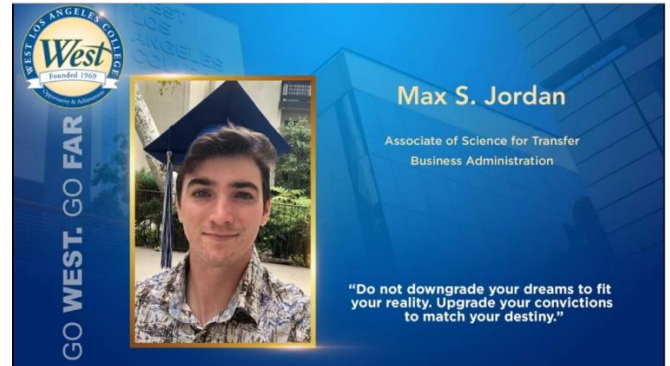
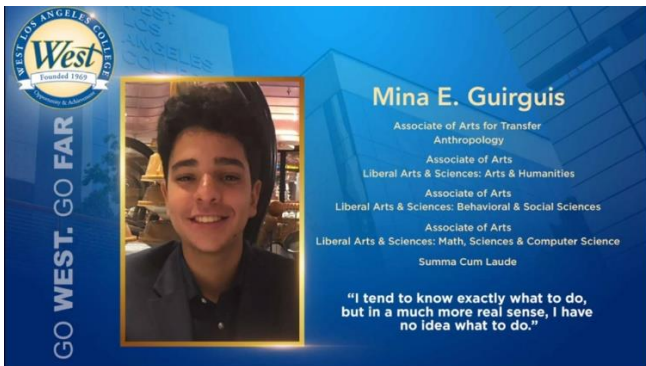




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Culver City Students Make Their Mark at WLAC Before Transferring to Universities - #CulverPride



Mina Guirguis – Alumnus of Farragut Elementary, Culver City Middle School, Culver City High School #CulverPride | Mina Guirguis Video

Max Jordan - – Alumnus of El Marino Elementary, Culver City Middle School, Culver City High School #CulverPride | Max Jordan Video

Culver City High School alumni Mina Guirguis and Max Jordan have made their marks while attending West Los Angeles College whose library building can actually be seen from the track of their former high school. Guirguis, who took the high school exit exam in the tenth grade, will graduate from West as Class Valedictorian with a perfect 4.0 GPA and all at age 17. He has been accepted to UCLA where he will study Anthropology. Jordan served as the Associated Student Organization president, represented the Los Angeles Community College District on a lobbying trip to Sacramento, served on several campus committees and continued his track and cross country career from high school. In Fall 2021, he will transfer to Cal Poly Pomona as a Junior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Management. Both students paid \$0 tuition thanks to the College Promise program for Freshmen or through Financial Aid.

Based on his experiences at other community colleges and the experiences of friends, Guirguis ultimately chose West for its “really great teachers” and the proximity to home. “I would say the coursework is very interesting. It's more oriented towards students understanding and not just busy work which I found in other colleges.” He added, “it feels really nice to know I can go to my college and be home in five minutes.”

While at West, Mina took part in the EOPS program which provided priority registration, academic counseling, vouchers to cover the cost of textbooks, and assistance with the university transfer process. In the last five years, three of West’s valedictorians have come from the EOPS program. He also was part of the college Honors Transfer program. Next year, Guirguis expects to log some miles on the #6 Culver City Green Bus which can take him from the Bruin campus back to West where he will work as a tutor.

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## #CULVER PRIDE AT WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE...continued

Being valedictorian “feels pretty good,” said Guirguis. He is particularly looking forward to the surprised look on his sister’s face. She is also part of the WLAC Class of 2021 but will not find out that her younger brother is graduating with this honor until graduation day.

**Jordan** had actually enrolled in classes at Santa Monica College shortly after high school graduation. But he decided to give West a look. After doing so, he withdrew from SMC. “West LA is down the street, small campus easy to navigate. You’ll never meet nicer faculty. Choosing a college is something I battled with. I spent months arguing with friends, teachers, faculty, principals - anyone I could meet to figure out the best community college for me and the moment I set foot on West I realized this is a hidden gem.”

As a full-time freshman, Jordan qualified for the College Promise Program. Full-time, first-time freshmen of any age or income who have graduated from a California high school may qualify for the Promise Program which provides free tuition for two years. He praised his professors for their in-classroom work and also for helping him develop more confidence and professional polish. “A lot of what helped me at West LA was learning how to interact with professors...I took a really amazing marketing class with Steven Scott and Intro to Business with an amazing guy, Todd Matosic, who helped me get internships.” Those internships, explained Jordan, gave him contacts and momentum to develop his own online Amazon store which he is growing now under the name MakotoMax LLC. Jordan is a long-time student of martial arts and the Japanese language. Makoto – meaning “honesty” - is one of seven virtues of bushido, the code of honor and morals developed by the Japanese samurai.

“I felt more of a home here than I’ve ever felt anywhere else...I’m ready to reach for stuff I never thought was possible, I’m taking bigger strides than I ever took. Like we say, Go West. Go Far.,” said Jordan.

Having gained both hard and soft skills needed to succeed in a bigger arena, Jordan is looking forward to living away from home and exploring new horizons.

“Max and Mina are great examples of what is possible with a Culver City education and that includes West,” said Dr. James M. Limbaugh, College President. “Our proximity to Culver City High and our programs that align with theirs like our Film / TV production trade crafts training or our Bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene, give us a unique relationship. Culver City students represent a notable number of our concurrently enrolled students who earn college credits while still in high school for free. And, with the Free Tuition College Promise program now available to freshmen, we hope to see even more CCHS alumni and Culver City residents on campus as we begin to return to in the Fall.”

West Los Angeles College is an ACCJC accredited community college in Culver City offering career certificates and degrees, university transfer, and professional advancement courses. Known for its expansive views and small college feel, West is one of only 15 California community college authorized to offer a Bachelor’s degree in a subject. For West, that subject is Dental Hygiene. The college has been a leader in online education for over 20 years and has received numerous awards and recognitions for its online programs. Find more information or enroll at [WLAC.edu](http://WLAC.edu) .

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