

CALWORKS CONNECTION

Coordinator's Corner—Kimberly Tomlinson

The leaves are changing, the crimson and golden hues are beginning to bleed through the summer green and brown. The rain is beginning to fall and the landscape is transforming before us. Light summer wear is making room for fall sweaters and the semester is finding itself both winding up and down. Fall is the beginning of a time of rest and inward reflection. Although, I imagine for many of us the movement of seasons does not follow suit in our academic or personal lives. But, it is a time to take note of changes and transitions.



One of the changes that you may have noticed so far this semester is the limited availability of some program staff in the CalWORKs office. Vince Hamilton, who began his fourth year with our CalWORKs program, is transitioning into an Academic Counselor position at Gavilan College. We are so excited for his new opportunity. I hope that as many of you work hard to excel at your educational goals, you have seen in Vince a model for career achievement, dedication and expanding opportunities. With the completion of his Master's Degree last spring, he is now saying good-bye to our LPC CalWORKs program and moving forward in his career. We will miss Vince and his many gifts to our CalWORKs program. We are currently in the process of posting the position and hope to have a new Counselor Assistant on board in January.

To help maintain consistency in service to students we have also hired a new student assistant, Crystal Mulitalo. Crystal is learning quickly the processes and procedures for the CalWORKs office and is doing an amazing job at jumping in and helping students. We are excited to have her join us and hopefully her presence will help to ease the transition between staff.

I know that many of you have experienced first hand the effects of the budget cuts in the CalWORKs office. We are trying to apply our funds in a manner that best serves your needs. To that end we will be continuing our Work Study program, continue our Tutoring program and continue to provide some transportation services. Gas cards will be available to students that submit their books and supplies before the end of the semester. We will continue to update you on program services that are both reinstated and eliminated.

I am excited to announce that our CalWORKs Student Recognition Holiday Celebration will proceed as usual this year! So, please make sure that you sign up for this wonderful event. It is the highlight of our program year and we love to celebrate the hard work you are doing and take time to recognize your achievements in so many different areas. This year the CSRHC will be held on Friday, Dec 11, 2-4 in the Reading Room. Sign-up early! We want to see you there!

Best,

Kimberly

CalWORKs Updates and Reminders

Monthly Attendance Reports

During the first week of each month, please submit Monthly Attendance Reports to the CalWORKs office. On time submission helps to ensure that you will receive transportation funds for the month.

Midterm Progress Reports

Please submit a copy of your EOPS midterm progress report to the CalWORKs office. If you are not in EOPS, pick-up and complete a CalWORKs midterm progress report from our office.

CalWORKs Office Check-In

Each semester we ask that all CalWORKs students check-in with either Kimberly or Jill for an update on their progress in school and with the county. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have related to the college, class scheduling, or county concerns. If you are EOPS, meeting with Jill can also count toward your three mandatory visits, but you **MUST** tell Jill to count it as such.

To schedule your visit contact our office at: 925-424-1459.

CalWORKs Priority Registration for Spring 2010



Monday, November 9 is the Las Positas College Spring 2010 priority registration date for CalWORKs students. If this is not your registration date, please notify Vince ASAP. Be sure to enroll in your classes as early as possible to get the classes you need at the times that work best for you. Please see Jill with any registration or class selection questions. Spring 2010 Books & Supplies workshop and deadline information will be released in November.

Counselor Assistant Update

As you may have heard by now, I am easing my way out of the CalWORKs Office at Las Positas College. I have been granted the opportunity to serve students at Gavilan College as a part-time Counselor for their CalWORKs program (just like Jill is for us). Thank you all for your flexibility and patience as our office is operating under reduced staff while we seek my replacement.

While I move into my new role with great excitement, I have been reminded by each of you how much I will miss working with the dedicated and lively CalWORKs students at Las Positas College. Thank you so much for making my time here a phenomenal experience in which I have discovered my true passion for working with students. I will always treasure my experiences here and hope to maintain a presence in this community in the years to come. *-Vince*

