

## **Las Positas College Regional FIRE Academy**

### **Talking Points**

#### ***What is a Regional FIRE Academy?***

The Las Positas College Regional Fire Academy is an accredited California State Fire Marshal program providing certificates from State Fire Training (SFT) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This program and other similar programs statewide are intended to provide an educated recruit base for Fire Departments in the state of California. This program is designed to meet the dynamic challenges of fire department needs for pre-service recruits in the 21st century and enabling students to successfully become employed by fire departments throughout the state of California and within the Alameda County Community College Districts service area. It is with great expectations that Las Positas College Fire Academy graduates will become employed in every Fire Department in Alameda County as well as other departments in California or other States.

The goal and objective of the Fire Academy program is to provide an academic, behavioral, physical, and manipulative skills base, which will enable a student, upon graduation, to successfully compete for an entry level Firefighter position and to complete a departments probationary requirements.

In order to maintain accreditation, the Las Positas College Fire Academy is continuously reviewed by the California State Fire Marshal (CSFM ARTP Accredited Programs) and members of the California Fire Technology/Academy Directors Association every 3 years from the initial date of accreditation and 5 years thereafter.

#### ***How will the students for this pilot program be selected?***

Students will be selected based on the Las Positas College Student Academic enrollment policies. This program will adhere to all enrollment guidelines, polices and regulation codes pertaining to admissions and eligibility pursuant to board policies, as well as any Federal and State guidelines. This program is open and is contingent to a first come first serve, open access for all students who qualify.

#### ***Why will students want to be involved in this pilot program?***

The students selected for this pilot program will receive both tangible and intangible benefits.

The tangible benefits include:

- Upon graduation the students will take 6 Fire Service industry certificates that are stackable, portable, and accredited by a third party entity.
- Successful graduates will be given a National Certification, which they use not only in the State of California but is also recognized in over 35 other states. California State Fire Training and Las Positas College training does not have to be duplicated once completed.

- Successful graduates will be able to participate in externships and internships that will help them acquire a skill set that is industry specific. This will be beneficial when competing for Firefighter jobs in our highly competitive state.

The intangible benefits include:

- A dedicated faculty (or staff or administration) mentor for the academic year
- A vested interest from the instructor in the individual and collective success of each student
- An increase in the probability of success in community college, 21st century employability skills are embedded in the FIRE Academy curriculum.

### ***Why is this necessary on our campus?***

At this time the FST AS degree and program lack a “capstone “, work experience component. The Fire academy will provide this capstone program experiential piece.

The Fire Academy will address several of the recommendations made by AB-2767 and the new student first funding formula by:

- Providing our students with several stackable, portable, skills certificates and a certificate of achievement in Fire Suppression.
- Provide a high number of completers who will be eligible to apply for jobs with the USFS, CAL Fire and others agencies that hire thousands of Firefighters per year. (Note: This would be considered a high placement program due to the high volume of need within this industry.)
- The Fire Academy is a 16-unit class that will have between 25-30 students, this will bring a total between 33-40 new FTES and as a result, these students will take other GE classes here at LPC. Having a FIRE Academy on campus is a great marketing tool for our college community at large.

**K12- Adult Education Public Safety career pathway:** Once our FIRE Academy goes live, this will attract a number of young men and women into Las Positas College. The program coordinator will set up a Fire-Public Safety career pathway program; utilizing some of the equipment from the Fire Academy.

### ***When will this pilot program launch?***

The fire academy program is set to launch in spring of 2019 semester with approximately 30 students. After evaluating the success of the academy, the program will be revised for overall efficiency and then applied in order to offer the Academy to an additional 30 students in spring of 2020. It will also be evaluated on its success and merits, which will include overall completions, internships, and job placement immediately upon completion of the Fire Academy.

### ***How much will this cost our campus?***

This new program will have very little financial impact on the campus as it will be funded through a Regional Joint Venture Strong Workforce Program focusing on Public Safety led by Los Medanos College. The Strong Workforce Program funding amount will be \$214,738.00. Due to apportionment receipt rules, \$6171.00 must be expended to the general fund

(90/10 rule). The program will have little impact on our facilities and M&O given that the programs will be delivered in partnerships with Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Department at their facility.

***What are the prerequisites for this course:***

- EMS 20 or EMS 30 or A valid EMT or Paramedic Card
- FSC 1 Public Safety Conditioning or Valid CPAT or Biddell Physical assessment cards or equivalent
- FST 1 Introduction to FIRE Protection Organization

***How will success be measured at the end of the year?***

Students will be given a third party certification test and their success will be measured by whether students passed this series of exams.

***What departments will be impacted?***

The successful execution of the FIRE Academy will have a positive impact on all departments in the long term. The students will learn the value of taking courses and studying as a community, which will lead to better-prepared students, turn-key ready employees, and meet the experiential requirement of a curriculum that provides both Education and Training.