

## WHAT'S RIGHT AT LPC



### **A Listing of all Nominees for The Las Positas College “Abundance & Possibility Award”**

All names/nominations are read at Town Meetings.

One nomination is randomly drawn to win a gift certificate (Listed in Red).



APRIL 6, 2011

#### **JASON CRAIGHEAD**

##### **Physical Education/Athletics/Health & Wellness Division**

Jason is a hardworking and energetic Physical Education faculty member. He continually strives to make our division better by updating and writing new curriculum, meeting with stakeholders, be it from the community, CUS's or UC systems. Jason is the first person to volunteer for committees, assist with Program Review, the Division name change, or whatever else needs to be done, regardless of his schedule.

Jason also provides First Aid/CPR and Lifeguard training for faculty during the year. He is a constant advocate for his students, student-athletes, and the Physical Education division at large. His enthusiasm regarding Physical Education in Sports Psychology, Flag Football, or Swimming and Diving, or other course work is contagious.

Jason communicates with grace, fairness, and humor. He is not afraid to think outside the box and explore new and different methods of course content and bring emerging techniques into the Physical Education classroom, field or swimming pool. Jason Craighead is What's Right at LPC!

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#### **FRANKIE ALEXANDER, DISPATCHER**

##### **CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY**

Where do I begin? Frankie Alexander has the perfect personality for her job in Safety & Security. She provides support for many people on campus. Frankie receives multiple calls from everyone on and off campus on a daily basis.

She handles staff, students and faculty with grace and professionalism that you can't imagine! Even when students are upset, ranting and raving at Frankie about parking passes and parking tickets, Ms. Alexander keeps her cool and instructs them on what to do to resolve their issue.

Frankie processes a number of requests, including opening locked rooms, key requests, and emergency requests, as well. She expedites these in a timely manner which leaves everyone satisfied with the outcomes. Frankie can't even eat her lunch or walk through the campus without getting bombarded with questions and requests! Nevertheless, she always responds, takes note of the situation and cuts short whatever she was doing to attend to the needs of everyone else.

I could probably say more, but you get the jist! I am honored to nominate Frankie for this award. She is truly deserving of it!

\* \* \*

**SUSAN BUSTAMANTE, Administrative Assistant, Temp. Staff from District Office,  
Physical Education/Athletics/Health & Wellness Division**

Sue is “What’s Right at LPC” for a vast multitude of reasons! She is always willing to help students, faculty, staff, or community members. Whenever I have a request or need, she cheerfully helps, even when I have waited until the last minute. If she doesn’t know the answer to a question, she figures out who does and tracks down the answer. She works hard to fulfill the tasks needed to keep our division running smoothly, from taking stellar notes at division meetings to reminding us when due dates are approaching.

I am grateful and appreciative to have her as a co-worker. I enjoy working with Sue and find her dedication to helping others inspiring.

\* \* \*

**RICHARD BUTLER, DIRECTOR, CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY**

The concern for everyone’s safety and well-being at this college, whether student, staff, faculty or guest, is Mr. Butler’s main priority. Making sure that the Department of Campus Safety and Security is an organization that is run with a superior level of professionalism and expertise is his goal.

He has done an outstanding job of emphasizing safety first, with such programs as the Building Monitor program, monthly building inspections, and the campus-wide security update to include stricter access control and video surveillance.

He is truly the leading force of the Campus Safety Department, leading by example first. He comes to work regardless of the adversities in his life to ensure that safety continues to be a high priority for all at LPC.

He has served on various committees, volunteering his time, which is also a reflection of his commitment and dedication to a job well done. He is passionate about all that he does, and it shows.

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**DANA RICHARDS, BOOKKEEPER, LPC FOUNDATION**

An unsung heroine of this campus is not really an employee of the college although she is an essential part of our community. This honoree is efficient, pleasant, businesslike and personable, relating to people she connects with sincerity and honesty, both hallmarks of her character.

I honor and treasure her contribution to the campus and to the association she works for. Dana Richards of the LPC Foundation indeed represents What's Right at LPC.

**KATIE EAGAN, INSTRUCTOR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Some people do so much and ask for so little. And sometimes they do it so well, we begin to take it for granted. We begin to *expect* excellence. Dr. Katie Eagan is one of those people that always delivers. Her contribution to the English Department -- and to the LPC campus community as a whole -- demonstrates her extraordinary generosity and professional commitment.

Anyone who has worked with Katie on a committee knows that she will arrive to the meeting prepared, curious and ready to learn. She has a drive to understand the way things work and will take the time in her busy schedule to research her questions, bringing to the table insights and wisdom that can only come from a

deep commitment to excellence. Because of Katie's leadership, the English department accurately updated all of its course outlines, which was no small undertaking. She is currently propelling the department's efforts to develop our SLO process, which, again, has required an immense amount of time and energy. Katie is willing to do the "heavy lifting" for some of those weighty and difficult jobs that are crucial to the department as well as the college.

Katie also distinguishes herself as a member of any team on which she participates. She played a central role in the department's work on the Faculty Inquiry Network grant, helping to author the proposal and presenting at a number of conferences on behalf of the team, even though she was on sabbatical. She was the English Coordinator for the Integrated Learning Center, hosting staff development events and helping to develop the shared curriculum as well as a handbook for instructors.

Finally, Katie has quietly and consistently worked to enrich the student experience at LPC. She wrote a grant and organized the effort to bring the Japanese Internment plays to LPC. Then she developed and shared with the department faculty curriculum focused on these plays. Katie's colleagues admire her choice to prioritize attending all of the theater and musical events at LPC. She is a champion of the campus arts and lectures and actively participates in all the enrichment activities we urge our students to attend.

Colleagues like Katie make us all look good. Thanks Katie. You're what's right at LPC.



**MARCH 2, 2011**

**SHARON DAVIDSON**

Since Sharon Davidson was hired at LPC our hiring and payroll processes have been strengthened and enhanced. I beam with pleasure every time we are at a meeting with HR, where LPC is thanked for providing them with correct documentation. This is due to Sharon Davidson. Yes, she micro-manages. Yes, she has to continually re-train us on how to fill out a PAF and what is allowed on a time sheet. Yes, she can be a pain in the butt. Yet the bottom line is, Sharon Davidson makes "LPC look right!"

**SEAN PRATHER ("Pray-ther") and JEFF NELSON**

Jeff & Sean consistently go above and beyond the "line of duty" to ensure the safety of our campus community. There have been countless times where they have "come to our rescue" ALWAYS with a smile and willingness to help. We feel very fortunate to have our hard-working, positive, and ethical "new neighbors\* & partners against crime" here to protect us!

Thank you Jeff & Sean for always going above and beyond to keep us ALL safe!

## **SCOTT MINER – WELDING INSTRUCTOR**

Until Scott Miner became a part of LPC, the welding department was not largely recognized. Scott has become a mainstay on our campus by continuing to develop the welding program and branch it out into other areas.

Fortunately for us we see one of those in his welding art. Since we started hosting our Talk Hawk Invitational Speech Tournament, Scott has provided the team trophies at no cost to our department. He takes time and effort out of his busy day to help our tournament stand out as the absolute best tournament in Northern California. The trophies that Scott makes really stand out as artful and unique.



**FEBRUARY 2, 2011 / (All ANONYMUS unless stated)**

### **Jennifer Adams, President's Office**

Whatever request I have, and however late I am requesting it, ... Jennifer does the "What's Right at LPC" thing, and helps me out. I know she has a lot on her plate, and has "Quote" 'trained' 3 president's since she has been the President's office – but she still takes time to help me. I have seen her help others also when she must be busier than a bee. She is also one of the kindest people on the planet, and for that we thank you Jennifer -- and I'm sorry to always be asking you things! (But I probably won't stop!).

