



# LAS POSITAS CONNECTION

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | August 2020

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

## Welcome to Fall Semester LPC!

### Presidential Task Force: A Call to Action

In June 2020 President Dyrell Foster held a Campus Forum to provide a platform for Las Positas College faculty, classified professionals and administrators to talk about the social unrest that had been occurring throughout the United States. That forum lead him to send a call to action that kicked-off the Presidential Task Force. This task force was created to discuss and address actions that will lead to systemic change for our students and the communities we serve.

Numerous recommendations with five specific themes emerged from this task force:

**Disaggregated Data & Inquiry:** Develop and administer a campus racial climate survey to students and to employees to better understand our students' and employees' experiences. Conduct listening sessions with our current Black students to better understand their experiences and needs. Disaggregate data on student access, persistence/retention, and completion to reveal hidden patterns of racial inequity within all programs and disciplines. Provide demographic student success data (to include race/ethnicity) to each instructor, at their request, for their class sections to monitor their own progress on student equity.

**Campus Climate & Communication:** Implement a Culture of Care and Empathy to ensure that Black students matter. Create and support a highly functioning Black Cultural Resource Center. Develop a proactive outreach plan to connect with and communicate to current and prospective Black students. Identify and display African American art on campus. Be inclusive in our student images/publications/videos to include Black students on website and marketing materials.

**Programs & Support:** Continue to identify and support the specific needs of Black students arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Support and fund as needed centralized equity work on campus to oversee the current Black student success initiatives happening on campus.

**Professional Development:** Initiate a monthly President's Speaker Series for faculty, classified professionals, students, and administrators on anti-racism, anti-blackness, cultural competencies, culturally relevant pedagogy, and unconscious/implicit bias. Develop employee learning communities, workshops, and ongoing professional development in anti-racism and anti-blackness.

**Instruction & Curriculum:** Develop and implement a cultural curriculum audit to engage faculty in a collaborative process to redesign their courses focusing on developing culturally responsive and engaging materials, equity-mindedness, and high-impact teaching practices. Review existing coursework and develop new curricula to advance racial and social justice, anti-racism and cultural diversity across the curriculum. Develop and implement a plan to reimagine Public Safety Training at LPC.

In a letter to members of the Presidential Task Force, Dr. Foster shared, "We are hopeful that we will turn our collective sadness, anger and frustration into individual and community action to actively confront anti-blackness and systemic racism. As our college community comes together (virtually), to dialogue about our individual and collective experiences, we have also begun to identify the actions that we will take as an institution that will lead to systemic change for our students and the communities we serve. It is our responsibility to restore faith and hope to our campus. This begins with each of us reaffirming LPC's [Mission, Vision and Values](#) and staying vigilant to address systemic and structural inequities that impede student success. We are committed to doing the work and taking the necessary action to ensure student success for our Black students at Las Positas College."

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# Welcome Shop Iron-workers Local 790

On Wednesday, August 12, Las Positas College welcomed its first cohort of students participating in the Shop Iron-workers Local 790 apprenticeship program. The program enables union apprentices to develop the job-specific knowledge and skills necessary to become journeyman-level ironworkers while also earning college credit toward four stackable certificates of achievement and, if so desired, an Associate of Science degree. LPC is proud to partner with Local 790 in a venture that promises to significantly increase the living-wage potential of its completers. The Apprenticeship Ironworkers Program (APIW) is the result of a collaborative effort by Las Positas College personnel, especially Welding Technology Program Coordinator Scott Miner - who led in writing the curriculum for the program - district personnel, Chris Bennett and Lucia Teixeira - who coordinated the efforts of the different partners - and Luis Ventura, who heads the Local 790s Apprenticeship Program.



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## Equity Technical Assistance Meetings

Shawn Taylor, Director of Student Equity and Success will be offering “Equity Technical Assistance” office hours beginning Monday, September 14 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. These office hours are offered as a resource to address concerns pertaining to equity, justice, anti-racism/anti-blackness education. If a student wants to vet class materials, research alternatives to said materials, audit syllabi, this is their resource. If you have a student that is frustrated about an equity concern and just need an ear, please know there is help for them at these meetings.

What: Equity Technical Assistance Virtual Meetings  
When: Every Monday, beginning September 14th.  
Time: 2:00 PM-4:00 PM  
Where: Zoom <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/96516421159>

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## Virtual Operation Gateway XII

On July 29th, the LPC Veteran’s First Program welcomed approximately 45 new students to their 12th annual Operation Gateway 12. This special 3 day transitional orientation held virtually and was geared to empower student veterans, dependents/spouses, and reservists with resources to ensure academic success at LPC. It will connect veterans and their families with resources at Las Positas College as well as support from members of local veterans service organizations.

"We are proud to offer this three-day orientation that will be dedicated to in-depth education and career planning, classroom expectations, finance and benefits information, campus life, community resources and veteran support services," said Veterans First Coordinator Todd Steffan. "Operation Gateway" is also a great opportunity for veterans to experience firsthand the community and camaraderie at Las Positas College."



# Accreditation Kick-off

Las Positas College will begin work on its Institutional Self-Assessment Evaluation Report (ISER) beginning August 25<sup>th</sup> with an Expanded Accreditation Steering Committee kick-off meeting. Work teams have been organized around standards, with each team assigned a timeframe to interpret standards, review evidence, draft language demonstrating we meet the standard, and refine draft language. Members of the Accreditation Steering Committee are as follows:

**Administrators:**

Kristina Whalen, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
Dyrell Foster  
Rajinder Samra  
Stuart McElderry  
Steve Gunderson  
Anette Raichbart  
Elizabeth David  
Owen Letcher

**Faculty:**

Nadiyah Taylor  
Ann Hight  
Elena Cole  
Tine Inzerilla  
Jin Tsubota  
Heike Gecox  
Mike Ansell  
Rajeev Chopra

**Classified:**

Madeline Wiest  
Andrea Migliaccio  
Diana Kleinschmidt  
Carolyn Scott  
Denise Patlan  
Heidi Ulrech  
Sui Song

## New Streets Banners for LPC

The LPC street banner project was completed in early June 2020. The new street banners were posted on city light poles along Campus Hill Drive, Collier Canyon Road, and Portola Avenue. Special thanks to Mujeeb Dadgar for his tireless efforts and patience with this project.



## News in Brief

**Partial Reopening of Student Services:** Admissions and Records office will reopen Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 and will serve the public Monday - Friday 9:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The Office of Campus Safety & Security is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) reopened Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 and will serve the public Monday - Friday 9:00 PM to 1:00 PM. The Student Health and Wellness Center will operate Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday 11:00 AM to

7:00 PM, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Thank you to all our essential employees for their dedication.

**LPC Technology Loan Request:** LPC is committed to meeting the urgent needs of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who have limited or no access to technological tools necessary for their academic success can request a loan from the College, which will be facilitated by the Library.



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**Students First**