

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

SUMMER/FALL ISSUE 2009



WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGES A TRULY UNIQUE AMERICAN INSTITUTION?

Our success as an institution is tightly coupled with the



growth and prosperity of our community. A testament to this is our partnerships with city agencies, K-12, local businesses, colleges and universities, accrediting bodies, and social service organizations. In this issue, I have highlighted a few of these collaborations that speak to the interconnectedness of Las Positas College with the Tri-Valley region.

Because we believe deeply in being a college that serves its community and students exceptionally well, Las Positas College is embarking on a multi-phased strategic planning process during this academic year. "Vision 2015" will provide the internal and external communities with an opportunity to think differently about institutional capacity, performance, resources, and outcomes, and it will create a blueprint to follow for the next several years as we write the future history of the College.

In preparation for this process, the College community worked for the last year to revise its Mission Statement to be more reflective of our role in the Tri-Valley. Additionally, we developed Institutional Strategic Goals to operationalize our Mission Statement and crafted a Vision Statement to articulate our hope for our lasting impact in the community. These statements and goals were adopted by our Board of Trustees in June, and I am pleased to share them with you.

Las Positas College is proud to serve the Tri-Valley, and we are committed to unleashing our students' potential and transforming lives in the community

Be well,

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.

Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered institution providing educational opportunities that meet the academic, intellectual, career-technical, creative, and personal development goals of its diverse students. Students develop the knowledge, skills, values, and abilities to become engaged and contributing members of the community.

Vision Statement

Las Positas College meets our students and community where they are and creates experiences for them that build their capacity, speak to their potential, and transform their lives.

Institutional Strategic Goals 2009 – 2012

1. Provide excellence in teaching, student learning, services to students, and scholarship by providing state of the art learning facilities, equipment, supplies and resources, and staffing. (Teaching and Learning)
2. Increase recognition of Las Positas College as a premier institution of innovative higher education that prepares talented, competent, and engaged members of the community. (Institutional Advancement)
3. Ensure the highest level of service to students and the community through continuous and purposeful evaluation of programs and services that situates student learning, community responsiveness, and employee engagement as the center of all we do. (Accountability)
4. Offer cutting edge educational opportunities designed to accelerate the economic development of the Tri-Valley region. (Economic Development)
5. Provide excellence in the stewardship of the community's investment in Las Positas College and expand the institution's capacity to apply resources to meet the needs of students, staff, and faculty through strategic assessment and resource allocation. (Resource Development and Allocation)
6. Commit to excellence in teaching, student learning, and scholarship by expanding professional development for all employees and nurturing the intellectualism within the campus culture. (Academic and Professional Excellence)
7. Serve a diverse College community by maintaining and expanding an environment of accessibility, equality, and social justice. (Diversity and Pluralism)
8. Craft a culture of collective responsibility through an enhancement of College processes and systems, reinforcing internal communication, integrating internal planning processes that promote coordination and accountability, and strengthening a sense of community and collaboration internally and within the District. (Communication and Infrastructure)
9. Serve as a catalyst for enhanced community life through outreach, partnerships, services, and significant contributions to quality arts, cultural, wellness and vitality experiences and activities in the Tri-Valley. (Community Life)
10. Engage in sustainable stewardship and community leadership as an institution through our use of products and technology, our practices and curriculum, our policies, and our philosophy as represented through institutional culture and leadership. (Sustainability)

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TRI-VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE GUIDING CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION SINCE 1991

Perhaps you have known since you were five years old that you wanted to be a nurse. Or your second grade teacher inspired you to pursue a career in elementary education. Or maybe your idea of the perfect career has more to do with carpentry than crunching numbers.

It is one thing to want to pursue a career, but quite another to figure out how to get there. That's where a partnership such as the Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative (TEC) comes in.

"TEC has made great strides over the years to assure students in the area have access to educational resources necessary to fulfill their career goals," said Dr. Janice Noble, Dean of Academic Services at Las Positas College and a Co-Director of TEC.

TEC has worked behind the scenes since 1991 to guide the development of career technical education for our region. This multi-stakeholder partnership, now 90 members strong, is a consortium of secondary, post-secondary and regional business representatives invested in developing career pathways from the Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and Sunol Glen secondary school districts and the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program to Las Positas College and beyond.