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### **Dayna Barbero, MSN, FMP, Student Health Center**

I think Dayna has been at LPC for 3-4 years now, and she has done so much for the students and the staff and faculty. The things I remember are the healthy snack days in the quad, the posters to "Protect Against Germs & Wash Our Hands", providing breakfast for the Classified Flex Day, has mental health counseling in the Health Center, and now the Chair Massage has started!! She also embodies a healthy lifestyle, presents programs in an optimistic way, and people like to listen to her.

Dayna is What's Right at LPC because she doesn't just 'cure problems' – she heads them off at the pass. Thank you Dayna and Staff!!

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### **Karen Kit, Student Services Executive Assistant**

Ms. Karen Kit is pretty amazing! Zooming around setting up A-frames, coordinating things like the Welcome Center and high school breakfasts ... where do you get all that energy?? She also volunteers in Classified Senate, helps anyone she can help along her way, and as a sidelight, runs a home with 4 generations living there.

If you don't know Kit, just know this: You ask her to do something and she does it with enthusiasm, energy, and accuracy. Kit's another person who is What Is Right at LPC.

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### **Andi Schreiber, Ernesto Nery, Daysi Valle, And Ann Jones - Financial Aid Office**

The people of the financial aid office work non-stop and extremely hard so our students who count on their financial aid get paid on a timely manner. Financial Aid has to be one of the toughest offices on campus to work in. They deal with frustrated students who do not know how

they are going to afford college on a daily if not hourly basis. They have to listen to some of the hardest stories that would affect anyone emotionally. Even though it is a tough office to be in, the team atmosphere that Andi has developed makes it a great one to work in as well .

I am so proud of our financial aid team at Las Positas College. Our students are very lucky to have them. Although they have a very small staff, I would put them up against any large school financial aid office any day. I would say they are one of the best in California.

**John Gonder (Nominated by: J. Virgilio, A. Del Aguila and ECD Learning Community Students)**

Have you ever wondered what becomes of the District surplus equipment? Well Santa Claus had a great idea and 8 deserving ECD students were the grateful recipients. During the summer, 2 ECD Professional Development Coordinators and the part-time instructors were introducing “basic computer skills” to a group of Spanish speaking ECD students. For the past 3 semesters these students have been taking both ESL and ECD courses as a learning community. One major barrier for them is lack of resources to have a computer in their home.

One evening Mr. Santa was working late in Room 805 and witnessed firsthand this group just starting with the basics. As everyone knows, new skills need to be practiced repeatedly before mastery takes place. With limited time, some without a car, and most with young children at home finding a computer to practice new skills was a huge barrier. But this group persevered. Every assignment submitted was done on a computer somewhere, often with errors but each week small steps towards improvement.

Then one day Santa called. If he could work it out with the district and find some willing CS students to help out, what would we think about students receiving a “gift” of a refurbished computer? Just a short time later, 8 refurbished computers appeared on our doorstep, complete with monitors, a mouse, a power cord and even a surge protector he got donated. Monica, Zorayda, Suset, Martha, Minerva, Rosa, Cristina & Guadalupe will now have the opportunity to practice their skills as they continue their education here at LPC.

Never under estimate the hearts of generous and committed individuals. They can and do make a difference, one day at a time. And so the ECD students, with their instructors, nominate John Gonder. He is "what is right" at LPC.

**Brian Owyong , Dsps Counselor – Connie Hildebrand**

I nominate Dr. Owyong for the What’s Right at LPC award because he knows his stuff and he cares. Having worked with Brian for almost 10 years, his compassionate temperament, his thoroughness and his knowledge have only increased over the years. He really cares about the students and they care about him. He is a great counselor and a great human being, who embodies what LPC is all about!



**“WHAT’S RIGHT AT LPC”**  
**DECEMBER 2010**

**NOMINATOR: Karen Kit**

**NOMINEE: ASLPC and Cynthia Ross, Student Life Advisor**

Student Services has been very fortunate to have had student leaders and an advisor assisting with two major events: Expo and High School Senior Parent Night. It has been a rewarding experience working with this year’s student leaders. At the November 3 High School Senior Parent Night, we hosted 650 seniors and their family members. The first person our guests met were our student leaders.

These two major activities would not have been successful without the assistance of ASLPC!  
Thank you future leaders!

**NOMINATOR: Jeff Baker**

**NOMINEE: The Counseling Staff [Winner of the Gift Certificate]**

I want to start by saying that the Counseling Department at Las Positas College is simply amazing.....

About a year and a half ago, the Counseling Department took what was basically close to a 75% budget cut to all hourly and overload counseling, which actually grew to approximately 90% this year. They have been down two positions for close to a year. In addition, the Department continues to be challenged by the never ending student demand for counseling services. This includes the increasing need for student educational plans by growing programs such as Veterans, International Students, Financial Aid and Athletics. On top of all of this, they continue to provide institutional support for articulation, they coordinate events such as the Major Faire and EXPO, provide embedded counseling services to English, ESL and ECD courses to name a few, provide outreach at the high schools and the Spanish speaking community, deliver program planning group counseling sessions, transfer workshops and teach in our Human Services Program. They continue to look for new and innovative ways to serve more students with fewer resources. Examples include the recent institution of an online orientation, and new plans for our first Mega Day, a one day event designed to assist students in our Early Admission Program to enroll in classes.

My hats off to Barbara Morrissey, Gilberto Victoria, Angella VenJohn, Nancy Wright, Andrea Alvarado, Chris Lee, Michael Schwarz, Donna Hawkinson, and Celestine Rowe.

I am very proud to be affiliated with a group of faculty and staff who are so committed to student success. The actions of this Counseling Department are truly representative of "What's Right at LPC."

**"WHAT'S RIGHT AT LPC"**  
**NOVEMBER 2010**

**NOMINATOR:** Christie Verarde

**NOMINEES: JADIN LEE-FORBES, TERESITA RABON & SAUNDRA ASHBURN, College Reception and Mail and Shipping Personnel**

If I need a mid-day pick me up, I know just where to go on campus. I take a break and walk down to get the mail because I know when I get there I will be received with a smile and a friendly hello. These ladies are always on the run but it never stops them from greeting me warmly and helping me with whatever I need.

Sometimes I get tired watching them as they handle mail, then run to the phone, then put that on hold to answer a question. All with ease and a good attitude and that's what makes them "What's Right at LPC"!

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**NOMINATOR:** Kimberly Tomlinson

**NOMINEES: JULIE THORNBURG & ANDREA ALVARADO**

This month Student Services hosted the Major Exploration Faire -- an amazing campus wide event that provides our students with the opportunity to explore various career paths, different

majors and gives faculty and staff an opportunity to showcase their excellent programs and services.

The planning and coordination of such an event takes thoughtful dedication, an eye for detail and a commitment to provide our students with the tools to explore their own potential. While there are many who participated in bringing this event together, a special recognition must be given to both Andrea Alvarado and Julie Thornburg who helped to shape and support this campus wide effort.

They did a truly exception job at making such a substantial event look seamless and easy. They are to be commended for their hard work and dedication. Both of these individuals put in long hours and extra effort to make this day a success. Additionally, a big thank you to the counselors, faculty and staff who sat out in the hot sun and shared your passion and enthusiasm for learning.

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Nominator: Sean Day

**NOMINEE: BILL CHOW, ELITE CAFÉ**

I nominate Bill Chow for the What's Right at LPC Award because of all the wonderful changes he has brought to our Cafeteria services. He has greatly expanded the diversity of ethnic food offerings and added many cultural celebrations and provided a very warm and festive experience. He has been a great help in promoting and celebrating our diversity and supported our International Student Program by hiring several of our students, and catering our International Night next month. Bill has kept the campus informed of the healthy offerings he serves with his newsletter and messages. He is always open to new ideas for food offerings. He goes above and beyond his role as a Manger and has transformed our cafeteria to a educational asset. Today, in particular, as I was giving a tour to a teenage prospective student from Japan and her Mother, who happened to take a 3 day break from her high school just to come and visit our college, Bill quickly assessed what I was doing and offered them a coffee and tea, free of charge. This would have been typically offered to them in Japan and was greatly appreciated.

