



# CONNECTION

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



February 2024

## Black History Month at Las Positas College

February is Black History Month is in full swing at Las Positas College. On February 1st, the Black Education Association kicked off the month with its annual gathering to sing the Black National Anthem. On February 7th, A2MEND hosted a Taste of Soul, where the LPC chapter offered soul food to the LPC community. This was followed by a President Speaker Series presentation in collaboration with the Black Education Association and LPC College Foundation. Dr. Angelo Williams presented *"Imagine No Line. Black Art in the Hour of Chaos,"* during the second hour of February's Town Meeting. To round out the day, the Black Student Union offered an open mic event. Students, staff, and administrators all joined in the fun.

Celebrations and opportunities for education and support will be available all month long and will continue on through the semester. Please visit the Black Education Association events page for additional information or follow the link [here](#).

For more information on the President's Speaker Series or its speakers please visit the President's Speaker Series [webpage here](#).



Photos courtesy of Carolyn Scott via LinkedIn

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# MESA Grant Awarded to Las Positas College

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) is an award-winning, nationally recognized program that aims to help underserved and underrepresented students achieve success in their STEM studies and careers. LPC was awarded a grant of up to \$1.5 million to offer this program at Las Positas College. The amount is subject to annual renewal based upon performance. The MESA program was founded in Oakland, California in 1970, it provides academic support, resources, and career exploration needed to increase the number of minority students graduating from STEM programs.

The MESA Scholars program is the version that will be implemented at Las Positas College. The College was awarded this grant in late 2022 thanks in part to Dr. Nan Ho, Mr. Carlos Moreno, and Dr. Kristina Whalen. Since then, the MESA program coordinators have worked earnestly to prepare the program and accept the first cohort of students in the Spring 2024 semester. A total of 33 students will begin to create LPC's community of STEM learners and achievers.

The Las Positas College's MESA Scholars program aims to increase the successful completion and transfer of underrepresented students in calculus-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The MESA program will include recruitment, holistic student support, student leadership development, and workforce preparation to its participants. In addition, the program aims to increase the sense of belonging and STEM identity for MESA Scholars and value the importance of outside support networks, including their families.

The MESA program will build upon, collaborate with, and leverage existing college efforts in student equity and achievement and connect MESA Scholars to college resources and opportunities. Mr. Carlos Moreno added, "We look forward to future growth and innovation with this important program."



*Inaugural MESA Scholars  
Photo taken during orientation of program spring 2024*



# LLNL Science on Saturday at LPC and President's Scholars



## 2024 - 2025 President's Scholars Program



The President's Scholars Program has been established to attract the "best of the best" from among the diverse local area high school graduates. The purpose of this program is to promote equity and access by providing financial support to families to impact a student's ability to attend college. Some benefits of the Program include full payment of LPC tuition and fees for up to two years, and an annual \$1,000 stipend (\$500 per semester) for books and other educational materials.

This year the college will once again select 20 high school graduates to participate in this highly regarded program. Applications are currently open to graduating seniors from Livermore Valley Joint Unified, Dublin Unified, Castro Valley Unified, Pleasanton Unified, San Ramon Unified, Lammersville Unified, and Tracy Unified School Districts. For more information and eligibility requirements please visit the [LPC President's Scholars Program webpage](#) where you will find the application and benefits of the program. Deadline to apply is April 7, 2024.

For questions about the program please email [lpc-scholars@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:lpc-scholars@laspositascollege.edu).

## Science on Saturday at Las Positas College



For the entire month of February the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will present Science on Saturday at Las Positas College. This will be the second year the college is hosting this fun and educational event.

Science on Saturday is a series of science lectures for middle and high school students. Each topic highlights cutting-edge research at LLNL. The 2024 Science on Saturday series, "Magic of Materials", will highlight research areas ongoing at the Laboratory focusing on the materials used in experimentation.



*Amy Brown and Middle College Students*

# Winter Wonderland & Dates to Remember

Las Positas College Student Government held its Club and Resource Fair, Winter Wonderland, on January 31. There were over 40 clubs, departments and programs tabling at this event that offered many resources and information to students.



## 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.

Date	Event
February 21	Lunar New Year Celebration
March 15 - 24	Performance - She Loves Me
March 20	Job Fair Preparation
March 23	LPC Open House
March 27	Job and Internship Fair
April 17	Public Safety, Welding Tech & Automotive Expo