

# LAS POSITAS COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

SPRING ISSUE 2009



**W**ELCOME TO THE  
INAUGURAL ISSUE OF OUR  
NEWSLETTER TO THE COMMUNITY!

I am honored to have joined Las Positas College one year ago, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to lead this phenomenal institution into its undoubtedly bright future. Here at Las Positas College, we hold firm to the belief that each of us makes an astonishing difference. Indeed, astonishing differences are just what community colleges are about; we bring richness and value by providing access to higher education for a diverse student body and, in turn, we take pride in our actions to transform individual lives, families, communities, and the world.

During the last year I have come to know the College and the community we serve, and that experience has reinforced for me how vital this institution is to the promise of the high quality of life we expect in Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton. For this reason, my vision is for the College to be recognized as the intellectual, cultural, and social center of the Tri-Valley region.

California Community Colleges face many challenges; but I am certain now, more than ever, that community colleges in general—and Las Positas College specifically—are key to this country's economic recovery. I believe with these challenges comes a unique and potent opportunity to stretch as a College, to enrich the lives of our students and their families, and to serve the community we are proud to call home. We do America's work, and I can think of no better calling than what we do for our community. In the words of our new President, anything less suggests a "poverty of ambition."

Las Positas College is one of the jewels of the Tri-Valley, and I am convinced that we are making an astonishing difference and changing the trajectory of the lives of our students and our community. We are your College, and we are proud to work in the community, live in the community, and contribute to the vitality of the Tri-Valley.

Be well,

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.

## Connecting with Community Leaders

In order to strategically address the issues facing Las Positas College, President DeRionne Pollard created the Las Positas College Presidential Advisory Council. The group of community leaders share their insights and counsel concerning trends, under-served populations, collaborative program efforts, educational opportunities, and strategic directions within the Tri-Valley region.

Vitaly interested in the future of Las Positas College, the Advisory Council consists of high-level advisers who provide the President with knowledge and guidance from positions of diverse experience and tremendous success in their fields. Additionally, as a resource to the President, they help to develop strategies and resources to strengthen the College within the context of its mission and traditions. The Council meets quarterly, rotating locations within the Tri-Valley.

To learn more about the Council and the President's vision for the community, please visit our website at:

[www.laspositascollege.edu/president/PresidentialAdvisoryCouncil.php](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/president/PresidentialAdvisoryCouncil.php)

### PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Dr. Carl Bellone<br>Associate Vice President,<br>Academic Programs and Graduate Studies<br>California State University, East Bay | Ms. Nancy Mueller<br>Marketing Director,<br>Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center                         |
| Ms. Amy Blaschka<br>Chief Executive Officer,<br>Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau  | Ms. Pamela Ott<br>Economic Development Director,<br>City of Pleasanton                                      |
| Mr. Jim Caldwell<br>Executive Director, Workforce Incubator  | Mr. Tim Sbranti<br>Mayor, City of Dublin  |
| Ms. Chris Chandler<br>Executive Director,<br>Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association  | Mr. John Sensiba<br>Attorney, Ireland San Filippo, LLP  |
| Ms. Gina Channell-Allen<br>President, <i>Pleasanton Weekly</i>   | Mr. Tim Silva<br>Senior Vice President,<br>Community Relations<br>Wells Fargo Bank                          |
| Mr. Mike Consol<br>Associate Publisher,<br><i>San Francisco Business Times</i>   | Dr. Neil Sol<br>Vice President, Outpatient Services<br>and Program Development,<br>ValleyCare Health System |
| Reverend Ron Culmer<br>Rector, St. Clare's Episcopal Church  | Ms. Sherri Souza<br>Realtor, Alain Pinel Realtors   |
| Ms. Chris Foss<br>Economic Development Director,<br>City of Dublin   | Ms. Jennifer Thaete<br>Attorney, Abramson & Thaete, LLP   |
| Mr. Tim Hunt<br>Media Consultant, Hunt Enterprises   | Mr. Rob White<br>Director of Economic Development,<br>City of Livermore                                     |
| Mr. David Kent<br>Chief Executive Officer, The Wine Group  | Rev. Doctor Martha A. Williams<br>Pastor, United Christian Church   |
| Dr. Suzanne Lawless<br>Director, Strategic Initiatives<br>Tri-Valley Community Foundation  | Ms. Jaqueline Williams-Courtright<br>Owner, Alden Lane Nursery  |

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## Allied Health Program

The San Francisco Bay Area healthcare industry faces critical workforce shortages. The East Bay and the Tri-Valley regions are known for their highly educated workforce; however, there is an increasing shortage of qualified healthcare workers to fill available positions. To meet these needs, Las Positas College has successfully created and implemented a new educational program: Allied Health.

The Allied Health Program is the outcome of several years of planning and partnerships with East Bay and Tri-Valley area community colleges, local hospitals, K-12 schools, and workforce investment partners.