When I thanked Bill for doing this, he simply replied "that's what Colleges' do". I don't know how many other Colleges would do this, but for this and all he has done for our Campus, we're lucky to have him at ours. Bill, you're surely what's Right at LPC!

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**NOMINATORS: THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM REVIEW CTE, AND ALSO ONE ANONYMOUS NOMINATION**

**NOMINEES: TERI HENSON AND ELENA COLE,**

**Co-Chairs of the Instructional Program Review Committee**

**#1: From Instructional Program Review Committee**

“For program review to be effective and to offer its potential power and positive effect, the process must be faculty-driven and based upon the local institutional context and values.” - excerpt from the paper: Program Review: Setting a Standard, 2009

Thank you Teri and Elena for driving our efforts to conceptualize what program review at our campus will look like in its infancy, working diligently to make the process worthwhile and more efficient. Your dedication to process was inspiring during the Flex Day workshop and the forms provided for our submittal are concise and meaningful.

For the many hours you have spent, and will spend, in refining and redefining our cyclical program review process, we thank you!

## **#2: From “ANONYMOUS”**

Teri Henson and Elena Cole are leading the charge and creating a new system for instructional programs to do Program Review. These two individuals are working with faculty and administrators to plan, design and implement a program that will give the college and its instructional programs the tools to evaluate their programs. Spurred on by the deadline of the Accreditation Follow-Up Report and Visit, Teri and Elena are proceeding with this large undertaking with care, taking the view that faculty must be involved in the process in meaningful ways to make the process work. On behalf of the IPRC, Teri and Elena are What's Right @LPC.

### **“WHAT’S RIGHT AT LPC”** **OCTOBER 2010**

**NOMINATOR: ANONYMOUS**

**NOMINEE: SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY FACULTY AND STAFF**  
**[ Winner of the Gift Certificate ]**

As the Surgical Technology Program enters its second year of providing innovative education in both theory and practical application, we acknowledge that the program has had its share of trials and tribulations. With the loss of not one, but two faculty members during the first year, there have been many hurdles to overcome. The spirit of survival and passion for creating a successful program is alive and well in those people who have dedicated more time than we will ever know to making this program one about which the college can be proud.

This nomination is for those committed and passionate people who are, at this very minute working toward the Association of Surgical Technology Accreditation site visit on Thursday and Friday of this week (October 7 and 8). **“What’s Right with LPC” are the following people: George Johnson, Cindy Bolin, Mary Kay Dunn, Carol Falcon, Vicki Shipman, Patricia Perkins, and the Administration** at ValleyCare Health System. It is through their steadfast commitment and passion for the success of the Surgical Technology Program that the students receive excellent educational opportunities from these experts, supplies, instrumentation, and equipment donations totaling over \$300,000, and the use of a classroom and fully equipped simulation Surgical Suite lab. These individuals and our community partner, ValleyCare Health System are most certainly “What’s Right with LPC”!

**NOMINATORS:** Connie Reding & John Ros (A&C Division Staff)

**NOMINEE: PHILIP MANWELL**

We want to nominate our dean, Dr. Manwell, for What's Right at LPC. He has worked tirelessly on the planning and building of the new College Center for the Arts\* for the past five years. It's a beautiful facility with every detail in place. We give much of that credit to his expertise and leadership in working with the committee who planned this building. This is the third new building that Dr. Manwell has helped to plan and open on the LPC campus. The other 2 are: the PE Complex, the Multi-Disciplinary Building.

Dr. Manwell worked the entire summer of 2010 without one day of vacation. These days he's still dealing with all the details of opening a new building and getting it on track so that students, faculty and the general public get maximum use of the facility. There's so much to do pertaining to Building 4000 besides his daily work as a Division Dean....There are keys to order; contractors to meet; faculty to appease; inquiries to answer, along with all the other little things that crop up in getting a new building on line.

Dr. Manwell's patience is amazing! His dedication to this building and this college is very obvious. We applaud him because we know that Dr. Manwell deserves to be recognized for What's Right at LPC.

(\*As of Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, to be known as the Mertes Center for the Arts, MCA.)

**NOMINATOR:** Todd Steffan  
**NOMINEE:** (READ NAME AT END PLEASE)

I know of an individual that has worked countless hours on projects to assist others when it really was not her job requirement. This individual has helped write great PR pieces to help programs that are not her own to get noticed in the local community, state, and national. She is always willing to volunteer her time and produce wonderful articles and press releases. For example she has done some outstanding work in highlighting many of our heroes on campus - our student Veterans.

**Mary Lauffer is What Right at Las Positas College.**

**NOMINATOR:** ANONYMOUS  
**NOMINEE:** SCHEANELLE GREEN

When I drive in to work in the morning the first car I see is the two-toned Mickey Mouse mobile, and when I leave on time, or when I leave an hour or two late, strangely enough I see that same car in the desolate parking lot.

In this time where the college staff, and classified personnel, must give more of themselves so that the students don't suffer from the various shortages of services, Scheanelle has no qualms about going the extra mile for her students. I have seen firsthand, time and time again, she never turns away a student in distress ... it could be 2 minutes to closing and she will unlock the door and help that one last person.

We all have the power to change the lives of our students, and prospective students. She definitely uses her "princess power" to help change many of our students' lives.

**NOMINATOR:** ANONYMOUS  
**NOMINEE:** (READ AT END)

I would like to nominate an individual that we all know is a true Las Positas College leader. He has always been here through the tough times to the best of times. He is always very passionate about our college as well as the Community that utilizes and supports our college.

As we look for a new President to take us through these uncertain times, we are lucky because we have many great leaders here, especially this leader that has the skills and abilities we want in a President here at Las Positas.

This individual has great people skills, he knows financial budgeting extremely well, he is highly respected on the campus by faculty, staff, and administrators, he is very involved in the local community, he has worked for some of the best, he is a family man, he has great ethics and values, he is known throughout the state, he has a pretty good sense of humor to make us laugh even when times seem tough, and hopefully he plans on being in this area for a while.

I could go on and on about this individual. **He is Mr. Bob Kratochvil.** If our Presidential hiring committee can clone Mr. Kratochvil, we would have the type of college President that would lead Las Positas College to continued success. He is what is Always Right at LPC.

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## SEPTEMBER 2010

### “WHAT’S RIGHT AT LPC” NOMINATIONS

**NOMINATORS:** JEANNE VIRGILIO AND THE ECD DEPT.

**NOMINEE:** ZINA ROSEN-SIMON from the ECD Dept.

We would like to nominate Zina for her true and unending dedication to the students that we serve. Her commitment to every detail of the "future" Child Study Lab will be recognized by students who observe and learn about young children for many years to come. Ask anyone associated with the Child Study Lab project and they can attest to Zina's 100% commitment.

Although there is not yet a Director for the Lab, Zina has not given up to assure that every detail is addressed. Her commitment to teaching and learning will be recognized for years to come as students observe and practice in this high-quality early care and education setting.

Zina is what is right at LPC and it will be a proud moment when she gets to welcome families, children and the LPC community to share with her 20 year dream.

**NOMINATOR:** KAREN KIT

**NOMINEES:** THE WELCOME CENTER & INFO TABLE  
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

This is our third semester providing this one-stop program for students, which was the conceived by Dr. Pam Luster. The staff and volunteers involved helped assist over 3500 students. This one-stop center could not survive without all the volunteers that came in to pinch-hit by checking-in students, taking their photos, helping them navigate our college web page, and provide directions to classrooms.

*[From Sharon G: From Kit's list - I counted at least 37 different volunteers: from LPC staff, faculty, administrators, and also District Office staff! – You know who you are ! ]*

The Info Table was resurrected less than a week before classes began and Jeff Baker and Julie Thornburg whipped a schedule and plan into action as well as signing up staff and volunteers.

