



Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

LPC's Call to Action Update

In June 2020, LPC President Dyrell Foster held a Campus Forum to provide a platform for Las Positas College faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to talk about the social unrest that had been occurring throughout the United States. The conversation included LPC's commitment to our students and our community, to continue to address systemic inequities and increase opportunities and success particularly for our Black students. That forum led to a call to action that kicked-off the Presidential Task Force. This task force was charged with identifying best practices and 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. Numerous recommendations within five specific themes emerged from this task force: Disaggregated Data & Inquiry; Campus Climate & Communication; Instruction & Curriculum; Programs & Support; and Professional Development. Below are just a few highlights from the 20 recommended actions that have been implemented at LPC during the fall 2020 semester:

- Disaggregate data on student access, persistence/retention, and completion to reveal hidden patterns of racial inequity within all programs and disciplines and shared during December's Town Meeting.
- Provided demographic student success data (to include race/ethnicity) to 26 instructors, per their request, for their class sections to monitor their progress on student equity.
- Hosted a specific welcome event for Black students during the virtual Student Services Resource Fair that occurred on September 22, 2020.
- Initiated the ConnectUp (CUp coaching program) to outreach and support current Black students to connect them to resources and engage them within the campus community. One hundred and ten students participated, three of these students will be participating in Umoja in the spring. Thirty four coaches have volunteered and have been trained.

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- Developed a cultural curriculum audit to engage a small cohort of faculty in a collaborative evaluation and redesign of their courses focusing on developing culturally responsive, engaging and relevant materials, high impact teaching practices, and developing equity-mindedness; this work would be replicated with additional faculty. The Director of Student Equity and Achievement, Shawn Taylor, worked with Articulation Officer, Craig Kutil and Dean of PATH, Erick Bell to review all of the 'help' buttons in CurricuNET and rewrite the text to put a focus on equity-minded curriculum design. This was done by adding both equity-minded prompts and examples.

- Developing a plan to reimagine Public Safety Training at LPC titled: 21st century policing to meet professional development needs of police agencies in our region.

- Initiated a monthly President's Speaker Series for faculty, classified professionals, students, and administrators on anti-racism, anti-blackness, cultural competencies, culturally relevant pedagogy, and unconscious/implicit bias. We hosted 4 speakers during the fall semester.

The College thanks the members of the Presidential Task Force for their guidance and leadership and looks forward to continuing to address systemic inequities and to increase success of Black students at Las Positas College.

Please visit the [Call to Action webpage](#) for more information.

Dean Nan Ho, Paving the Way

On December 1, award winning Dean of STEM, Nan Ho participated on a virtual panel that highlighted four outstanding women. The Quest Science Center presented *Paving the Way: A Virtual Conversation*. Nan has served for more than 25 years as faculty and Dean at LPC, in addition to helping originate the Science and Engineering Seminar Series with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Undergraduate Science Research Poster Session, and being an advisor to student clubs and Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society.

Paving the Way: A Virtual Conversation featured four prominent women in STEM, at different stages in their careers, sharing their stories. Panelists included local notables Pat Falcone, a top-ranking executive from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Nan Ho, STEM Dean at Las Positas College, Camille Schrier, biochemist and Miss America 2020,

Paving the Way: A Virtual Conversation



4 WOMEN 4 JOURNEYS

Pat Falcone PhD
Engineer

Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory
Top Ranking Executive
Obama Science & Policy
Advisor

Nan Ho
Biologist

Las Positas College
College Dean of STEM
STEM Advocate
Nine excellence in
education awards

Camille Schrier
Biochemist

Miss America 2020
Future Pharmacist
STEM & Drug Safety
Advocate

Jayshree Seth PhD
Engineer

3M Corporation
Corporate Scientist
Innovator with 70 Patents
Chief Science Advocate

and Jayshree Seth, a corporate scientist, innovator and chief science advocate with 3M Company. The conversation was moderated by Quest Advisory Board member and former journalist, Susan Houghton, and revealed the panelists' paths to STEM careers and how they overcame obstacles.

CLPCCD International Education Week

During the week of November 16 to 20, the Chabot Las Positas Community College District hosted two virtual panels in honor of International Education Week to learn about opportunities in international education.

The first panel was hosted by Las Positas College. It informed students about international travel opportunities that they can incorporate into their personal "educational master plan," whether study abroad, educational travel with their college or community, or service learning.

Le Shawn Cheatham, from California State University East Bay talked about study abroad opportunities that students can expect to hear about once they transfer, as well as travel opportunities from faculty at LPC and Chabot. Faculty and students shared the value of their educational experiences abroad and provided information on globally-focused internships that students can look for. Most importantly, there was valuable information shared on current fellowships and scholarships on financial planning for future educational travel.



Concern Employee Services

With the shelter-in-place and the holiday season, it may be difficult to find a work - life balance. Las Positas College wants to ensure their employees are aware of Concern services that are available to all regular benefit-eligible employees, to their spouse/domestic partner, and to dependent children up to age 26 if enrolled.



