Accountability, Active Engagement & Authenticity: The Building Blocks of an Abundant Future

As the College wraps up work on its Self-Study and lays out plans for the Accreditation Site Visit in October, the campus community begins to look ahead to the next phase in its institutional growth. LPC finds itself in the unique position of documenting who we are and where we have been, while at the same time defining who we want to become. At this moment in our organizational development, we are telling our story and writing our future history.

In her welcome message for the upcoming 2009 Summer/Fall Class Schedule, Dr. Pollard captured the essence of this moment in our organizational development, when we are presented with an “opportunity to reflect on the path we’ve traveled, celebrate accomplishments, embrace challenges, and even embark on a new journey. As a learning-centered institution dedicated to excellence and student success, we are committed to engaging in our own assessment, evaluation, and continuous improvement, lifelong learning is not just a tag line in our Values Statement, it is a principle that we promote and reinforce for our students and the College itself.”

The foundations for this work have already been laid with LPC’s participation in the Strategic Horizon Network, which provides tools that will help us explore and identify strategies for optimizing organizational capacity, improving sustainability, and leveraging both tangible and intangible resources. Grounded in the concepts of the abundance model, these efforts will take the form of a “Visioning” process through which the College community — both internal and external — will articulate what the institution will be and do as the academic, cultural, and social center of the Tri-Valley region.

An “Abundance Network” of faculty, staff, and administrators has now begun meeting to develop the framework for the visioning process. The group will continue to meet throughout the semester and over the summer to have open and honest dialogue about what we need to be successful in this endeavor.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- IT Staff — Steve Gunderson, Haywood Beaird, Ethan Castor, Andres de la Cruz, Mike Furuyama, Sherman Lindsey, and Heidi Ulrech — for coordinating the recent telecommunications re-route project.
- Talk Hawks for finishing another spectacular year by winning the All-Around Silver Medal Sweepstakes Award at the Phi Rho Pi National Championship.
- Smoke Johnson, Mario Jaramillo, fellow NACC members, and faculty advisors — Jane McCoy, Catherine Suarez, and Cynthia Ross — for leading the efforts to coordinate a successful Exposition Week and first-ever Pow Wow at LPC.
- The more than three dozen faculty, staff, and administrators who have stepped forward to be a part of the “Abundance Network” and set the stage for a visioning process.

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

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Global/Social Responsibility

**College Takes Steps to “Be Well”**

At the Town Meeting in April, LPC founding faculty member, Sophie Rheinheimer, provided a preview of the new health and wellness initiative for members of the College community. The program, *Be Well*, will be conducted in partnership with ValleyCare and the highly successful Lifestyle RX. There will be many opportunities for all staff to participate depending on their interest level. There will be workshops, activities, and class offerings for the mind, body, and spirit. The first program component to be rolled out are weekly “Walk ‘N Talk” sessions. Faculty, staff, and administrators gather at the recently restored Library fountain to be led on a nearly mile-long walk around campus. These active outings are offered in both the morning and afternoon to accommodate different work and teaching schedules. As an added incentive to get people moving and motivated, the Health Center is selling pedometers at the discounted price of $5 each. *Be Well* will officially be launched on April 29 at the Health Faire, “Spring Into Good Health.”

**Respect for Diversity**

**Benvenuto! LPC Welcomes Italian Film Festival to Campus**

At the end of the month, Las Positas College will host its inaugural Italian Film Festival — *Ciao Italia, Ciao America* — in the Multi-Disciplinary Education Building. The event, which is free and open to the public, will include two feature films, *Lamerica* and *Nuovo mondo*, as well as short-films, documentaries, and a photographic exhibit, *Con le nostre mani* (Italian Americans at Work in the East Bay, 1890-1960).

The festival is sponsored by the LPC Foreign Language Department, Campus Change Network, Las Positas College Foundation, and the Western Regional Chapter of the American Historical Association, and runs April 30 - May 2. The first night will feature an opening reception at 6:00 p.m., prior to the first two film showings.

**Adapt to Change**

**Keeping “PACE” With Changes at Las Positas College**

In December 2008, the Personal Assessment of the College Environment (PACE) survey was administered to 496 employees at LPC. Almost 31% of those returned the instrument for analysis, with the overall results indicating a healthy campus climate. The purpose of the survey was to obtain internal perceptions concerning the College climate and to provide data to assist LPC in promoting more open and constructive communication among faculty, staff, and administrators.

The information generated from the survey instrument has been developed into a research report that can be used for planning and decision-making in order to improve the existing College climate. The entire 55-page report is available for download from the Institutional Research and Planning web-site. Thank you to Dr. Amber Machamer for coordinating the survey and compiling a series of research briefs to assist in reviewing the data generated.
Make a Difference

Fire Service Workshop Sparks Career Interest for Students

In cooperation with the "Public Safety Training Group" (PSTG), LPC held an entry level "Firefighter's Workshop", on March 29. This mirrored a similar workshop held recently in Southern California which was highly successful.

Approximately 140 would-be firefighters were in attendance for this day-long workshop, the purpose of which was to provide training and guidance to help aspiring professional firefighter candidates better access the opportunities that will allow them to build the type of applicant profile worthy of recognition and successful placement into a Fire Service Career. The information was geared toward enabling them to rise above the large and highly competitive field of applicants seeking a career in the Fire Service, which can be a daunting task especially in today's challenging economic environment.

The event was very well received by the numerous participants who found the information extremely helpful, and further solidified the reputation of the LPC Fire Service Technology Program as one of the very top programs in Northern California.