Student Services is in awe of their staff's dedication and commitment in making a students pathways into Las Positas as successful as possible.

Hershey Kisses & Hugs to you all!

**NOMINATOR** ANDI SCHREIBMAN

**NOMINEES:** ANN JONES, DAYSI VALLE & ERNESTO NERY  
FROM THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

These incredibly hard working staff never had a break all summer. They do their very best to meet the financial needs and demands of our students and their parents, and the ever increasing demands of our program, which continues to grow exponentially with no additional support in sight.

They handle their workload with a great attitude and graciousness even though often exhausted at the end of the day. It's not unusual for them to be so busy advising students for hours and hours that they often do not have time for as much as a bathroom break because of the lines!

Still, they keep a positive attitude and their spirit and commitment represent the best of LPC, and I am so proud and honored to work with them and to nominate them for the recognition they deserve.

**NOMINATOR:** ZINA ROSEN-SIMON from the ECD Dept.

**NOMINEES:** Jeanne Virgilio, Christie Verarde, and Ana Del Aguila

**[ Winner of the Gift Certificate]**

Abundance of commitment...  
Abundance of integrity...  
Abundance of professionalism...  
Abundance of heart...

... these qualities embody the individuals that are nominated for this award. Although they each have varied responsibilities within their department, the end result of their efforts has a positive effect on the education of our students.

These individuals are instrumental in guiding and supporting students in their educational and career goals. They were catalysts in creating a learning community for our English Language Learners. Their participation in local, regional, and state stakeholders meetings heightens our ability to stay current, and contribute our voice in the decision-making processes affecting our field. The service and education that the Early Childhood Development department provides is enhanced because of the work that they provide. They are steadfast at working to alleviate barriers to student success, and true advocates for our students, our program, and our college. Jeanne Virgilio, Christie Verarde, and Ana Del Aguila, the ECD Professional Development Coordinators, are consummate professionals who exemplify the abundant spirit of LPC.



**MAY, 2010**

**“WHAT’S RIGHT AT LPC” NOMINATIONS**

**NOMINEE: SHERMAN LINDSAY AND CREW**

Nominated by: Kathie Brough

He is quick with solutions to help the students and teachers! A few weeks ago I arrived in my Speech I class to find a non-functional computer...with 5 students planning to give speeches that day, needing access to powerpoint or visual aids, e.c. Happily, I had saved Sherman's number in my cell phone. Literally within minutes someone was in the classroom, and determined the computer was broken. Just then Sherman arrived and hooked up the laptop he had thought to bring with him! Class started only about 5 minutes late and all students were able to complete their assignments. Thanks for the rescue Sherman and friend!

**NOMINEE: PHILIP MANWELL**

Nominated by: The English and Mass Communications Departments

The English and Mass Communications Departments nominate Dr. Philip Manwell for his support of instructional excellence and creativity, his inspiration and vision in times of fiscal uncertainty, and his profound concern for student success.

Dr. Manwell guides his division with both his head and his heart. He works late into the evenings and on the weekends to solve our problems and expand our opportunities. His door is always open for a consultation about anything, from curriculum development to personal crises. He offers diplomatic solutions and champions the needs of the faculty to improve their programs.

He understands that protecting free speech and academic freedom is essential to an honest and productive learning environment, which is why he won the Journalism Association of Community Colleges First Amendment Award.

He promotes and celebrates faculty innovation and collaboration, from poetry slams to cross-discipline media productions. He attends as many campus events as humanly possible and, in a number of cases, he has used his own money to support creative campus activities. He encourages teachers to pursue their passions because he knows that doing so produces inspired and enthusiastic instruction.

You can tell that his passion is helping students and faculty reach their fullest potential, which is why Dr. Philip Manwell is “What’s right at LPC.”

**NOMINEE: VALERIE BALL**

Nominated by: Christie Verarde

Valerie is irreplaceable. She is responsible for keeping the ECD department on track. If we need a form, we ask Valerie; if we need help with our computers, we ask Valerie; if we need help getting organized, ask Valerie... You get the picture!!

Valerie’s candy dish is well known on campus. Students and faculty seek it out on those days when only a piece of chocolate will get them through! Valerie lovingly fills it every day she’s here and pays for it herself. She is always available to help students who look a bit lost, and fills the halls with her friendship and laughter.

Once a week she has to work in San Leandro at Every Child Counts – and is sorely missed here. Valerie is a great example of “What’s Right at LPC.”

**NOMINEE: FREDDA CASSIDY [ Winner of the Gift Certificate ]**

Nominated by: Anne Loyola

Sharing an office area with Fredda has offered me a view of her masterful teaching. A high percentage of Fredda's students are returning to college after many years away from a school of instruction. In some cases, they are doubtful of their abilities and hesitant to embrace their ideas.

Fredda has a way of working with students to bring out their best designs. Through skillful dialogue and prodding, she is able to nurture students' core design ideas so they can build upon them and create unique pieces of work.

Through her influence and dedication, designs created by her student's are seen and appreciated throughout our Tri-Valley and beyond. And, most importantly, our students go forth with pride, confidence and validation of their capabilities. Fredda is giving them quite a gift.



(No nominations in April)



MARCH 2010

“WHAT’S RIGHT AT LPC” NOMINATIONS

**NOMINEE:** Jonathan Brickman  
Nominated by: Cindy Balero & Sean Day

We nominate JONATHAN BRICKMAN for his unending support of our International Student program. He puts ‘students first’ in many ways including coming in during his vacation to help grade our student Assessment tests which enables us to register new students in as short a time as possible.

Additionally, he presents an engaging and informative ESL Orientation to our students which is a highlight of our entire Orientation program. We continually hear what a respected and well-liked teacher Jonathan is, and he is sought after, even by students who wish to take a lower ESL level just to be in his class. We value his collaboration with our program staff and his “can do” attitude that has been instrumental in the growth of our program.

His commitment to International Education exemplifies our College's Values Statement of 'promoting tolerance and mutual respect in a diverse community'. Jonathan is a wonderful asset to our College and our program and he is definitely an example of “What’s Right here at LPC.”

**NOMINEE:** The Health Center and Donna Manning  
Nominated by: Mark Tarte

Donna Manning and The Health Center have been providing healthy treats for several semesters now at the cafeteria. Free fruit, nuts and other healthy snacks have been provided once a week to students, who flock to the tables. Besides the healthy alternatives, they also provide information and handouts on living a healthy lifestyle., all in keeping with LPC's commitment to fully develop our students' minds and bodies.

Their work is very well received by the students and their efforts should be commended.

**NOMINEE: MARTHA KONRAD**  
Nominated by: Karen Kit

First of all I have got to say -- "Thank God for Martha!" Student Services recently was awarded stimulus funding for DSPTS. This Contract Agreement was awarded after the District's Board Deadlines yet required immediate firing action. Who do you go to when presented with a problem? (MARTHA!)

The flare gun went off and life saving devices were cast off to myself (Kit) and Layne. Martha patiently and diligently advised, cojoked, and emphasized using her vast experience and Teflon-exterior knowledge of working with the District Office.

After the event, I called Martha and told her she was a Goddess. I am not easily fluffed but this situation really took the stuffing out of me.

**NOMINEE: SYLVIA RODRIGUEZ [ Winner of the Gift Certificate]**

Nominated by: Todd Steffan

You probably already know her, and if not you will. If one could tap into her energy, we would no longer need to rely on oil or any other energy needs.

Sylvia Rodriguez is the Dean of Enrollment Services. She is an amazing individual. She always has a smile, no matter what is going on. Her positive attitude really motivates all who work for her.

I do not know how she does it...In charge of Financial Aid, Veterans, International Students, Admissions and Records, and I am sure there are a few others. One program alone is a full time responsibility. She has dedicated numerous hours in working with her various coordinators and staff to make each program a success AND RECOGNIZED BY OTHERS THROUGH THE NATION.

