



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

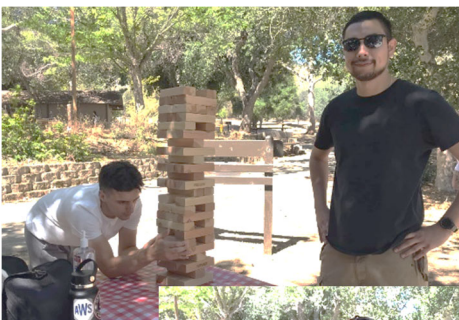
Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Summer 2022 Student Veterans Organization Picnic!



Las Positas College Student Veterans Organization (SVO) had a great picnic at the Del Valle Regional Park on July 9, 2022! Camaraderie, Networking, Buddy Check!! Great potluck, games, music, and good conversation! Veterans also brought their spouse and children to enjoy the lake. Looking forward to the next picnic.

Special thanks to the SVO Officers, especially Co-President and Vice President Arica Steedley and Isaiah Steedley, respectively for encouraging veterans to get involved with events hosted by SVO and the Veterans First Program.



Operation Gateway XIV

On July 14 and 15, 2022, the Veterans First Center hosted the 14th annual Operation Gateway. Operation Gateway is a 2-day transitional seminar geared to empower student veterans, dependents/spouses, and reservists with resources to ensure academic success at Las Positas College. Operation Gateway ensures everyone will get resources for Las Positas College and support from off campus organizations. The issues that are faced by veterans are often not obvious to civilians and can go ignored by others until the damage has already been done.



The 2-day transitional seminar provided first-hand experience with the veteran community and camaraderie at Las Positas College which started at 0730 and ended at 1500. The first part of Operation Gateway covered the outside resources. **Randy Pico**, the keynote speaker representing the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, discussed their collaboration with our Veterans First Program and Employment opportunities. Las Positas Veterans First Center and Las Positas College want to thank you for your service and for choosing Las Positas Community College to provide amazing events! Thank you to all participants for coming together and making this event possible.



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Welcome Jennifer Lininger New Veterans Outreach Specialist

For the first time at Las Positas Veterans Center, we have a Veterans Outreach Specialist. Her name is Jennifer Lininger.



Fun fact, Jenn and her husband attended Tehachapi High School and have 2 boys currently in 5th and 9th grade. She is a personal trainer and loves lifting weights, kickboxing, and taking her 2-year-old lab for long walks. Most of all, she enjoys sitting in her backyard with a cup of hot tea and a good book.

Las Positas Veterans First Center is proud and excited to have her part of the team!

June 4, 2022 | VFW Pancake Breakfast & Pleasanton Farmers Market Outreach

On June 4th, Las Positas Veterans First Center attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Pancake Breakfast / Pleasanton Farmers Market Outreach.



What is a Veterans Outreach Specialist?

Jenn Lininger's role in Outreach not only encompasses increasing student enrollment for veterans, but is also about community connections. Her goal is for Las Positas College and our Veterans First Program to be the first place our community members think of when asked about Veteran Education and support services. As a military dependent, Jenn understands the importance of connecting with veterans and ensuring veterans get the necessary services and support at Las Positas College.

Evelyn Andrews, Jennifer Lininger, Randy, and Josh represented LPC Veterans First. VFW provided the table for the LPC Veterans First Program to set up outreach materials and bagels to hand out throughout the event. Jennifer said, "we had a small wheel that had many giveaway options (pen, mask, hand sanitizer). We spoke to approximately 50-60 people, about 30% were from other booths at the event (Lions Club, Rotary Club, VFW, Pleasanton Military Families, etc.).



Jenn earned a Master's degree in Counseling with a student development in higher ed emphasis from CSU Long Beach. She also has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology & Deaf Studies from CSU Bakersfield and received her Associates in General

Education from Bakersfield College.

The connections made with organizations were great. LPC enjoyed being part of a great event hosted by VFW.