Representatives from California State University East Bay, Tri-Valley Business

Council, regional Chambers of Commerce, labor and apprenticeship organizations, government legislators, parents and students, career center and One-Stop representatives, and Junior Achievement all actively participate in the work of the TEC.

In 2008-2009, TEC members worked in district teams to create a comprehensive Career Technical Education (CTE) mapping project to identify existing and potential career pathways in our region. Business representatives were on hand to assure alignment with regional workforce needs. Las Positas College counseling staff helped evaluate the accuracy of course articulations. Cross-district collaboration helped districts in the early stages of pathway development to bring their pathways up to speed quickly. The results of this effort are being compiled into a comprehensive regional CTE Pathway Guide that will be available when school starts as a resource for counseling staff, students, and parents throughout the Tri-Valley.

Community colleges remain a key resource for students striving to fulfill career goals. With guidance from TEC, students in the Tri-Valley can be assured that there are resources and support for career fulfillment.

For more information on TEC, log on to www.trivalleyed.org.

SUMMER WORK

When can changing a light bulb help change lives? When communities join hands to save energy and empower at-risk students.

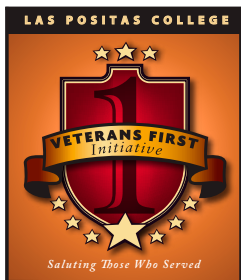
Students replaced old light bulbs, conducted household energy audits, and rebuilt computers through Las Positas College's 2009 Summer Work Program. In collaboration with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, Las Positas College was chosen to receive federal Recovery Act stimulus funding for innovative programs combining training and education in paid internships for 90 at-risk students.

"We have been very excited about the Summer Work Program," says Leslie Gravino, Las Positas College Work-Based Learning Coordinator. "Not only did interns increase their skills and gain valuable work experience, but they also contributed to the community. Their work made a difference."

Gravino explains that Las Positas College received stimulus funding because of its successful track record managing similar programs that prepare disadvantaged students to enter the workforce. Work-Based Learning Program mentors helped interns by serving as academic and training coaches.

Other Las Positas College departments, such as Welding, provided learning and working opportunities. Community program partners included: California Youth Energy Services (a branch of the Rising Sun Energy Center), PG&E, the City of Livermore, Digital Connectors/One Economy, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, AT&T, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, Alameda County Fair, and Kidango.

VETERANS FIRST PROGRAM



In early 2007, several dedicated employees at Las Positas College (LPC) came together in the recognition that the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were going to produce veterans returning to college in numbers not seen since the end of the Vietnam War.

Realizing that these returning young men and women had faced difficult, and in many cases life-threatening, work while in the military, they formed a task force to figure out how to best serve these veterans as they became students at LPC. In that spirit, the group reached out to many community organizations such as Blue

Star Moms, Pleasanton Military Families, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, Swords to Plowshares, Livermore Veterans Foundation, the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley and a host of other individuals and groups for ideas and support.

The work resulted in the first Veterans Outreach Faire in the fall of 2007. Over 50 veterans and their dependants participated in the day-long event. They learned everything from how to navigate the first day of classes, how to apply for their GI Bill and other financial aid benefits, to educational counseling to map out a plan for their major or transfer. They were also welcomed and thanked for their service to the country.

Since the first faire, a student-veterans service organization has formed, new veteran scholarships have been created, and the faire has become an annual event. This summer,

the College will expand its support services to include Operation Gateway-A Veteran's Transition to Success, a new program to assist 25 veteran-students with everything from books to life issues. Under the direction of Todd Steffan, Veterans First Program Coordinator, and LPC veteran student James McGuirk, the Program will continue to serve those that have served us. For more information contact Todd Steffan, Veterans Program Coordinator at (925) 424-1571.

Best of the Best 2009

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Las Positas College Foundation hosted Best of the Best '09 to a virtually sold-out crowd last April. The signature black-tie fundraising event raised nearly \$90,000 through ticket sales, a silent auction, raffle, sponsorships and donations. Ninety percent of the funding will go directly towards student activities such as scholarships, support of disabled student programs, and a textbook loaner program.

The event included student performances and honored three "Best of the Best" citizens from the Tri-Valley: Joe Callahan, Tri-Valley Developer; Jim Concannon, Concannon Vineyards; and Janet Lockhart, former Mayor of Dublin.

