

CalWORKs Connection

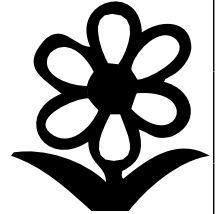
Spring 2006

Building 900

(925) 424-1432

Coordinator's Corner

Greetings CalWORKs students! Welcome back to another Spring Semester. By now you are in the thick of midterms and probably looking longingly toward Spring Break and a bit of a respite. Hang in there! There's so much to learn before April!



Many of you have probably noticed that the CalWORKs office has seen quite a few staffing changes in the past year. This fall we welcomed our new CalWORKs Counselor, Jill Oliveira to our CalWORKs staff. She is here to provide you with specialized Academic Counseling and support with various County issues. We also said a fond farewell to Kelly Cline, our Counselor Assistant, as her educational requirements increased and she was not able to meet the many demands of education, internship, work and sleep. In the Interim, we were blessed to be able to snag Michele Brecht, as our CalWORKs Student Assistant, to keep things running smoothly until a permanent replacement was hired. After a long search, the CalWORKs program welcomed its newest addition to our staff, Vince Hamilton. If you haven't met Vince yet, please stop by and introduce yourself. He is excited to get settled in here at Las Positas College and we are lucky to have him! Vince recently graduated from Berkeley with a degree in Social Welfare and is ready to put his gifts and talents to work supporting our CalWORKs program and its students. Please make him feel welcome.

Thank you all for your patience in dealing with the many changes in schedules, people and processes this year. We are trying our best to provide our students with consistent and quality support!

Along this same line, I would encourage you to seek out assistance sooner rather than later, especially if you are struggling through some of your classes. Be proactive about accessing tutoring, counseling, academic advising or DSPS services, if necessary. Come and talk to us, the CalWORKs staff are here to help you succeed. In addition, make sure that you are allocating adequate amounts of time to study and sleep. Be healthy, eat well, and do good work. Have a great semester!

Kimberly Tomlinson
CalWORKs Coordinator

From the CalWORKs Assistant...

Hi everybody! My name is Vince Hamilton, and I'm the new CalWORKs Counselor Assistant. I was born in the Bay Area but grew up in Fresno, CA. I eventually returned here to study Social Welfare and Education at UC Berkeley. I look forward to working with all of you. I am here to help, so if there is anything I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to call or come by to see me. I am located in Building 900 and will typically be there Monday thru Thursday. My office telephone is (925) 424-1459. I look forward to meeting all of you!



Vince Hamilton
CalWORKs Counselor Assistant

Reminders...

Alameda County Updates

By now you should have received a letter from the CalWORKs office at Las Positas College informing you of the need to process Monthly Progress Reports more quickly for Federal accountability guidelines. Our CalWORKs program is working with Alameda County to expedite the amount of time it takes for Monthly Progress Reports to get from your hands to their office. Please work with us on this change. The CalWORKs office will be collecting all Monthly Progress Reports on the first of each month. This will enable us to make sure the County receives them by the 5th.

Midterm Progress Reports

In order to approve and sign your monthly reports for the county, the CalWORKs office must verify your class attendance and progress. To get this completed, we will need a copy of the midterm progress report you submit each semester to EOPS. Please make a copy of the report and submit it to the CalWORKs Office as well. If you are not an EOPS student, there will be a CalWORKs Midterm Progress Report Form available for your instructors to sign. These forms are available in the CalWORKs office if needed. Once your instructors have signed the report, you should submit the completed report to the CalWORKs office. Thanks for your prompt attention to this!

Repeating Classes

Another reminder from the County regarding Books and Supplies. The County will not provide funds for students to repeat courses. If the County has already provided a student with resources for a particular class and that student either drops or does not receive an adequate grade, the County will not pay again for the books needed to retake the course. In such a situation, make sure that you either keep your books or allocate money from other resources, such as an EOPS Book Voucher or Financial Aid, for this need. Please do not add these textbooks to your Books and Supplies list. They will not be approved. There is a limited amount of resources and the County's policy regarding repeated classes is essentially that they will not provide the same resources twice.

Summer/Fall 2006 Registration Dates

EOPS, DSPS, CalWORKs Priority Registration: April 27-28
Continuing Student: May 1-2
Returning Students: May 17

Summer/Fall 2006 Books and Supplies Forms

Just a heads up... The CalWORKs office will be accepting Books and Supplies forms for Summer/Fall 2006 the week of May 8-12. More information will be coming soon!

Did you know?