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Farewell after 18 Years at LPC Special Thank you to Todd Steffan



“Todd has created a welcoming environment at the Veterans Resource Center where we felt welcomed and supported. We had camaraderie. We were a family. Thank you, Todd, for all that you’ve done for us. We congratulate you on your next chapter of your life.”

Victor Retana, Army Veteran, LPC alumnus/Transfer to Emory Riddle University



The Las Positas College campus community, current and alumni veterans, and several community veterans service organizations expressed words of gratitude to Todd Steffan, Veterans Program Supervisor, after 18 years at LPC. August 18, 2022 marked his last day at LPC where he transitioned to another position at Diablo Valley College.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication Todd provided and wish him the best on his next adventure! The legacy he has built and the connections made will live on at LPC Veterans First Center and all over the Bay Area!

Through excellent leadership and vision planning, in the 18 years at LPC, Todd developed an excellent program where hundreds of veterans appreciated the support and services at the Veterans First Program. His leadership extended to serving on statewide Veterans Committee advocating for more funding, resources, and support services for veterans. He has written grants and established strong community partners in supporting veterans pursuing their higher education at Las Positas College. Todd has served on the planning committee for the statewide veterans’ symposium and presented about veterans’ adjustment to online learning during the pandemic. He has established several signature programs such as Honoring Women Veterans, Operation Gateway for new student veterans, Remembering 9/11, 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans, and speakers for Veterans Day.





Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

5th Annual 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans

The 5th annual 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans was offered virtually and in-person October 1st through October 22nd, 2022. To ensure the safety of our participants, challenges were held virtually for the first 22 days of October, closing with an in-person challenge course at the Las Positas College track field on October 22nd.

The 2.2 For 22 Challenge strives to raise awareness around an unsettling reality that 22 veterans are lost to suicide every day. While the event has focused its awareness on engaging the Las Positas College community and immediate local community, this event proved that our message resonated far beyond our local area. Participation included folks throughout the United States.



Participants received a 2.2 For 22 t-shirt and commemorative medal. Event organizers encouraged participants to complete all challenges or attempt as many as they can. Participants either joined a team or was a solo participant.

The in-person challenge course included removing a log out from a tire in 2.2 minutes to grappling to hula hooping. The day was filled with physical challenges, mental health exercises, and lots of fun and networking.

For those who completed the virtual portion, event T-Shirt, Medal, and Drawstring bag were mailed to the address on file or were available for pick up at Las Positas College on October 22, 2022.



Winner! Team BISHOP won a gift certificate for an overnight stay in a Family Suite with Four Water Park Passes at the Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca. It is valued at \$400.



Congratulations to Dennis who took the 22 Minute Challenge and pumped out 216 push-ups in 22 minutes! Go Army!

The event successfully reminded all participants that much work is still needed to reduce 22 veteran suicides each day to Zero!





Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Thank you to our 2.2 for 22 Sponsors!

Special thanks to our sponsors for 2.2 for 22. Please support these organizations via donations or patronize their business as they believe and advocate for services for veterans struggling with mental health challenges. Thank you!

LPC Foundation
Valley Veterans Foundation

Freedom is Not Free Sponsors:

Rotary Club of Livermore
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 6298
Lori Souza
Safeway Foundation

All American Sponsors:

Association of the US Army-Dean Chapter
Overton Security
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Post 7265

Red, White & Blue Sponsors:

American Legion Mt Diablo Post 246
Benefits for Fallen Heroes (BFF)
Blue Star Moms
MkHurder Photography
Alliance of Therapy Dogs
Mony Nop Real Estate Team - Compass,
Veterans Healthcare
Some Gave All - Joey Graves Foundation

Thank you for your Service Sponsors

Denco Incorporated
Isings Culligan Water
Diablo Vietnam Vets

Special thanks to the various organizations that hosted an in-person challenge! We look forward to seeing in 2023!

