



LAS POSITAS CONNECTION

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

Dr. Dyrrell Foster, Las Positas College President

A Message of Solidarity and Action

What we are witnessing across our nation and how deeply it is affecting us is based on our own frame of reference – our values, our beliefs, and our personal experiences. We recognize that we are all experiencing this movement in our own way. Las Positas College disseminated and posted a message on our website in solidarity with our black community, our students, faculty, staff and administrators to fight against systemic inequity, injustice and racism. We also acknowledge that our students, employees and community are still processing the pain of the culmination of police killings, and the list of names keeps growing. We are tired. It must stop. This is the time for action and sustainable transformation in our communities.



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. On June 10, Las Positas College held a virtual Campus Forum to gather as a community to support one another while also discussing actions that will lead to systemic change for our students and the communities we serve. Over 180 faculty, classified professionals, and administrators came together to listen, share, and to dialogue about our individual and collective experiences as we identified possible actions that we will take as an institution.

As result of the dialogue from the Campus Forum, a Presidential Task Force was developed to help formulate a call to action for our college. Recently, 45 members of our campus community that made up the Task Force met with the charge of identifying best practices and otherwise making recommendations to the President on how the college can address systemic and institutionalized racism to obtain racially equitable student outcomes in access, persistence/retention, and completion.

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Las Positas College Stands with Our Dreamers

At Las Positas College, we support all of our students' journeys, regardless of immigration status, to pursue their education and achieve their goals and dreams. We are also committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn.

Las Positas College applauds the recent United States Supreme Court's decision to overturn the Federal Administration's attempt to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program, providing extraordinary relief to nearly 800,000 Dreamers nationwide, about 200,000 in the state of California, and thousands right here in our Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

These rulings offer hope, but they cannot erase the fear and pain of those whose legal status and personal identity were questioned in the first place. We must continue to commit ourselves to the recognition of every person's full humanity. Although, a long-term solution is needed through immigration reform, we remain hopeful and stand with our dreamers in support of permanent protections and against any future challenge. We cannot rest until there is a long-term policy solution that addresses the safety and security of this vulnerable population.

The college's UndocuAlly Task Force is to be commended for their collective efforts to increase student support, educate the campus community, and elevate best practices in support of our dreamers. We invite students, staff, faculty and community members to connect with our Dreamers @ LPC website to access campus and community resources and other student support services. Now is the time to take on the longstanding practices within our colleges that have hurt our students of color and historically underserved communities. Our work continues, but by working together, we will continue to make real change on behalf of our students.



LPC Welding Volunteers Repair Mount Diablo



In April, LPC Welding instructors Bal Gakhhal and Scott Miner worked with volunteers from the Save Mount Diablo organization to repair handrails at the 3,843 foot summit of Mount Diablo State Park to keep the public safe. John Gallagher, retired Biology adjunct instructor, assisted from the Save Mount Diablo organization. The welding efforts were transmitted live from the mountain to welding students sheltering at home.

Because of the exceptional air quality from the summit, the instructors could see past the Golden Gate Bridge far out into the Pacific Ocean to the west and to the snow capped Sierras near Lake Tahoe to the east.



The historic "Eye of Diablo" beacon has been lit every Sunday night at sunset during the shelter in place and turned off at sunrise the next morning. The Las Positas Welding Program helped restore the historic beacon a few years ago as part of another Save Mount Diablo effort.

Las Positas College Introduces Two New Business Certificates

Las Positas College now has two new tuition free, noncredit business certificates: customer services and small business management.

Both certificate programs last for 15 weeks in the span of seven courses exclusively online. "The business department at LPC analyzed job data and met with our advisory board about what skills and training would be beneficial in the current workforce," LPC business professor Drew Patterson said. "These new certificate programs offer practical, real-world skills that help people gain confidence, build their profession, and advance their careers."

According to Patterson, students can take all five fall classes and earn a customer service academic certificate. But if a student continues and takes all seven in the fall and spring, they can also earn a small business management certificate.

Customer service will have five courses running for three weeks. This program focuses on workplace readiness, interviewing, managing, decision making, and teamwork skills. Specific courses will include Attitude in the Workplace, Decision Making and Problem Solving, Customer Service, and Team Building and Team Management.

Congratulations to Alpha Gamma Sigma State Scholarships Recipients!

The 94th Annual Spring 2020 Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society State Convention was cancelled this year, but the state AGS scholarship program was still held. All four of the LPC students that were nominated for state AGS scholarships this spring were subsequently selected and recognized for their outstanding efforts.



