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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Michelle Long-Coffee, Dir. PR & Advertising  
(310) 287-4597 | [longcofm@wla.edu](mailto:longcofm@wla.edu)  
9000 Overland Ave. - Culver City, CA 90230

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## **West Ladies Track Takes 2<sup>nd</sup> At State Track & Field Championships**



For the first time in school history, the West Los Angeles College women's track and field team earned a state runner-up finish. West took second at the 2008 California State Track and Field Championships in Cerritos with 92.5 points. This ends what has been a record breaking season for the track and field program, one that saw the West ladies win the Western States Conference Championship and finish 2nd at the Southern California Championships as well.

The host Falcons of Cerritos College captured their second state title in the last three years with a team total of 101 points.

**A RISING STAR -- Ebony Collins led the way as she won the 100 meters, in 11.53. Her time was the second best community college time in the nation this year.** Collins won the 400 meter hurdles as well in 61.88 (where she had run a national leading time of 57.67 in the Southern California finals, which was also a SoCal championship record). In addition, Collins ran the third fastest time in the nation (13.45) in the 100 hurdles after finishing .01 from first place. Collins now has her sights set on competing in this summer's USA Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon, from June 27-July 6. She boasts the 14th fastest time in the United States this season and the top time by a junior athlete (under 20 years old).

Along with Collins, the freshman heptathlon duo of Aysha Moultrie and Turquoise Williams helped lead the way with a huge 2-3 finish in the two day event. Their point totals of 4401 and 4335 qualified them both for the USA Track and Field Junior Nationals June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Moultrie broke the school record in the event as well. She also finished 4th in the open high jump and ran second leg on the 4x100 meter relay. Not to be outshined, Williams set a new school record in the triple jump with a bound of 39'1" which was good for a second place finish. What makes this even more impressive was that she jumped minutes after the heptathlon final event, the 800 meters. In the triple jump, Williams led a 2nd, 3rd, and 5th place finish with Shannon Austin and Deresha Harrison in the event for a total of 18 team points.

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### **At State Track & Field Championships ... continued**

"I am very proud of our kids and the way they competed," said their coach Daniel Fitzpatrick. "Sure, we would have liked to win, but you can't be that upset when your athletes perform the way ours did. A second place team finish is a great accomplishment and our entire team, coaching staff, and administrative staff at West LA played a role in finishing where we did."

Freshman Dominique Sterling set two personal bests with a pair of fifth-place performances in the 100 meters where she ran 11.88, later running 24.92 in the 200 meters. Sterling also ran the leadoff leg on the women's 400-meter relay team that finished second with a seasonal best time of 46.11, which was also a new school record. The foursome of Sterling, Moultrie, Alysha Turner and Collins finished behind Laney College (45.01), who set a new state record in the event. In the meet's final event on the oval, sophomore Adriane Turner, freshman Alysha Turner, freshman Shayna Parker and Collins combined for the 4x400 relay and carried the stick around the track in 3 minutes, 52.04 seconds for a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish.

On the men's side, West LA finished in 18th place with 14 points.

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