22
OCT. 2022
SATURDAY
10 AM - 12 PM

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE
TRACK
3000 CAMPUS HILL DRIVE
LIVERMORE, CA

- Chat with a War Veteran for 2.2 Minutes
- Pet a Therapy Dog for 22 Seconds
- Change a Tire in 2.2 Minutes
- 22 Burpees
- 22 Seconds Grappling
- Breathing Exercise 22 Seconds
- 2 Min Ammo Box Lifts
- 22 Squats
- 22 Slams!
- Bring 2 Items for a PACKOUT
- Jump Rope 22 seconds
- Write Christmas Cards 22 Words
- 22 Hula Hoops
- Dummy Drag for 22 Feet
- Tire Flips
- 22 Push Ups
- 2 Min One Arm Ball Throws
- 22 second Twists

For information, call 925.424.1570
Email: lpcveteransfirst@laspositascollege.edu

Interested in serving on the 2023 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans Planning Committee? Please send an email to Evelyn Andrews, eandrews@laspositascollege.edu

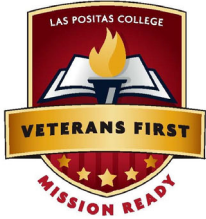


Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

LPC Veterans First - Mission Ready



Second year a huge success!
Mission Ready - Veterans First Learning Community, a Veterans learning community for camaraderie, equity, leadership, and support for students.

Student veterans, military members, and their family members who attend LPC can now meet, study, take classes together and offer support to one another in this new learning community.

Some Resources/Services Available for Mission Ready students.

- Designated academic/career counselor
- Financial support
- Text books are covered for Mission Ready Classes
- Mission Ready - English 1A and CMST 1 Classes for Vets
- Tutoring services (one on one and group)
- Alumni student Veterans mentoring/networking
- Career/Major planning
- Connecting with other student Veterans
- Social events - Hikes, sporting events, and other activities

Special thanks to Professors Jim Ott (Engl 1A) and Jim Dobson (CMST 1) for supporting student veterans, military dependents and spouse through instruction and holding office hours in the Veterans Resource Center.

Halloween Trunk-Or Treat

On October 28, 2022, the families of student veterans celebrated the Halloween spirit at the annual Student Veterans Organization Trunk-or-Treat.



Trunk-or-Treat is a celebration of the season for veterans and their families. Groups such as Blue Star Moms, the LPC Drama Program, and students of the LPC Middle College program, turned their cars in festive and creative booth

By providing a small celebration of the season, the event brought many student veterans and their families an opportunity to see and be with others from the larger student veteran community.

The event took place in Parking Lot A near the Mertes Theater between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. This outdoor venue was chosen to ensure the safety of student veterans and their families. Dozens of families arrived and received candy from volunteers and staff in costume. Families brought their children to receive candy from each of the groups of volunteers.

The event had a spectacular turnout leading to a jovial and pleasant atmosphere.



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Veterans Day 2022

Thank you, Mr. Ron Payne, representative from Congressman Swalwell's office and US Army veteran/LPC alumnus to emcee our event. Special thank you to CLPCCD Chancellor Gerhard for welcoming our veterans!

It was a special day to have Mr. Howard "Butch" Wilson, Vietnam Veteran, author of "My Year in Vietnam," and local Livermore resident. With his family present, he humbly shared stories of his deployment to Vietnam, and challenges faced upon his return from deployment. Following his presentation, Dr. Jim Ott, ENGL 1A and Mission Ready faculty, and Blue Star Moms representative Ms. Kim Shepodd announced the winners of the veterans' essay contest topic – "How My Military Experiences Mirror the Stages of the Hero's Journey." All the veterans who submitted an essay shared incredible stories. We are pleased to announce the winners of the essay contest:

1st place Ryan Pico, US Army Veteran, AS Engineering major
2nd place Christopher Green, US Army Veteran, AA Photography major
3rd place Dominic Provenzola, US Army Veteran, AA Biology/Allied Health
Honorable mention: Ms. M. Stephanie Caballero, US Navy Veteran, AS Biology major; and Jake Zemlock, US Air Force Veteran, AS Mechanical Engineering major.

