

The LPC Student Journalism Does it Again!

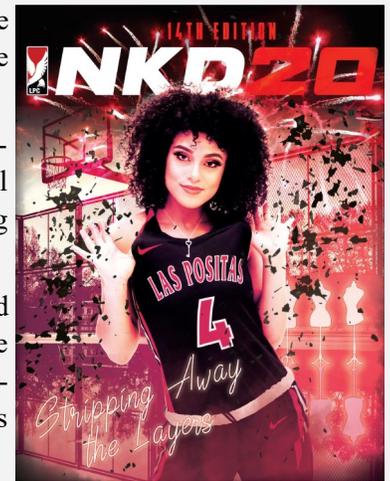
With the statewide convention canceled, student media didn't get their moment to celebrate their work with peers throughout California. That didn't stop them from taking home 12 convention awards, including two of the highest honors given by the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) — General Excellence for both *The Express* and *Naked Magazine*.

The week before the delegation of 12 was scheduled to travel to Burbank for the annual Journalism Association of Community Colleges convention, the event was canceled in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, students learned of the awards for work submitted for judging during a Zoom meeting of their newspaper class.

"It was a nice moment for the class," said Melissa Korber, adviser to *The Express*. "We celebrated the individual awards and the program's success over Zoom. Moments like that bring the staff together even when everyone is working remotely."

The acknowledgement, and chance for a moment to bask in the glory, even if only internally, was welcomed positive reinforcement for the work they do. Even with the school shut down and access limited, they are still producing quality work recording during these historic times.

"It's always an honor to have your work recognized by an organization like JACC," said Travis Danner, who currently serves as Web Editor and Social Media Mentor for *The Express*. Danner earned fourth place in the Critical Review category. "I appreciate everything they do to support the growth and development of quality journalism, which is as vital a service to all of humanity as there is, especially during our current times."



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Talk Hawks for the Win!

The Las Positas Talk Hawks competed in the first ever National Online Forensics Festival. The event took place from Friday, April 24th to Sunday the 26th. LPC had 4 students compete and they did not disappoint! While an online modality for a forensics tournament is not ideal, it gave the students a chance to deliver their speeches one last time in a competitive setting. Many of these speeches had been worked on since July of 2019.

"Tim and I could not be more proud of this group of dedicated and talented students," said James Dobson Coach of Talk Hawks.

Student *Brennan Mock* won: National Champion Extemporaneous Speaking, National Champion Impromptu Speaking, National Champion Informative Speaking, National Champion Communication Analysis, Top Speaker for the Tournament.

Casey Hamilton, 2nd Place Informative Speaking, 2nd Place After Dinner Speaking, 3rd Place Communication Analysis, 4th Place Individual Speaker for the tournament. *David Valadez*, Semi Finalist in Debate. Also competing was *Adrianna Marquez*, Team Sweepstakes:

1st place Overall for Individual Events, 1st Place Overall for 2 Year Schools.

Las Positas College Advances in Its Educational Master Planning Process

Las Positas College strategically laid the groundwork for the development of its Educational Master Plan (EMP) before the official launch of CLPCCD's strategic planning by reviewing and revising its College Mission, Vision, and Values (MVV) Statements. In February 2020 the MVV Statements were approved by the College's participatory governance groups and College Council. In December of 2019, the Las Positas College EMP Task Force formed and began meeting on a weekly basis in January to determine how the College would review, evaluate, and build upon its existing EMP. The EMP Task Force's goal is to have many of the major elements of the EMP collected by the end of the spring semester and a working EMP draft produced over the summer.

The Las Positas College EMP Task Force is headed by Rajinder Samra, Director of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness, who was instrumental in preparing the College's existing EMP. Altogether, there are eight Task Force members, including representatives from the College's Academic and Classified Senates and Student Government. Many of these individuals were actively involved in the last strategic planning effort and know LPC's priorities and data well. By the time Signature Solutions Corporate Results (SSCR) came on board, the Task Force members were already determining how to approach the development of the new EMP. The Task Force decided that the best way to move forward was by honoring the existing EMP and building upon it. Given this decision, the team's early efforts were focused on the fielding of a survey instrument, which was piloted at the College's Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee (IPEC) meeting in February and deployed college-wide. In March, at least eight campus-based activity sessions were held that utilized this instrument to engage and get feedback from all segments of the LPC community.

