Dr. Mark W. Rocha, 56, is the seventh president of West Los Angeles College and began in office on July 10, 2006.

West was founded in 1969 and its location is unique in the nation: near the LAX Airport and in the midst of the entertainment industry represented by Sony, Fox, DreamWorks and many other media companies. Under Dr. Rocha’s leadership, West has become the fastest growing community college in Southern California with one of the largest distance education programs. The college is nearing completion of the construction of its master plan. This $400 million project includes state-of-the-art facilities in science, health, computer science and motion picture and television production.

Dr. Rocha came to West from LACCD’s Mission College where he served as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Over the past twenty years, Dr. Rocha’s administrative career has included service as associate dean and dean in the California State University and provost at Seton Hall University. He has also served as an executive in private industry. An English teacher by trade, Dr. Rocha has taught at both the secondary and college levels.

He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Southern California, his Masters from Caliñforina State University, Fullerton, and his B.A. from Villanova University. In 1993, Dr. Rocha was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and taught for a year in Caracas, Venezuela at the Universidad Simón Bolivar. His scholarly work is in the field of American drama and theater and includes publications on the playwrights August Wilson and Tennessee Williams, among others.

Dr. Rocha has two sons, Brendan, 19, and Samuel, 13, and resides in Sherman Oaks with his wife, Nancy. When he is not at his desk, Dr. Rocha is active in the community and serves on the Board of Directors of the Culver City Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Councilors of USC’s Rossier School of Education and is currently the Chair of the Workforce Development Task Force for Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. A jogger, President Rocha has run three marathons and looks forward to at least one more before he hangs up his Nikes.