She is one of the first ones here in the morning, ready to go, even without a cup of coffee. Sylvia is what's right at LPC



## **Nominations for the February 3, 2010 Town Meeting**

**SCOTT VIGALLON, COORDINATOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**

**[ Winner of the Gift Certificate]**

...starting with my first semester teaching at LPC several years ago Scott Vigallon has facilitated my use of Blackboard and answered many other technology questions. He replies quickly and clearly and he SOLVES PROBLEMS! Good use of these tools has been invaluable to me and to my students. Thanks, Scott!

- NOMINATOR: KATHIE BROUGH, SPEECH DEPT.

**JADIN LEE-FORBES, TESSIE RABON AND SAUNDRA ASHBURN**  
**(BLDG 100 RECEPTIONISTS)**

OUR BUILDING 100 RECEPTIONISTS - JADIN, TESSIE AND SAUNDRA - DO AN ABSOLUTELY EXTRAORDINARY JOB OF ASSISTING PEOPLE WHO WALK INTO OUR CAMPUS WITH LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PROBLEMS!

THEY ASSIST PEOPLE FROM THE COMMUNITY WITH GENERAL AND CONFUSING QUESTIONS, STUDENTS WITH PARENTS WHO ARE STRESSED, STUDENTS WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THEIR ROOM NUMBERS, AND OF COURSE THE ALWAYS PERSISTENT QUESTION : WHERE IS A&R OR COUNSELING.

I HAVE NOW BEEN PRIVILEGED TO SIT NEAR THE RECEPTION AREA FOR 3 START-OF-TERMS:

- I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY OF THESE CLASSIFIED PROFESSIONALS 'LOSE IT' IN ANY WAY.

- THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF ANGRY VISITORS AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS HANDLED THE SITUATIONS WITH EQUANIMITY, FAIRNESS, AND COURTESY.

IN ADDITION, NATASHA LANG AND CHYI CHANG BACK UP THE RECEPTION DESK AND PROVIDE THAT EXTRA LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE TO UPSET VISITORS, AND CONFIRM THAT THE RECEPTIONIST'S RESPONSES ARE INDEED TRUE.

ALL STAFF ON THE 'FRONT LINES' ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR COMPOSURE AND SERVICE --

AND AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO APPLAUD JADIN, TESSIE AND SAUNDRA FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERTISE!!

- NOMINATOR: SHARON GACH

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### **CINDY AHRE (INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT, ENGLISH CENTER)**

CINDY AHRE PROVIDES THE SUPPORT AND COORDINATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING READING AND WRITING PROGRAM IN THE 400 BUILDING. CINDY COORDINATES THE SUPPORT STAFF IN THE ENGLISH CENTER AND THE ENGLISH INSTRUCTORS AND ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS WHO TEACH ENGLISH 100A, 100B AND 104. SHE HAS WORKED IN THE PROGRAM FROM ITS BEGINNING AND, THUS, PROVIDES THE CONTINUITY AND PERSPECTIVE THAT MAKE THE PROGRAM WORK SO WELL FOR OUR STUDENTS AS IT HAS EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS. CINDY PERFORMS HER JOB WITH "VELVET GLOVES"; SHE'S SENSITIVE AND KIND, YET FIRM.

THE PROGRAM IS A STATE-WIDE MODEL, AND CINDY HAS BEEN A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO ITS SUCCESS.

WE ALL ADMIRE AND APPRECIATE CINDY AHRE; SHE'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF "WHAT'S RIGHT AT LPC."

- NOMINATOR: LINDA MILANESE

### **THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER STAFF !! (LRC)**

THE LRC STAFF ARE 'CAN-DO' PEOPLE! AS A PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBER IT IS OFTEN HARD TO REMEMBER ALL THE FORMS, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES UNIQUE TO DIFFERENT COLLEGES. THIS GROUP OF AMAZING PEOPLE ARE INFINITELY PATIENT, HELPFUL, AND SUPPORTIVE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS:

- "HOW DO I SET UP A LIBRARY ORIENTATION?"
- 'HOW DO I PUT A BOOK ON RESERVE?"

THEY PASS BY ME BROWSING THE DVD'S AND ASK IF THEY CAN HELP. IF THE LIBRARY DOESN'T CARRY A BOOK ON A PARTICULAR SUBJECT, THEY LOOK UP RESOURCES ON THE COMPUTER.

NO MATTER HOW SILLY THE QUESTION, HOW OBSCURE THE SEARCH, OR HOW MANY TIMES THEY ANSWER THE SAME QUESTION FOR ME -- (REGARDLESS HOW LONG I HAVE BEEN TEACHING HERE, AND THEY KNOW I SHOULD KNOW THE ANSWER BY NOW) – THEY ARE SMILING, FRIENDLY FACES WHO ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO HELP. THE LRC IS FILLED (BOTH STAFF AND STUDENT ASSISTANTS) WITH A WHOLE LOT OF ‘WHAT’ RIGHT” !!

-NOMINATOR: WENDY WISELY

**ALLEN PHAM (STUDENT ASSISTANT, BIOLOGY & SCIENCE)**

I NOMINATE ALLEN BECAUSE OF HIS DEDICATION TO OUR BIOLOGY & SCIENCE PROGRAM, STUDENTS AND FACULTY AS WELL AS HIS STELLAR PERFORMANCE AS A STUDENT ASSISTANT. AS A NEW STUDENT ASSISTANT IN FALL 2009, ALLEN CAME TO US WITH GLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS. HE HAS QUICKLY PUT THESE ASIDE AND LOOKED FOR NEW THINGS TO LEARN AND NEW WAYS TO HELP US DELIVER OUR LABS. BOTH DEPENDABLE AND ACCURATE, ALLEN ASKS THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS, COMMUNICATES WHAT IS LEFT TO DO, AND IS A GREAT TEAM PLAYER. DURING THE SEMESTER BREAK, HE WORKED TIRELESSLY WITH ME TO GET THE PREP ROOM READY FOR A NEW SEMESTER IN LIGHT OF A LOOMING STAFFING CRISIS. WHILE WE ARE GIFTED TO HAVE ALL OF OUR PREP ROOM STAFF BE SO DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING, ALLEN IS SPECIAL. HOPEFULLY, THIS RECOGNITION WILL NOT EMBARRASS HIM TOO MUCH. I THANK HIM TREMENDOUSLY!

- NOMINATOR: GERRY GIRE

**LISA WEAVER (INSTRUCTOR, BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**

Lisa Weaver, a rolemodel instructor, is one of the reasons I am proud to work at Las Positas. She leads by example in a number of ways including going out of her way to be available to adjunct faculty for ideas, feedback and direction, designing an excellent syllabus, and gaining the respect and admiration of her students and colleagues. To look at what's right, look to Lisa Weaver.

- NOMINATOR: JULIE STEIN



**Nominations for the December 2, 2009 Town Meeting**

**Cindy Balero, Sean Day and Sylvia Rodriguez**

November 16-20 was International Education Week, as declared by the U.S. Department of Education. The International Student Program Staff Of Cindy Balero And Sean Day, together with the leadership of Sylvia Rodriguez, coordinated a film festival and the first Las Positas College International Night program, in celebration of the many ways international students enhance our campus and community. The international night program attracted a full-to-capacity crowd and was a joyful, multi-cultural fellowship event. I applaud my colleagues for demonstrating their strong commitment in service to - and in celebration of - our international students. Sylvia, Cindy, and sean - you are what's right at LPC!

- Laura Weaver

### **Jim Dobson**

It would have been easy for **Jim Dobson** to take a step back and not work so hard. Load for Forensics was cut back some this year. Jim easily could have turned down the work all together or just not coached as much. Instead, he took on a full teaching load PLUS being a coach for the Talk Hawks!

And coaching he has done. The students are drawn to Jim. They look up to him, his talent, and the advice he gives. From day one, he has been instrumental in pushing the students, making sure they follow-through with their commitments, and playing the bad-cop if they don't.

