



LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE

CONNECTION

December 2024

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



LPC Opens New Viticulture and Winery Technology Facility

Las Positas College celebrated the grand opening of its new \$8.6 million Viticulture and Winery Technology Facility on November 19, 2024. The ribbon-cutting event, attended by over 120 students, faculty, community members, and local government officials, showcased the state-of-the-art facility equipped with winemaking technology such as a crush pad, stainless steel tanks, bottling line and analysis lab.

LPC's Viticulture and Winery Technology program, located in Livermore Valley Wine Country, offers students hands-on experience in vineyard management, winemaking, and wine hospitality. This new facility enhances the program, providing students with the tools and training to succeed in the wine industry.

The program and ribbon-cutting event received extensive media coverage, including feature articles in the Mercury News, East Bay Times, Livermore Independent, Pleasanton Weekly, and NBC Universal Telemundo.



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LPC BUSINESS CLUB SHINES AT STATEWIDE COMPETITION

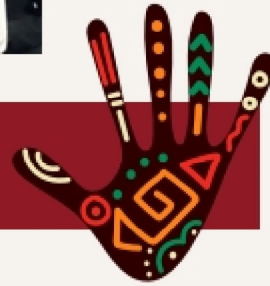


The LPC Business Club earned top honors at the California Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Business Leadership Conference, held in Emeryville on November 16-17. Competing against colleges from across the state, LPC teams claimed both first and second place in the Marketing Case Study competition, showcasing their teamwork, creativity, and business acumen. "This conference was a tremendous opportunity for our students to put their skills into action," said Mary Lauffer, LPC Business Professor and Club Advisor. "Their awards reflect the hard work and dedication they bring to their studies and careers."

With more than 70 members this year, the LPC Business Club continues to offer students from all majors opportunities to build essential skills through workshops, guest speakers, and events. Las Positas College proudly celebrates these outstanding achievements and the club's role in preparing tomorrow's business leaders.



UMOJA PROGRAM OF THE YEAR AWARD



LPC is proud to celebrate Savannah Richardson, Coordinator of the Black Cultural Resource Center and Umoja Program, for receiving the esteemed Umoja Program of the Year award. A Livermore native and Las Positas alumna, Savannah's story exemplifies the spirit of dedication and commitment to community uplift that the Umoja program represents.

Savannah began her academic journey at LPC, inspired by her mother's example and the sense of belonging she found on campus. Her involvement with student advocacy, including efforts to establish the Black Cultural Resource Center, shaped her passion for supporting Black students. After earning her BA in Sociology from UC Riverside, she returned to LPC, where she now leads the very program she once advocated for.

Savannah's recognition reflects her unwavering dedication to advancing student success and strengthening the Umoja community at LPC. Congratulations Savannah!





Raza Ali Honored at ITV Dreammakers & Risktakers Awards



Las Positas College student Raza Ali was celebrated at the 14th Annual Dreammakers & Risktakers Awards banquet on November 21 for his inspiring academic achievements and groundbreaking research. Balancing the demands of being a full-time student with his role as a caretaker for his grandmother, Raza's journey exemplifies perseverance and innovation.

Raza's honors research, "Bioactive Molecules in Islamically Recommended Foods," merges traditional knowledge with modern neuroscience to explore how social behavior impacts cognitive functions. His work earned him national recognition as one of only two community college students selected to present at the National Research Conference at Penn in October 2024.

Reflecting on his accomplishments, Raza said, "I strive to transform academic inquiry into societal service. Representing Las Positas College on a national stage was an honor, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my research and engage with leading scholars." Raza's story is a testament to hard work, selflessness and the transformative power of education.



LPC student Raza Ali accepting his award from the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group.



Dr. Irena Keller, Mentor, Faculty Member & Honors Program Coordinator, Raza Ali, Award Honoree, Dr. Nan Ho, VP of Academic Services, and Dr. Dyrell Foster, LPC President.



LPC Spreads Holiday Cheer at Annual End-of-Year Breakfast

On the morning of Friday, December 5th, Las Positas College celebrated the season with its annual end-of-year breakfast hosted by the LPC Administrative team. The event brought together classified professionals, faculty, and district office representatives for a festive two hours filled with delicious food and fun.

Guests enjoyed a hot breakfast featuring eggs, waffles, bacon, sausage, potatoes, pastries, coffee, juice, and more. Adding to the festivities, Santa Claus made a grand entrance on his Harley Davidson, joined by his lively elf friend, Buddy, who delighted the crowd with his antics after consuming a bit too much sugar. The celebration also included an ugly holiday sweater contest, guessing games, and live music performed by LPC's talented music department.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community, celebrating the season with joy, laughter, and gratitude.



LPC Mission

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

College Planning Priorities

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.

Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

Establish a knowledge base and appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness; prioritize wellness in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.