



Spring & Summer 2023

Mission: S.E.R.V.E. Newsletter

Semester Newsletter. Mission: S.E.R.V.E. – Success, Excellence, and Retention for Veterans in Education

Congratulations to our Graduates and Transfers!



Congratulations to our LPC Veterans First Program graduates! In a momentous celebration of dedication, resilience, and academic excellence, Las Positas College proudly honors its veterans, graduates, and transfers from the class of 2023. These extraordinary individuals have demonstrated unwavering commitment, not only in their service to our country but also in pursuing their educational goals. Today, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the veterans who have reached this remarkable milestone.

their unique needs and experiences. With a range of services tailored Las Positas College has always been deeply committed to providing outstanding education and support for its veteran students, recognizing specifically for veterans, such as the Veterans First Program, the college has created an environment where these brave men and women can flourish academically and personally.

The journey from military service to the classroom is often challenging, but the veterans at Las Positas College have proven time and again that they possess the resilience and determination to succeed. They have embraced the opportunity to continue their education and have thrived amidst the diverse academic offerings and supportive community at the college.

Many of these exceptional graduates have overcome significant obstacles and responsibilities, balancing their studies with family commitments, work, and sometimes even ongoing military service. Their dedication and sacrifice are truly commendable, serving as an inspiration to their peers and faculty members alike.



Las Positas College takes immense pride in announcing the graduation of numerous veterans, who will be conferred with associate degrees and certificates in various disciplines. Their accomplishments are a testament to their perseverance, intellect, and the exceptional quality of education provided at the institution.

Additionally, a significant number of veterans are transferring to prestigious four-year institutions, ready to embark on the next chapter of their academic journey. Their impressive academic achievements and leadership qualities make them outstanding candidates for universities across the country, and they are sure to make a positive impact wherever they go.

It is important to acknowledge the faculty and staff members at Las Positas College, whose dedication and support have played a vital role in the success of these veterans. From expert academic guidance to mentorship programs, their commitment to student success has been instrumental in shaping the futures of these remarkable individuals.



As these veterans, graduates and transfers embark on new adventures, Las Positas college remains proud of their accomplishments and grateful for their service. The skills, knowledge, and experiences they have gained during their time at the college will undoubtedly contribute to their future success and make a lasting impact on their communities.

Congratulations once again to the veterans graduates and transfers of Las Positas College's class of 2023. May your future endeavors be filled with continued success, and may your inspiring stories continue to inspire others to overcome challenges and pursue their dreams.

LPC Mental Health Awareness Night



Las Positas College Veterans Resource Center joined the open table for the Mental Health Awareness Fair on January 4, 2023 at the Chase Center in San Francisco. The event aimed at promoting mental health awareness and breaking the stigma associated with mental illness.

The open table provided an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations about mental health and shared how we support this program at Las Positas College.



from the resources and services offered by the LPC Veterans First Program, please visit their website at www.laspositascollege.edu or contact them directly at 925-424-1570.

Grill Night

The day began with an outpouring of appreciation as the One Nation Dream Makers organization delivered groceries for the veterans. The generosity of this group made it possible to create a delicious feast for everyone to enjoy. The Veterans First Program extends their heartfelt thanks to One Nation Dream Makers for their continuous support in uplifting the lives of veterans. The Benefits for Fallen Heroes organization loaned a giant cooler, fulfilling that the perishable items were stored properly, allowing the food to remain fresh and ready for grilling.

As the evening progressed, the aroma of sizzling hamburgers filled the air, courtesy of Navy veteran Dominic Ipong and his exceptional grilling skills. His contribution not only satisfied appetites but also showcased the talents and capabilities of veterans.



VeteransFirst Program OPEN HOUSE



Jose Avila (left picture) welcomes guests, veterans, and their families to an Open House conducted on January 10, 2023. The open house was a great opportunity to learn about the resources available to them and connect with counselors and other veterans.

The LPC Veterans First Program is committed to supporting unique needs of veterans and helping them succeed in their academic and professional goals. They also provide disability resources and financial aid.

Grill night at the Veterans First Program was a resounding success, bringing joy, delicious food, and a sense of unity to all who participated. It showcased the generosity of organizations like One Nation Dream Makers and Benefits for Fallen Heroes, the dedication of Kevin Feaster, and the talents of Navy veteran Dominic Ipong. This event serves as a reminder of the ongoing need to support and honor our veterans, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.



