

## Foundation Launches #GivingHawksDay

'Tis the season for giving and for offering thanks. We at LPC are thankful for so much—our LPC family and friends, our supportive community, our many partners, and, most of all, our students who choose to achieve their dreams at LPC. Our LPC Foundation works year-round to support our students in their success. We thank our foundation donors for their ongoing generosity, including their recent donation of \$35,000 for additional classes and equipment. They invite others to join them in investing in quality higher education for our community. The LPC Foundation has designated November 29 as #GivingHawksDay in connection with #GivingTuesday, a global day of generosity and giving that kicks off the charitable season on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. The foundation has set a goal of raising \$25,000 to support scholarships and services for LPC students. Please learn how to give by visiting <http://laspositascollege.edu/givinghawksday/>. Thank you.

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## LPC Leads the Way with New Placement Methods, Increasing Chances of Success and Transfer



Mary Lauffer

Instructor Jim Ott teaches a transfer-level English 1A class. By implementing new placement methods this semester, LPC is providing greater access to transfer-level English classes—ensuring that more students reach their potential and academic goals.

Thanks to LPC's innovations in English course placement methods, students have a greater chance of success for transferring and earning certificates and degrees. LPC has adopted new placement methods that give increased weight to high school GPA, which is proven to correlate with success in college English courses.

As a result, student placement into transfer-level English 1A classes increased from 35 percent in fall 2015 to 78 percent for fall 2016—more than doubling the percentage of students placed in transfer-level English, saving students save time and money, and helping students reach their educational goals faster. Results at other colleges implementing the new placement method show that students are succeeding in the transfer-level classes. At LPC, English instructors report that they are not noticing a change in the preparedness of English 1A students.

English faculty members emphasize that classes maintain their high standards and academic rigor. "This placement change does not represent a lowering of standards in any way," said English Instructor Karin Spirn. "English 1A grading standards remain unchanged." Faculty in LPC's Math Program are planning similar innovations in placement methods.

Currently, many California community colleges are adopting placement improvements and a new methodology is being developed for the statewide system.

# Students Gain Leadership Skills at Conference



Jared Howard

President Russell joins students and staff who traveled to San Antonio, Texas for a conference to boost student leadership and success. President Russell represented LPC and provided support and guidance to the LPC contingent. From left: Student Sthefanie [sic] Urquilla Valdez, HSI Counselor Rafael Valle, President Russell, and students Justyce A. Romo and Christopher Miranda. Also attending was HSI Counselor Jared Howard who took the photo.

LPC students gained valuable leadership training and staff learned more about supporting student success in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) at the recent annual conference of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. This training was made possible through Gateway to STEM Success, a \$2.3 million grant awarded to LPC last year by the U.S. Department of Education. The grant ensures that high-need students, regardless of race or socio-economic condition, get the support they need to be successful in remedial basic math and STEM prerequisite courses. LPC was eligible to apply for the grant because of our status as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

## LPC Listens to Students Sharing Challenges

One transfer student said he was afraid to go to college because, as a youngster, he was called “stupid.” At LPC, he enrolled in Learning Skills classes taught by Learning Disability Specialist Paula Schoenecker, who asked if he had ever been tested for learning disabilities. He had not. After testing at LPC, the student said he realized he was not “stupid”—he simply learned differently. With support from his instructors, counselors, and the Disability Resource Center, he thrived at LPC and succeeded in transferring to California State University, Stanislaus. The LPC community thanks this courageous student and others like him who shared personal accounts about their struggles and success at the October 27 panel presentation, *Are You Listening? Stories from Students with Learning Challenges*. We applaud their

perseverance and positive attitude, embodied in one student’s comment: “I don’t see myself as handicapped, but ‘handicapable’.” LPC values the education they provided to our community.

Student panelists praised the many LPC programs, instructors, and counselors who support their success, including Ms. Shoenecker, Alternate Media/Assistive Technology Specialist Karen Zeigler, and the Tutorial Center. The College Student Resources (CSR) Club sponsored the event in connection with National Disability Awareness Month and National Bullying Prevention Month. English Instructor and CSR Club Advisor Marty Nash and Co-Advisors Ms. Shoenecker and Ms. Zeigler helped make the presentation possible.

## Students Explore Public Safety Careers at Fair

Aspiring firefighters, police officers, and paramedics met with area employers and learned about career opportunities at LPC’s October 19 Public Safety Majors Fair. There to visit with students were representatives from more than 20 agencies, including county and city police and fire departments, California Highway Patrol, and private ambulance companies. Open to LPC students and area high school students, the fair was sponsored by LPC’s highly-regarded Public Safety Programs: Administration of Justice, Paramedic/Emergency Medical Services, and Fire Service Technology. All programs have strong ties with local agencies.



Jean O'Neil-Opitari

LPC Fire Service Technology students learn about career opportunities at the Public Safety Majors Fair.

# Students Present Research to the Community

LPC students took their show on the road last month—sharing their original research through the Las Positas College Science Research Poster Exhibit at the Livermore Public Library. During October, 16 student posters were displayed, covering topics including psychology, biology, chemistry, zoology, anatomy, and microbiology. The posters were chosen from among more than 60 posters—representing the work of nearly 150 students—exhibited during the 5th Undergraduate Science Research Poster Session held in the LPC Library last May. The event gives students a rare opportunity at a community college: conducting original research and presenting it at a professional-level poster session.



