Welcome Back CalWORKs students! It’s great to see returning faces this year as well as those of you who are new to Las Positas College and perhaps the CalWORKs program. We are glad that you are here and we look forward to helping you succeed on your educational journey. It takes dedication, hard work and an incredible belief in yourself to create change. Remember to recognize and honor the commitments you are making to yourself and your families as you forge ahead. You are doing wonderful work.

The CalWORKs program constantly shifts and changes due to alterations in state and federal law. Recently, the Federal Government reauthorized TANF. TANF reauthorization enforces stricter definitions of allowable welfare-to-work activities, requires additional documentation of participation and includes additional work requirements after the first 12 months of full-time education. It also requires states to increase their participation rates to 50% or face federal fiscal penalties. In response to TANF reauthorization the states are working on developing new systems for tracking and monitoring CalWORKs participation. We are working closely with Alameda County to create a system that will be manageable and respectful of students.

It’s important for you to be aware of these new changes and how they will affect you. LIFETIME, an advocacy organization, will lead a discussion on TANF Reauthorization and its impact upon education. I will address specific changes for the Las Positas CalWORKs Program. This is an important meeting. Please make every effort to attend. The meeting will be held Friday, Nov. 17, 10:00-11:30 in Room 1602.

The CalWORKs program is hosting a number of events this semester from health and wellness awareness with the Bacchus Club to programs for Early Childhood Education to planning the CalWORKs/CARE Holiday Party. All these events provide opportunities for you to connect with one another, get involved in your campus and find support. Please take advantage of these opportunities as they arise. They will make your experience here at Las Positas a rich one to remember.

On a final note, the Health Center and CalWORKs will begin providing mental health services for our CalWORKs students in November. Our new counselor will give priority to personal counseling and provide group work if this is something that students feel will benefit them. It’s important to take care of yourself so that you can take care of others that rely on your strength. Please see me if you would like a referral to counseling services at the Health Center.

Just a friendly reminder that while I am part of the CalWORKS program, I am also an LPC counselor in the general sense and can provide you with any counseling service you might require. For example, I can complete a Student Education Plan (SEP) or help you to clear probation or fill out any counseling-related paperwork. Many CalWORKS students find it advantageous to come in for a progress check. Although you are welcome to see any counselor here at LPC, you will often find less of a wait by taking advantage of my 10-4 office hours on Mondays. As always, I will try to serve you as quickly as possible keeping in mind your CalWORKS specific situation. Looking forward to seeing you soon!
TANF REAUTHORIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Friday, November 17, 2006
10:00—11:30 am
Room 1602

The CalWORKs program constantly shifts and changes due to alterations in state and federal law. Recently, the Federal Government reauthorized TANF. TANF reauthorization enforces stricter definitions of allowable welfare-to-work activities, requires additional documentation of participation and includes additional work requirements after the first 12 months of full-time education.

LIFETIME, an advocacy organization, will lead a discussion on TANF Reauthorization and its impact upon education. Kimberly will address specific changes for the Las Positas CalWORKs Program. This is an important meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Nov. 13 is Las Positas College Spring 2007 priority registration for CalWORKs students.

Dec. 4—8: The CalWORKs office will be collecting books and supplies information for spring 2007. Completed books and supplies forms will be submitted to the county on Monday, Dec. 11. Please see Jill with any registration or class selection questions.

CALWORKS ON THE WEB

In November, a new CalWORKs website will be accessible through the Las Positas College site. Students will have easy access to CalWORKs information and documents. The new site can be found by searching through the Las Positas College website or by going directly to:

http://www.laspositascollege.edu/studentservices/calworks.php

We are also updating our database of email addresses. We are beginning to use email as a way to keep students up-to-date on CalWORKs information and as an easy means of communication. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the database by emailing Vince (vhamilton@laspositascollege.edu) or Kimberly (ktomlinson@laspositascollege.edu).
Governor Wilson said he would not increase benefits to welfare recipients because they would “spend it on a six pack of beer.” His smile is like cold weather as he announces: Instead, he will build more jails.

Here we huddle in circles of poetry against the chill of a long cold snap we meet ourselves in specific details of our lives.

I am a woman with two children she says, I will write down seven specific item I must buy with my $630.00 per month AFDC check: rent, groceries, toilet paper, diapers, bus tokens, sanitary napkins, laundry soap

No money left for aspirin, cookies, shoes or beer. I put the things I want inside a heart shaped box. a new dress, a bathtub full of hot water, fresh strawberries, gardenias, a warm coat, child-sized, warm hands, lover-sized.

In circles of poetry we meet ourselves.

I am a girl with a baby, she says, writing a poem. Do not crush this butterfly Do not pin her wings in poverty. Don’t bruise her with teen pregnancy. She only wants to fly outside of hopelessness.

In circles of poetry we meet ourselves tied together by the details of our lives.

I am a woman with grocery list who cannot afford strawberries, A girl with bruises. wings flutter in my fist.

In this circle I meet the power of my self.

I am A woman who opens her hand and releases despair, I am a poet with a pen like a river That springs from the mouth of my heart. I now create my destiny.

My daughters stand on my shoulders and see a new horizon

We are women with tongues afire,

We blaze like summer across the sky

See, cold weather don’t last always.
PORTRAITS OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Recently graduated CalWORKs students Felicia Hines and Andrea Vasgaard were recognized in a statewide publication called Portraits of Student Success. Felicia and Andrea were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments while on the CalWORKs program at Las Positas College.

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In September, Gulandam Sediqi was one of three winners of an annual scholarship offered by Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Bright Horizons is the leading provider of employer-sponsored childcare and early education. She was chosen for demonstrating passion and perseverance in her pursuit of a career in early childhood education. This achievement was announced in September in the Tri-Valley Herald.