In addition, many veterans commented on how helpful it was to have all of the resources in one place and to be able to ask questions and get information.

If you are a veteran or know a veteran who could benefit

Military Appreciation Night



On a thrilling evening of intense competition and camaraderie, the Women's Basketball teams of Las Positas College and Chabot Community College united to celebrate Military Appreciation Night on February 24,

2023. The event showcased the unwavering support and gratitude towards the brave men and women who served in the armed forces. Veterans and guests were treated to an extraordinary display of skill and teamwork, as both teams showcased their prowess on the court while paying tribute to the sacrifices made by military personnel. The evening served as a poignant reminder of the importance of honoring and recognizing the dedication of those who protected our nation.



Science on Saturday at LPC

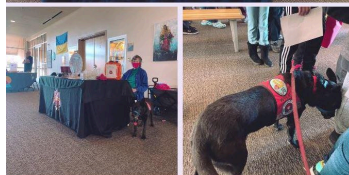
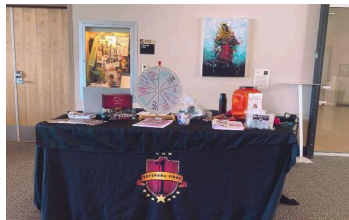
On February 4, 2023, attendees witnessed an exciting tabling event organized in collaboration with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The community had the opportunity to engage with scientific exhibits and learn from experts in



the field. A week later, on February 11, the LPC Veterans First Program expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Tri-Valley Community for visiting their table during Science on Saturday. They

appreciated the community's support and participation. Notably, Dr. Wheeler's gesture of bringing Wiley, a therapy dog, added an extra element of warmth to the event.

The program continued its outreach on February 18, extending an invitation to veterans with high school children to inquire about education benefits for



dependents. The table served as a resource hub for information and guidance. Looking ahead, the program eagerly anticipated the upcoming Science on Saturday event on February 25, inviting everyone to join them at Las Positas College. The event promised to be a fascinating opportunity for learning and community engagement.

Congressman's Visit at LPC

On February 16, a special visit by Congressman DeSaulnier marked a significant moment at the Veterans Resource Center of Las Positas College. The center was buzzing with excitement as Jose Avila, Vice President of the Student Veteran Organization (SVO), and Stephanie Caballero, President of the SVO, proudly presented the LPC Student Veterans Organization Challenge Coin to the esteemed Congressman. The coin symbolized a token of appreciation and recognition for his unwavering support towards the veteran community.



During the visit, Congressman DeSaulnier engaged in insightful conversations with the student veterans, listening attentively to

their experiences and concerns. The presence of the Congressman brought a sense of honor and encouragement to the dedicated individuals who have served their country and are now pursuing their education.

The event not only highlighted the importance of acknowledging the efforts and sacrifices made by veterans but also emphasized the significance of creating a supportive environment within educational institutions. The Veterans Resource Center at Las Positas College stands as a testament to the commitment of the college in fostering a welcoming space for veterans as they transition into civilian life and pursue their academic goals.

The visit concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by the entire Las Positas College community towards Congressman De Saulnier for his continuous advocacy and dedication to improving the lives of veterans. The Student Veterans Organization, along with the Veterans Resource Center, looks forward to further collaborations and opportunities to support the veteran community under the guidance of Congressman DeSaulnier.

Free Groceries and BBQ for Veterans



On February 22, the Las Positas College Veterans First Program hosted a special event at the Veterans Patio near the flag. Veterans received free groceries thanks to the generous support of One Nation

Dream Makers and Ronnie Forbes. In addition to this, it was a fantastic day for a BBQ, with free hamburgers and hotlinks served to veterans. We were thrilled to see veterans come together for a day of camaraderie and support at Las Positas College.

Outreach at STEAMFEST and Santa Cruz Warriors Game



Our program actively participated in the STEAM FEST at the San Francisco Chase Center on March 4. It was an excellent opportunity to engage young minds and discuss future possibilities. We also connected with various nonprofit organizations

focusing on science and technology.

Later that day, members of the Las Positas College Student Veterans Organization (SVO) and their families enjoyed a fantastic time at the SHARKS game, strengthening connections and camaraderie within the veteran community.



Palo Alto VA Health Mobile Unit



On March 6, our program continued its commitment to veterans. Every Tuesday, we provided free groceries for veterans and hosted a grilling session with free hamburgers and hotdogs. On Wednesdays, the Palo Alto VA Health Mobile Unit was on-site to assist veterans with

information about the Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) program.

