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Living Green: West Basin and CSU Dominguez Hills Reduce Footprint

Watch the video at www.westbasin.org to learn more

CARSON, Calif. – As California enters its fourth year of drought, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith teams up with California State University Dominguez Hills (University) President Dr. Mildred Garcia to discuss their water- and energy-saving partnership and ongoing water education efforts on “The President’s Notebook,” a local cable show hosted by Dr. Garcia.

In the 30-minute segment posted on West Basin’s website, Director Smith emphasizes the importance of mentoring young people, working hard, and recognizing the value of opportunities when they present themselves. Such opportunities include West Basin’s high-efficiency toilet exchange events for the general public and the University’s recent conversion to water- and energy-saving devices in on-campus student housing that is saving 3.4 million gallons of water and more than 300,000 kilowatt hours of electricity every year.

“Bringing in your old water-wasting toilet is a small price to pay for a new, free high-efficiency toilet,” says Director Smith.

(The high-efficiency toilet exchanges require residents to return their water-wasting toilets to be recycled. West Basin’s *Green Living for Apartments and Condos Program* also recycles the old toilets, which are then re-used in concrete and other construction materials.)

The University participated in West Basin’s *Green Living for Apartments and Condos Program* in which West Basin replaced 224 water wasting toilets with new, high-efficiency dual flush toilets and installed 164 high-efficiency showerheads and energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs. The *Green Living* program is made possible by West Basin, South Bay Environmental Services Center, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company.

Additional opportunities discussed by Director Smith include West Basin’s Scholarship Program for students interested in studying and pursuing a career in the water industry, West Basin’s commitment to being a responsible environmental steward, support of high school student teams in pursuit of a Solar Cup boat building and racing victory, and more.

The video and more about West Basin can be found at www.westbasin.org. “The President’s Notebook” airs on local Los Angeles public access Channel 36 and Torrance Cable Channel 6 and features interviews with University faculty, staff, students as well as local government officials and business leaders.

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