I have been very grateful for Jim's help this year. He has driven the students individually, and helped the Team collectively. The Talk Hawks continue to have the best record of any community college Forensics squad in Northern California, winning Sweepstakes Awards at every tournament we attend. Jim is one of the main reasons for the Team's success. He is definitely what's right at LPC.

Janet Brehe Johnson, Director of Forensics

### **Dianne Duffy and Sondra Crosetti**

Dianne and Sondra are the backbone of the Math X program. Over the years, as part-time instructional assistants in the Math X lab, they have assisted hundreds, if not thousands, of mathematics students, providing calm and patient instruction, advice and support when problems occur, and, at all times, sympathy, understanding and friendly smiles. They have also provided stellar support for the Math X program, often working many hours without pay to ensure that test banks are complete and accurate and Math X materials prepared. This fall, with the loss of our full-time instructional assistant in Math X, Sondra and Dianne have uncomplainingly picked up many additional duties and kept the program going through a difficult time, showing both initiative and resourcefulness as they cope with day-to-day difficulties and long-term planning. Committed to providing excellent learning experiences for our students, Dianne and Sondra are active partners with the Mathematics faculty in making decisions about how best to deliver instruction and improve student success in Math X. They are what's right with LPC.

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- Teri Henson

### **Randy Taylor**

Randy Taylor is what is right at LPC. Randy is an outstanding teacher and colleague. I met Randy shortly after being hired in 2000 and he wasted no time in making me feel welcome and at home. At the time he was very much involved with the AGS Honor Society as the faculty advisor as well as coordinating both the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. To this day he is still very much involved. He makes his students work for their success but he works equally hard to ensure that they receive recognition for their hard work.

Each semester when enrollment on Class-Web is made available for the next semester, Randy's classes fill almost immediately. This is a testament to his reputation as a great teacher; he clearly enjoys teaching and his students see this everyday in his class. Randy is dedicated to his chosen profession and to his students. Many of you may not be aware that in the later part of the last millennium Randy left a secure and lucrative job in industry to live his passion, teaching mathematics at LPC. Randy's decision to join the faculty at LPC has benefited our mathematics department, our college, but more importantly it has benefited our students.

Recently, on November 12, 2009, a national organization, the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) recognized Randy Taylor for his Teaching Excellence at its conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were only six teaching excellence awards presented this year for the entire nation including Canada. Randy has also been

recognized locally by the California Mathematical Council of Community Colleges ( CMC 3 ) for his teaching excellence.

As we celebrate what is right at LPC, I would like us all to recognize that Randy Taylor is "What is Right at LPC".

Gregory Daubenmire

**Angella Ven John and Nancy Wright [ Winner of the Gift Certificate]**

Angella Ven John and Nancy Wright deserved to be recognized for their extraordinary commitment to working with students, to the support of students success and the clearing of roadblocks that hinder student progress. They have also had to spend an inordinate amount of time with a bunch of English teachers -- this alone should merit the Whats Right at LPC award.

Angella has led the effort to offer embedded counseling in English basic skills classes. In the spring of 2009, she and Nancy met with English staff and faculty to coordinate and plan the embedded counseling curriculum. Then, this fall, Angella organized the multiple class visits during which counselors came to English classes to help students understand the campus resources, time management strategies, and educational planning. Angellas work for the students in the English program, and the work of the many other counselors who contributed to this effort, came at a time when the resources in Student Services are extremely slim. Angellas work demonstrates the kind of creativity that can emerge when there are limitations.

And Nancy. Where does she get that energy? Nancy, with her deep passion and dedication to students, has inspired the entire department as she has donated her time to be a member of our Faculty Inquiry Network team. She has attended bi-monthly FIN meetings and multiple retreats. This means she has spent hundreds of hours talking about the English program. She reads all of our long e-mails and the eighty-page reports. She has collected data for us, personally calling students who have dropped from our classes, offering the department staff and faculty insight while supporting students with a subtle intervention, encouraging them to return. She is a powerhouse and a gift to Las Positas College.

We want to say thanks to these amazing colleagues who have been so generous with their time and talent.

Elena Cole  
On Behalf of the English Department



**Nominations for the November 4, 2009 Town Meeting:**

**Jenna Heath and Kirti Reddy**

Jenna and Kirti work tirelessly to promote Las Positas College to the community through their outreach work. Time and again, they work on projects or ideas for connecting with different segments of the community, whether a high school program for at-risk youths, non-profits or a chamber of commerce, their continued efforts keep LPC at the fore in the community's

awareness. They do so with little complaint and long hours with little recognition as to the hard work it takes to coordinate the efforts of a wide variety of persons and programs here at LPC and in the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and beyond. Their efforts to promote Las Positas College are what's right with LPC.

Mark Tarte

**The Computer Center Staff in 803: Jennifer Ortiz, Greg Johns, Hermina Sarkis-Kelly, & Larysa Karpylovyh [ Winner of the gift certificate ]**

Before the district purchased a Blackboard license in 2003, I would frequently ask anyone willing to listen, "Who on campus will provide student technical support for it?" The question was invariably greeted with silence. While sitting through demos of Blackboard and competing products, I would say, "Nice features, but who will help students when those features don't work?" Blank stares would fill the room. A few months later when Blackboard was finally chosen, a colleague said in a revelation, "It just occurred to me that we don't have any technical support for students." At that point, someone offered, "Hey, why don't we just have the Computer Lab support people do this? They help students anyway." The next thing I knew, Greg, Jennifer and the crew in 803 were appointed the Blackboard technical help desk under the proverbial "other duties as assigned" clause.

I'd like to say that they welcomed this challenge with open arms, but that would be a stretch; they knew what they were in for, and they could foresee the seemingly endless need for student help as more and more instructors began using Blackboard. But being the true professionals that they are, Greg and Jennifer accepted their fate, then did something about it. What they did was create an incredibly efficient and responsive support program that helps students overcome any technical obstacles that might get in the way of learning. And when they help students, they do it with class, patience and thoroughness. Their commitment to students also rubs off on the other instructional assistants like Hermina and Larysa who currently work in the 803 lab...and those who formerly worked in the lab.

The amount of student phone calls, emails and walk-in questions about Blackboard reached a peak of 1,649 during the Fall 2008 semester. It was around this time that an announcement came from District ITS that The Zone would make its debut the following semester. For several months I had been asking who would be the unlucky souls to provide tech support for students using – or trying to use – The Zone. Like five years earlier, answers were not exactly forthcoming. Then a funny thing happened: Jennifer called and actually VOLUNTEERED to help support The Zone and its infamous offspring, Zonemail. I thought that perhaps someone had spiked her water bottle. But she was serious, and she, Greg and the gang proceeded to provide outstanding support through the formidable transition period. Heck, they should be named winner of this award every month just for volunteering for that task.

Aside from this act of charity and their outstanding work with Blackboard support, it dawns on me that I really don't know how well they deal with non-Blackboard students. For all I know, they could be sitting in front of their computers watching YouTube videos, Tweeting their followers or Facebooking their friends. But I doubt it. Anyone who provides such a high level of service to online students is likely to provide that same level of service to face-to-face students. Actually, their reputations confirm this. They have my respect and appreciation, and I'm sure they have the respect and appreciation of many others, too. Not only are Greg, Jennifer and the staff what's right at this college, they also put the "PC" in LPC.

Scott Vigallon



## Nominations for the October 7, 2009 Town Meeting:

### Catherine Suarez

Lately we know how very important it is to save money (in any way we can) here at LPC. Our college is experiencing deep budget cuts at the same time our enrollments have increased dramatically. We are in a growth mode with minimal funding, which creates some real challenges for this institution and its employees.

LPC has dedicated staff, faculty and administrators who are trying their best to manage a less than perfect situation. In this mix of employees, there are certain individuals who go above and beyond their regular daily work to make great contributions to the college.