Honoring Women Veterans Paint Night



Our program hosted an inspiring "Honoring Women Veterans Paint Night" on March 14 from 5-7 p.m. It was a memorable evening celebrating the achievements and contributions of women veterans while participants showcased their creativity through art.

Combat to Community Presentation



In collaboration with Swords to Plowshares, our Veterans First Program delivered a FLEX DAY presentation titled "Combat to Community (C2C)" on March 16, 2023. This engaging session was designed for faculty and staff at Las Positas College and aimed to bridge the gap between military service and civilian life. We're excited to partner with veterans service organizations in the East Bay and thank Swords to Plowshares for their support.

Honoring Women Veterans Scholarship Winners

We proudly announced our 2023 Honoring Women Veterans scholarship winners on March 23. These outstanding individuals are a testament to the dedication and resilience of women veterans. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our veterans service organizations for their unwavering support.



Drumming for Mental Health



The Veterans & Military Families event, "Drumming for Mental Health," held during the LPC Open House, was a resounding success. Drumming Innovations, owned by an LPC Music alum,

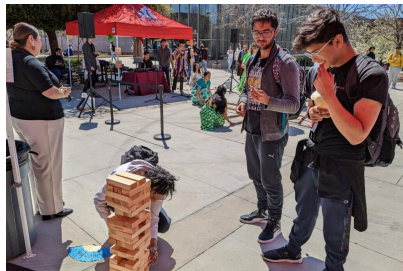
partnered with us to create an enjoyable and therapeutic experience outside the Veterans Resource Center. We had a fantastic time promoting mental well-being through music and rhythm.

One Love Festival at Las Positas College



Our program was excited to be part of the One Love Festival at Las Positas College on March 27. This event allowed us to celebrate diversity and unity within our college community. We're grateful for the support and participation of all those who joined us.

We are committed to supporting our veterans and their families as they continue their educational journey and transition to civilian life. Thank you for being a part of our community.



Bunny Bingo - Win an Easter Ham!



On April 1, the Las Positas College Veterans First Program, in partnership with VFW Post 6298, hosted an exciting Bunny Bingo event at the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building. Participants had

the chance to win Easter hams while enjoying a fun-filled evening of games and camaraderie. We appreciate everyone who joined us for this festive occasion.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Pleasanton Military Families

The Pleasanton Military Families held a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on April 2. This event was a delicious culinary experience and an opportunity for our community to come together and support military families. We thank all those who participated and contributed to this worthy cause.

Time to Tinker and Fix-It Day!



On April 8, 2023, the Veterans First Program hosted an accessible and exciting event for kids at Las Positas College. The event occurred in Room 1002 (Building 1000) and focused on learning about robots. We partnered with Robot Garden, and high school students from the



community came together to explore and tinker with robotics. It was a day filled with inspiration and hands-on learning, aiming to ignite the passion for robotics and engineering among young enthusiasts.

Open House at Las Positas College Veterans Resource Center

On April 25, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., we hosted an Open House at the Las Positas College Veterans Resource Center. This event was designed to showcase the valuable resources and support services available to veterans at our college. We welcomed all veterans to explore our center and connect with our team.



Cal State East Bay Campus Tour & Resource Fair



Led by our dedicated Veterans Counselor, Jose Calderon, our program organized a Cal State East Bay Campus Tour & Resource Fair on April 28. This tour allowed veterans to familiarize themselves with the campus and learn about the resources available to them. We are committed to helping veterans succeed in their academic journeys.



We want to thank all veterans, families, and community members who participated in these events. Your support and engagement make a significant difference in the lives of our veterans, and we look forward to more exciting activities in the future.

We are dedicated to serving our veterans and creating a supportive community for their educational and career pursuits. Thank you for being a part of our program's success.

New Hawk Day



On April 29, 2023, we kicked off the Spring season with New Hawk Day. Veterans and Dependents were invited to visit our

information table and connect with our Veterans Counselor. This event was a reaffirmation of our commitment to supporting those who have served, ensuring they receive the assistance they need to succeed academically and personally.

Sampling of Scottish Games



One of the most exciting events this Spring was the Sampling of Scottish Games. It was a day filled with strength, fun, and camaraderie. Our veterans took the lead in guiding participants through various exercises, showcasing their dedication to physical

fitness and wellness. Participants had the chance to test their strength in a series of challenges that brought out their inner warriors. From caber-tossing to tug-of-war, there were nine exhilarating events that provided both physical and mental stimulations. Winners of the games walked away with exciting prizes, adding a competitive edge to the festivities. Delicious food options also satisfied our appetites and fueled our spirits throughout the day.