Benefits included in the Concern Employee Services are: **Counseling Benefits In-Person, Telephone , & Video Counseling:** Concern offers assessment, crisis intervention, referrals, and confidential short-term counseling for help with personal issues. Up to 3 visits, per problem, per year with a skilled Concern counselor for help with: Difficulty with relationships • Emotional distress • Job stress • Communication / conflict issues • Alcohol or drug problems • Loss and death. **Help Wherever You Are Accessible from your phone, tablet or computer. Easily get the help you need it:** Simple digital intake • Client-counselor matching • Video counseling self-scheduling • Guided self-help tools • Digital therapeutics. **Life Balance Solutions Parent & Childcare:** Referral available to quality providers for a variety of services, including: Family day care homes • Infant centers & Preschools • Adoption Assistance • Before/after school care • In-home childcare • 24-hr care • School-age & College Assistance • Complimentary New Baby Kit. **Financial Coaching** Get sound financial guidance to help you manage money wisely and develop long-term financial security. Referral includes up to two 30-minute telephone consultations. Example topics: Money management • Debt management • Identity theft resolution • Tax issues. **Adult Care Resources:** Help you find the most appropriate resources to help you care for an elderly or disabled relative. A complimentary copy of How to Care for Aging Parents is available upon request. **Legal Consultation :** Concern can link you to a local attorney for a free 30-minute office or telephone consultation for legal issues not related to employment. These may include: Estate planning • Wills & living trusts • Landlord-tenant matters • IRS Matters • On-line legal forms.

Visit employees.concernhealth.com and log in with your company code **CHABOT LAS POSITAS** for easy access to all available Concern resources or call 800.344.4222.

Phi Beta Lambda Business Club Wins

Phi Beta Lambda Business Club received multiple awards at the Virtual State Fall Business Leadership Conference held by California Phi Beta Lambda - Future Business Leaders of America earlier this month. The conference featured a Sci-Fi theme and included opportunities to learn business development skills, compete in a real-world case competition, participate to win a Speech competition regarding leadership, and the opportunity to network with individuals from other campuses. Participating schools included Berkeley City College, Cerritos College, College of the Canyons, Diablo Valley College, Las Positas College, University of California, Riverside, University of California, San Diego "The group of students who led the club this year are committed to engagement and have worked hard to ensure all students had access and the ability to participate not only in the conference, but the business club," said Dr. Tracey Coleman, LPC Phi Beta Lambda/Business Club Advisor. "I am proud to work with such dedicated students that strive for excellence."



The LPC Phi Beta Lambda Business Club competed in case studies presenting a solution to a real-world problem with their teams to judges, and STIIVE (Sharing Thoughts Regarding Innovative Ideas, Vision, and Experiences) Competitions, similar to TED Talks, in which four students from different colleges presented a timed speech that was voted on by viewers. The audience favorite was won by LPC student Rio Penn-Grice on the topic 'What leadership qualities do you think are most important in a time like this?' for his presentation on the values of leadership and the importance of communication through authenticity.

LPC Student Takes 1st Place Composition Award

Sydney Roberts, one of LPC's talented composition students, was awarded First Prize at the annual Music Association of California Community Colleges Conference for her original piece for 3 marimbas entitled *Thief*.

The competition was open to community college students from across the state. Sydney will be presented with a \$200 scholarship in recognition of her talents.

You can listen to an electronic MIDI rendering of her award winning piece [here](#).



Keep LPC Students Learning

This year, Las Positas College (LPC) will serve over 8,000 students in the Tri-Valley area. As LPC transitioned to a 100% online educational environment, several areas of need were identified impacting LPC students' ability to remain enrolled, engaged, and working toward their academic and career goals.

Despite the current trying times, Las Positas College students have demonstrated an amazing commitment to higher education as a means to better their lives and by extension, the greater community. Through all of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, LPC students continue to make strides toward their dreams.

In mid-March, the risks of COVID-19 forced all students to transition entirely to online learning - a huge challenge for many students, many of whom have never taken an online course prior to this transition. While the college continues to manage the critical dollars received from the state of California, there are additional areas of need not covered by state resources impacting the students.

In response to several inquiries as to how support may be directed to Las Positas College students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation established the COVID-19 Giving Initiative ([#keepLPCstudentslearning](#)). The Foundation urgently needs the community's support to help keep students on track to reach their academic goals. All donated funds will be directed to the areas of greatest needs for students, specifically the following:

\$11,000 for Mobile Video Studio to purchase software, cameras, and computer equipment to help create a mobile TV studio supporting distance education needs. \$5,000 for Website Development of the "Naked Magazine" to cover expenses associated with making the award winning LPC student magazine fully accessible online. \$4,500 for Headphones and Microphones to purchase 25 Microphones/Headphones. \$2,000 for Theater Department to purchase 9 sewing machines.



If you are interested in joining the LPC Foundation's [#keepLPCstudentslearning](#) initiative you can visit the [LPC Foundation webpage](#).

News in Brief

DACA Reinstated: DACA has been officially reinstated by the Department of Homeland Security as of December 7, 2020. If you know of a student that would like more information on this action please refer them to the [UndocuAlly Task-Force](#).

President Foster Presents to Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce: On December 9, 2020, Dr. Dyrell Foster was the guest speaker for the Pleasanton 2025 Forum that brings stakeholders together to focus community resources, time, and talent to achieve a greater understanding of issues, obstacles and opportunities related to Pleasanton 2025: A Community Vision.



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