

LAS POSITAS CONNECTION

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | February 2021

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

Black History Month: Honoring Leaders, Legends & Legacies

Traditionally, the Las Positas College Black History Month (BHM) Committee has worked to promote community and cultural awareness through events and activities that support academic excellence. The events seek to break down cultural barriers and work towards creating an open, understanding and cooperative environment for all students at Las

Positas College (LPC). This year, the Las Positas College Black History Month (BHM) Committee has joined forces with Chabot College, and in collaboration with the Chabot - Las Positas Black Education Association, in providing a BHM Calendar full of culturallyrich events across both campuses and our District Office. These planned events include: Black Scholars Family Night, Presidential Speaker Series, Black Student Veterans Panel, and planning for a Black Graduation and Celebration. And there are more events to come! The calendar of "virtual" events including dates, times, and general information can be found via the LPC website:

http://www.laspositascollege.edu/blackhistory/.

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LPC Alumni Association Webinar: How to Address Social Equity & Justice in the Workplace

The Las Positas College Alumni Association, in conjunction with the LPC Foundation, offered a webinar on "How to Address Social Equity & Justice in the Workplace" as part of the Black History Month programming. Dr. Dyrell Foster, President of LPC, was the moderator for the webinar that included Dr. Jamilah Moore, President of Cañada College, Tykia Warden, CFRE Executive Director of the San Mateo Community College Foundation, and Dr. Vanessa N. Peters, Research Scientist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Each speaker addressed social equity and justice through their lens.



General Mattis Roundtable with LPC Veterans



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Las Positas College Veterans First Program was proud to host an exclusive conversation with General Mattis and LPC student veterans on January 27. A native of Richland, Washington, Secretary Mattis enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at the age of 18. After graduating from Central Washington University in 1971, he was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

During his more than four decades in uniform, Secretary Mattis commanded Marines at all levels, from an infantry rifle platoon to a Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in Iraq in 1991, an expeditionary brigade in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terror attack in 2001, a Marine Division in the initial attack and subsequent stability operations in Iraq in 2003, and led all

U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force, and U.S. Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments, Secretary Mattis served as Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, as Director, Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy, as Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, as Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense, and as 26th United States of America Secretary of Defense.

Through storytelling, he imparted pearls of wisdom from his life experiences. With over thirty student veterans and alumni, he reflected on the value and importance of the oath—the one shared experience each person has when enlisting in the military. He shared "you have to be able to author your own story."

Black Student and Alumni Veteran Panel

LPC's students, staff and faculty welcomed four student veterans to the February Town Meeting.

US Marine Corps Veteran, Kristi DeLashmutt, US Army Veteran, Kevin Feaster, US Army Veteran, Ron Payne, and US Navy Veteran, Tracey Walker each shared their personal story on what Black History Month means to them, their experiences serving our country, their reason for choosing Las Positas College to purse their education, and their insight on how to create a welcoming environment for African American students. Interim Dean (Academic Services) Erick Bell was the moderator for the panel.

We thank the student veterans for their service and for providing us with vital information on their experience and suggestions on how we can create a more welcoming environment for our African American students.

If you are interested in viewing this very insightful exchange please visit the <u>February Town Meeting Recording</u>.



Sandia National Laboratories Internships



On February 10, representatives from Sandia Laboratories presented information on the many paid internship opportunities available this summer and year round to LPC students. A panel of current interns shared their experience throughout the process and what its like to be an intern. The majority of internships are geared toward STEM majors, but business and other operations internships were discussed as well. The event was developed exclusively as an opportunity for LPC Students!

Please refer any student that may be interested in any of these opportunities to visit <u>Handshake</u>, the Las Positas College Internship & Job Board. Students will be able to create an account and explore all the internships and job opportunities. They will also have the opportunity to see all career events that are scheduled.

COVID-19 Testing at LPC

Las Positas College has partnered with the City of Livermore and City Health Urgent Care to offer the Tri Valley community COVID – 19 tests on site at Las Positas College. Since January 22, parking lot P (located at the top of the campus) has served as the drive-thru testing location and is currently open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Appointments are required. Please visit *norcalcovid19testing.com* for appointment information.



What's Right at LPC

Each month, administrators, faculty, and classified professionals are asked to submit nominations for colleagues who have gone above and beyond their normal job duties to assist in the success of staff and students. This month's recipients for the "What's Right at LPC" award go to Wanda Butterly and the Admissions and Records Staff.



Wanda Butterly

Wanda is recognized as a highly skilled, trained, and committed Instructional Technology Specialist/Digital Accessibility Specialist. One faculty member reported that she "played a pivotal role in the metamorphous from a face-to-face professor of the 'Study of Life' to an on-line version of Biology." Many faculty reported that without "Wonderful Wanda" and her kind encouragement and help, they would have given up. She went above and beyond to help convert traditional classes to the on-line format. Wanda taught so many about the new technology to help guide our students along the path to success.

Admissions and Records

The Admissions & Records staff are recognized for their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, including processing extraordinary withdrawals, manual refunds, submission of late grades, and report changes. The staff also implemented or upgraded new technology, including DocuSign for Concurrent Enrollment at Middle College and DegreeWorks. The staff are also working extremely hard to support separating registration dates for Summer and Fall. All of these tasks are being done with minimal staff, due to a number of vacancies, and limited resources.

News in Brief

Happy Lunar New Year: Las Positas College stands President Foster Presents to LVCC Business Alliance: and discrimination.

with our colleagues at Chabot College and the Asian Pacif- On February 3, 2021, Dr. Foster presented to the Livermore ic Islander Education Association (APIEA) to wish every- Valley Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance. Dr. Fosone a Happy Lunar New Year and good health and good ter shared: how LPC is navigating learning under current fortune. We also stand collectively against violence, hate, county restrictions; how the college is organizing curriculum to support workforce development; and an update on the capital improvements to the campus.



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

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Students First