

Call to Action: Action = ConnectUp

The Presidential Task Force continued working through the month of August on its Call to Action recommendations. The Task Force defined five specific themes that will lead to systemic change for our students and the communities we serve. Those themes are:

- *Disaggregated Data & Inquiry*
- *Instruction & Curriculum*
- *Professional Development*
- *Campus Climate & Communication*
- *Programs & Support*

One of the Task Force recommendations under the Programs & Support theme is to “develop a proactive outreach plan to formally support current Black students who do not qualify for learning communities to connect them to resources and engage them within the campus community.” Facilitated by Kimberly Burks, a workgroup made up of Dr. Tracey Coleman, Lyndale Garner, Frances Hui, Amanda Ingold, and Terrance Thompson immediately got to work. In late August, they presented the plan for “Supporting Black Students Outside of Umoja.” The scope of this workgroup is to identify hands-on interventions to increase retention and success of first-year African American/Black students at LPC by 1) initiating contact with students; 2) fostering student connectedness; 3) building relationships to promote belonging; and 4) linking students to support services and resources. The Workgroup developed the idea of ConnectUp Coaches that would welcome, encourage, and connect students to LPC Services. Each ConnectUp Coach could potentially be assigned ten first-year African-American/Black students to coach. This includes recording a short video of encouragement, initiating contact with the student via email and asking the student to complete a brief questionnaire regarding how they would like to be contacted and what their major and aspirations are.


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Coaches will call and email each student at least once per semester and allow the student to contact the Coach to foster connectedness. At last count, 38 LPC faculty, classified professionals and administrators have volunteered to be a ConnectUp Coach.

The Task Force looks forward to continuing to develop and implement recommendations for all of the five themes.


ConnectUp Coach




Record a short video of encouragement




Initiate contact with and introductory email message
Students will complete a brief questionnaire
Preferred contact info
Their "why", major, aspirations and beliefs
Link to video (to be determined)



Call each student at least once a semester



Email each student at least once a semester



Receive contact; allow students to reach out to you

“Red Alert” at LPC’s Theater Arts Department

The LPC Theater Arts department shared with the LPC community the beautiful Mertes Center for the Arts fly tower. The light job was executed by Mike Rinaldi and Karl Haller in support of the currently dark Live Events industry including the LPC campus. The Theater Arts Department would like to thank College administration in allowing them to show solidarity and drawing attention to the loss.

#BeAnArtsHero, a grassroots coalition of arts and cultural workers, reports:

“The Arts & Culture sector employs 5.1 million people and provides \$877 billion value added to the U.S. economy. It adds more value to the economy than transportation, agriculture, or tourism. The Arts & Culture sector is a cornerstone of the larger U.S. economy, making up 4.5% of GDP. Despite their out-sized cultural and economic contribution, the Arts & Culture sector of the U.S. economy is in grave danger.

Due to Covid-19, 62% of Arts Workers are fully unemployed, 94% of Arts workers report income loss. The average Arts Worker reported \$23,500 in lost revenue this year. Due to Covid-19, 66% of Arts Workers reported they are unable to access the spaces, staff, resources, or supplies needed to perform their work.”



New Student Support Hub



On September 1, LPC launched a new Student Support Hub for students directly within Canvas. The goal of the hub is to provide equal access to support services for students who are learning online.

Students can access the hub by clicking the new icon in the Canvas global navigation menu. Instructors can access the hub the same way or by entering a course, then clicking the icon in the global navigation menu. The Student Support Hub icon replaces the Library icon. The library is now part of the hub, and the different links in the hub will direct students to corresponding support offices' web sites.

The hub includes a link to the CVC-OEI's Wellness Central course. This is a free health and wellness resource created especially for California Community College students.

In late spring, the Distance Education Committee formed a task force to plan and create the hub. That task force consisted of Christina Lee, Frances DeNisco, Tim Druley, and Scott Vigallon. This talented group of people worked over the summer and early fall to make the hub a reality.

