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LAUSD AND MENTOR LA CUT RIBBON ON WEST ADAMS PREP Unique Collaboration
Provides New Model for Public High School Reform

Los Angeles - Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board President Mónica García and Superintendent David L. Brewer III joined Mentor LA (MLA) and members of an already well developed school community to cut the ribbon on West Adams Prep High School. The new school is the result of an innovative collaboration between LAUSD and MLA, providing a model for a public high school that offers an exceptional education that is open and accessible to every child in the neighborhood.

"It gives me great pride to be here today celebrating the opening of yet another neighborhood school for the children and families of Los Angeles," said Board President García. "West Adams Prep, in partnership with Mentor LA, will serve as a model school that demonstrates the importance of teamwork in supporting students for success."

MLA, a nonprofit organization working to improve schools and empower neighborhoods in some of the most disenfranchised communities in Los Angeles, has partnered with LAUSD in planning and building the school from the ground up. The campus has eight full-time staff housed on campus to provide effective and responsive co-leadership for West Adams Prep students. MLA staff will work side by side with District teachers and administrators in a hybrid model of shared leadership to manage the school and offer students innovative instruction including a daily advisory period for every student each year and a senior project for every 12th grader.

"Our relationship with Mentor LA here at West Adams is proof of the value partnerships can offer in transforming the education we provide our students," said Superintendent Brewer. "Mentor LA has helped to create the atmosphere of optimism, encouragement and community support all students need and deserve to achieve success."

"I believe in teamwork and empowering every person on our staff to have an entrepreneurial approach to their job-and together, with MLA, we have assembled a team of visionary leaders and dedicated teachers who are ready to face the challenges ahead," said West Adams Principal Dr. Edward Robillard. "We have carefully planned every aspect of the school culture with parents and students and we believe we will deliver the service our families deserve. I am proud to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime project we call West Adams Preparatory High School."

The six small schools that comprise West Adams Prep's academic program will benefit from partnerships with corporations and community-based organizations through activities, events, and internships. The schools, each with their own collegiate-style theme, are: Business and

Enterprise; Literature and Performing Arts; Science and Technology; Invention, Design, Engineering and Architecture; Education and International Studies; and Media, Film and Art.

"West Adams Prep ushers in a new era for public schooling in Los Angeles—a school designed, built and managed in unprecedented collaboration, where the school's facilities, instructional programs and stakeholders all coalesce to deliver an uncompromising education to every child in the surrounding neighborhood," said MLA President Mike McGalliard

The school already enjoys a network of support from the surrounding community because of early work conducted by Dr. Edward Robillard and MLA site director John Holcomb. The pair conducted focus groups and community meetings with hundreds of stakeholders to determine many of the school's attributes including the name, the mascot, school colors and the decision to have uniforms.

Located in the West Adams Historical District, the campus facilities span nearly 15-acres and offer 2,500 new seats for relief from overcrowding at both Los Angeles and Manual Arts high schools. The site includes specialized classrooms for performing arts, dance, fitness/aerobics, music, photography, multimedia, and science. Also on site are a state-of-the-art film school, a 1,200-seat theater, and an athletic facility with small and large gymnasiums, a swimming pool and playfields.

"West Adams Prep is a unique school with a unique design for a unique neighborhood," said LAUSD Chief Facilities Executive Guy Mehula. "Though it is certainly one of a kind in the District, the campus reflects innovations of our new schools construction program – including Small Learning Communities and facilities that are designed with community use in mind."

West Adams Prep is part of the LAUSD's \$20 billion school construction program that is on track to build 145 new schools by 2012. The program goals are to provide a neighborhood school on a traditional calendar for every student, eliminate involuntary busing, and create smaller, more personalized learning environments in secondary schools. To date, LAUSD has completed 67 new schools and 55 additions, returning 138 schools to traditional two-semester calendars and providing 68,000 new seats.

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