Las Positas Connection

January 2012

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LPC Welcomes Wuxi Reps
Campus tour given to representatives from Chabot's sister-college.

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President Walthers’ Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus & Community

During the first week of January, the Las Positas College administrative team spent two full days planning for the semester and year ahead and discussing items of institutional importance, including accreditation, student engagement, reorganization, institutional effectiveness, and the budget. In addition, the group tackled a number of topics under the heading “WeSTADoT” (We Should Think About Doing That) — a section that covered innovative ideas and proposed plans that had been agreed to in concept but not implemented because of limited time, staffing, or resources. The meeting was held off-site at nearby Concannon Vineyard, a community partner who provided complimentary use of the space. This locale proved to be a productive setting, as the administrators had productive brainstorming sessions and emerged with concrete plans and a shared team experience.

Key dates...

Information on upcoming events and institutional activities

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Instructor's Awards

Hawk Happenings

Congratulations to Math instructor Randy Taylor, who recently received a prestigious award from the California Mathematics Association representing a wide cross-section of the community: banking, real estate, hospitality, and other service providers. It was both flattering and gratifying to see that the College is held in such high regard for how it conducts its programs and connects with the community.

Similarly, at the Friends of the Vineyard’s (FOV) holiday party on December 1, the organization affirmed that it will be giving two scholarships to Las Positas College’s VWT students this year — with the potential for even more student support in future years.

It is worth noting that two members of the FOV Board are graduates of LPC’s Viticulture Program, and both are working in jobs with responsibilities in the local wine industry. All of this serves as a positive reflection on the VWT Program, demonstrates a commitment to serving the Tri-Valley community and provides examples of the skills that students are learning in the classroom — and at Campus Hill Vineyards.

Science Alum Soars After LPC Experience

These days good news travels fast and far — especially when information can be transmitted at light speed, thanks to the Internet. Recently, LPC personnel came across an online item about an alumnus who’s gone on to do great things in the great northwest. Gordon Holtgrieve majored in Biology here at Las Positas College and then transferred to Stanford, where he earned both his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Earth Systems. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Washington, where he currently works as a Research Associate in the School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences. While studying at LPC, Dr. Holtgrieve played a key role in the development of the Aquaria Project in the Science Building — and today students are recognizing Dr. Holtgrieve — the Dean of Academic Services who oversees LPC’s Viticulture and Winery Technology Program — and Las Positas College. This is one of the year’s biggest events for the LVWGA, and the large crowd included not only the winemaker and vineyard owners, but also friends and family members.

Students ‘Surge’ Ahead at Las Positas College

With the start of Spring semester, the 2012 cohort of LPC’s Surgical Technology Program will begin their coursework, starting down the path toward a rewarding career. Surgical Technologists are among the top 20 fastest growing occupations in Alameda County, and wages for a Surgical Technologist in the Tri-Valley area range from $45,760 to $58,580 per year. Employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow 25 percent between 2008 and 2018, much faster than the average for all occupations. During the Fall 2011 application phase for this highly-sought program, there were six times as many applicants as there were spaces available. The 12 students selected will complete their instruction along with 495 hours of clinical experience at partnering hospitals including ValleyCare Health System, Kaiser Permanent, Eden Medical Center, John Muir Medical Center, Children’s Hospital, and St. Francis Hospital.

Over the Winter Break, the Men’s Basketball Team wrapped up the non-conference portion of their season with a championship victory at the Chabot Classic. That win marked the team’s tenth consecutive victory and their third time finishing in first place at a tournament. The Hawks went on to extend their record-setting streak to 11 by beating Skyline in their conference opener.

Welcome Center Returns

Once again, the LPC Student Services team has created a “Welcome Center” to more efficiently serve students during the peak registration period. Through January 20, students can head to the Reading Room (2401) for a one-stop shop of support services; they can meet with a Counselor, take a photo for their student ID card, and pay their fees.

Instructor's Awards

Keep Adding Up

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Fabulous Forensics

Last month the Tawk Hawks, LPC’s award-winning Forensics Team, traveled to the Windy City and wound up with honors to add to their name. The team took part in a speech tournament hosted by the College of Lake County in Grayslake, IL — located approximately 50 miles south of Chicago — and faced off against some local legends. In a field of 15 colleges and universities, the Talk Hawks finished strong in fifth place. Congratulations on a job well done!
LPC’s Viticulture Program is Doing Just “Vine”

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Emergency Training Attendees Earn CERT-ificates

Recently, Las Positas College played host to a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training coordinated by the District Office. There were 35 participants in attendance, including LPC personnel, staff from District and Chabot, and community members. The training was conducted by instructors from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, and consisted of modules on hazmat awareness, utility shut-offs, search and rescue techniques, and disaster medicine. The two and a half day session culminated in a disaster drill that gave participants an opportunity to apply what they’d learned. Kudos to Frank Ramos and the HR team for organizing this important emergency preparedness activity.

At their annual holiday dinner on December 6, and in front of an audience of about 375 people, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association (LVWGA) recognized Dr. Neal Ely — the Dean of Academic Services who oversees LPC’s Viticultural and Winery Technology Program — and Las Positas College. This is one of his biggest events for the LVWGA, and the crowd included not only the winemakers and vineyard owners, but

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First steps to success >>>

another high-demand area among LPC’s Health Sciences offerings is the Pharmacy Technician Training Program. Last Fall, 32 applications were submitted for the 22 slots available in this fee-based program. According to the bureau of labor statistics, employment of pharmacy technicians is expected to increase by 31 percent from 2008 to 2018; the College’s program includes a job-placement component in which students are placed in an externship with partnering employers such as Premier Pharmacy, the Medicine Shoppe, CVS, Walgreen’s, and Rite Aid.

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Accreditation Update
Keeping Up with Kipanga
Institutional Effectiveness & Engagement

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