Accreditation Addressed And A-Okay!

Earlier this month, Las Positas College received the official word (and good news!) from the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that, after a review of the Follow-Up Report submitted last Fall, the College had demonstrated resolution of Recommendations 3 and 4. These areas — which were related to integrated program review, student learning outcomes, assessment, and information competency — were successfully addressed and documented in the Follow-Up Report and outlined in the evaluation team’s subsequent report. The next step in the Accreditation cycle will involve submitting a Midterm Report in October 2012, followed by work on LPC’s next Self-Study and another comprehensive team visit in October 2015. The entire campus community can celebrate this institutional accomplishment, and extend a special thanks to the Accreditation Steering Team who spearheaded these efforts and led their colleagues on this journey of collaboration and continuous improvement.

LPC Campus Community Preps For Presidential Forums

As the month of February moves along, Las Positas College moves one step closer to having a new permanent President. The process is progressing as planned and, across the campus, energy and excitement are building. Based on the timeline posted on the Presidential Search website — and outlined in Chancellor Kinnamon’s recent District-wide update — the 15-member Advisory Search Committee has completed a review of applications and, following a round of first-level interviews, will forward a list of finalists to Dr. Kinnamon. Those finalists will then be invited to participate in public forums that are scheduled to be held at LPC on Thursday, February 24. Members of the campus community will have an opportunity to share feedback and lend their voices to the process by filling out comment cards provided at the forum sessions. The Chancellor will conduct the second phase of interviews the next day, and expects to name the new President by early March.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Dayna Barbero for being selected as the “What’s Right at LPC” recipient at the February Town Meeting
- The Welcome Center staff and volunteers for assisting 2,000 students at the start of this semester
- Karen Kit, Andi Schreibman, Ernesto Nery, Dasyi Valle, Ann Jones, John Gonder, Brian Owyong, and Jennifer Adams for being nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” award this month
- The Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams for taking part in the Coaches vs. Cancer initiative to raise funds and awareness for the fight against cancer
Global/Social Responsibility

Going The “Distance” For Students
As LPC’s Instructional Technology/Open Learning Coordinator, Scott Vigallon works to enhance student learning and increase student success on a daily basis — but he recently participated in an initiative to improve access for students far beyond the walls of the College. Scott served as a member of the California Community Colleges Distance Education Accessibility Guidelines Task Force, a statewide six-person group charged with updating the accessibility guidelines developed in 1999. The newly revised guidelines are aimed at: 1) dealing with the technological access issues that the 112 California community colleges face in delivering distance education courses, and 2) “offering practical solutions and strategies to address these accessibility challenges.” Kudos to Scott!

Respect for Diversity

La Semana Brings Cuban Culture To The Campus Community
Next week Las Positas College will once again open its doors to the community as it hosts the 4th Annual La Semana Cubana. The festival showcases elements of Cuban culture, including live music and dance, a short film, poetry, an art exhibit, and a discussion panel. This year the theme — “Yemaya: Embracing the Earth” — is a celebration of the orisha (spirit) Yemaya, who represents the ocean, the essence of motherhood, and serves as the protector of children. The program will feature activities each evening, February 22—25, beginning with a reception on Monday and a closing celebration on Friday night. La Semana Cubana is sponsored by LPC, Campus Change Network, the LPC Foundation, The Milanese Family Gift Fund, and BasicNecessities.org.

Adapt to Change

LPC Looks To The Future Through A New LENS
Last month, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, Las Positas College accepted the donation of a LENS laser welding system from Sandia National Laboratories — a leader in science-based security technologies and a local partner of LPC. This 1.5 kilowatt laser will greatly benefit students in the College’s Welding Program, enabling them to observe and operate the equipment and expanding their learning experience. In keeping with the institution’s commitment to “anticipate the needs of the ever-changing workplace,” this laser welder provides students with an incredible opportunity to see first-hand the trends in their field of study or career path. LPC is among only a handful of community colleges across the country to have this kind of advanced equipment on its campus.

Make a Difference

Guest Speaker Is Grand, Indeed
Following the phenomenal success of the Golden Globe winning HBO movie based on her life, Temple Grandin will return to Las Positas College for a highly anticipated speaking engagement next month. She is widely regarded as the world’s best known adult with autism, and she has written numerous books on her life experiences and work in the fields of autism and animal behavior. Picked as one of TIME Magazine’s 2010 “100 Most Influential People in the World,” she has sparked new research efforts and been a source of inspiration for thousands of people around the globe. She will continue to make a difference in the lives of others on March 7, when she visits LPC to share her story with the campus community.

Creative Thinking

An Idea Of “Olympic” Proportions...
This year at LPC, April 15 will be the topic of countless conversations — not because of last-minute typing onto tax forms and late-night trips to the post office, but because it’s the date of the College’s first-ever Inter-Constituency Olympics! These games will feature four teams — students, faculty, classified staff, and administrators — squaring off in a variety of individual and group contests, from sports and skill-testing to downright silly. Beyond being fun for participants and spectators alike, the Olympics will also serve as a fundraiser for “Students on the Move,” a program designed to provide LPC’s transfer students with an opportunity to visit UC and CSU campuses. Mark your calendars to come out and support this worthwhile endeavor and school-spirit-boosting event!

Lifelong Learning

College Celebrates Student-Scholars
Two Las Positas College students were recently recognized for their success and scholastic efforts. Takeo Hiraki and Christina Teslich were selected for the 2011 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-California Academic Team. They will be honored at the annual PTK awards ceremony and luncheon to be held in Sacramento on March 21. In addition to that achievement, Takeo was chosen as the 2010 Sandia Laboratories & Livermore Chamber of Commerce “Student of the Year.” Along with other notable locals, he will be saluted at the Chamber’s “Dreammakers & Risktakers” Awards Luncheon later this Spring. Congratulations to Takeo and Christina on all their many accomplishments, and best wishes for continued success!