

PRESS RELEASE

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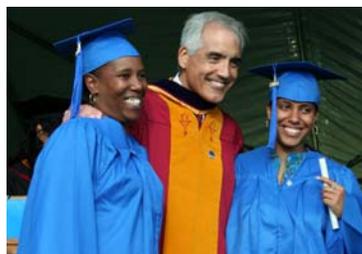
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2009 WLAC COMMENCEMENT IS A FAMILY AFFAIR 4 Mother-Daughters, 1 Husband-Wife & 2 Sibling Pairs



Enthusiastic daughters cheer on mom at graduation.



WLAC President Dr. Mark W. Rocha awards diplomas to two of the four pairs of mother-daughter graduates.

The 2009 Commencement at West Los Angeles College was a family affair with four pairs of mother-daughter graduates, one husband-wife pair, one pair of brothers and one pair of sisters. Plus, two members of West's plant facilities also earned their Associated Degrees.

The ceremony on Tuesday, June 9, was a memorable conclusion to the college's year-long celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Adding additional prestige to the occasion was the presence of keynote speaker Dr. Gene Block, Chancellor of UCLA. This was the Chancellor's second visit to West this academic year. He first came in November for "UCLA Day at West." At graduation, the Chancellor reiterated his desire to grow the numbers of WLAC students who transfer to UCLA and/or later pursue graduate degrees as Bruins.

"I look forward to seeing you at the football games, the basketball games, and especially the library," joked the Chancellor.

Speaking of sports, West graduated its largest class ever with just over 640 students receiving Associate Degrees and/or skill certificates. Nearly 7 percent of the class was scholar-athletes, many of whom will be transferring to universities in the Fall including several UC and Cal State campuses and private universities around the country. West baseball player Josh Fernandez graduated magna cum laude and is now deciding which UC campus he will attend on academic scholarship following a pre-med path.

On a day that started out gloomy and threatened rain, the sun shone through long enough in the late afternoon to welcome the newest set of alumni to the West family.



UCLA Chancellor Gene Block expresses interest in strengthening the transfer partnership between West and UCLA.



Nearly 7% of the WLAC graduating class was scholar-athletes including a magna cum laude honoree.

HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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