Scholarship Ceremony



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our graduating veterans and scholarship recipients. This year, approximately \$30,000 in scholarships were awarded to veterans and military families, thanks to our generous sponsors. Your dedication and commitment to your future is truly inspiring. We also want to express our gratitude to friends and family for supporting our veterans at Las Positas College.

11th Annual Hometown Pancake Breakfast



The summer kicked off with our 11th Annual Hometown Pancake Breakfast. It was a day filled with patriotism and community spirit. The highlights included the presentation of colors, a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem by Ms. Kylie Pickard, and the inspiring performance of patriot music by the Young American Patriots Fife & Drum Corps.

Families enjoyed crafting 4th of July themed art, writing cards for our service members, and exploring a WWII jeep. We are also grateful to the Grimes family and the Pleasanton Lions Club for their wood carvings and to Steve Dukleth from Oakland Audio-Visual Services for treating us to some patriotic music.



Women Veterans Tea



A beautiful afternoon was spent networking and supporting our fellow Women Veterans. We had the honor of hosting two retired colonels, and we extend our deepest gratitude to all the women who have served our country.

Bay Area Military Classic

The Veterans First Program was proud to participate in the annual Bay Area Military Classic. We celebrate the achievements of our LPC Air Force Veteran Jake Zemlock, an Engineering Student, and

Army Veteran Edward Pedro, a pre-nursing student, who received the prestigious Association of the United States Army - Major General William F. Dean Chapter recognition. They were also awarded competitive \$2,500 AUSA Dean Chapter scholarships during the Bay Area Military Classic Golf Tournament.



Army Birthday

We joined in celebrating the US Army's birthday at Camp Parks in Dublin CA. Our heartfelt thanks to Lt. Col. Marisol Chalas, Garrison Commander of Camp Parks, for the invitation to this great event. The picture shows the oldest veteran who has served, and the youngest soldier who is currently serving under the United States Armed Forces.



Parks Reserve Forces Training Area Celebration of the Nation's Independence Day

Veterans Outreach Specialist Jennifer Lininger represented the Veterans First Program at the Camp Parks Independence Day community. We extend our appreciation to Lt. Col. Marisol Chalas for the kind invitation.

Western Association Veterans Education Specialist Conference

Our team had the opportunity to enhance our knowledge and network at the Western Association of Veterans Education Specialist





Conference. We were inspired by Jared Lyon of the Student Veteran Association, who shared valuable insights with fellow Veterans School Certifying Officials.

for our Veterans and Dependents as they transitioned from military service to college life.

The event encompassed various critical aspects of a successful transition. Our dedicated team was on hand to assist students in obtaining their college identification cards and setting up their online student accounts, ensuring seamless access to college services and resources. We also provide valuable guidance on navigating the Canvas learning management system, equipping our Veterans for success in their coursework.



Veterans First Program Staff Meeting and Planning



Our dedicated team gathered for a retreat to plan for the upcoming Fall 2023 activities. The meeting was held at the Livermore Public Library, and we are excited about what lies ahead.

Financial aid assistance was readily available, helping students secure the necessary funding to pursue their education. Our team facilitated the setup of Handshake profiles, connecting students with potential career opportunities and internships through the Career Center.



Operation Gateway

One of the highlights of the day was the Internship Resource fair, where students explored internship possibilities and established connections in their chosen fields. We also arranged meetings with the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) team to address students' academic needs and accommodations.



Operation Gateway was a pivotal event designed to welcome and support our new student Veterans and Dependents as they embarked on their academy journey at Las Positas College. The day was filled with essential resources, guidance, and opportunities



An informative session on VA education benefits offered insights into the do's and don'ts of maximizing entitlements. Attendees received credit for the LPC bookstore, reducing the financial burden of textbooks and course materials.

Our students had the honor of meeting and interacting with Las Positas College President Dyrrell Foster, fostering a sense of community and support. We also facilitated arrangements for tutoring support to ensure that students have access to academic resources for success.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our community partners who played a significant role in making Operation Gateway a success. Grounded provided coffee, Pleasanton Military Families offered a continental breakfast, Hop De Vine, and New Tradition Kitchen supplied a delicious Thursday lunch, sustaining everyone throughout the day.