The CalWORKs Program can help you with transportation challenges by providing emergency gas cards and bus passes to CalWORKs students. Students can receive up to 2 gas cards per semester (at least 30 days must pass between claiming each gas card). If you are in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to stop by the CalWORKs Office and see Kimberly, Jill, or Vince.

More Reminders...

Student Education Plans

Did you submit a copy of your current Student Education Plan to the CalWORKs office? If not, you can get a copy of your plan from your EOPS Counselor (if applicable) or your Academic Counselor. Please submit your Student Education Plan to the CalWORKs office right away!

CalWORKs Office Schedule & Hours

CalWORKs Director-Kimberly

Monday: Out of Office
Tuesday: Out of Office
Wednesday: 1pm-6pm
Thursday: 9am-6pm
Friday: 9am-2pm

CalWORKs Counselor-Jill

Monday: 10am-3pm
Wednesday: 9am-12pm

CalWORKs Assistant-Vince

Monday: 8am-1pm
Tuesday: 1pm-5pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-12:30pm
Thursday: 8am-1pm
Friday: Out of Office

MONEY MATTERS!

Learn to Manage your finances

Register for

Life Skills: Personal Finance

PSCN 4968 I Unit

Instructor: Jill Oliveira

Late-Start Class - begins March 22, 2006

Wednesdays 2-4 pm



Want more info? Call LPC Counseling-phone 925-424-1400
www.laspositascollege.edu

Spotlight on Local Resources

ECHO Housing: Livermore Office

Become a trained fair housing tester!

On-call positions available

Free Tester training session in Livermore,

Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 4 to 6pm

Additionally, the **Eden Council for Hope & Opportunity** is offering housing counseling services in the following areas:

Fair Housing Counseling and Education

Counseling and Mediation

General Homeseeking

Shared Housing Counseling & Placement

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

HUD Mortgage Default Counseling

Homebuyer's Education and Learning Program (HELP)

Home Equity Conversion

Counseling and Education

For more information...

www.echofairhousing.org

Phone: 925-449-7340



Other Helpful Information

TANF-Child Development Careers Meetings

Wednesday, February 15th, 3pm

Wednesday, March 29th, 3pm

Wednesday, April 26th, 3pm

LPC Library-Room 2014

Las Positas College Scholarships

Deadline: March 16, 2006

For LPC students who have completed 12 units with a 2.5 GPA minimum.

Download application at:

www.laspositascollege.edu/financialaid

Financial Aid

The end of the semester will be coming soon and deadlines are fast approaching for school year 2006-2007. Make sure you drop by Building 1500 to ensure that your financial aid file is complete. Financial Aid Drop in hours for the

Spring Semester are posted online at:

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/financialaid>



Free Income Tax & Electronic Tax Filing Help

(provided by VITA Program)

Please bring:

copies of all 2005 W-2, 1099 Forms,

proof of other income received

by you (and spouse if married)

Social Security Card (or TIN card) for

each person to be listed on your

return (spouse, children, etc.)

2004 Federal & State Income Tax

Returns if available.

Drop-in Schedule: Feb 1 through April 7

Mondays and Wednesdays

1:00pm-4:00pm Career Center Bldg 900

4:30pm-6:00pm Financial Aid Bldg 1500

For more information contact

Julia Song in the Financial Aid Office

925-424-1581

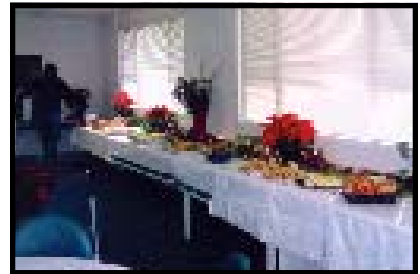
Jsong@laspositascollege.edu

Hindi, Punjabi, Cantonese assistance available



CalWORKs Winter Solstice Party Highlights

The CalWORKs Winter Solstice Party was a huge success and a festive event to celebrate the conclusion of 2005. Great food, great music, and great friends made this a celebration to remember! We can't wait to do it again in 2006!



Thanks to the LPC Jazz Band for providing great music!



Thank You!

The CalWORKs Office Staff would like to send a big THANK YOU to the CalWORKs Winter Solstice Party Planning Committee! Our special thanks goes to:

Andrea Vasgaard
Debbie Amick
Rashele Rouzer

Shanicia Jenkins
Michele Brecht
Dawn Wallage

Leticia Herrera
Lacretia Ellis
Peggy Egan

Thanks so much for your hard work and dedication. You made our celebration special!

Sincerely,
Kimberly Tomlinson