



Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

## LPC's 2021 Season of Plays

This spring, join the Las Positas College Theater Arts Department for a series of live and pre-recorded events meant to inspire you and bring theater into your home. Beginning March 20, 2021 fans will be able to download, at their convenience, multiple events as a part of LPC's On-Demand Theater events.

Enjoy videos of charming children's stories told by the character in the book! Follow up with Interrupting Chicken, Gerald and Piggy, Jasper Rabbit and his Creepy Carrots, the animals at Farmer Brown's (Click Clack Moo)...and that kid who swears that Dragons Love Tacos! Follow up your On-Demand watch fest with fun activities like cooking, crafts, and more to complement and inspire the littlest artists in your household. Tickets are available by [clicking here](#) for \$15.00 per event. Don't miss it!



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## Honoring Unstoppable Women Veterans



On March 10th Las Positas College Veteran's First Program held its ninth annual Honoring Women Veterans event. At the event Dr. Dyrell Foster, President of Las Positas College welcomed and thanked the special guest as well as expressed his opening remarks. Keynote speaker Xochitl Rodriguez Murillo, Deputy Secretary of Minority & Underrepresented Veterans of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Army Reservist delivered her speech that was followed by a virtual women student panel and scholarship awards ceremony. We at

LPC extend our thanks and appreciation to all those who are serving and have served.

# Embracing Equity Through a Student Lens With Guided Pathways

*Submitted by LPC Students Elle Bañuelos, Samantha Lie, Brittanie North, Rhea Panchal*

What started three years ago with sticky notes and starbursts at FLEX Day, with passionate LPC employees across campus wanting to make a difference for their students, has flourished into Las Positas College enthusiastically joining the national Guided Pathways Project. It is a California Community College reform that seeks to break down the barriers to success and increase the number of students who earn community college credentials. Each college participating in this wonderful movement takes the four pillar foundations of the project and decides what Guided Pathways looks like at their campus. Las Positas College believes that the heart of our Guided Pathways work is the diverse student body it serves. The mission of Guided Pathways on our campus is to infuse equity into every aspect of the college experience and provide students with intentional support by offering opportunities for them to discover, clarify, and enter their “pathway,” and persist with support in achieving their academic and career goals. We are proud to share that we are in our third year of this work and have made incredible strides in moving each aspect forward. In what we affectionately call our “year of action,” we would like to share some initiative updates from each pillar.

**Pillar 1: Clarifying the Pathway** workgroup has engaged in researching various career exploration platforms to implement on campus, ultimately deciding on Career Coach which went live March 1st. Career Coach is a wonderful resource for students to be able to explore various career opportunities and even offers undecided students the ability to take an assessment to find out where to begin their exploration. Career Coach will provide all students with resume-building support, including assistance for Veterans in translating their skills into marketable experience. In conjunction with Career Coach, this initiative team is working on rolling out Program Mapper soon which will visually illustrate to students a program “map” detailing which courses to take in a recommended order, linked to LPC’s program student learning outcomes.

**Pillar 2: Entering the Pathway** workgroup has done a fabulous job with streamlining LPC’s onboarding process, to be implemented in time for Fall enrollment. Originally, all students that enrolled into LPC had the same items to complete, but this initiative team has researched and identified six different student types and then created personalized steps to success for each. In addition, with the support of President, Dr. Dyrell Foster, we are happy to share that we will have a virtual Welcome Center coming soon, where a live person will virtually greet students to the college and answer any questions they may have.

**Pillar 3: Staying on the Pathway** has been a grassroots project to increase persistence in our classes. The Persistence Project had an overwhelming response of about 40+ faculty and classified members volunteering to join Cohort 1. This initiative team has truly done incredible work that speaks to keeping students persisting down their path and increasing the retention rate of students. Some of the actions that have been implemented include sending students a welcome letter prior to the start of the course, revising syllabi to be equity minded and reflecting high expectations in a friendly manner, learning the names of students and encouraging students to learn the names of their peers, providing constructive feedback on assignments, holding one-on-one introductory meetings in addition to regular weekly office hours, familiarizing students with campus support resources, reaching out to students that may be struggling and offering them support, and encouraging students to complete an associate’s degree or certificate of achievement.

**Pillar 4: Ensuring Learning** has been the foundational stage, with key work accomplished this year and to be continued in the next two years. Adopted this year campus wide, LPC now has seven areas of interest. Development of these relied heavily on the student focus groups, facilitated by us, the Guided Pathways Student Team. As a college, we plan to implement in these areas student success teams, ensuring that all of our

students are supported in achieving their academic and career goals. As students, we are excited about the success teams including peer mentors. The intent is that these success teams will provide equitable opportunities and targeted support for students within each pathway so they can confidently achieve their academic and career goals.

