



LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE

CONNECTION

May 2026

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



EMPOWERING INFORMED CHOICES: LPC STUDENTS TACKLE VACCINE HESITANCY

On April 28th, Las Positas College brought science and conversation together at a student-led Vaccine Hesitancy Seminar in Building 2400, drawing more than 100 attendees. Students, faculty, and community members gathered for an engaging, evidence-based discussion on one of today's most talked about public health topics. The event was sponsored by the Office of the President and organized by the Biology and Nursing Integrated Club (BioNIC) and the Society of Aspiring Medical Professionals (SAMP).

Inspired by a student survey revealing both strong support for vaccines and lingering questions about safety, side effects, and misinformation, student organizers set out to create a space for open dialogue and learning directly from experts and they delivered. The panel featured leading voices from UC Berkeley, the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a local pediatric practice, and the California Department of Public Health. Together, they broke down how vaccines work, how they're tested for safety, their impact on communities, and how to navigate misinformation in today's media landscape.

The conversation didn't stop when the seminar ended. Over refreshments, attendees connected with speakers, asked follow-up questions, and continued the discussion in a relaxed setting.

Overall, the event sparked curiosity, strengthened health literacy, and highlighted the power of student-led initiatives in tackling real world issues.



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JAMS CELEBRATES NEW SPACE AND STUDENT SUCCESS AT APRIL OPEN HOUSE

On April 21st, the Journalism and Media Studies (JAMS) program at Las Positas College hosted an Open House celebrating its newly remodeled space and the continued growth of the program.

The event offered attendees an opportunity to explore the refreshed JAMS facilities, part of the College's broader STEAM initiative and to engage with faculty and students. The updated space reflects a strong commitment to hands-on learning, equipping students with the practical skills needed for careers in media, broadcasting, and emerging technologies.

Student speakers shared powerful perspectives on their experiences in the program. Aaliyah Gholamipour, former Editor-in-Chief of Havik, Editorial Director of Naked Magazine, and Copy Editor for The Express, spoke about Havik's sustained success, including its five-year recognition as the nation's top literary anthology, and its growing legacy. Ian Kapsalis, Editor-in-Chief of Naked Magazine and Photo and Production Editor of The Express, emphasized how the journalism program challenges students to expand their skill sets, while underscoring the importance of continued investment in modern equipment and resources. Camille LeDuc, Multimedia Editor and former Editor-in-Chief of The Express, reflected on the program's transformative impact, noting how it helps students build confidence, discover their potential, and achieve meaningful academic and professional growth.

The Open House was attended by members of the design and construction team, as well as faculty, staff, administrators, district employees, Board members, Chancellor Gerhard, President Foster, and local community members. The event showcased not only a beautifully renovated space, but also the energy and enthusiasm of a program dedicated to student achievement and innovation.



RISING SCHOLARS REACH A MILESTONE

The Rising Scholars Program at LPC is part of a network committed to serving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students by providing educational programs in correctional facilities and on-campus support for students impacted by the criminal justice system.

On April 10th, the college held its first graduation ceremony inside Santa Rita Jail. Twenty-one women students who earned a Noncredit Customer Service Certificate of Completion were celebrated.



The Rising Scholars Network was created by the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, "to ensure that justice-impacted students have access to high-quality programs, strong community, and clear pathways to careers." LPC is so grateful to be a part of such empowering and inspirational work.

ONE LOVE FESTIVAL BRINGS COLOR TO LIFE



Las Positas College came alive with color, music, and connection on April 29th as students, staff, and community members gathered for the 4th annual One Love Festival. The event highlighted the program's commitment to creating a space where cultures are celebrated and embraced through history, food, cultural traditions, and fashion. Attendees were encouraged to wear traditional or cultural attire, adding to the festive atmosphere and creating a vibrant visual celebration of global heritage. Throughout the day, a live DJ kept the energy high while guests explored informational and cultural tables representing the diverse identities and experiences across campus. The festival also featured performances from the LPC Dance Club and Tiffany Liu, a scholar and guzheng musician.



This Festival was made possible through the collaboration of campus groups including APIEA, BSU, Chicano Latino Education Association, Cultural Community Center, Movement API, MSA, Puente, and Umoja. Together, these organizations created a welcoming space to celebrate every culture.

LPC'S FUN RUN WAS A SUPERHERO-SIZED SUCCESS

LPC's 2026 Run for Higher Education & Tri-Valley Non-Profits brought 400 participants together for a morning of fitness, fun, and giving back. Participants took part in either the 5K or 1-mile run/walk, many proudly wearing the superhero capes and t-shirts they received at check-in. Dogs joined the fun as well, sporting their own capes.



The event included twelve Tri-Valley nonprofits, which benefited directly from registration fees. A Community Marketplace featured the nonprofits alongside twelve local vendors, five event sponsors, and several LPC programs and departments.



Following the run/walk, participants gathered for a free community BBQ and live DJ, creating a festive atmosphere that extended beyond the finish line. The event was co-organized by Las Positas College, supported by the Las Positas College Foundation, the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance.



LPC STUDENTS EXCEL AT 100TH AGS CONVENTION

At the 100th Annual Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society State Convention in Anaheim, two Las Positas College students were recognized for their exceptional achievements.

Peggy Duncan, 2025–2026 LPC AGS President, was awarded the Kathleen D. Loly Academic Scholarship, one of the highest recognitions for academic excellence. She will be returning to LPC this fall. She is a communications major that hopes to eventually transfer to either USC or UCLA.

Melanie Reisner-Earl, 2025-2026 LPC AGS Vice-President, was nominated for the Robert Mantovani Scholarship for excellence in academics and leadership but received the highest award given to AGS students, the Tom Jackson Award for excellence in academics, service, and leadership. She will also be returning to LPC this fall. She is a cognitive science major who hopes to eventually transfer to UC Berkeley.

These achievements highlight the strength of Las Positas College's AGS chapter and reflect academic excellence and dedication.



Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)

AGS is the official scholastic honor society for California Community Colleges, recognizing students with outstanding academic records. The society emphasizes scholastic achievement, community service, and the development of leadership skills.

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 Priorities

Equity:

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.

Student Success & Completion:

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.

Health and Wellness:

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



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT LPC

The What's Right at LPC Award recognizes classified professionals, faculty, and administrators who consistently demonstrate behaviors that create an environment where students feel connected and experience a sense of belonging by putting students front and center in their daily work at LPC.

The Don Milanese Award was presented to Heike Gecox for her integrity, professionalism, commitment to students, and dedication to educational excellence.

Awardees for 2025-2026

- Felipe Ponce
- Kat King
- Marissa Pascal
- Trevor Penero
- Dan Marschak
- Wanda Butterly
- Sherita Waters
- Terrance Thompson
- Traci Peterson

