

PRESS RELEASE

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WEST WINS AGAIN AT AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE COMPETITION

Team Scores Awards, Scholarships and Jobs

By Destine Gibson, Student Intern

West Los Angeles College's aviation maintenance team placed fourth out of 25 school teams and 16th out of 68 overall teams consisting of licensed maintenance professionals in the armed forces, domestic and international airline teams as well as other schools at 2018 Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC) in Orlando. West even placed ahead of several of the professional teams sponsored by companies such as American Airlines, United Airlines and Qantas Airlines.



The five-member team was led by team captain Yolanda Gong who so impressed United Airlines professionals that she was invited to interview and also to tour the United Airlines hangars at San Francisco International Airport. Gong outshined 130 nominated students to win the Snap-On Professionalism Golden Wrench Award, marking the second-consecutive year that a woman from West has won this prestigious award.

Gong twice more stood on the award ceremony stage, once as a recipient of the Phoebe Omlie Scholarship Award and again as the competitor with the overall fastest time in the Spectro Scientific Oil Analysis event. For placing first in the Oil Analysis, Spectro Scientific presented West with an \$11,000 oil spectrometer for education and training enrichment which will give West students hands-on experience with cutting-edge training material.

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WLAC Aviation Maintenance Contest ...continued

The team has been contacted by managers and human resources representatives from FedEx, Boeing, New Tech Aviation Services, Kalitta Airlines and Northrop Grumman. They earned numerous nominations from the event judges for the United Airlines Team Professionalism Award. The Aviation Department hopes to continue the success by sending three veteran team members with two new members to next year's competition.

"Our team demonstrated outstanding professionalism and camaraderie," Aviation Department instructor and coach Rudy Triviso said. "The president, vice president and secretary of the Aerospace Maintenance Council are all immensely impressed with our students."

For more than 40 years, West's Aviation Maintenance Training Program has prepared students for careers in the aviation industry. Graduates go on to secure FAA license certifications and professional aviation maintenance jobs with various airlines and independent companies. In fact, the program recently received Strong Workforce Stars from the Office of the California Community College State Chancellor in recognition of recent graduates realizing an over 110% increase earnings.

"Many of us are here because West Los Angeles College provides an outstanding education and professional growth opportunities without the traditional costs associated with a private institution such as Spartan," Gong said. "We thank the faculty and staff for creating an environment that allows students to excel in both academics and extracurricular pursuits."

West Los Angeles College is located at 9000 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230. The college is an ACCJC-accredited community college providing full-time, part-time and online paths to university transfer and career preparation.

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