

## LAS POSITAS CONNECTION

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | August 2017

Roanna Bennie, Las Positas College Interim President

#### **President Russell on** Leave for Fall Semester

President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., will be on medical leave for the fall semester. During this time, Vice President of Academic Services Roanna Bennie is serving as Interim President. "Of course, she will be supported by the Vice Presidents, Diane Brady and William Garcia, as well as the rest of the President's office team," President Russell said. Dean of Arts and Humanities Don Miller, Ph.D., is stepping in as Interim Vice President of Academic Services.

#### LPC Gets News of **Accreditation Success**

In a letter to the LPC family, President Russell announced that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has granted LPC full accreditation for the remainder of the seven-year cycle. He congratulated the campus community and expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to this success. "We have many people to thank for all the work done to make this happen, most notably Vice President Roanna Bennie and the Accreditation Steering Committee," he wrote.

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# Welcome to the **New Academic Year!**

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." —Plato



Going up! Our new Academic Classroom Building 1000 has grown over the summer. It is scheduled for completion in May 2018. Thank you, voters!

LPC begins the 2017-18 academic year with plenty of good news: increased enrollment, positive feedback from students, and more progress on our much-needed classroom building. Our latest data shows that enrollment was up 3.4 percent in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16. And, in the most recent college survey, students

gave LPC high marks in many areas: 88 percent of students are very satisfied or satisfied with their overall experience at LPC, 89 percent strongly agree or agree that they feel safe at LPC, and 90 percent strongly agree or agree that they have generally been treated with respect by instructors.

### **Summer Spotlight Series Serves Students**

This summer, LPC offered a Spotlight Series featuring four open house events to introduce new and current students and their families to LPC's many academic programs and services. Faculty, staff, and administrators met with visitors and also presented activities and tours. The first two events were: Math, Science, Engineering, and Public Safety; and Arts and Humanities. The second two events were: Business, Health, Athletics, Work Experience, and Kinesiology (BHAWK); and Computing, Applied Technology, and Social Sciences (CATSS).



Early Childhood Development Coordinator Nadiyah Taylor visits at the CATTS event.



BHAWK Dean Amir Law, Ed.D., talks with a prospective student and parents.

## **Two New Transfer Programs Created in Nutrition** and Dietetics, and Public Health Sciences

LPC is excited to offer two new Associate Degrees for Transfer in Nutrition and Dietetics, and Public Health Sciences. These programs will give our students the opportunity to further prepare for an easy and seamless transfer to CSUs and other four-year institutions. We owe a debt of gratitude to the lead faculty in these two disciplines for their hard work and guidance: Marsha Vernoga (Nutrition) and Lisa Everett, Ed.D. (Health).

## LPC Plants Seeds for Special Needs Students' Future



Horticulture Instructor Tom Fuller supervises a student operating a rototiller.

Last month, adult students from our community reaped the rewards of hands-on horticulture training through a free week-long Adaptive Horticulture Summer Program for students with special needs. Students propagated plants from cuttings, pruned shrubs, planted an annual flower display, learned about plant water requirements, installed a new landscape, and learned how to operate equipment, including a rototiller. The program focused on vocational training, horticulture therapy, and experience with learning at a college campus. Working with our educational partners, the Horticulture Program hopes to grow this offering into an occupational training program. The adaptive program is offered in partnership with Pleasanton Adult and Career Education, Regional Center of the East Bay, Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program, and Sunflower Hill, a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs, located in Livermore and Pleasanton.

## Meet LPC's New Adult Education Manager

LPC welcomes new Adult Education Program Manager Thomas Allen. With a rich background in both teaching and leadership, Mr. Allen will work with our partners to increase the number of students transitioning from adult schools to college, giving these students greater employment opportunities and earnings potential, and

building our region's workforce. Formerly an adjunct instructor at Chabot College, Mr. Allen also has had extensive experience in Los Angeles and Maryland and is delighted to be back in the Bay Area.



Thomas Allen

### **Business Speaker to Help Students Land Jobs**



Lecia M. Roundtree

Lecia M. Roundtree, a seasoned human resources professional, will present a talk, "Seven Strategies to Give You an Edge Over the Job Competition," as part of the 5th Annual Business and Entrepreneurship Speaker

Series. The event will be held at 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18, in the Multi-Disciplinary Building Lecture Hall, Room 2420. Presented by the Business Studies Program, the series is free and open to the public. Ms. Roundtree is the Senior Human Resources Business Partner for The Wine Group, based in Livermore.

