



LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE

CONNECTION

May 2023

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



Photo Credit: Kenneth Cooper



Dreammakers and Risktakers

The Dreammakers and Risktakers Awards salutes student innovators from the Tri-Valley region whose ideas hold the promise to change the world. It showcases the talent and bravery of the next generation and gives the opportunity for civic leaders to recognize them.

This year Las Positas College's Dreammakers and Risktakers award goes to Devon Welborn. Devon is a microbiology major, and serves as a research intern at Sandia National Laboratories. She works on ground breaking Cluster Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) gene editing research projects that promise to revolutionize medicine and cure genetic conditions previously untreatable.

She was nominated by professor of Chemistry Dr. Michael Ansell for her outstanding work in his Organic Chemistry course at LPC all while interning at Sandia National Laboratories since January 2022. She was honored at the 12th annual Dreammakers and Risktakers awards ceremony held on May 4, 2023.



In this Issue

1. Dreammakers and Risktakers
2. Livermore Valley Craft Beer Fest
3. New Hawk Day
4. Literary Arts Festival
5. Las Po Film Fest



Cheers to LPC and the Livermore Beer Festival

The Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival held on Saturday, May 13th on the Las Positas College campus was a resounding success. The festival was organized by the Livermore Valley Craft Beer Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote local breweries and raise funds for local charities.

The festival featured 48 local breweries and food vendors, and attracted a crowd of over 1,350 community members and beer enthusiasts. Attendees were treated to a variety of craft beers, including IPAs, stouts, and lagers, as well as delicious food from local vendors. One of the other highlights of the festival was the live music performances, which added to the festive atmosphere and kept attendees entertained throughout the day.

The festival's overall success was a testament to the organizers' commitment to supporting local businesses and community causes. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Fire Technology program at Las Positas College, which trains future firefighters and fire service professionals. By attending the festival, participants were able to enjoy great beer and food while contributing to a worthy cause in the community.

Moving forward, the plan is for Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival to become an annual spring-time event on the Las Positas campus, drawing larger crowds each year.





Photo courtesy of J. Hernandez

Las Positas College's recent New Hawk Day welcomed over 500 incoming students and family members to campus. Providing them with an introduction to LPC college life. The event was held on Saturday, April 29, and offered participants a wide range of activities, sessions, and resources designed to help incoming "LPC New Hawks" feel comfortable and connected on campus.

One of the highlights of New Hawk Day was the standing room only welcome event held in the Mertes theater. That was followed by a resource fair and other sessions intended to provide students with information on campus services, academic resources, and student clubs and organizations. In addition to the orientation sessions, New Hawk Day also offered students the opportunity to meet with their academic counselors, register for classes, and explore the campus.

The success of New Hawk Day was evident in the positive feedback from students, family members and faculty alike. Many students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with others on campus and get a head start on their LPC experience, while staff and faculty members praised the event for its ability to promote student success and engagement.



Literary Arts Festival at LPC

LPC recently hosted its 3rd annual Literary Arts Festival for 2023, which featured an impressive lineup of events and speakers. The festival brought together students, faculty, and members of the community for a series of presentations, readings, workshops, and discussions on various aspects of writing and literature.

The festival kicked off with a captivating performance by the Muwekma Ohlone dancers, highlighting the importance of indigenous culture and the impact it has had on literature and the arts. That beautiful and moving performance was followed by the festival's keynote featuring acclaimed author Tommy Orange, who inspired the audience with his insights on the power of storytelling. His session was well-received, and many attendees remarked on how it had inspired them to pursue their own creative endeavors.

Bruce Henderson, the #1 New York Times Bestselling Author of *The Untold Story of Japanese Americans in WWII* also spoke at the festival and his session was followed by a panel discussion with LPC Student Veterans.

The festival also included the Drag Queen Story Hour, an event held at other festivals, public libraries and venues throughout the country. Many attendees praised the festival organizers for their commitment to inclusivity, diversity and acceptance.

Overall, the 2023 Literary Arts Festival was a vibrant and engaging event, and a celebration of literature, art, creativity, and self-expression. The festival provided LPC students, faculty, and community members to enjoy and share a variety of literary works, artistic expressions, and cultural experiences.



LAS POSITAS COLLEGE CELEBRATES

Las Po 2023 Film Fest

The Las Positas Film Festival was held on April 13. During March and early April many students from LPC, other local community colleges (Berkeley Community College, Contra Costa, San Joaquin Delta, and Diablo Valley College), local high schools (Granada High), and LPC alumni (currently at SFSU in Cinema) submitted creative, well-made short films to FilmFreeway, a film submission webpage. This was followed by an official selection process and an evaluation period during which 5 Bay Area judges ranked the films in the various award categories.

The event included a reception at the Mertes Center for the Arts, complete with refreshments, t-shirts, button, and sticker sales, info about the Film Studies, Photography, Actors Conservatory, and President's Scholar Programs, a film poster contest in the Art Gallery, and a red-carpet film festival photo area hosted by LPC's Photography program.

Approximately 175 people attended the event! Most of the student filmmakers were there with friends and family, as well as LPC students, and various members of the LPC campus community.

24 student films were screened and 31 awards were given. CONGRATULATIONS to all of the awardees! It was great to see so many student filmmakers being applauded and recognized for their creativity, hard work, and vision!



LPC Mission

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

College Planning Priorities

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.

Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.