



Las Positas Connection

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | August 2015

LPC Ranked Among Best in State

LPC captured top spots in recent rankings of California community colleges. BestColleges.com ranked LPC second in the state, based on methodology that includes rates of graduation, student retention, and transfers to four-year universities.

Schools.com ranked LPC fourth in the state and provided the following review: LPC “excels in the part-time retention arena, but its full-time retention rate—a full 83 percent in 2014—is even more impressive. That figure places Las Positas not just in the top 10 percent of all California community colleges for full-year retention that year, but no. 1 among all the schools featured on this list, meaning students seem to love the place! The fact that the school also ranked in the top 20 percent statewide for affordability only reaffirms its status as one of California's best community colleges—though its proximity to the culture and jobs hub that is the Bay Area is a definite bonus.”

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

Welcome to the 2015-16 Academic Year!

LPC Begins Year with More Faculty, More Classes, More Improvements

LPC welcomes students for the first day of the new semester on August 17th. Because of additional funding, LPC was able to add 13 new full-time faculty members and more classes to meet the growing demand for educational opportunities.

Students will also benefit from recent campus improvements. Thanks to voter-approved Measure B, LPC's Library has been remodeled to include new computers, laptops for checkout, more desks and study rooms, faster wireless connection, new furniture, and plenty of natural light from a new skylight. A new Veterans Center, Building 1310, offers more resources and more space for veterans to study and connect with other veterans.

More improvements are on the horizon this year. LPC will be breaking ground on a new classroom building, allowing us to further increase the number of classes on campus. This year, LPC will also continue to celebrate its 40th Anniversary year as “Our Community's College.”



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Meet Our New Full-Time Faculty Members. (L-R) First Row: Patricia Stokke, Business; Meghan Swanson-Garoupa, English; Robin Rehagen, Physics/Astronomy; and Elizabeth Owens, Mathematics. Second Row: Angelo Bummer, English; Eric Bell, Business-Accounting; Bhairav Singh, Math; William Komanetsky, Computer Science; and Akihiko Hirose, Sociology. Third Row: Michael Peterson, Mathematics; James Giacomazzi, Kinesiology Instructor and Men's Head Basketball Coach; Daniel Marschak, Music; and Ian Brekk, Music.

LPC Students Intern at National Laboratories



This summer, LPC students got the opportunity to work side-by-side with engineers, physicists, and scientists at Livermore's two distinguished federal research and development facilities: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. Pictured above, President Barry A. Russell, Ph.D., (center) and CLPCCD Chancellor Jannett N. Jackson, Ph.D., (to the right of President Russell) join LLNL representatives and student interns at LLNL. Recently, students shared their experiences in presentation sessions.

LLNL Summer Internships

Engineering Technology students showcased the rich experiences and benefits they reaped through their summer internships at LLNL during August 5th presentations at LPC. The internship opportunities were made possible through LPC's Engineering Technology for Veterans, a unique, new two-year degree program developed in partnership with LLNL engineers. This coming year, the program will expand to include non-veteran students as well.

Student interns presented to an audience of family and friends; new program participants; LPC staff, faculty, and administrators; CLPCCD representatives; LLNL directors, supervisors, and mentors; and representatives from the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board, a supporting organization.

Students from each program cohort have praised LPC's Engineering Technology program which gives students the skills and experience they need to qualify for Engineering Technologist positions at national laboratories, NASA, and other public and private agencies. "As a veteran and committed full-time student, I thought I'd hit the jackpot when I enrolled at Las Positas College," said student veteran Roxanne

Cato. "The Veterans First Program in conjunction with LLNL is wonderful and afforded me a chance to fulfill my dream of becoming an engineer. I am ever so grateful for the chance to participate in this cohort and am especially grateful to people like (Veterans First Coordinator) Todd Steffan, who worked hard to do right by student veterans like me."

Sandia Summer Internships



A number of LPC students landed internships at Sandia this summer. On July 29th, some of the students majoring in science presented their internship work in a poster session at Sandia. "I had the privilege to have these students in my Biology 1 class, where they excelled," said Biology Program Instructor and Co-Coordinator Nan Ho, pictured above, second from left.