The work of LPC's EMP Task Force continued in April and May with the review and analysis of the feedback that was received from the College community in March and the development and deployment of the environmental scan presentation. The environmental scan presentation was piloted in a special IPEC meeting in April and presented at LPC's May Town Meeting; these sessions included an opportunity for participants to engage in breakout sessions to discuss the information in the presentation and provide feedback with regard to how the college could address the changing environment. In addition, the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Committee (IPEC) held a special meeting in May to address the EMP and move it forward.

Dr. Lori Allio and Aurelio Rivera from the SSCR consulting team began supporting the LPC EMP Task Force in early February, with Dr. Allio regularly participating in EMP Task Force meetings. She has provided constructive advice regarding the EMP process as well as the tools used to collect feedback from the college community. LPC's EMP Task Force will continue to meet during the summer.



EMP Taskforce left to right: Mr. Rajinder Samra, Ms. Karin Spirn, Dr. Stuart McElderry, Dr. Kristina Whalen (first row), Mr. David Rodriguez, Mr. Frank Polanco (first row-student), Ms. Elena Cole, missing from photo is Sarah Thompson.

LPC's Student Art Exhibit

It takes more than a global pandemic to keep the LPC Art Department from bringing the annual Student Art Exhibition!

As always, the student art show is evidence of the monumental efforts made by our students. Many of the students featured in the exhibition are not art majors. Countless hours were spent making work in our variety of courses with our exceptional professors, please take a little break from your labors to give this spectacular online gallery a look.

[Student Art Gallery](#)

ACCJC Accreditation Moving Forward

In preparation of the next important phase of LPC's accreditation cycle key members of Las Positas attended the online Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) Training on April, 30, 2020. The areas that were covered by the training included updates and changes at ACCJC, the purpose of accreditation, process, and standards, as well as new ISER developments and what to expect while completing the ISER process. New and seasoned members of the LPC community were invited by Dr. Kristina Whalen, VP of Academic Services to learn about the ACCJ's new approach and process. In addition, on May 8, 2020 the ACCJC Annual report was submitted by Las Positas College.

Many Thanks to LPC's Counseling Department

The LPC Counseling Department has been instrumental during this shelter-in-place in assisting all our students transition not only their courses online but all counseling services to remote servicing as well. The entire team not only met the challenge but succeeded in ensuring the continuation of counseling services during this critical time. A special recognition to the following individuals: Gabriela Discua and Chris Lee for their leadership on helping transition to providing online counseling; Jared Howard for his technology expertise in helping us convert all counseling forms to fillable PDF documents; Kimberly Burks for leading the new student program planning project, Celeste Rowe for continuous monitoring of incoming telephone calls and e-mail messages to connect students to resources and personnel; Joel Gagnon and Mike Schwarz for their leadership as our Counseling Department Coordinators especially during the temporary absence of our Dean of Student Services; Jane Medeiros for her dedication to ensuring that all employee timesheets and financial documentation was submitted accurately and on-time in a new working environment; our counseling interns who have shared and helped implement best practices to serve students online; and Elizabeth David for her work to acquire the necessary technology resources and training to allow our counseling team to work remotely. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!

News in Brief

Online Graduation Celebration: In response to the online student survey LPC will honor LPC graduating class of 2020 with a celebration webpage. The in-person ceremony will be postponed to a later date still to be determined, but the website where LPC, and their family and friends, can celebrate this year's graduates is up and running: www.laspositascollege.edu/classof2020/

Technology for Students: In light of the transition to face-to-face instruction and support services moving on line, Las Positas College recognizes that student access to technology is a student equity concern. We are committed to helping students who are having difficulty acquiring computer hardware, software, and internet access. Student are encouraged to contact their instructor for assistance. Student in learning communities, state categorical programs or other cohorts are encouraged to contact their program coordinator for assistance.



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