Guided Pathways Initiatives for 20-21

Since being selected to participate in Cohort Two of California Guided Pathways (CAGP) the Guided Pathways Team has established new initiatives for the academic year. The four pillars of the Guided Pathways Framework include: 1) organize by clarifying the path; 2) assist by entering the path; 3) support by staying on the path; and 4) verify the path by ensuring learning by providing better practices and improved student results.

The first initiative will include the development of the “student facing” academic program maps which are interactive and linked to careers and academic clusters on the LPC campus. It will also explore technology options, including collaboration with Cal State East Bay, and develop career resources that provide recommendations to students about programs of study that match their skills and interests.

The next initiative will include exploring and advocating for new student onboarding activities to help students enter college and identify their career earlier and working on how the College can streamline and clarify the onboarding application and registration process for new and returning students.

The final initiative is a persistence project that is faculty driven, modeled after another community college (Oakton) that had retention rates jump on average 24% and a faculty satisfaction increase with participation.

In addition to this Guided Pathways work, LPC was one of 20 California Community Colleges selected to participate in the California Demonstration Project. This project is designed to select colleges that will implement an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success by creating structured educational experiences that support each student from point of entry to attainment of certificate or degree. This project will include six institutes over the next three years. It will require LPC to send a team (President, VP, Deans and faculty) to the six institutes to receive guidance and support from other pathways coaches. It will also allow for time to plan for Guided Pathways work on our campus.

Four Pillars Guided Pathways Framework

Clarify
the
Path



ORGANIZE
Create Clear
Curricular
Pathways to
Employment
and Further
Education

Enter
the
Path



ASSIST
Help
Students
Choose and
Enter Their
Pathway

Stay on
the
Path



SUPPORT
Help
Students
Stay on
Their Path

Ensure
Learning



VERIFY
Follow
Through, and
Ensure that
Better Practices
are Providing
Improved
Student Results.

Distribution of Supplies to Students

Las Positas College kicked-off fall semester by ensuring its students had all their supplies in hand for class. Pictured to the right is Biology/Chemistry Lab Technician Jason Maxwell and an LPC student picking up a lab kit for a Biology class.

We want to thank all staff and faculty that helped with ensuring safe practicing of social distancing all while providing exceptional student support.



Information Sessions for Dreamers

Las Positas College is kicking-off the fall semester with information for our Dreamers. Catherina Alfaro Gomez is our new LPC Dreamer Resource Liaison and will begin offering information sessions for Dreamers beginning September 18. Some of the scheduled sessions include “In-state Tuition & the California Dream Act,” “Las Positas College Financial Aid Process,” and “Dreamer’s Resources.”

More information on these resources can be found by visiting the [LPC Dreamers Website](#). You can also contact the Student Services Department at the college.



President’s Speaker Series Presents:

On September 1, 2020 the President's Speaker Series welcomed Mr. Kwame Christian, Esq. His presentation of “How to Talk About Race in the Work Place” was well received by the college community. The webinar topics included examining foundational perception of the worldview, increasing understanding of how society can create disparate outcomes for different people, how to have conversations about race without the risk of damaging relationships, knowing what to say and when during these difficult conversations, and how to communicate confidently, respectfully, and persuasively as it relates to making internal decisions that create a more inclusive environment.

Kwame Christian is the Director of the American Negotiation Institute and a subject matter expert in the field of negotiation and conflict resolution, a bestselling author and speaker. Kwame has conducted workshops throughout North America and abroad and is a highly sought-after national keynote speaker.



News in Brief

LPC’s Title IX: The LPC title IX webpage has undergone a significant update to comply with recent changes to federal regulations. Please visit [LPC’s Title IX](#) page for updates.

RAW Center Re-opening: The Raw Center will re-open its doors to virtual appointments on September 8, 2020. Please visit the [RAW Center Homepage](#) for more information.

Admissions Application Update: The Admissions and Records Department, in collaboration with the Information Technology Services (ITS), has revised the CCCApply admissions application to make it easier for students to complete, by removing the supplemental questions and by updating the auto email responses generated. The admission application for Spring 2021 is already available.



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Students First