State of the College:
People, Programs, Projects, Planning & Progress

On Wednesday, April 28, President Pollard will hold her second annual State of the College meeting to provide faculty and staff with updates on key College issues. With a focus on maintaining the forward momentum that has been generated throughout the academic year, the presentation will center around: planning — laying the foundation for the future of the College; programs — the delivery of exceptional instruction and services to our students; projects — special or significant initiatives the will frame and guide the work ahead; progress — accomplishments and accolades that continue to advance the institution; and, most importantly, people — the driving force behind the “LPC experience.”

One of the issues getting much attention on campus is the budget. Across the institution, discussions and meetings and strategy sessions — all related to the budget and its impact at the College — have taken place in an effort to keep members of the campus community informed and engaged. Whether at committee meetings, staff meetings, Division meetings, or constituency meetings, people are talking about the budget. And, through deliberate actions, dedicated efforts, and sometimes difficult decisions, people are working on the budget: developing innovative approaches to maximizing and leveraging otherwise limited resources, displaying an overall willingness to work together to get through challenging times, and achieving a significant reduction in operating expenses. Continuing the approach that has been utilized to date — which has included information posted on the College’s “Budget Updates” webpage, regular email messages from the Vice Presidents, and robust institutional dialogue — Dr. Pollard plans to present the latest information with open and transparent communication.

In addition to the budget, the State of the College meeting will cover such topics as the strategic planning process, Accreditation Follow-Up Report, facilities projects, community engagement and outreach, and partnerships. It is, of course, also an opportunity to celebrate the many individual and collective accomplishments achieved by students, faculty, staff, administrators, and programs at the College and garner valuable feedback from the campus community.
Global/Social Responsibility

College Continues To Explore Opportunities To Increase Sustainability Efforts

Since the launch of its new “Las Positas Goes Green” website, the College community continues to be actively engaged in furthering its commitment to sustainability. The Sustainability Task Force, which has played a key role in promoting green practices on campus over the last several years, has received approval to become a formalized committee within the College’s governance system. Not resting on past accomplishments, including playing an integral role in enabling LPC to install the photovoltaic shade structures, the Task Force conducted a survey aimed at exploring ways to improve and increase use of alternate methods of transportation to the campus. With statistics showing that more than 70% of the College’s carbon footprint comes from single-passenger vehicles traveling to and from LPC, their hope is that the institution will find ways to avoid parking shortages, decrease traffic congestion, and reduce greenhouse gases.

Respect for Diversity

NACC Exposition Week

From April 12 to April 17, the Native American Culture Club (NACC) held the second annual Native American Exposition on campus. This week-long celebration of Native American culture and history featured a film festival, traditional feed and performances, artifact exhibit and art display, and a presentation by LPC’s own Dr. Amber Machamer. The activities culminated with the Pow Wow on Saturday in the Gymnasium. Sponsored in part by Campus Change Network and the LPC Foundation, the Expo and Pow Wow provided not only educational and experiential learning for attendees, but also an opportunity for the College to welcome the community to its campus.

Adapt to Change

Students Make Strides At March on March

On March 22, students from Las Positas College joined fellow students from across the state for the “March on March” at the Capitol. Accompanied by faculty and staff from the College, the LPC students traveled to Sacramento to advocate for higher education and to let their voices be heard by state legislators. Kudos to these dedicated students, whose active engagement and leadership serve as an example to us all.

LPC and AAUW Join Forces To Help Women Start Smart

Next month, LPC will host an AAUW $tart $mart Workshop here on campus. This session, which will be open to faculty, staff, students, and community members, is geared toward helping women develop and enhance salary negotiation skills. The $tart $mart Workshop, a pilot program developed by AAUW and WAGE, is being conducted at a limited number of institutions across the country – Las Positas College is the only community college taking part in the pilot.
Make a Difference

Las Positas College Alum Hits The Road To Lend A Helping Hand

Last year, Tiffany Breger was blazing a trail as a student leader on the LPC campus: serving as ASLPC President, participating in AGS and other student life activities, winning countless awards and recognitions, and graduating with highest honors. Now, Tiffany has plans to travel a different path and embark on a new kind of journey.

At the end of May, she will head for Tanzania to spend two months working with One Heart Source. This student led, non-profit organization focuses on tackling the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country. In addition, it concentrates efforts on giving a home to some of the millions of children orphaned by this disease.

