable from the inside.
- "The locks will include an indicator identifying the position of the lock (locked/unlocked).
- "All of the locks will be ADA compliant and will be able to open and lock with a single hand operation.
- "All locks and doors will comply with current fire, life, and safety codes.
- "There will only be one key override on all classrooms doors per building, and all locksets will be compatible with an electronic access control system for remote lock/unlock capabilities.
- "Training on the operation of locking devices will be provided, as well as written instructions and references in electronic format."