Through the implementation of a Quick Start Senate Bill 70—Career Technical Education grant, Las Positas College served over 250 students in Allied Health Career Tracks and enrolled 60 new students into the Program last year. As a result of the grant, a new Associates in Science Degree in Surgical Technology and two new certificate programs in Surgical Technology and Administration Medical Assistant are now offered. The grant also led to a Summer Health Sciences Academy designed for juniors in high school.

A primary partner of the project, ValleyCare Health System has committed space at its Occupational Training Facility for the Las Positas Surgical Technology Program. The facility, located in Livermore, will include a classroom accompanied by a learning laboratory. The laboratory simulates an authentic operating room; it will also have the capacity to run two mock surgical procedures concurrently, as well as a storage area that serves as a mock sterile room supply area.

Additional opportunities for expanding the Allied Health Program include the future development of Pharmacy Technology and Certified Nursing Assistant. For more information about Allied Health at Las Positas College, visit the website at: [www.laspositascollege.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.laspositascollege.edu/alliedhealth).

### HEALTH QUEST 2009

Las Positas College's Allied Health Program is a primary sponsor for the Annual Health Quest fair. The Annual Health Quest event is in direct partnership with the Health & BioScience Academies at Foothill and Amador High Schools located in Pleasanton. On April 2, 2009, Las Positas College health and science departments will develop the following exhibits at the Annual Health Quest Fair:

#### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program faculty have arranged for an ambulance to be showcased, with a display of mannequins (training models) and equipment utilized throughout the EMT coursework.

#### SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

The Surgical Technology Program will be hosted by ValleyCare surgical technologists making it possible for high school students to ask questions specifically about the occupation.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL ASSISTANT

The Administrative Medical Assistant Program faculty will set up an informative exhibit highlighting current job openings and career path opportunities.

#### CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

The Chemistry Department faculty and students will provide a hands-on exhibit of chemical models, bubbling solutions, and computer-interfaced experiments.

#### BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Biology Department faculty will create an opportunity for students to dissect sheep brains in order to learn about different parts of the human brain.



Students Karen Hendricks and Victoria Wilson plan to meet the demands of the healthcare industry through Allied Health.

## LAS POSITAS COLLEGE EXCELS IN TRANSFER RATES

Las Positas College (LPC) has one of the highest transfer rates in the state. According to the latest data available, Las Positas College transfer rates surpassed the state average for community colleges by nearly 10%, with students transferring into both the University of California and California State University systems. Of the then 108 community colleges, only six institutions had rates that were higher than Las Positas College in Fall 2006.

Transfer Rate is defined by the State Chancellor's Office as the percentage of first time freshman who within a period of six years: (1) attempted transfer level math or English, and (2) completed at least 12 units in the California Community College system. To determine college and statewide rates, the Chancellor's Office then looks for these students in four-year universities nationwide.

#### TRANSFER RATE (2005-2006)

Statewide Transfer Rate: 40.7%

**LPC Transfer Rate: 50.56%**

#### TOP PUBLIC TRANSFER DESTINATIONS FOR LPC STUDENTS (FALL 2006)

##### California State University

23 campuses

**408 students** transferred Fall 2006

##### University of California

9 undergraduate campuses

**107 students** transferred Fall 2006

California State University, East Bay  
179 students

San Francisco State University  
51 students

San Jose State University  
42 students

University of California, Davis  
40 students

California State University, Sacramento  
28 students

California State University, Chico  
28 students

San Diego State University  
28 students

University of California, Berkeley  
25 students

California State University, Stanislaus  
11 students

University of California, Santa Cruz  
10 students

University of California, Los Angeles  
10 students

# About the Las Positas College Foundation

## LAS POSITAS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Las Positas College Foundation supports and advances the College and its students through active resource development and effective community partnerships.

Three major endeavors for the Foundation include the *Veterans First Initiative*, *College Bound Scholars Program* and the *Textbook Challenge*. Each program recognizes the unique challenges and specific needs faced by Las Positas College students.

### VETERANS FIRST INITIATIVE

Las Positas College's Veterans First Initiative has been designed to ease the transition of servicemen and women from military life into college, and to assist them with educational, financial and other forms of support needed to improve their chances of success. With seed funding from the Las Positas College Foundation, the initiative has devoted a tremendous amount of work and numerous resources necessary to position Las Positas College as the college of choice for the many returning veterans who may be seeking new opportunities.

### COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The College Bound Scholars Program is a unique 6th grade-to-college program for first generation college attendees. In conjunction with the Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton K-12 Districts, 30 students receive several types of support for six years. Each participant has \$1,000 set aside for a college scholarship, a mentor as (s)he progresses from middle school through to college, and family activities to reinforce the value and availability of higher education.

### TEXTBOOK CHALLENGE

The Las Positas College Foundation Textbook Challenge is a vehicle to fund a Book "Loaner" program. A fund has been created to purchase textbooks for students with a financial need. At the end of each semester, the books will be recycled for use by other students. While the books will need to be replaced due to wear and tear, as well as to stay current with edition changes, it is estimated that at least two students will be able to use each textbook that is purchased.