Following are the three LPC Sandia interns, pictured above, who presented their work:

- Nicole Tourquato (left), who is transferring to UC Davis to study Chemistry
- Anna-Maria Hadjilambris (right), who is transferring to UC Berkeley to study Molecular and Cell Biology
- Chris Wong (second from right), who is transferring to San Jose State University to study Chemistry

Foundation Leadership Change and New Grant

Foundation CEO Bids Farewell, Leaving Lasting Legacy and New Grant Program to Benefit LPC for Years to Come

A Lasting Legacy

LPC expresses gratitude to Ted Kaye, Ph.D., who has retired after serving as Foundation CEO for 11 years. He leaves a rich legacy of strengthening the Foundation, expanding community outreach, and creating new programs and scholarships that have had a profound impact on student opportunity, access, and success—benefiting students and their families for years to come.

One of the signature programs established under Dr. Kaye's leadership is the "2GenFund," creating life-changing opportunities for two generations of LPC learners—student-parents and their children. Judy and Fred Porta have pledged \$500,000 to this new fund, which provides scholarships for toddler and pre-school children of deserving student-parents, enabling the little ones to attend LPC's state-of-the-art Child Development Center while their parents pursue their academic goals. Please contact the Foundation to learn about investing in this exceptional fund.

A Parting Gift

Even though Dr. Kaye has retired as Foundation CEO, he will continue to directly support LPC through the Staff Innovation Grant—a new fund he has generously established with his wife Dale, the CEO of Innovation Tri-Valley. (They are pictured together, above right.) "Each year, a grant will be made to a classified staff or faculty member to test a method, means, or system to better perform a job or associated task... or reward such an effort," he explained. "To date, our seed money, and the generosity of many friends and associates, have helped us raise more than \$12,000 for the Staff Innovation Grant. That will guarantee a yearly award of \$500. The project goal is \$20,000; that will underwrite a \$1,000 per year award in perpetuity," he said. To learn how to support this unique grant, please contact the Foundation.



New Leader Kenneth G. Cooper Takes Reins at Foundation



**LPC Foundation Executive Director
Kenneth G. Cooper**

Kenneth G. Cooper has been named as the new Executive Director of the LPC Foundation. "Ken is a seasoned resource development professional who brings a rich background of experience to Las Positas College," said former Foundation CEO Dr. Kaye.

Most recently, Mr. Cooper served for eight years as Foundation Executive Director at Cosumnes River College. Prior to that, he worked for the Sacramento City Unified School District and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento. Since 2007, Mr. Cooper has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Network of California Community College Foundations. He served as Board President from 2011 to 2013.

Raised in Berkeley, Mr. Cooper holds a B.S. degree from UC Davis in African American and African Studies with a minor in Education. In 2015, he became a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum, Mountain Valley Chapter.

key dates...

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

August

17 Fall 2015 Semester Instruction Begins

September

5-7 Labor Day Weekend (no instruction)

15 Flex Day

24 Business and Entrepreneurship Speaker Nanette Hunter,
6-7:15 PM, RM 2420; free and open to the public

28 Transfer Day

30 LLNL/LPC Science and Engineering Seminar,
6-7:15 PM, RM 2420; free and open to the public

Please visit the Athletics website for schedules.

Go, Hawks!

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



LPC Research Showcased at Livermore Library

Last month, LPC students shared their original research with the community in the Undergraduate Science Research Poster Exhibit at the Livermore Public Library, pictured below left. The posters were selected from LPC's May professional-level poster session—a rare opportunity at a community college. Biology Program Instructor and Co-Coordinator Nan Ho was quoted in a newspaper article about the exhibit: "The best thing about this is that the community can see, 'Wow, this is our community college.' We're doing research, and the students here are inquisitive, bright, motivated and can really do some great things." To read the article, please visit http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_28549953/las-positas-college-biology-students-create-research-posters.



LPC Welcomes a World of Cultures in International Student Program

President Russell welcomed new international students (right) at their orientation this month. LPC's highly-regarded International Student Program attracts students from across the globe—from Germany to China, from Canada to Zimbabwe. This semester, more than 130 students hailing from over 35 countries are enrolled in the program, which seeks to enhance global connections, increase diversity and exchange of ideas, and encourage mutual understanding.



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