

# PRESS RELEASE

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## WLAC / Northrop Partnership Creates Train to Work Program In One Semester, Students Qualify for \$30,000 Starting Salary

West Los Angeles College's first graduating class in Aerospace Structures and Composites, a new certificate program created in partnership with Northrop Grumman, was recognized last week at the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Directors meeting in downtown Los Angeles.

Under this new program, Northrop Grumman provides guidance and course materials to support state-of-art training at West. In just one semester, students acquire essential skills necessary to enter an exciting career working as an aerospace mechanic.

Students who successfully complete the program are awarded a certificate from West Los Angeles College and granted an interview with Northrop Grumman. Northrop anticipates an indefinite need to fill scores of assembly line mechanic positions each year, and will draw many from the new West training program. These mechanics typically earn \$30,000 to start, plus benefits, and are able to work their way up to higher level positions which can earn up to \$100,000 per year.

"In addition to the generosity of Northrop," explained West's President Dr. Mark Rocha, "this program was made possible through an Employee Training Panel grant. This program demonstrates how effectively an investment in West can translate to results for the greater community."

The West Los Angeles College Aerospace Structures and Composites program currently accepts 15 new students per semester. For more information on the program and how to apply, visit [www.wlaac.edu/aviation](http://www.wlaac.edu/aviation) or call program coordinator Todd Motosic at 310.287.4242.



West students pictured with **Northrop Grumman representatives Chip Oppenlander** (left center, black sports coat); **Orville Dothage**, Manager Process Mngt and Integration & APTC (center, white hat); **WLAC President Mark Rocha** (center, black hat) and instructor **Mahmoud Kayhani** (right center, blue shirt).



"The professor teaching the class works at Northrop, and I was able to land an interview thanks to his recommendation," said recent program graduate Allan Perdomo. "Earning this position at Northrop wouldn't just be getting a job - I'd be starting a career path." Perdomo will find out if he is among those hired in mid January 2010.

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