



LAS POSITAS  
COLLEGE

# CONNECTION

April 2026

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



## FROM LIVERMORE TO LIMITLESS: DEDRA T. BAUER INSPIRES LPC

Dedra T. Bauer, Ms. Black USA 2024–2025, returned to her hometown of Livermore to inspire the Las Positas College community with her powerful presentation, *From Livermore to Limitless: A Conversation on Leadership, Confidence, and Purpose*. Held on March 25<sup>th</sup> in celebration of Women's History Month, the event welcomed students from across campus.

An international public speaker, Dedra shares her message worldwide, focusing on mental health, cultural connection, and women's empowerment. She leads with purpose, encouraging others to embrace authenticity and remain true to themselves. Her ability to connect with individuals of all ages and backgrounds makes her message both impactful and relatable to audiences around the globe.

During the hour-long presentation, Dedra guided attendees through an empowering conversation on leadership, confidence, and purpose, drawing from her personal journey, "from Livermore to Limitless." She encouraged participants to embrace their individuality, take pride in their identities, and invest in themselves through positive affirmations. Her message resonated strongly, "Everything that makes you different is exactly what makes you limitless."

The program concluded with a dynamic panel of women professionals who shared their personal journeys, perspectives, and strategies for success. The discussion highlighted themes of work-life integration, leadership development, mentorship, and pathways for personal and professional growth.



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# VETERANS FIRST PROGRAM CELEBRATES WOMEN VETERANS AT ANNUAL EVENT

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Veterans First Program hosted its annual Honoring Women Veterans event on March 21, 2026, welcoming approximately 100 guests from across the Tri-Valley community.

The program opened with remarks from Ms. Mayumi Kamura, Deputy Secretary of Women Veterans at the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Guests then heard from an inspiring panel of student veterans and alumni: Ms. Siera Johnson (U.S. Navy, Psychology), Ms. Catherine Piura (U.S. Army, Business, transferring to CSU East Bay), and Ms. Katherine Pagni (U.S. Marine Corps veteran and LPC alumna, now with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory). Their stories of transition, resilience, and personal growth highlighted the diverse experiences of women veterans.



The event also recognized this year's scholarship recipients—Ms. Lauren Kanady, Ms. Victoria Hudson, Ms. Catherine Piura, and Ms. Regina Pangelinan—whose academic achievements reflect the strength and promise of LPC's veteran and military-connected community. In addition, adjunct faculty member Ms. Wendy McClendon was honored with a Quilt of Valor in recognition of her distinguished service.

The Veterans First Program supports student veterans, service members, and their dependents by fostering a welcoming environment where they can connect and thrive. Events like this are made possible through strong campus support and community engagement, allowing the program to continue investing in those who have served.

## DR. SATSUKI INA TO HEADLINE PRESIDENT'S SERIES

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the Las Positas College Foundation, in collaboration with the President's Office, will welcome Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, clinical psychologist, and author Dr. Satsuki Ina as a featured guest in the President's Speaker Series. Born in the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II, Dr. Ina brings a powerful personal and professional perspective on Japanese American incarceration, intergenerational trauma, resilience, and civic responsibility. Her visit, timed to coincide with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, will offer students and the broader Tri-Valley community an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue on history, democracy, and the enduring importance of civil liberties. The event will be held at the Barbara F. Mertes Performing Arts Center from 2:00-4:00PM.



# LPC DIVING QUALIFIES THREE FOR STATES



On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Las Positas College hosted the NorCal Regional State Qualifier for the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard events. The top eight performers qualified for the State Championships, which will take place April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

A total of 34 women competed, and Las Positas College secured three of the eight qualifying spots. Jayden Helm, Laina Stifter and Ainsley Wade will advance to the State Championships at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Stifter also earned NorCal Champion honors with a first-place finish in the 3-meter competition.

This competition featured all divers representing three conferences across Northern California. Results from the event will carry over and contribute to the upcoming Swim & Dive Conference Championships at De Anza College.

# LPC STUDENT PUBLICATIONS SHINE AT NATIONAL MEDIA AWARDS

Las Positas College's student journalists celebrated major wins at the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) and Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) National Media Conference in San Francisco, March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Twenty students and five faculty members represented the LPC journalism program, earning top national recognition and reflecting a culture of excellence built on collaboration and mentorship. Their 36 awards not only highlighted teamwork and journalistic strength, but also emphasized the importance of sustaining the program's legacy.

The awards were not the only highlight of the conference. Student leaders stepped aside and invited the next generation of journalists to accept major honors, giving them a firsthand understanding of the responsibility they are about to take on.

From national titles to first-time milestones, Las Positas College's success reflected a collective effort, with students pushing one another, celebrating their work, and carrying the program's legacy forward.



# JAPANESE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL



The Las Positas College Asian Pacific Islander Association (APIA) Club, in partnership with Movement API, hosted the inaugural Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival at the Cultural Community Center on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The event welcomed nearly 200 students, staff, faculty, and administrators for an afternoon celebrating the beauty and richness of Japanese culture.



Attendees were captivated by the elegant sounds of a Koto performance and the powerful rhythms of live taiko drumming. Guests enjoyed a variety of cultural experiences, including a ramen bar, snacks, sweet treats, and traditional matcha green tea. The festival also featured a mini museum and interactive booths, where participants explored calligraphy and origami-making.

This student-run festival brought a shared vision to life, with the images capturing the results of their dedication and hard work. The event marked a vibrant and successful debut, fostering community and cultural appreciation across campus.



## LPC Mission

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## College Priorities

### **Equity:**

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.

### **Student Success & Completion:**

Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

### **Health and Wellness:**

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.

# LPC STUDENT ELECTIONS UNDERWAY

On March 18<sup>th</sup> LPC Student Government hosted a "Meet Your Candidates" event in the Cafeteria for the upcoming student elections. Sixteen candidates shared their platforms, connected with their peers, and offered insight into their goals and priorities, giving attendees a valuable opportunity to learn more about those seeking to represent them. Voting ends on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM and final election votes will be shared on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