For more information about the Las Positas College Foundation, contact Ted Kaye, Ph.D., Executive Director at (925) 424-1010 or visit: [www.lpcfoundation.org](http://www.lpcfoundation.org).

### BEST OF THE BEST

On April 25, the Las Positas College Foundation will host "Best of the Best '09." This signature black-tie fundraising event raises money for activities as wide-ranging as student scholarships, staff development, campus and larger community cultural activities, athletic uniforms and student group domestic and international travel.

The event is a showcase for student performances and this year will also honor 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.

### Become a College Bound Scholars Mentor

Contact Abby Hirashiki  
Student Scholarship/School Coordinator  
925-424-1482

### March

- 4-5 One Act Plays
- 14 Early Music Concert Series  
Season Four: *Music of the Renaissance*  
[www.lpcearlymusic.org](http://www.lpcearlymusic.org)
- 27-28 WORKING, a musical based on Studs Terkel's *Working*

### April

- 3-5 WORKING, a musical based on Studs Terkel's *Working*
- 4 Aprendiendo A Triunfar/  
Learning To Triumph  
Open House for the  
Spanish Speaking Community
- 16 Early Music Concert Series  
Season Four: *Music of the Renaissance*  
[www.lpcearlymusic.org](http://www.lpcearlymusic.org)
- 17-19 WORKING, a musical based on Studs Terkel's *Working*
- 25 Best of the Best '09  
LPC Foundation Black-Tie Fundraising Event

### May

- Spring Art Festival
- 1-21 Fine Arts Program  
LPC Learning Resource Center (Library)
- 3-29 Interior Design Program  
Building 2400, in conjunction with career forum
- 3-29 Photography Program  
Building 2400
- 3-29 Visual Communications Program  
Building 2400
- 1 Speech Performance Night
- 6 Music Department Recital
- 8 Speech Tournament
- 13 Orchestra and Band Concert
- 15 Vocal Jazz Concert
- 16 Instrumental Jazz Concert
- 17 Choir Concert
- 20 Dance Performance  
Bankhead Theater, LVCAC, Livermore
- 20, 22 One Act Plays
- 29 Commencement

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

## MEASURE B—FACILITIES UPDATE

On March 2, 2004, Alameda County voters and those Contra Costa County voters within the District's boundaries approved Measure B. This \$498 million dollar Chabot-Las Positas Community College District capital improvement (construction) bond will enable us to repair leaky roofs, worn wiring and plumbing; renovate aging and deteriorating classrooms and libraries; and repair, acquire, construct and equip college buildings and computer labs at both Las Positas College and Chabot College in Hayward. As you drive by or through the campus, please take a look at a few of our facility projects currently underway and watch the progress over the next several months.

### COLLEGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS



This much needed 55,000 square foot building addresses the growing community demand for courses in music, dance and speech. It will provide classroom and workspace for theater and drama, as well as a technical Theater Program, and will have specialized forensic and music labs. Plans for the building include a 500-seat main theater for stage productions and associated College activities, a formal lobby, a 175-seat black box theater, a rehearsal room, an outdoor amphitheater with seating capacity for up to 1,500 people, two parking lots, an entry plaza and landscaping. This theater will be the campus' first large assembly area, and will be a valuable asset to the College and the community. Target completion date: Spring 2010

### CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER & CLASSROOMS

This project will provide an on-campus facility for the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program. The proposed 20,000-24,000-gross-square-foot building will contain a variety of teaching, demonstration and observation rooms for preschool children and toddlers. In addition, a lab/demonstration space will provide practical experience for students in the ECD classes. With this facility, ECD students will be able to participate in a brand-new, year-round training program, and will be able to complete their ECD Certificates and Degrees in a timely manner. Target completion date: Spring 2010

### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM PARKING LOT H

A new expansion parking lot designated as "Lot H" provides nearly 500 additional parking spaces for students and staff. Photovoltaic shade structures are installed at Lot H and also at existing Lot E, and will generate approximately 1 megawatt of electricity; nearly a quarter of the College's forecasted annual electrical consumption. Target completion date: Spring 2009

### AQUATICS CENTER & SOCCER



### FIELD

Two pools and a 2,800-square-foot pool house will accommodate Las Positas College's competitive, instructional and recreational programs. A synthetic turf multi-use/soccer field, located at the east end of the existing campus, provides a high quality venue for competitive, instructional, and recreational soccer programs for Las Positas students and the community. Target completion date: Spring 2009

## WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

Please contact the  
Community Development Liaison:  
Tel: 925-424-1006  
Email:  
[LPCpresidentsinfo@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:LPCpresidentsinfo@laspositascollege.edu)

### CHABOT-LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hal G. Gin, Ed.D., President  
Donald L. "Dobie" Gelles, Secretary  
Arnulfo Cedillo, Ed.D.  
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Barbara F. Mertes, Ph.D.  
Marshall Mitzman, Ph.D.  
Carlo Vecchiarelli  
Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., Chancellor

### 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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