Las Positas College Kicks Off Year At Convocation: Serving Students And Strengthening Community

Each year at Convocation the LPC campus community spends the afternoon together — enabling colleagues to reconnect, allowing College leaders to provide updates on issues facing the institution, and presenting an opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators to focus on the coming year. Convocation 2011 was no different, with President Walthers and the Vice Presidents sharing information on the budget, enrollment, accreditation, student support, and the ways in which the College will face — and overcome — the challenges ahead.

The session began with a look back at some 2010-11 success stories to provide a positive point of departure for 2011-12. There was also an emphasis on all of the assets in place at Las Positas College: tremendous talent, rich traditions and campus culture, dedication to students and service, and continuity of leadership. Although the presentations covered several different and distinct topics, they all shared some common themes: LPC’s “unrelenting focus on students”; all that has and will be achieved through collective efforts; and moving forward with “connectivity, communication, and collaboration.”

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Dale Boercker, Faculty Emeritus, for receiving the 2011 Reed Buffington Award
- Corinna Calica for having her Early Childhood Education research published online as part of USCB’s Packard Foundation Ed.D. Fellowship Program
- Scott Miner for being selected to attend the American Welding Society’s Instructor Institute as the representative for District 22
- ASLPC for holding the first “EXPLORE!! Get to Know Las Po” event, with 250 new students in attendance
- LPC recipients of the 2011 Chancellor’s Awards: Frankie Alexander, Randy Taylor, Nan Ho, Sharon Davidson, Rajinder Samra, Greg Daubenmire, Karin Rose, and Sarah Thompson
- Chabot College colleagues for hosting Convocation
Global/Social Responsibility

Faculty Focus On Students’ Needs

As part of its College Day professional development activities, LPC offered a variety of workshops for faculty to build their capacity and explore topics on teaching and learning. Paul Grossman, Chief Regional Civil Rights Attorney for the U.S. Department of Education (San Francisco), delivered a presentation on students with disabilities in higher education. His comments addressed not only the legal requirements of disability law, but also the contribution disabled individuals make in advancing human and civil rights on college campuses and in our communities. He also highlighted the needs of our disabled veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; these “wounded warriors” provide a unique opportunity for institutions to deepen our awareness of and commitment to individuals with disabilities.

Respect for Diversity

Girls In Control — And At LPC

Last month, Las Positas College hosted a week-long seminar for Nosotras en Control (We [Girls] are in Control), a program designed for middle- and high-school aged Latina girls who would be the first in their families to attend college. Nosotras — a partnership between LPC, BasicNecessities, LVJUSD, Kaiser, AXIS Health, and the Migrant Education Program of California — is now in its fifth year, and focuses on self-esteem, positive choices, and creating an educational plan. This summer the seminar included workshops on college planning, health, and career goals. The program is sponsored by grants from LLNL, Livermore Rotary, Hindu Community Grant Gift, and NAUW, and aims at developing young women to be future leaders.

Adapt to Change

LPC Centers On Welcoming Students

Once again Student Services is utilizing its successful “Welcome Center” model to provide assistance to new students during the first weeks of the semester. From August 8 to August 19, the MDB Reading Room is transformed into a one-stop shop where students can get help from Admissions & Records staff, meet with Counselors, get information on College resources, and find out how to navigate the campus. Last year the Welcome Center served nearly 6,000 students, and the Student Services team hopes that their efforts this year will be just as effective in meeting students’ needs and making their transition to college as smooth as possible.

Make a Difference

Heroes Among Us

During its afternoon session at Convocation, Las Positas College gave out two annual honors. Gilberto Victoria was announced as the recipient of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award — sponsored by Campus Change Network (CCN) and the President’s Office — for his work addressing the needs of our diverse students and making LPC a bridge-to-opportunity for underrepresented members of the local community. For their “contribute professionalism, unfailing commitment to students and unwavering dedication to educational excellence,” there were two honor- ees for the Donald R. Milanese Award for Educational Integrity & Excellence: Karen Kit and Steve Gunderson. Congratulations to Gilberto, “Kit,” and Steve for these well-deserved recognitions!

Creative Thinking

Wines Win At Alameda County Fair

In June, LPC’s Viticulture Program was honored when several of its wines won awards at the 2011 Best of the Bay Wine Competition. Produced annually as part of the Alameda County Fair, the Best of the Bay is a regional competition open to wineries located within the nine Bay Area counties. This year the contest drew 198 entries from 61 different wineries, and three of the winners hailed from our very own Campus Hill Vineyards! Bronze medals were awarded to both the 2009 and 2010 100% Touriga Nacional, and a Gold medal went to the 2009 75% Touriga Nacional/25% Cabernet Sauvignon — the first quality harvest from LPC’s vineyard, and one of only two gold medals given for red wine at the Alameda County Fair.

Lifelong Learning

President Looks To Listen & Learn

In an effort to gather broad knowledge of the College community, its culture, and history, Dr. Walthers will launch a “Learning Tour” across campus. The President will meet with various groups on campus — by constituency, by Division and department, and in open forums — so that faculty, staff, administrators, and students can share their thoughts about what they love at LPC, what works well, what we can do better, what could be changed, and how we can be creative. In addition to conducting the “Learning Tour,” Dr. Walthers will be exploring other ways to foster a common culture and enhance communication.