Nan Ho

Students, family, friends, faculty, staff, and members of the community attend an Author Reception at the Livermore Public Library.

## Congratulations to Our Student Winners!

### *Student Journalists Garner 16 Awards*

LPC journalism students won 16 awards at the recent NorCal Conference for the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. The awards covered the spectrum of student journalism: writing, design, photography, videography, and illustration. LPC Mass Communications students gain practical journalism experience through the student-run magazine, newspaper, and Radio Las Positas. They have a long history of earning awards for their work.

### *Talk Hawks Soar to New Heights*

Once again, LPC's illustrious speech team, the Talk Hawks, has talked its way to the top—placing first in individual events, earning more than double the points of the second-place team. In the recent tournament, the Hawks competed with teams from 18 two- and four-year colleges, including UC Berkeley, Santa Clara University, and San Francisco State University. Keep talking, Talk Hawks!



Mary Laufer

### *H.O.T.T. Sale Attracts Plant Lovers*

Green-thumbed HOTTIES—students in the Horticulturalists of Today and Tomorrow club—shared the fruits of their labor at a recent campus plant sale offering an abundance of plants, including winter vegetables and drought-tolerant ground covers. They also held the Annual Las Positas Olive Harvest Party, picking fruit for their delicious extra virgin olive oil. At left, H.O.T.T. student Kimberly Mathews brings a customer's purchase to Horticulture Instructor Tom Fuller.

### *Club Day Is a Hit with Students*

Did you know that LPC offers more than 30 clubs—from psychology to business, engineering, and social justice? Students find lots of ways to get involved, explore their interests, and meet like-minded students. Members of the Performing Arts Club, right, entertain as students check out all the clubs at the October 12 Club Day in the Quad.



Christopher Hartwell

# CALENDAR

Please visit our website for more details about the latest news and events.

November 15 -	Child Development Center Silent Auction; please see article at right
December 16	President's Speakers Series, NASA Astronaut Commander Victor J. Glover, 11 AM, Mertes Center, free
November 16	Vocal and Jazz Combo Concert, 7 PM*
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November 23 - 25	Holiday - Thanksgiving Recess
November 29	<b>LPC Wishes You a Happy Thanksgiving!</b>
December 1	#GivingHawksDay; please see article on page 1
December 1	Math Speaker Simon Rubinstein-Salzedo, Ph.D., "Games and Codes," 6-7:30 PM, Room 1871, sponsored by Math Society and the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, free
December 1	Student Music Recital, 7 PM*
December 2-11	<i>Silent Sky</i> , a new play about Henrietta Swan Leavitt and the real women "computers" working at the dawn of modern astronomy—a celestial romance and true story of discovery. Fri./Sat., 8 PM and Sun., 2 PM; Black Box Theater*
December 2	Stories and Speeches, 7 PM*
December 9	Holiday Celebration of Music Concert, 8 PM*

\*Mertes Center. Tickets and info:

[laspositascollege.edu/performingarts](http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts)



Keep up with our teams on the Athletics website. Go, Hawks!

## Silent Auction Benefits Child Development Center

Indulge at a spa, enjoy a cruise, cheer at the big game! These experiences, gifts galore, and much more await bidders at the November 15 to December 16 Child Development Center Silent Auction. Please check LPC's homepage for details about the auction. Center Director Corinna Calica, Ed.D., said proceeds will go to purchasing much-needed STEM equipment, furniture, and specialized learning materials. Dr. Calica expressed appreciation to the many organizations in the Bay Area who have donated auction items and she had special thanks for the LPC programs and organizations which have contributed, including Welding Technology, the Health and Wellness Center, Veterans First, the Bookstore, and the Library.

## LPC NEWS NOTES

**High Honor.** Current Interim Dean and former Biological Sciences Program Coordinator and Instructor Nan Ho was one of only 25 faculty members selected from across the nation to attend the National Human Genome Research Institute Short Course in Genomics and provide recommendations to the institute.

**Fulbright Scholar.** English Instructor Catherine M. Eagan, Ph.D., has won a U.S. State Department Fulbright grant to teach American Studies in Croatia for the spring 2017 semester. Dr. Eagan is working with faculty to globalize LPC's curriculum.

**Japan Visit.** Business Instructor Patricia Stokke, Ed.D., is organizing an EF College Study Tours trip, *Business and Culture in Japan*, May 28 to June 6, 2016. For details, please contact Dr. Stokke or visit the tour website at <http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/professors-trip/1825677CR>.

**Instructor's Memoir.** English Instructor Michelle Gonzales is the author of a recently-published memoir, *The Spitboy Rule: Tales of a Xicana in a Female Punk Band*, chronicling her journey as a punk rock star in the 1990s. She recently read from her book at the Livermore Public Library.

**CalWORKs Gifts.** CalWORKs is accepting donations for its annual Holiday Gift Card Donation Program until December 7. To contribute, please contact CalWORKs Coordinator Kimberly Tomlinson.

**Cycling 4 Veterans.** Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's second annual Cycling 4 Veterans ride, hosted by LPC's Veterans First Program and other event organizers.

**Free Shakespeare.** Thanks to the LPC Foundation for sponsoring a November 9 production of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* by professional actors from San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.



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**Students First**