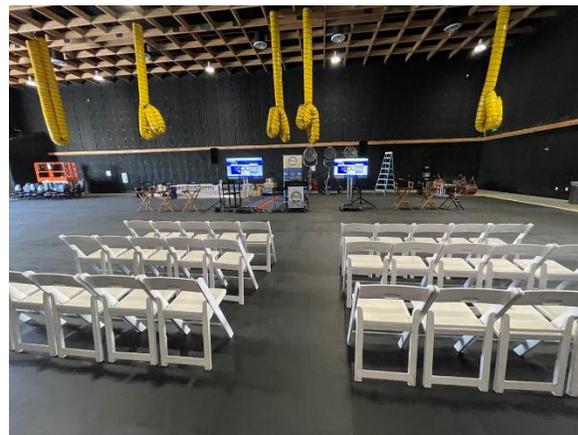




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Commercial-Style Sound Stage Named in Honor of Congresswoman Diane E. Watson Opens at West LA College



Former Congresswoman Diane E. Watson smiled broadly as she cut the blue and gold ribbon in front of a new campus building at West Los Angeles College that bears her name. The Watson Center features a 1,600 square foot sound stage and trade workshops that house the college’s unique film and television production crafts program featured in the Los Angeles Times and on PBS over the years. Program co-director Kevin Considine described the origin and goals of the program while proudly mentioning that West students and alumni are working and interning on major productions all over Hollywood including the current Star Wars projects.

WLAC President James M. Limbaugh explained in his remarks, “In 2008, two years before she retired, Congresswoman Watson went to bat for West and went to bat in a big way securing two grants totaling \$2.5 million for the campus to drive job training in the entertainment industry trades. Not only did this help facilitate Hollywood CPR becoming a permanent, institutionalized program housed on our campus, it also was the seed money, along with voter-approved bond funds that made this amazing facility possible.” Watson was serving as Chair of the Congressional Entertainment Industries Caucus at the time.

“Looking at this facility – this professional level sound stage and trade shops” said Watson, “seeing the diverse student body and hearing all of the positive reports about the program and the success of the alumni moves me. I am honored to have contributed to the success of the program and to have this center bear my name.”

Jacqueline Hamilton and Shetarrah Byfield, representing Congresswoman Karen Bass and Assemblymember Brian Isacc, presented proclamations congratulating the college and praising Watson. Other speakers included Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustee Dr. Gabriel Buelna, LACCD Chancellor Dr. Francisco C. Rodriguez and LACCD Vice Chancellor / Chief Facilities Executive Dr. Rueben Smith.

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WATSON CENTER OPENS AT WEST LA COLLEGE...continued

A tribute to Professor Laura Peterson was also part of the program. Peterson was a co-founder of the film/tv production program and a force in the growth and success of the program as well as the realization of the Watson Center. Peterson died several weeks before the facility opened.

West Los Angeles College is an ACCJC accredited California Community College that offers career certificates and Associate degrees as well as paths to transfer to competitive universities as a Junior. Students can enroll full-time or part-time, in-person or in the college's award-winning online program. Recently, West was awarded the prestigious Aspen Prize for being one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation. For more information, visit WLAC.edu.

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College President James M. Limbaugh describes former Congresswoman Diane E. Watson's role in bringing about the new 1,600 square foot sound stage and trade craft workshop facility



Former Congresswoman Diane E. Watson cuts the ribbon in front of the new college film / television production crafts facility that bears her name – The Watson Center.