The work being accomplished is absolutely remarkable and is truly an *US* thing. As students, this work has been exciting to be a part of the change that is occurring at Las Positas College!





## Child Development Center COVID Checks



Inspired by the new world around them, the children at the Child Development Center have set-up a COVID drive-through testing site.

The CDC is currently open and accepting enrollment. Please visit the [Child Development Center webpage](#) for more information.

## The Mammoths on Campus

Eleven years ago during construction of a new storm water retention basin at the Las Positas College campus, mammoth fossils were found. The fossils were evaluated by PaleoResources Consultants in Auburn to determine the age, species and other information. Once the report was completed the bones were sent to UC Berkley and a decision was made to house the fossils in an appropriate case at LPC. The college has received the fossils that have been placed in their cases and will be ready for visitors when the campus reopens.



## Veterans First Program is Awarded Grant

The Safeway Foundation has awarded a grant for \$35,000 to help the Las Positas College Veterans First Program support services to those who have served in the armed forces, are currently serving, or are dependents or spouses of Veterans.

When you visit your neighborhood Safeway, please help us express our gratitude for their support of Las Positas College Veterans First Program.



## The Market Re-Opens

The Market Food Pantry has re-opened for its no-contact, drive-thru food distribution. If you or someone you know is in need of food, please refer them to this community service. In collaboration with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, this no-cost food distribution site is open to all students, employees, and the greater community. All food is distributed at LPC in Parking Lot C on a first-come first- served basis. The market is scheduled March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15 from 12-3pm.



# What's Right at LPC



Each month, administrators, faculty, and classified professionals are asked to submit nominations for colleagues who have gone above and beyond their normal job duties to assist in the success of staff and students. This month's recipients for the "What's Right at LPC" award go to *Christina Flora, Vicki Shipman, and the members of the Guided Pathways Committee*: Kristy Woods, Angella VenJohn, Jim Ott, Jared Howard, Jeff Judd, Joel Gagnon, Jill Carbone, and Nan Ho.

## Christina Flora

Geology and Geography Lab Technician, *Christina Flora*, came on mid-semester when things were already in full-swing, and she had to get up to speed extremely fast learning her job and integrating new facets of the position. And then the COVID shut down came along, and she stepped up and spent countless hours dedicatedly working from home to create extremely valuable virtual materials for LPC online geo-laboratory courses.

## Vicki Shipman

CTE Project Manager, *Vicki Shipman*, is a tireless and dedicated spirit that moves projects to new heights. Just when you think she couldn't contribute more to innovation and growth at the college, she contributes more! She has been at the center of sponsoring professional development, creating outreach capacity for CTE departments, moving major strategic directions along the pipeline, and working with all

parties across the College to raise the high standards of Las Positas even higher. Las Positas is fortunate to be able to harness Vicki's pioneering spirit to connect students to high-earning jobs and work-place skills.

## Guided Pathways Steering Committee Members

- *Kristy Woods*—for her phenomenal leadership; she keeps all the workgroups moving forward.
- *Angella VenJohn*—for taking the lead to coordinate our college's involvement with the CA Guided Pathways Demonstration Project and for her leadership of our Student Onboarding/Engagement workgroup.
- *Jim Ott, Jared Howard, and Jeff Judd*—for their dedication to implementing the Persistence Project.
- *Joel Gagnon and Jill Carbone*—for their commitment to getting all of our academic programs mapped, evaluating software to make our program maps student-facing, and for all their work on identify career exploration software.
- *Nan Ho*—for providing direct administrative support through her guidance and ability to remove roadblocks.

These individuals have dedicated many hours to creating and implementing the plans that are bringing Guided Pathways to life at LPC.

## News in Brief

**Cash for College Event:** On March 2nd, Las Positas College Financial Aid (F/A) Office hosted a virtual Cash for College event to help and encourage students to file their Financial Aid applications on time. The F/A office provided individualized FASFA and California Dream Act application help as well as door prizes for students that attended.

**LPC Athletics are Back:** Through many long hours and following diligent state and county safety protocols, LPC will participate in intercollegiate competition this spring. Thank you to the leadership of LPC Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach James Giacomazzi, Interim Dean Erick Bell, VPs Kristina Whalen and Anette Raichbart, coaches, staff and student-athletes.



*Las Positas Connection* is published by the Office of the President.  
Issues are posted online at [laspositascollege.edu/president](http://laspositascollege.edu/president). Angelica Cazarez, Editor.

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**Students First**