Our community veterans service organizations, industries hiring veterans, and local nonprofit organizations participated in our Resource Fair, offering invaluable support and resources to our student Veterans. We also wish to acknowledge Elks Lodge #2117 for their generous grant, which covered backpacks and supplies, easing the transition from military to college life.

English Tutoring sessions with Dr. Jim Ott

Need help with an essay or some other courses? Dr. Jim Ott is here to help! Dr. Ott teaches our veterans English 1A course and is available to aid student veterans, active duty, and veteran family members with essays and other assignments!

Dr. Jim Ott's passion for education prompted him to serve as an elected school board trustee and to earn his B.A. in English from San Jose State University in 1979 and continued his time at SJSU to earn his M.A. in 1980. Later in 2015, Dr. Ott earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Saint Mary's College.

“Writing and sharing these narratives assists veterans in making meaning of their experiences as they transition from military to civilian life... What a



powerful way for veterans to affirm that their experiences are important and that a civilian teacher cares enough to want to hear them.”

Contact info: jott@laspositascollege.edu
Phone: 925.424.1234
Office: Room 2165

Student Veterans Organization

The Student Veterans Organization (SVO) is a group of student veterans, service members, and dependents dedicated to the goals of camaraderie, veteran advocacy, and helping student veterans' transition to academic and civilian life. The SVO hosts numerous events for student veterans in order to bolster a sense of camaraderie and build a social support network for student veterans. Events have included: paint nights, sharks game, hiking, virtual game nights, Christmas events, and volunteer work. Along with events, the SVO also advocates for student veteran values at campus administrative meetings.

This year the SVO was led by Stephanie Caballero and Edward Pedro. For more information or to join the SVO please contact the Veterans First Office.

VA Course Certification Form

To receive educational benefits, student veterans must certify that they are taking classes at the College. This can be done at www.laspositascollege.edu/veterans/certifyclasses.php.

Please remember to fill out these forms after enrolling in your classes to ensure you will receive veterans' educational benefits. If you have any specific questions regarding Course Certification, ask us at the Virtual Welcome Center or check out the frequently asked questions on our website.

Veterans Chill and Chat

Sometimes, life can be hard. The LPC Veterans Chill & Chat is an opportunity for veterans to socialize and express themselves. Chill and Chat took place via zoom every Tuesday from 6-6:50 pm during the Spring term. Facilitated by an MFT Counseling Intern, student veterans spoke freely about their challenges and successes in college. Great opportunity to network, meet other students, and exchange information.

Veterans Learning Community: Mission Ready

The Veterans First Program has laid the groundwork for a new learning community, Veterans First Learning



Community: Mission Ready. Our second cohort will start this Fall 2023. Mission Ready is joining the group of established learning communities, including: the Umoja Program, the Puente Project, Engineering Technology, and Gateway to Success.

It is a program which groups student veterans together to create a more cohesive and interactive learning environment. Mission Ready strives to provide student veterans with a veteran friendly space to learn and meet their academic goals.

Mission Ready students participate in English 1A (course code 22776, instructed by Professor Jim Ott, and Communications 1 (course code 23461), with Professor Dobson. Any student veteran can join the Veterans Learning Community: Mission Ready to take advantage of support the learning community provides. Both courses are required in order to participant in this special learning community.

Books will be paid for these courses.

Swords to Plowshares: Outreach Rep in the Veterans Resource Center

At Swords to Plowshares, veterans have access to many great programs such as employment and training, legal services, supportive services, and housing programs. Check out their website at www.swords-to-plowshares.org for more information.

Check out their platforms!

Website: www.swords-to-plowshares.org

Email: supportvets@stp-sf.org

Instagram: [swords-to-plowshares](https://www.instagram.com/swords-to-plowshares)

Facebook: [vetshelpingvets](https://www.facebook.com/vetshelpingvets)

Twitter: [vetshelpingvets](https://twitter.com/vetshelpingvets)

Virtual Veterans Welcome Center

The Virtual Veterans Welcome Center is here to help. It is an online service that aims to help veterans with challenges they encounter at LPC and questions about the services offered at the Veterans Resource Center. The Center is regularly staffed by peer student veterans.

Login to Zoom – Meeting ID: 885 1925 8951. The password is “veterans”. Check the LPC Veterans First Program website – www.laspositacollege.edu/veterans for operational hours (varies each term).