



LAS POSITAS CONNECTION

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community | December 2021

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

Happy Holidays from LPC!



Happy Holidays

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Las Positas College Wishes You a Joyful Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

Las Positas College's Administrative Team held its annual Holiday breakfast event on December 9th to thank all LPC employees, as well as Maintenance and Operations, District Personnel, the Chancellor, and the Board of Trustees for all that they do to support the Las Positas College Community.



President's Connection Corner

Plans for Spring 2022

In support of the Board's vaccination requirement for students and employees, college and district leadership have worked in collaboration to implement diligent and thoughtful plans to allow us to safely reintroduce additional face-to-face classes and in-person services for spring 2022. Employees will return to campus, and departments will provide fully-scheduled in-person student support services. The college is planning for approximately 60 percent face-to-face offerings in spring, while retaining robust online/hybrid access to classes and student support services as well.

Students who are taking in-person classes or who need to come to campus for any reason are required to submit proof of vaccination before becoming eligible to register for in-person classes. Students attending online-only classes for the spring 2022 semester and who will not be visiting campus for any reason, are not required to upload their vaccination information.

New signage has been posted on campus informing the campus community that vaccines and masks are required for those on campus beginning January 1, 2022.



Although there are recent concerns regarding the Omicron variant, we are continuing to plan for a full return of our employees beginning January 3, 2022. We continue to follow Alameda County Public Health Department real-time data for case rates and the indoor mask mandate metrics regarding the impact of COVID-19 in our county. District leadership reviews and discusses these data on a weekly basis to make informed decisions about the potential impacts to our district. We will remain diligent and flexible and will modify our plans if there is significant reason to do so as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our campus community.

Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance: The Power of Giving

On December 7, 2021, President Foster served as the Emcee for the TVNPA evening celebration at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore to recognize community builders and contributors. The purpose of the event was to honor and celebrate the power inherent in collectively supporting one another through the nonprofit community during the pandemic era. The event recognized the tremendous efforts and impact made by our regional nonprofits, along with the benefactors and beneficiaries of the Tri-Valley Nonprofit Fund which enabled continued service delivery by six safety-net service organizations (Axis Community Health, CityServe of the Tri-Valley, Open Heart Kitchen, Senior Support Services of the Tri-Valley, Spectrum Community Health (Meals on



Ms. Kathy Young & President Foster (Photo provided by S. Hayes)



Wheels), and Tri-Valley Haven) during these challenging times. During the event, President Foster acknowledged that nonprofit organizations are the powerful engines that steadily drive our community forward. He recognized that as nonprofit organizations become stronger, as a whole, so do the communities in which we serve, and one of the most effective ways in which we will continue to strengthen our communities is through continued collaboration and partnerships. He thanked the organizations and donors that were being honored for their passion, commitment, support, and contributions of their time and resources, to fill these gaps in our society in transformational ways to address social inequities at their core. President Foster had the opportunity to meet many new leaders in our community and was proud to represent LPC at this event.

Global Studies Hosted Dr. Matthew Spangler

Submitted by Dr. Catherine Eagan, Global Studies Coordinator

On November 10, the Global Studies program was fortunate to host Dr. Matthew Spangler, Performance Studies professor at San José State University, for a talk entitled, "Between the Idealized and the Undeserving: Representing Refugees through the Literary and Performing Arts." Professor Spangler's talk was made possible by the LPC Foundation and co-sponsored by the LPC Student Government. Global Studies coordinator, Katie Eagan, and LPC Communications Director, Jackie Carrillo, co-moderated the event. Dr. Spangler was impressed by the sophistication and range of questions from faculty and students alike. Dr. Spangler came to the talk not only as a scholar of theater and migration but as a playwright—he has adapted a number of works, most notably Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*, for the stage. He began by defining and historicizing the term "refugee." He then reviewed the great potential for such theater, as it can empower the refugee community and encourage empathy instead of xenophobia, but it also presents ethical challenges for



The Kite Runner, play adaptation. Photo by Robert Workman (Photo provided by Catherine Eagan)

example, the problems of speaking for refugees, objectifying them, and even triggering them to relive their trauma. The remainder of his talk provided five different ways of representing refugee experiences on the stage.

Students and faculty asked great questions about the politics of which refugees are welcome in the US and which are not; the fact that climate change or poverty or domestic violence are often not recognized as conferring refugee status; what is happening to migrants on the Poland/Belarus border who are being denied asylum; how important it is to recognize that refugees would stay in their home countries if they could and that they often lose jobs with some status and take low-paying jobs below their level of education; and how we might do better to promote camaraderie with refugees while being careful not to offend. Dr. Spangler's answer to the last question was to have a "radical sense of generosity." All were enlightened by the presentation and discussion and felt grateful for the opportunity to attend the talk. If you would like to view the recording of the talk, please visit the [Global Studies website](#).

Diapers Drive at the Child Development Center

Submitted by Theresa Mailander, Specialist at the CDC



Photo provided by CDC

CDC Children delivering diapers to Veteran's First Program staff

The children at the LPC Child Development Center (CDC) focused on gratitude and thankfulness throughout November and brainstormed ways the center could support the community. It was collectively decided to have a diaper drive. In appreciation and partnership with the Veteran's First Program and Hively, the CDC collected and donated 2,900 diapers to families in our Tri-Valley Community. We are grateful for the generosity of our campus community and look forward to making more connections with the campus.

LPC Observes Veterans Day

LPC honored veterans with its 15th Annual Veterans Day Observance on November 11th. The Veterans First Program hosted our keynote speaker, Mr. Mickey Ganitch, Pearl Harbor survivor, US Navy Veteran, who shared his amazing story.

The Veteran's First program shared the following about our Veterans, "Today and every day we must demonstrate our gratitude for the tremendous sacrifices made to this nation by approximately 19 million living Americans who served, including over 1.6 million Californians, estimated 41 thousand in Alameda County, and over 400 plus student Veterans, military members, and their family members who attend Las Positas College each year. Our Veterans continue to serve their communities as first responders, medical providers, police officers, engineers, technicians, volunteers, civic leaders, mentors, business owners, classified professionals, professors, administrators, and many other roles."

We salute and thank all who have served.



President's Speaker Series Begins



On December 1, the 2021-22 President's Speaker Series kicked off with Ms. Chloe O. Davis. Ms. Davis is a Broadway performer and debut author who works in the entertainment industry in New York. A graduate of Hampton University and Temple University, she has centered her creative platform on amplifying the narratives of Black culture and heightening the awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community. Her presentation was titled: *Together We Rise: Choosing the Right Language to Create the Inclusive Communities We All Desire*.

In tandem with performing, Chloe O. Davis has spent fifteen years researching, writing and creating *The Queens' English*, *The LGBTQIA+ Dictionary of Lingo and Colloquial Phrases*. She believes this dictionary is a starting point for important conversations around inclusivity, sexuality, gender expression and identity.

To view the recording please visit the [President's Speaker Series webpage](#).

Calendar	
Please visit the LPC Webpage for more details about the latest events.	
December 23-31	Winter Break
January 18 - 21	Welcome Week
January 18	The Market - Food Pantry
February 1	President's Speaker Series
February 2	Town Meeting

LPC Mission Statement

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

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.



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Students First