BIRTHS

Shelby Marie Scheid Rashelle Rouzer is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter Shelby Marie Scheid on August 8, 2006. Shelby weighed 10 pounds and was 19 inches in length.

WEDDINGS

Rowe—Smith
CalWORKs students Celestine Rowe and Fred Smith were married on October 28, 2006.

Killman—Hamilton
CalWORKs Assistant Vince Hamilton and Desiree Killman were married on April 1, 2006 in Sanger, California.

TANF-CDC GRANT PARTICIPANTS

The following students are devoting their time and studies toward Early Childhood Education. They participate in regular meetings and activities that pave the way toward becoming teachers.

Jennifer Bacosa
Michele Brecht
Eleni Fanopoulos
Kim Gilmour
Joy Hawkins
Alethea Libran
Melissa Ott
Gulandam Sediqi

MORE SUCCESSES

Patrice Roof has caught up in her drafting class!

CALWORKS WORK-STUDY STUDENTS

Bettering our campus and community!

On-Campus Employees and Departments:

Michele Brecht  Admissions & Records
Heather Clark  Arts & Communication
Christina Compton  Counseling
Scheanelle Green  Arts & Communication
Leticia Herrera  Career/Transfer/Employment
Denise Rogers  LaPTechS
Patrice Roof  Central Toolroom
Rashelle Rouzer  Business Office
Celestine Rowe  Counseling

Off-Campus Employees and Businesses:

Debbie Amick  In-Home Support
Jennifer Bacosa  Holy Cross Lutheran School
Eleni Fanopoulos  Milano’s Pizza and Pasta
Kim Gilmour  New Horizon’s Preschool

If you’ve got a celebration or success that you would like shared in the next newsletter contact: Vince at 925-424-1459 or vhamilton@laspositascollege.edu
The Tri-Valley Housing Scholarship Program provides rental assistance to low-income students in Livermore or Pleasanton.

Applicants must currently be enrolled and in good standing in a full-time educational or vocational program and must have completed at least one full grading semester prior to applying.

In addition to receiving rental assistance the participants are offered referrals to community resources, job search preparation and assistance, a free credit report and budget planning, monthly case-management contact, information on affordable housing and customized goal planning to support their transition to financial independence.

Staff will be available on campus at LAS POSITAS College “Career Center” on Wednesday from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
(Please go to Career Center for specific dates)

If you on your way to self-sufficiency, or interested in finding out how you can apply, sign up for a 30 min. pre-screening session today!

Tri-Valley Housing Scholarship Program
3311 Pacific Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: (925) 373-5313; Fax: (925) 373-5024
Nvillanueva@tricityhomeless.org

Early Childhood Guest Speaker: Marsha L. Howard
“THE BALANCING ACT: MANAGING MULTIPLE ROLES”

Wednesday, November 15, 2006
7:00-8:30pm
Las Positas College—Little Theater (Bldg. 800)

FREE ADMISSION

For one night only, The TANF-CDC program is hosting Early Childhood expert Marsha L. Howard. Marsha will explore time management and ways to prioritize, set limits, and make realistic goals that deal with the challenge of balancing family and career. Participants will also explore effective ways to “avoid the guilt trip.”

For more information, contact Kimberly, 925-424-1432, or Zina, 925-424-1178.
CARE/CALWORKS HOLIDAY PARTY
PLANNING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

It's that time of the year: the weather starts to change, the leaves turn colors, the holidays quickly approach and the CARE/CALWORKs programs start planning for their holiday celebration. Each year these programs provide support for our CARE/CALWORKs students through a special holiday reception but it takes student support and commitment to make this happen.

Please join us for our Holiday Party planning meetings
CalWORKs/Career/Transfer Center Building 900

Wednesday, November 15, 11am
Wednesday, December 6, 11am

For more info, contact Kimberly 424-1432, Peggy 424-1593, or Vince 424-1459

CARE/CALWORKS HOLIDAY PARTY
SIGN-UP NOW!

The CARE/CALWORKs Holiday Party provides “gift card” support to LPC CalWORKs students. You must sign up in the CalWORKs office to participate in the holiday gift card program and attend the reception. Gift Card Donations are collected throughout the community and distributed among families to assist with holiday gifts.

Please fill out and return the Holiday Gift Card form to the CalWORKs Office by Friday, November 10, 2006

Please join us for this fabulous annual event! We look forward to seeing you there.
When: Friday, December 15, 2006
Time: 1:00-3:00 pm

CARE/CALWORKS HOLIDAY PARTY
SIGN-UP NOW!

Las Positas College, Bldg. 900
3033 Collier Canyon Rd.
Livermore, CA 94551

Kimberly Tomlinson
CalWORKs Coordinator
925-424-1432
ktomlinson@laspositascollege.edu

Jill Olliviera
CalWORKs Counselor
925-424-1432
jolliviera@laspositascollege.edu

Vince Hamilton
CalWORKs Assistant
925-424-1459
vhamilton@laspositascollege.edu

CalWORKs Office
Schedule & Hours

Coordinator—Kimberly
Monday: Out of Office
Tuesday: 9:00am—5:00pm
Wednesday: 10:00am—6:00pm
Thursday: 9:00am—5:00pm
Friday: 9:00am—3:00pm

Counselor—Jill
Monday: 10:00am—4:00pm

Assistant—Vince
Monday: 8:00am—4:00pm
Tuesday: 8:00am—4:00pm
Wednesday: 8:00am—4:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am—4:00pm
Friday: Out of Office

CalWORKs Office
Contact Information