One person who should be recognized for her larger-than-life efforts is Catherine Suarez, coordinator of the Foreign Language Dept. at LPC. When Catherine is presented with a challenge, she goes to work immediately on trying to overcome whatever obstacles may lie ahead for her students and her program. She works tirelessly on staging various events at the college, and she single-handedly spearheads fundraising events and works on grants when possible, to help pay for events that are dear to her heart, and enrich our lives and those of our students.

Catherine takes difficult times and makes opportunities of them. She stays focused on her work, and is always looking for new ways to develop more outreach interaction with students and the community at large. In doing so, the events she coordinates seem to improve with each passing year. Catherine has developed *Cuban Week*, and helped form a group to support students called "Brotherhood of One."

Catherine has devoted countless hours of her personal time to organizing events, putting together fundraising ideas, and writing grants to obtain extra funds for her language program and its related activities. Today (9/9/09) Catherine received word that she obtained a \$5000 grant from Lawrence Livermore Lab for a non-profit organization she created called *Basic Necessities*. (For further information about Catherine's charity, please go online to [www.basicnecessities.org](http://www.basicnecessities.org).) Her students are not only learning foreign languages, they are also learning to become responsible citizens by giving back to their community. This teaching style is beneficial to everyone involved, and helps to make our students active participants in school as well as in their community.

Let's applaud Catherine for her efforts and let her know that her work has not gone unnoticed. Quite the contrary, Catherine was recently featured in the local newspaper for the charitable work she and her students were doing within the community. This type of outreach in the local community has some large and very lasting consequences for the Foreign Language Dept. as well as the college.

We're sure we have not seen the last of it...as Catherine continues to raise the bar with all that she does here at LPC. Let's show Catherine our appreciation for her great dedication to her program, her students, the community, and to our college.

Connie Reding and Linda Peifer  
Arts & Communication Division Staff

### Teri Henson

On behalf of the math department, I would like to nominate Teri Henson for the tireless and thankless work she puts into our department and the school. She has been a strong force behind the success of the Open Math Lab and has been a creative and innovative leader during our struggle with the Math X program. She puts incredible energy and passion into everything she does and serves as an excellent leader for our math department. I feel very secure with her as department chair and admire her reliability, knowledge of how things work, and passion for teaching. Thanks Teri for doing such a good job!

-Howard Blumenthal

### **The I.T. Guys [ Winner of the gift certificate]**

The I.T. Guys – Sherman Lindsay, Andres delaCruz, Haywood Beaird, Michael Furuyama and Ethan Castor -- are always ready and willing to help out with any and all technical needs, even when we ask at the last minute. They are so knowledgeable and can do anything, and I don't know what we would do without them. They are definitely deserving of recognition, and they don't get enough. I just want them all to know how appreciative we are for all that they do.

- Cynthia Ross

### **Brian Hagopian**

I nominate Brian for the “What’s Right” award because... Let me count the ways;

- Personally – he has always advised me about my 15 year old Corolla, and spent his own time working on it.
- Professionally – He constantly updates his curriculum to keep pace with the industry
- Whenever I have a student question regarding curriculum, he takes time to help.
- For years Brian has allowed me into his classes to discuss resources.
- I am privileged to work with such a caring individual who works very hard and asks much of himself.

-Nancy Wright

**Nominated Employee Name: *Natasha Lang***

I love coming to work every day just to be around Natasha's enthusiastic drive and commitment to the college and our students. Natasha's enthusiasm is contagious, and the motivation she brings to our department is priceless. She always supports her staff in every aspect of their lives. Her door is always open, whether you are talking, venting, going over budgets, or finding new ways to be creative within your position. Natasha will be there for you, she will be there for any one who asks for her help, and that makes her **"What's Right at LPC"**

Natasha is a true leader who leads by example. She always gives more than 100% service to everyone, and expects no less from the people around her. Every day Natasha finds new ways to give her all to the students and staff here at LPC. Natasha will always go out of her way to talk with students on campus or wave hello to staff members. She always puts other people first and makes sure to that everyone who crosses her path leaves with a better understanding, and a happy face. You will often find Natasha here well after 5pm completing projects, working on emergency items, or giving breaks to the reception desk.

Natasha transferred from LPC to Saint Mary's College of which she graduated from while working here in the Administrative Services Office. She embodies every aspect of Las Positas College Students and Staff.

LPC is truly blessed to have such a great employee, co-worker, supervisor, and friend.

*Anonymous*

**James McGuirk**

There are so many amazing classified, faculty, administrators, and students at LPC. It is very difficult to choose an single individual for What's Right at LPC. I would like to nominate James McGuirk, LPC Student Veteran. James has taken his leadership and commitment that he developed from the military to our college. As he led individuals on two different tours in Iraq, he has continued to lead our returning veteran to the various paths of success at LPC. I have learned more from James about many issues our Veterans face, the world, the structure of the military, and the dedication and commitment all of our Veterans give to serve and protect us , than I have ever learned from reading books, listening to workshops, etc. on these subjects.

Instead of just going to school and home with the heavy load of classes James has, he has become very involved and dedicated to the Veterans First Program. He has encouraged other Veterans to be involved and utilize their leadership skills at Las Positas College. He has helped provide input and guidance with many of the services and programs our LPC Veterans First Program provides. He has dedicated many hours to assist many Veterans making the difficult transition from combat to college. At the same time he is a fulltime student with a full load of classes like Chemistry, tons of Math, etc. while maintaining a great GPA. I have no doubt James will leave LPC and continue his greatness and have a very successful life. It is an honor to work with James. Like all of our Veterans, James is a true Hero.

**Jadin Lee-Forbes, Teresita Rabon, and Saundra Ashburn**

I nominate the Administration Receptionists for their smiles and welcome to students, faculty and staff and for all the extra work they have done to ensure that our International student mail gets delivered in the fastest, most economical way. They sometimes even have to drive to the Post Office to send an International rush packet to an awaiting student. They have been a great help to our program and they are a great asset to our college.

Sean Day

**Karen Zeigler**

Karen goes over and above the call of duty when working with students, she is kind, helpful and interested in finding out how to BEST assist students with disabilities. Karen tirelessly works, goes to Cal State East Bay at night and helps with student clubs. She is a wonderful mentor and role model to many students and as a single mom, specifically to her daughter. As a co-worker, Karen shares her knowledge and personal experience in order to assist us in helping students. She is a great guide when it comes to helping us with computer issues and a great teacher when she shares her knowledge in regards to the alternate media tools. Students seek her out just to say hello and to check in on her. She makes everyone she works with feel special and students as well as their parents can rely on Karen.

Karen is also involved in the community and sits on committees that deal with helping the homeless and those who go with out. She is a concerned, conscientious individual who makes coming to work a joy. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate my co-worker, Karen Ziegler.

Karen Ziegler is what is right at LPC.

By Angelina Gandara

**Barbara Stuart**

Every single day Barbara Stuart gives EVERYTHING POSSIBLE to students who seek help through the DSPS Center. Barbara juggles the ever increasing demand with poise and grace, in the face of a burgeoning DSPS population and budget cuts, which have resulted in unfortunate service cuts. She works tirelessly to make sure that if there is a way to still meet the students' needs she will find it and make it happen. At the same time, she makes sure that all tests are secure, exams are proctored in a monitored environment, and exams are tracked from instructor delivery to pick up.

She also has the most beautiful, ready smile for anyone that needs one!  
She IS what is right at LPC.

By Math Department, (KristyWoods)



### Nominations for Sept. 3, 2009 Town Meeting:

#### **Sean Prather - Campus Safety and Security**

This is very difficult to single out just one of the people who currently work in Campus Safety because we are so fortunate to have several people who are dedicated and make a difference on this campus in our department. I am familiar with the concept of Community Policing having worked for a Police Department that was a leader in the concept. It takes dedicated and committed people to “problem solve” rather than make excuses for what we cannot accomplish. Without any extra compensation, and for reasons such as pride in doing a good job, and being respected for the professional he is, Sean Prather has stepped up and taken a leadership role in Campus Safety. With a little encouragement, Sean has made personal efforts to improve many areas of C.S. from the training of new officers to how we wear our uniforms. He encourages other officers to continuing improvement and to volunteer in areas of interest above and beyond what is required. He is a leader without rank or pay, but respected by his peers for the job he does. He is one of a group of employees that never say, “That’s not my job”, but he says, rather, “How can I help you?”.

