

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WEST IS WILDCAT COUNTRY NOW Campus votes for new athletic mascot to mark 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and new emphasis on the local natural environment



*WLAC President Dr. Mark W. Rocha and Athletics Director Steve Aggers unveil new Wildcat mascot at college's annual Fall Fest.*

The new college mascot, "Wildcats" was unveiled at West Los Angeles College's Annual Fall Fest on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 29, 2008.

With dramatic flair, Dr. Mark W. Rocha, WLAC President and Steve Aggers, Athletic Director, unfurled a 5 x 20 foot banner displaying the new mascot graphics before a crowd of students, faculty and staff.

"With the college undergoing an energetic, athletic and physical renaissance, we were looking to create a new nickname that is reflective of our transformation," said Aggers.

Just before the close of the last spring semester, West students, faculty and staff decided that it was time to update the campus mascot from "Oilers."

This decision came amidst a larger campus transformation including tremendous growth in enrollment; the addition of men's baseball and women's volleyball and soccer; and the near completion of construction on three new bond-funded classroom buildings, a student services complex, and

a parking structure. All of this is occurring as the college enters its 40<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

Other mascot candidates considered by West's students and faculty were "Stars" and "Aviators." Stars connected to the campus having once been the site of MGM's back lot and the film industry in Culver City. Aviators spoke to West's proximity to LAX and the Howard Hughes complex. In the end, however, it was the Wildcats, once native to the surrounding hills, that won the election held in September.



West Los Angeles College, a community college on Overland two blocks south of Jefferson, has been providing excellent university transfer and career training programs to the community for nearly 40 years. It is a recognized leader among Los Angeles community colleges in offering quality online courses. For more information on "West," visit [www.wla.edu](http://www.wla.edu).

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