EOPS/CARE Update

For those CalWORKs students who are also in EOPS/CARE I wanted to give you a quick update. Continuing and new students have been curious as to when we will be able to offer CARE services again. The short answer is that the budget is still being sorted out. This is frustrating to many, us included. However, I would like to remind students that being part of EOPS/CARE is important and if we **are** able to offer services you will be first in line. To this end, you want to maintain your eligibility by following the EOPS/CARE guidelines. Keep your three contact visits, fill out and turn in your WIP (work in progress) and maintain at least a 2.0 G.P.A. with a completion of at least 9 units. Remember, you can use your EOPS/CARE WIP as your midterm progress report for your CalWORKs worker as well. *-Jill*

CalWORKs Student Assistant—Crystal Mulitalo

Crystal. My name means delicate jewel but my parents named me to follow their first-name-initial-trend after my older brothers, Chris and Cyrus. But I introduce myself to LPC's CalWORKs Program as your newest student-assistant, here to help serve our needs as hard-working parents who are actively working towards our academic goals and self-sufficiency. In Fall 2006. I began taking courses of personal interest that helped me discover my passion for Administrative Justice, in which I am now two semesters away from achieving my AA degree. During Fall 2007, my significant other, Troy and I gave birth to our first child, Cyana. The blessing of our new daughter encouraged me to continue on with higher education. I was introduced to the CalWORKs program when I returned to school.



It was this program's support and services that truly helped me get back on the path of being a successful student. I honestly understand the meaning of struggle, and I know I can relate to many of our students. That is why I encourage students to birth a new relationship with our program. We are a branch of support to compliment your needs as a student. The entire staff we have is wonderful and always willing to help. Please call or stop by the office anytime you feel, but just don't forget to check our office hours :). So, I hope this Fall semester goes well for everybody and remember, that success begins with a strong will and burning desire.

CalWORKs Shout Outs

CalWORKs WORK-STUDY STUDENTS: Bettering our campus & community!

On-Campus Employees and Departments:

- Jessica Bias—CalWORKs
- Reyna Escobar—Admissions & Records
- Diana Lopez—DSPS
- Adriana Minero—Counseling
- Crystal Mulitalo—CalWORKs
- Donna-Jo Pinto—LaPTechS
- Celestine Rowe—Counseling
- Adrian Williams—Administrative Services

Off-Campus Employees and Businesses:

- Aimee Baca—Warehouse Demo Services
- Jessica Bias—My Space to Grow
- Pauline Desamour—Target
- Maisha Ellison—In-Home Support Services
- Brandon Thompson—Oil Changers



CDC-WORKs 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.

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|-----------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Kristy Berry | Jessica Bias | Kim Gilmour | Andrea Griffin |
| Tiffany Navarro | Stephanie Skaggs | Mary Tarbert | |

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

Phone: 925-424-1459
Fax: 925-606-8967
[www.laspositascollege.edu/
calworks](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/calworks)

CalWORKs Office Schedule

Monday: 8:00am—5:00pm

Kimberly, Jill, Vince, Crystal

Tuesday: 8:00am—5:00pm

Kimberly, Vince, Jessica, Crystal

Wednesday: 9:00am—5:00pm

Kimberly, Crystal

Thursday: 8:00am—5:00pm

Kimberly, Vince, Jessica, Crystal

Friday: 9:00am—1:00pm

Kimberly

CalWORKs Staff Contact Info

Kimberly Tomlinson, CalWORKs Coordinator

925-424-1432 ktomlinson@laspositascollege.edu

Jill Oliveira, CalWORKs Counselor

925-424-1432 joliveira@laspositascollege.edu

Vince Hamilton, CalWORKs Counselor Assistant

925-424-1459 vhamilton@laspositascollege.edu

Jessica Bias, CalWORKs Student Assistant

925-424-1459

Crystal Mulitalo, CalWORKs Student Assistant

925-424-1459

Annual Student Recognition Holiday Celebration SIGN-UP NOW

This year's CalWORKs/CARE Student Recognition Holiday Celebration will celebrate the successes of past and present CalWORKs students. Former CalWORKs students will share their stories and current CalWORKs students will be recognized for their accomplishments. There will also be holiday "gift card" support for CalWORKs students. You must sign up in the CalWORKs office to participate in the celebration and ceremony.



Please RSVP to Vince by Wednesday, November 18, 2009
925-424-1459 or vhamilton@laspositascollege.edu

Please join us for this fabulous annual event.
We look forward to seeing you there!
When: Friday, December 11, 2009
Time: 2:00-4:00 pm
Place: Room 2400—Reading Room



For questions, contact Vince at the CalWORKs Office: 925-424-1459