Submitted by: Richard Butler

#### **Davis Jee and Gene Fong – Ricoh Copy Center**

Davis and Gene do their job with grace, professionalism, patience and pride. They work with a huge group of people who usually need something done “right now”, “for today” and “in less than 30 minutes”. They are creative when working with staff to complete projects and always have wonderful suggestions for how to make a project better or more cost-effective. At the beginning of each semester, Davis and Gene make sure that we have all of our syllabi for the first day of class. These guys don’t ever show the slightest bead of sweat on their brows even though they have stacks of requests to process. The Ricoh Copy Center is something that is right at LPC!

Submitted by: Catherine Suarez

#### **Zina Rosen-Simon – Instructor ECD**

Zina works tirelessly at LPC in a number of initiatives on campus. she readily volunteers to take on tasks to help her fellow colleagues. Zina is involved in all the of ECD program initiatives, alongside her duties as a full time instructor and is very involved in the planning, design and implementation of LPC's first child care center Zina co-coordinates the TANF/ECD grant with Kimberly Tomlinson. The LPC program, funded by the Foundation for Community Colleges is considered a model program by the state , and takes persons from welfare to careers in teaching preschool. Additionally this year, Zina has created new opportunities for ESL students seeking a

career in ECD. The English Language Learners cohort program is a learning community that pairs pscn courses with ECD courses to assist the many ESL students who seek out these careers. As always, Zina quietly but persistently moved forward through the many hurdles of starting a new initiative to see if it comes to fruition this Fall.

For all she does, but more importantly the way in which she does it, Zina is a big part of what is right at LPC.

Submitted by: Pamela Luster

### **Ruth Hanna - Instructor, Geology**

Ruth Hanna combines deep knowledge of geology, endless creativity, and technological competence, with amazing problem-solving skills and work ethic. She delivers top notch lectures, covering complex geologic content with clarity, humor and depth. Her students find themselves engaged and excited by the study of our planet, something few of them were expecting! Ruth's dedication to excellence in teaching has never flagged. She brings great enthusiasm, as well as knowledge of effective pedagogy, to every lab and lecture course she teaches.

Submitted by: Carol Edson

### **Nicole Huber - Scheduling Professional, Academic Services**

Nicole tirelessly serves all the fulltime and adjunct faculty at the college each day she comes to work. With a sense of humor and a huge smile she answers endless questions about complex processes and responds with great candor regarding enrollment, scheduling and load sheets. She is the best part of my day when she laughs and helps me to remember that this job is only one part of an already full life - family, friends and outside interests. If we all had that mantra we might be happier in our own jobs. She comes to work ready to take on a leadership role, as she had with new scheduling software and banner updates or take on a team player opportunity. She is a great group member and assists other staff in order to make their jobs easier. I am so proud of her growth as an employee and of her growth as a peer. I have learned a great deal from her in the last two years and I know she makes a positive and efficient difference in all the areas of academic services.

Submitted by: Laurel Jones

### **Scott Vigallon and Jeff Sperry - Innovation Center Professionals**

While Scott Vigallon and Jeff Sperry each have unique and exceptional talents, for this nomination, it doesn't seem equitable to separate them. Scott and Jeff (and their Innovation Center) are a true example of successful team work and the epitome of visionary thinkers. They "walk the talk" by finding solutions to problems and making problems opportunities.

In the five years that I have worked with Scott (and not quite that long with Jeff) their skills have made both my face-to-face and online teaching delivery better and more dynamic. Every interaction (without exception) has been positive and encouraging. They allow me to make mistakes, learn from them, and feel good about. The interactions my students have had with them have been equally positive and confidence building. Additionally, with the many adjuncts that we have -- all who teach elsewhere -- each one has been astonished at the knowledge given, the service offered and the gracious, professional manner of each and every interaction. I've even had professors from other schools (community colleges, CSU and private) ask if it would

be "OK" to link to some of the information Scott and Jeff have available on the online learning site as other schools just don't have the quality or quantity of info available that they have created.

To Scott and Jeff:

For seeing possibilities, focusing on opportunity and finding what's working

For continuing to look for the next possible answer (and gently offering suggestions for improvement)

For unleashing one's energy to fix what's wrong and connecting with a positive vision (especially when it's Blackboard)

For believing that solutions exist and focusing on what is right with the situation (and making the problem an opportunity)

For riding the changes and realizing that change is possible

For learning to live with uncertainty (Blackboard is this daily), while acting with confidence

For taking oneself to one's own edge, and following one's edge wherever it goes

For trusting in oneself to create one's own future and for moving beyond one's best

For acting with service and grace (and humor, and patience) to make a contribution through action at LPC and beyond

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Submitted by: Lisa Taylor-Weaver

### **Tom Fuller – Instructor, Horticulture**

Tom has put in countless hours of his own time working hard to make our tiny yet budding Horticulture department better. He is always there for the students, and has helped me to be a better instructor. He has supported my growth as an instructor by collaborating with me on improving and expanding our course curriculum. Tom personally took me to lab sites to help me be well prepared to teach challenging field trip based lab courses this fall and spring. He's also involved in supporting the Horticulture club with fund raising activities like plant sales, and is always on the lookout for opportunities that would benefit the club and our students. The greenhouse collection is thriving due to his volunteer weekly effort to keep everything alive even in the tough Livermore heat. Thanks Tom!

Submitted by: Ellen Witharm

### **Leslie Gravino - Instructor, Business Department**

Over the summer, Leslie Gravino directed the College's first Summer Work Program for at-risk students in our community. She received last-minute stimulus funding from the Federal Recovery Act and quickly planned an outstanding program involving community partners such as Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, PG&E, AT&T, and the Livermore School District. Her College partners included assistant Denise Rogers and Welcing Instructor Scott Miner, who generously shared his expertise with the students. The program combined training, education, and meaningful employment.

Leslie's work earned media attention, developed community partnerships, and helped change the lives of disadvantaged students. This is what one of the participants had to say: "The summer work program was an amazing experience... I only wish it had lasted longer."

Given minimal lead time, Leslie leveraged resources to create a program with abundant benefits for individual students and our community. She and her program exemplify everything that's right about LPC.

Submitted by Mary Lauffer

**Elena Cole – Instructor, English Dept. [ Winner of Gift Certificate]**

Elena spent an entire year facilitating the development of a reading program for the English Basic Skills Program. She motivated faculty members to create reading modules based on a successful program in the CSU system. This year she is overseeing the implementation of these modules. In addition, she secured the Faculty Inquiry Network grant to continue to help the discipline evaluate and improve our Basic Skills Program. She truly cares about our students' success and about best practices for the teaching of English.

Submitted by: "anonymous"



**First Ever-  
Celebrating What's Right At LPC – Convocation, August 13, 2009**

FOR OUR FIRST 'WHAT'S RIGHT AT LPC' PRESENTATION WE ARE CELEBRATING A PERSON....

- *Who believes* his job can be done ... even when there is a lack of materials to do it
- *Who looks for and sees possibilities* for making sure our campus is presentable to the public
- *Who unleashes all his energy* to create excellent room set-ups and clean facilities, and
- *Who focuses on opportunity* when he assists us in moving offices and finding furniture
- *Who acts with service and grace* when he makes our facilities sparkle for students, staff and community...
- .... I would like to announce the recipient of the first monthly "What's Right at LPC" certificate ....
- .... *Someone who always does his creative best* for LPC, and for our community ---
- .....**DON SAUGAR.**