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Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard
Wente Vineyards
Westover Winery
Zephyr Grill and Bar



left to right: LPC Foundation Chair
Charlene McKenney and
President DeRionne Pollard



left to right: ASLPC President Masi Quorayshi,
President DeRionne Pollard, and
Inter-Club Council Chair Mario Jaramillo

Photos by Jack Arant

JOIN US AT THESE LPC EVENTS!

August

1-2 Summer Production:
8-9 *Metamorphoses*
by Mary Zimmerman

12 EXPO
Student Orientation

17 Classes Begin

TBD Men's & Women's
Soccer season begins

September

TBD Men's & Women's
Cross Country season
begins

October

5 *A Friend Indeed—the
Bill Sackter Story*, a
documentary

12 Transfer Day
(Contact: Scheannelle
Green, Career/
Transfer Center)

14 Major Exploration
Faire

23-24 Children's Theater
Show
(Contact: Ken Ross)

26-30 Psychology Club/
Department's
Sleep Awareness Week
(Contact: Ernie Jones)

November

2 Speaker: Kim Peek
The Real Rain Man

14 Fall Production
(Contact: Ken Ross)

TBD High School Senior &
Parent Night

TBD Speech Performance
(Contact: Tim Heisler/
Jim Dobson)

TBD Men's & Women's
Basketball season
begins

December

1-5 La Semana Cubana/
Cuban Culture Week
(Contact: Catherine
Suarez)

TBD Holiday Concerts
(Contact: Cindy
Rosenfield)

Meeting the Needs of Our Community—*Thank You Voters!*

MEASURE B—FACILITIES UPDATE



**AQUATICS CENTER RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
MAY 21, 2009**

left to right: President DeRionne Pollard & Chancellor Joel Kinnamon



**COLLEGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS—
COMMEMORATIVE STEEL SIGNING
MAY 4, 2009**

left to right: Cindy Browne Rosefield, Vice President Laurel Jones & Dr. Neal Ely
Target completion date: Spring 2010



**CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER GROUNDBREAKING
MAY 4, 2009**

left to right: Beverly Prior, Vice President Bob Kratochvil, President DeRionne Pollard, Zina Rosen-Simon, Jeanne Virgilio, Jackie Fitzgerald & Laura Reno,
Target completion date: Spring 2010

ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW

Las Positas College (LPC) has completed work on its Accreditation Self-Study report and is currently laying out plans for the related Site Visit in October. LPC was originally accredited in 1991, establishing it as an independent institution and no longer the extension known as “Valley Campus” of Chabot College.

Accreditation is a non-governmental, self-regulation process that American colleges undergo every six years, evaluating themselves in relation to standards of good practice among institutions of higher education. This voluntary process, which includes a peer review system, is the primary means by which colleges and universities assure and improve quality. Both accrediting bodies and the institutions they certify must use the highest standards of professionalism to ensure that the endorsement provides value to the colleges themselves, the students, the public, the government, and other institutions of higher education. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the accrediting body that covers institutions in the western region of the country, provides students with the assurance that the educational activities of an institution have been found to be satisfactory. This accredited status provides students the benefits of easier transfer of satisfactorily completed credits, as well as the opportunity to access federal financial aid.

An additional benefit of this process of reflection is that, through Accreditation, Las Positas College finds itself in the unique position of documenting who it is and where it has been, while at the same time defining who it wants to become. As a learning-centered institution dedicated to excellence and student success, LPC is committed to

engaging in its own assessment, evaluation, and continuous improvement; lifelong learning is not just a tag line in the Values Statement, it is a principle that is promoted and reinforced for the students and the College itself.

For more information on the Accreditation process at Las Positas College, visit <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/accreditation2009/index.php> or for general information on Accreditation, please visit <http://www.acswasc.org/>.

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please contact Kirti Reddy,
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VALUES STATEMENT

Las Positas College thrives as a teaching and learning community committed to integrity and excellence. To nourish this environment and the communities served, we:

- promote and celebrate lifelong learning;
- anticipate and meet the needs of the ever-changing workplace;
- demonstrate social and environmental responsibility;
- promote tolerance and mutual respect in a diverse community;
- foster a climate of discovery and creativity;
- hold firm to the belief that each of us makes an astonishing difference.



**LAS POSITAS
COLLEGE**

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