Tiffany has created a blog to share her journey with others: http://tiffanybreger.wordpress.com/. We wish her much success and safe travels as she prepares to set out on this new adventure and make an astonishing difference across the globe.

Creative Thinking

Festival Of The Arts

Once again Las Positas College prepares to celebrate the arts during the 32nd Annual Festival of the Arts. This month-long event, features submissions created by LPC art students in the last year. Next week on April 28, competition winners will be recognized at the Award Presentation & Gala Reception. Artwork will be displayed on campus in the Library through May 21.

LPC Gets “Slammed”

To celebrate National Poetry Month, LPC will hold its annual Poetry Slam on April 27. The evening will begin with a free slam-writing workshop for potential and promising poets. The College kicked off the month with a “Community College Poetry Day” featuring a panel of college representatives that included U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan.

Festival Of The Arts

LPC Psychology Conference Explores A “Mystery”

Last Friday, the LPC Psychology Department and Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society presented a day-long conference on “The Mystery of Sleep.” The conference, which was free and open to the public, featured a series of events that included presentations from world renowned experts. Dr. William C. Dement, widely regarded as the world’s foremost authority on sleep, presented “The Essentials of Sleep and Dreams” and his insights on sleep education. Then attendees were treated to the world premiere of “The Mystery of Sleep,” a documentary on sleep and dreams, and an appearance by award-winning director, Mel Stuart.
Central Utility Plant
The building has been completed, with the punch list 99% done. Training (for personnel) has also taken place. The building received substantial completion and was turned over to the campus in November 2009.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
Construction has been completed and the facility is now occupied by the M&O staff.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
Work continues on underground and electrical utilities.

Parking Lot H & Photovoltaic System
The parking lot was completed for the Fall 2008 semester and is in use. All of the shade structures and solar equipment has been completed and is now functional. The display monitor is available for viewing in the Multi-Disciplinary Building.

Student Services & Administration Building
Steinberg Architects is the firm selected to design the building. This project will participate in the new DSA Collaborative Process, and 30% design documents were submitted in December.

Multi-Disciplinary Building & PE Complex
Repair work has been completed.

Campus Boulevard Phase I-III
Design has stopped to coordinate with the design concepts for the Student Services & Administration Building.

Science Building Phase II
The site layout and floor plan have been finalized. A second floor was added to provide space for four additional classrooms. The projected submittal to DSA was March 2010.

College Center for the Arts
The exterior siding, stucco, and windows are 99% complete. The building interior is 97% complete in Segment “B” which includes the faculty offices and rehearsal rooms. The black box theater and the main auditorium infrastructure elements are continuing and will be completed this month. The final concrete walkways and ramps around the building and the Amphitheater are 98% complete. The total project is 95% complete.

Fire Alarm System Upgrade
This project is complete.

Child Development Center
The application of exterior plaster is complete on all buildings. Installation of sheetrock continues in Building B and has been started on Building C. Rough grading for the OLEs has begun.

Collier Creek
Storm Water Outfall
Installation of the storm drain and retaining wall is complete. Work on the backfill at the retaining wall is ongoing.

Aquatics Center & Soccer Field
The complex has been completed and is being used for Fall classes.

District-wide Information Technology Building
The building is complete and received substantial completion in December 2009. Work on the punchlist is 99% complete. IT staff have been moving in to the new facility.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions
- Megan Miller, LPC student, selected to represent the College at this year’s National Community College Aerospace Scholars at NASA’s Johnson Space Center.
- Dr. TeriAnn Bengiveno, Catherine Suarez, and Richard Dunbar for their work on the successful, second annual Italian Film Festival.
- The Talk Hawks for ranking 3rd out of the thirty community colleges competing at the California Community Colleges Forensics Association’s State Championship Tournament, and to the four “Hawks” who won a total of seven awards in individual events.
- The Librarians and LRC staff for organizing the celebration of National Library Week at LPC.
- Rich Butler and Mary Lauffer for their work to promote “AlertU Week” — and doubling the number of people signed up for the emergency alert service.
- The students, staff, and faculty bringing RENT to life on campus and leaving audiences wanting more — and getting more, with two extra shows added to the performance schedule!