Following the essay contest winners, Quilts of Valor were presented to the following LPC veterans who experienced combat.



- Aurelio Antonio Sandoval – Army Veteran, E7, SFOR / IFOR Bosnia, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from 1997 – 2017. Aurelio served in Georgia, Germany, California, Bosnia, Turkey, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Washington, Kentucky, Louisiana, Kuwait and Hungary.
- Javier Carranza - Marine Corps Veteran, EL LCPL, Operation Enduring Freedom from 2009 – 2013. Javier served in Afghanistan.
- Wendell Walker – Army Veteran, E3, Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2008 – 2011. Wendell served in Iraq.
- Special Guest - Howard Wilson – Army Veteran, E5 Infantry, Vietnam from 1967 – 1969. Howard served in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart.
- Gilbert Aguirre - Air Force Veteran, E4 Senior Airman, Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005 – 2010. Gilbert served in Iraq at Camp Victory, Baghdad and Camp Burca and was assigned to the Army Infantry. He received the Air Force combat action metal.



We closed the event with a special American Flag skydive from Mr. Ron Lee of Skydive Innovations landing on the Las Positas College soccer field. Thank you, Ron!

Veterans Day Parade 2022



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

LPC Veterans First Program and student veterans participated in the annual Pleasanton Veterans Day Parade on Nov 6, 2022 at 1 pm. LPC Alumnus Ron Payne was the Grand Marshall for the parade. Truly an honor, Ron! Congratulations, sir! Special thanks to our team and student veterans who proudly walked with our parade trailer and gave out mini-American flags.



Thanksgiving Turkey Give Away

Special thanks to One Nation Dreammakers, Grocery Outlet, and Safeway Foundation for providing free turkeys to student veterans and their families for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Turkeys were raffled to student veterans who completed our semester Fall Veterans Satisfaction Survey.



Christmas Trees for Veterans

The annual LPC Aquatics Christmas Tree Fundraiser yielded several evergreen Douglas Fir, Noble Fir, and Nordmann Fir trees which were gifted to the veterans from the LPC campus community and Livermore community. Very grateful to anonymous donors for gifting trees to veterans pursuing their education at Las Positas College.



VSOs host Meals During Finals Week

Restoring past tradition, community Veterans Service Organizations supported veterans at Las Positas College by providing sustenance and energy during finals week. We are grateful for the following agencies for providing a free lunch meal for veterans taking finals at the LPC campus: Pleasanton Military Families, Pleasanton VFW Post 6298, Pleasanton American Legion Post 237, Livermore VFW 7267, Blue Star Moms.





Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Secret Santa Program for Veterans

We have several veterans who are not only students at Las Positas College, but parents with children and infants. Managing school, work, and parenting are challenges that traditional students do not have to face. We are continuously grateful for our sponsor for supporting veterans at Las Positas College. Special thanks to the Pleasanton Military Families, Pleasanton VFW Post 6298, Livermore Police Department Giving Tree, Rotary Club of Danville, and individual community members.



A word of gratitude ...

A message from the Steedley family, mom and dad are Army Veterans at Las Positas College:

“We wanted to let you know just how much of a blessing it was to get the gifts from our Christmas sponsors this year. With starting a new job, one vehicle for a family of four, and moving into a new place all in the first week of December, we just had no time to go shopping, yet our two girls had plenty to open on Christmas thanks to all the generosity from our secret Santa sponsors – especially the Livermore Police Department giving tree! We appreciate everyone who chose our family. We appreciate your generosity – it was so heartwarming “hold back tears” worthy and it just shows how much the Veterans First Program cares for its veterans and the love and support ... we thank you all.”





Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Welcome New Veterans Program Supervisor – Evelyn Andrews



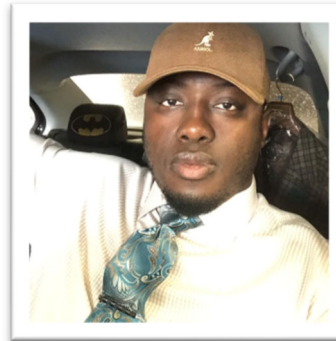
US Navy Dependent. Father served in Korea. Visionary leader and champion of the Veterans First Program and the Engineering Technology Learning Community.

Served as the Veterans Specialist in the Veterans First Program at Las Positas College since 2018; proud to take the helm as the new Supervisor of the Veterans First Program.

With over twenty years in higher education in various roles ranging from EOP Counselor, Summer Bridge/Retention Coordinator, Registration and Records Supervisor, and University Registrar for various public and private higher education institutions.

Ed.D. Candidate (currently ABD) —Educational Leadership Degree-Saint Mary's College of California
MS Counseling—Higher Education & BS Speech Communication
CSU Hayward (East Bay)

Fun facts Hiking Roller Skating, Try new restaurants, and outdoor adventures with veterans (e.g., ziplining)



Welcome New Veterans Success Coach Kevin Feaster

Provide academic support and coaching for student veterans; in-reach

communication with continuing veterans to keep the motivated and inspired.

San Jose State University
BS degree candidate, Philosophy & Mathematics

Las Positas College
Associates of Science, Mathematics

Fun facts: Loves to Cook, Passion for education; Served as a Protective Service Detail NCO in Germany

Welcome New Veterans Success Coach Tracey Walker



My responsibilities as a success coach include assisting veteran students and military dependent students with outlining their goals, providing support and guidance when necessary to help achieve goals.

Currently enrolled in San Jose State University, Guidance and Counseling Graduate program
Las Positas College (2021)
Associates of Science in Fire Science Technology, Santa Clara University (2008)
Bachelors of Science in Sociology,

Fun fact:
-She played professional basketball in Iceland.



Fall 2022

Mission: S.E.R.V.E Newsletter

Mission: S.E.R.V.E – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Fall 2022

Veterans Outreach Spotlight

So - Where was your Veterans First Program during the Fall Term?

- Pleasanton Military Families BBQ
- LPC Welcome Week
- City Council Meetings in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin
- Pleasanton VFW/American Legion Breakfast and Open House
- Livermore Nostalgia Day Car Show w/ the LPC Automotive Department
- Las Positas-Chabot District Meeting
- Livermore Chili Cook-Off
- Livermore Art Walk
- Pleasanton Veterans Parade
- Livermore Veterans Day Event
- Fremont Library Veterans Connect Fair
- LPC Preview Night

Invest in Student Veterans Donate Today

http://www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/invest_in_vets.php

Your investment will go to support the various programs and services provided by the Las Positas College Veterans First Program for student Veterans, active duty, reservists/guard, and military family members such as:

- Veterans Relief Fund
- Operation: Diaper Relief
- Ace train / Veterans First passes
- Operation Gateway: annual new Veterans orientation
- Veterans First Scholarships
- Food / Gas Cards
- School Supplies for Veterans
- Refreshments / Snacks in the Veterans Resource Center

- Mental Health resources
- Trainings / Workshops
- Support LPC Student Veterans Organization - events, conferences, etc.
- Various events: 9/11 Remembrance, Honoring Veterans Day, Honoring Women Veterans, Military Appreciation Night at the Nest, and Honoring the Fallen.

How to Invest

Donations can be made to the LPC Veterans Resource Center through the Las Positas College Foundation (a 501(c)(3) non-profit). Donors will receive a letter from the Foundation acknowledging their tax-deductible gift.

To donate by check:

Make checks payable to the **Las Positas College Foundation**. On the memo line, please write **Veterans First** or **Veterans Resource Center**.

Checks should be mailed to:

Las Positas College Foundation
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551

To donate cash:

Please contact Rivka Several in the Las Positas College Foundation office at: (925) 424-1014. You can also reach her via email at: rseveral@laspositascollege.edu.

Your investment is tax deductible: **IRS Number 71-0942040**.