



April 7, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

At the near end of Spring Recess, I want to share some examples of the wonderful things that are happening at West every month by talking about the trend of increasing our partnerships and enriching our learning environment. West is gaining partnerships, collaborations, and public agencies who develop programs to better serve our students and community. We have formalized agreements with the LA City Fire Department, Sias University, JVS, Tesla Foundation, CSU Dominguez Hills, Charles Drew University, University of West Los Angeles, Year Up, Base 11, Cal Tech, a MOU extension for the 100 Black Men of Los Angeles—one or two agreements per month. Many thanks go to Kathy Walton, Mark Pracher, Michelle Long-Coffee and Vicky Nesia, but to many others as well: Language Arts, Sciences, Mathematics, CEMA, Applied Technology, and Allied Health Divisions to name a few more.

In March, on one Wednesday, as featured examples of West's "All Things Global" initiative, we had a day called "[East Meets West](#)" at West Los Angeles College. In the middle of the week of our



accreditation team visit, West hosted a dance and musical event entitled "[The Brilliant Sunset Chorus Festival](#)," which featured [Chinese dancers](#) and singers organized by the Culture Committee of Gerontological Society of China and Los Angeles-based Sunnyside Baptist Church and LA Community Praise choirs. When the Brilliant Sunset performers joined the LA choirs during "It's Time to Praise Him," most of the audience was on their feet. Members of the accreditation team, including Dr. Murillo, team chair, were able to see and hear some of the event. West presented the traveling performers with some gifts of pottery created by West's own Doug Blechner who works and teaches in the Humanities and Fine Arts Division's ceramics program. This was a wonderful event that

complement our accreditation visit that was such a rewarding experience and a major success for the college (refer to the [President's Letter on accreditation outcome \(March 14, 2016\)](#)).

That same week, David Goldblatt, from Pitzer College, lectured on the idea of how the World Cup provides a powerful lens for examining the course of globalization and global history. He just won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year for [The Game of Our Lives: The Meaning and Making of English Football](#) and the Foreign Press Association in London crowned Goldblatt's article, "The Prison Where Murderers Play for Manchester United," its Sports Story of the Year. His courses at Pitzer explore the history and politics of world soccer, examine the Olympics or delve into politics in the United Kingdom.

The world through soccer, "the beautiful game."

Sam Senev, a Los Angeles-based businessman and friend of the college, who helped to make possible our day on Times Square and who helped to create our Veterans Center, held a Q&A session between students and representatives of the U. S. Air Force for Aviation Maintenance Technology and all students who are interested in the upcoming field trip to



Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama to visit a major air base with significant air planes and support services. Maxwell is also the original site for the Wright Brothers School of Flight, it's close to the Rosa Parks Library and Museum, near Moton Field park, which was the original flight training school for African American pilots during WWII, and near Tuskegee University with its memorial for the Tuskegee Airmen. Last, Maya Lin's Civil Rights Memorial sculpture in water is in Montgomery.

The Science Division faculty hosted UCLA researcher Sung Hee Kil from the Pathogenesis of Ear Diseases Laboratory whose mission is to study important ear diseases at the cell and molecular level. She talked about the role of anti-inflammatory cytokines in the inner ear. Her talk was part of the Science Division's series of presentations from scientists who are doing science, to help our students understand the difference between learning science and the doing of it.

The Academic Senate's FIG initiative, under Nancy Sander who is the Reading Apprenticeship Coordinator at West, held two sessions:

- **The Epilogue: Tensions between ethics and scientific research in a profit-driven society**  
Date: Thursday, March 10th  
Facilitator: Dr. Bonnie Blustein
- **Film Screening: Miss Evers' Boys**  
The true story of the U.S. Government's 1932 Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, in which a group of black test subjects were allowed to die, despite a cure having been developed.  
Date: Monday, March 7th

*Robert L. Sprague*  
Interim President