Creative Thinking

Spring Musical is "Working" Its Way Into Audience Hearts

Last weekend marked the final shows of "Working, The Musical", the Studs Terkel production put on by the Performing Arts Department. As in years past, this spring musical was met with glowing reviews and entertained audiences.

Susan Steinberg of The Independent wrote: "Working at Las Positas College is terrific......a fast-paced kaleidoscope of America......a musical that brings the book to vibrant life......The tears and cheers of an enthusiastic audience testified to the show's tremendous impact at the opening weekend......LPC can be proud of their accomplishment in bringing this complex, uplifting work to us. There are no weak links in the script or in the talented performers who bring each character to life with equal vividness."

Congratulations to all of our talented student-performers and their instructors for another successful run!

Lifelong Learning

Brain Awareness Week

To celebrate Brain Awareness Week, the Psychology Department hosted a number of special activities to engage the campus community. At the beginning of April, LPC welcomed back Dr. William C. Dement — widely recognized as the “father of modern sleep research” — for a speaking engagement.

Then last week, we were treated to visits from Dr. John Ratey and Kim Peek, “The Real Rain Man”, and honorary member of the Las Positas family. Dr. Ratey, a Harvard Professor and best-selling author, discussed exciting new insights into how physical and mental activity contribute to better brain function, sharpens attention, enhances memory, slows aging and is our best defense against a wide range of health issues, such as mood disorders, ADD/ADHD, and Alzheimer’s Disease.

Earlier today, as part of the Brain Awareness Day event, the Student Center was home to displays of student-prepared exhibits, videos and brochures, as well as several interactive exhibits.
## Facilities Update

### Central Utility Plant
The site work has commenced along with the underground utilities. Southland Industries is preparing to dig the building footings to prepare for the first concrete pour. The plans are being reviewed by DSA.

### Maintenance & Operations Facility
Presently, construction is complete on Carports A & B. M&O shops and storage facilities were located to the new site in early December, allowing construction to commence on the District-wide Information Technology Building and the Central Utility Plant. The Notice to Proceed has been issued to start the fabrication of the M&O office building and the take-over entity has presented a schedule that shows completion in early July 2009. The Shop Building is expected to be complete and ready for punch list review by the end of March. Paving for the entire site is pending due to the late rain this season.

### P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
Document submittal to DSA for permit review took place September 29, 2008. DSA final approval was received in March 2009, based upon feedback from DSA. The project will be put out to bid with three options.

### Parking Lot H & Photovoltaic (Solar) System
The parking lot was completed for use in the Fall Semester 2008. All shade structures were installed in January 2009 and solar equipment installation, including photo-voltaic panels, is now completed. Wiring and interconnection of the components is now underway. The entire installation at both parking lots “E” and “H” is scheduled for substantial completion by April 30, 2009.

### Student Services & Central Administration
Architectural firms qualified for Student Services projects via RFQ-A06 will be invited to interview for consideration of award of the Design Contract. Architect selection and Board of Trustees authorization to award a design contract is planned to be complete May 2009.

### Multi-Disciplinary Education Building
This project is complete. Notice of Completion was filed with the County Recorder January 29, 2009. Repair of the stucco and building exterior system is required and the District is in negotiations with the contractor to perform or pay for the repair work. Design of the remedial work is underway and plans will be issued to a contractor to perform the repair work starting this summer. Further investigation of the stone façade on the building exterior has revealed that the stone is not adhering to its substrate, also the stone at the interior walls has been removed and is being replaced with sheetrock and paint. The interior work is complete.

### Water Alarm Upgrade
DSA issued permit approval for the Fire Alarm Project on January 15, 2009. In accordance with the Public Contract Code, legal notices inviting bids were published on January 26 and February 2, 2009. A mandatory pre-bid conference was held on February 11, 2009 and the Addendum 1 was issued on February 24, 2009. Bids opened on March 5, 2009 and 10 Bids were received. Recommendation to award was submitted to the Board for approval at the April 21 Meeting.

### College Center for the Arts
Work continues to be on schedule. The structural steel frame for the music classroom wing is complete and the metal stud framing for the exterior walls is underway. The erecting of structural steel for the northern part of the building, including the theater audience chamber and fly loft is proceeding. Work on the tele-data infrastructure has been finished. Excavation for the Amphitheater starts on April 15th and the exterior sheathing will also proceed during the same time frame.

### Collier Creek Storm Water Outfall
Design documents are nearly complete. The final geotechnical report has been issued and the design is now being finalized to reflect those recommendations. Submittal to DSA for permit review was submitted in March 2009. The current plan is to go to bid in late May 2009.

### Child Development Center
Notice to Proceed was issued on March 16, 2009 with 528 calendar days to complete the project. Lathrop has started to mobilize and started work on the building pad for the Ricoh Center and Building 100A. They have set their trailer on site and also started installing their construction fencing. Demolition began the week of March 30, 2009. Lathrop moved the Ricoh Center and Building 100A over spring break.

### Science Building Phase II
The design is progressing on schedule, and the conceptual site layout and floor plan have been developed. The project is expected to be submitted to DSA in October 2009.

### Aquatics Center & Soccer Field
The synthetic turf multiuse/soccer field is substantially complete and the College has taken beneficial occupancy. The Aquatics Center has move toward completion, the pool house roofing and exterior are finished. The pools have been filled with water and the filter system and mechanical systems are functioning. The pool water will be heated shortly, and the installation of the security cameras and sensors is proceeding. Substantial completion of the Aquatics is scheduled for May 1, 2009.