### Congratulations to Veteran Grads in Engineering Tech



LPC celebrates our veterans who graduated in May from the Engineering Technology Program, a unique two-year degree program developed with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). Initially established for student veterans, the program is now open to all students. Many graduates already have received full-time employment offers from LLNL and local engineering companies, and some students plan to transfer to pursue bachelor's degrees.

## **Engineering Students Report High Transfer Rate**

Nearly 40 Engineering Transfer students are heading off to top colleges this fall to pursue bachelor's degrees in mechanical, electrical, chemical, aeronautical, and biomedical engineering at top private and public universities, including UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, UC Riverside, Cal Poly, and Sacramento State. These transfer students complete a rigorous program, taking courses in engineering, chemistry, math, physics, computing, English, and speech. LPC congratulates these students and wishes them continued success!



LPC engineering students get lots of hands-on experience and benefit from an active Engineering Club (above).

## **Veterans Operation Gateway Gets Bigger and Better**



Now in its ninth year, the annual Operation Gateway orientation for new and returning veterans keeps getting bigger and better. In July, 49 student veterans participated in the event that supports their transition to success at LPC, learning about topics such as student services, financial aid, VA education benefits, and our highly regarded Veterans First Program. LPC student veteran alumnus Logan Bekker, who earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and is now employed by LLNL, served as a keynote speaker. Many thanks go to the Knights of Columbus - Livermore Chapter for continuing to sponsor and provide the barbeque lunch. A big thanks also goes to the Blue Star Moms of Danville for providing the desserts.

## **CALENDAR**

Please visit our website for more details about the latest news and events.

August 14 District Convocation, Chabot College

August 15 College Day, LPC

August 16 Fall 2017 Semester Begins

September 2 - 4 Holiday - Labor Day Weekend

September 18 Business and Entrepreneurship Speaker Series,

6-7 PM, Multi-Disciplinary Building Lecture Hall,

Room 2420; free

#### **Titanic Sails to Success**

Congratulations to the Theater Arts Program on a stellar July production of *Titanic: The Musical*. Guests from the campus and local community packed our Outdoor Amphitheater to enjoy this award-winning musical under the stars. See *The Independent* photo gallery at <a href="http://bit.ly/2wy9BCO">http://bit.ly/2wy9BCO</a>.



#### In Memoriam: Art Deleray



Even in retirement, Art Deleray (second from left) continued to join other chemistry faculty to staff the Chemistry table at each Majors Fair.

The LPC community mourns the loss of Art Deleray, retired Chemistry instructor at LPC and Chabot for 32 years. Mr. Deleray's family has established a scholarship in his memory. Donations can be made with a check payable to the LPC Foundation, with Deleray Memorial Scholarship written on the memo line. Donations can also be made online at <a href="http://www.lpcfoundation.org/investing-in-lpc/make-an-investment">http://www.lpcfoundation.org/investing-in-lpc/make-an-investment</a>. Click "other" for program name and fill in Deleray Memorial Scholarship in the space provided.

#### **LPC News in Brief**

Math Counts. LPC is offering free math tutoring on campus for Livermore high school students at all levels of math through calculus.

Students Get Jobs, Internships. Congratulations to Accounting students who landed jobs and internships at the firm Armanino LLP. Students, LPC alumni, and employers can connect for free at LPC's internship website, College Central Network.

Theater Alums Reunite. Last month, former Theater Instructor Jerianne Warren and many of her students reunited in the 1980s Era Chabot College (Valley

Campus) Theater Appreciation Society - Jerianne's Kids celebration. Rumor has it that the talented troupe hopes to mount a production at LPC. Stay tuned!

Welding Ignites Interest. Congratulations to the Welding Technology Program on another successful summer Welding Camp for area high school students! In other Welding news: In May, LPC Welding students completed a community service project, making a sign frame for the Valley Spokesman Bicycle Club.

Thank You! Thanks to everyone who brought donations to the Health and Wellness Center for the Feed Tri-Valley Food Drive. All donated items went directly to local food pantries and food providers in the Tri-Valley.



Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President. Issues are posted online at laspositascollege.edu/president. Mary M. Lauffer, Editor

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