Noel Hurtado received the AGS Charles Bell Service scholarship, which is one level above the normal AGS Ed Walsh Service scholarship. It is awarded to the top service award recipients in the state. It recognizes service to the LPC AGS chapter, service to the college, and service to the community. Noel was the AGS Vice President in 2019-2020 and also a member of the LPC Engineering Club. He will be transferring to U.C. Davis this fall to major in Mechanical Engineering. After earning a BS degree, he then plans to pursue a career as Head Designer at a major automobile company.

Kimberly Baker received the AGS Randy Taylor Service scholarship, which is awarded to the top Charles Bell Service award recipient in the state. She is the first LPC student to receive this scholarship which is named after former LPC AGS Advisor Randy Taylor. Kimberly was the AGS Public Relations Officer and Historian in 2019-2020 and the AGS ICC Representative in Spring 2019. She was also the Founder and President of the LPC History Club, a member of the Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society, and also served as LPC Student Government ICC Parliamentarian in 2019-2020. Kimberly is transferring to U.C. Berkley this fall to major in Sociology. After earning a BA degree, she then plans to obtain a MA degree in Psychological Counseling.



Lily Woon received the AGS Kathleen D. Loly Academic scholarship. It is awarded to recognize outstanding academic achievement. Lily was the AGS Community Service Officer in both 2019-2019 and 2019-2020. She received the LPC AGS chapter's 2020 AGS Member of the Year Award. Lily is transferring to U.C. Santa Cruz this fall to major in Environmental Studies. She is also the recipient of a UCSC Transfer Regents scholarship. After earning a BA degree, she then plans to pursue a career as a Park Ranger.

Shahaf Dan received the AGS Robert Mantovani Academic, Service, and Leadership scholarship, which is given to recognize a combination of outstanding achievements in academic, service, and leadership. Shahaf was the AGS President in 2019-2020, Chess Club President, Computer Science Club Vice-President, a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, and the LPC Student Government Director of Events in 2019-2020. He was also an LPC Student Government Senator in 2018-2019. Shahaf will be transferring to Boston University this fall to major in Computer Science. After earning a BS degree, he then plans to obtain an MBA degree and eventually start his own business.



Congratulations to all!

Wi-Fi Internet Accessibility

Las Positas College is proud to announce that free Wi-Fi internet access is now available in college parking lots “C” and “D” for students. This technology will allow students access to Wi-Fi to participate in online instruction and receive support services virtually.



Students who plan to come to the college are required to adhere to the county and state public health order in effect at the time of their visit. This means that students are required to wear face masks, maintain social distancing, and practice good hygiene. Students who are sick should refrain from coming to the college.

Students must purchase a parking permit in order to park on-campus. Daily parking permits are available for sale at kiosks located in college parking lots. Semester parking permits are available for sale online via CLASS-Web (online student portal) at <http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/>. Students are encouraged to park close to college buildings, remove obstructions or interferences that may limit the Wi-Fi signal to their device, and enable their device to join the college’s Wi-Fi network once on-campus.

Students who rely on public transportation or rideshare service can access Wi-Fi by utilizing the outdoor tables and chairs adjacent to the Welcome Center/Student Life Office located on the south side of the Student Services & Administration Building, Building 1600.

“Havik” is Here!

This spring, the students of Havik, the LPC Journal of Arts and Literature, produced a 360-page book during the pandemic shutdown. On Saturday, July 11, they celebrated the publication of “Homeward” with a Zoom reception. Congratulations to the student editors and co-advisors Dr. Melissa Korber and Marty Nash. Please visit their website to enjoy their extraordinary work by clicking [here](#).



News in Brief

“Baby Mine” Virtual Choir: LPC’s exceptionally talented students from the spring 2020 semester of Choral and Vocal studies program put together their final piece – a virtual choir -- performing “Baby Mine.” All recordings were made from home during quarantine and edited together. Please click [here](#) to enjoy.

Street Banner Update: 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.

ASCCC Rostrum: In light of recent events regarding systemic racism, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) engaged Black faculty from around the state to provide their voices on topics ranging from personal experiences to necessary changes in disciplines, institutional constructs, and hiring practices. These articles are a powerful call to action to all faculty within our system. Erick Bell’s (CPA, Accounting Faculty) article titled, “Shifting from Passion to Purpose: Moving Past Our Emotions So We Can Do What’s Right All the Time” and Kisha Quesada Turner’s (M.A., English Faculty) article titled, “Curriculum Trauma” were published in the special summer publication. The publication can be found [here](#).



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