Earlier this month, Las Positas College received its Comprehensive Evaluation Report from the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), along with notification of their decision to reaffirm accreditation for the institution. As part of the report, the Commission detailed a series of recommendations to the College framed primarily around fully integrating institutional planning processes; increasing its capacity for research; and making progress toward implementing the rubrics for Program Review, Student Learning Outcomes, and Institutional Effectiveness. In addition, ACCJC offered three commendations for some of LPC’s noteworthy accomplishments: demonstrating a commitment to promoting the principles of diversity and equity, as evidenced by the work of Campus Change Network; maintaining a caring, collegial, and supportive environment for students, clearly seen in the investment in facilities and educational infrastructure; and supporting technology infrastructure to enhance student learning, exhibited by the exemplary contributions of the College’s Technology Department and the outstanding customer service delivered by the Teaching and Learning (formerly Innovation) Center.

These findings, outcomes stemming from work on LPC’S Self-Study and the subsequent ACCJC Site Visit last October, mark the transition into the next stage of the institution’s Accreditation “journey.” As Dr. Pollard recently noted, “We embrace this process and appreciate the work of the Commission and Visit Team, as the results validate what we do well and acknowledge that there is work to be done.” This work has already begun, with the President’s proposal for an Institutional Effectiveness Committee and the efforts of the “Common Ground” Ad-Hoc Committee — representing all of the College’s constituency groups — that reached agreement on recommendations for both strategic and institutional planning, as well as an integrated model for institutional effectiveness. With a follow-up report and visit on the horizon, Las Positas College is positioned to meet the Commission’s requirements and demonstrate resolution of the specified recommendations in true LPC style: with student-centered focus, forward-thinking dialogue, and broad-based participation.
Global/Social Responsibility

“LPC Goes Green” Online

Earlier this month, LPC launched a brand new webpage to highlight the sustainability efforts on campus. “Las Positas College Goes Green” is located on the LPC website and details information on alternative transportation, local resources, and some of the College’s “green” practices.

The website was first previewed during a presentation at Town Meeting by Dr. Mike Ansell, Chemistry faculty member and Chair of the Sustainability Task Force. Dr. Ansell recapped the work of the group, provided some education on environmental factors, and outlined many of the initiatives in place and in the planning stages at the College: photovoltaic shade structures, LEED standards, paper reduction, recycling and composting, reclaimed water usage, and curriculum development.

In addition, he shared with the campus community a proposal to convert the Task Force into a full-fledged committee within the College’s shared governance structure. The Sustainability Committee would encourage “progress towards more sustainable use of...resources,” “reduced consumption,” and “teaching and learning of sustainability.”

Las Positas College Brings “Heart” To The Tri-Valley

For the second consecutive year, Las Positas College has the honor of playing host to a very special exhibit. Through February 26, the Bay Area Heart Gallery will be on display in the Multi-Disciplinary Building. Made up of photos of young people and adoptive families, the “Heart Gallery” seeks to find “permanent homes and lifelong relationships for children and youth in foster care.” It is a visual representation of the diversity among adoptive families throughout the Bay Area.

The mission of the program, founded in 2005, is “to capture the individual spirits of foster children through gallery photographs and to inspire families of all kinds to become adoptive and foster families. The Bay Area Heart Gallery is a partnership between four agencies — Alameda County Social Services Agency, Human Services Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, Family Builders, and San Mateo County Human Services Agency — and the organization’s focus is on educating the community and recruiting adoptive and foster parents.

Thank you to Anne Loyola for her work to bring this heart-warming project to LPC and the Tri-Valley.

Adapt to Change

LPC Aims “High” With Annual Breakfast Event

Next week Las Positas College will hold its Annual High School Breakfast, welcoming counselors, career center staff, and vice principals from local high schools onto campus. Representing LPC’s K-12 partners, these guests have a chance to learn more about the College, its programs and services, and the opportunities available to their students should they attend Las Positas College. Each of the high schools also receives summative data about how their respective students perform once they enroll at LPC.

Flex Day To Focus On Furthering Strategic Planning

Following a recommendation from the Institutional Effectiveness “Common Ground” Ad-Hoc Committee, the upcoming March 12th Flex Day will be dedicated to the College’s strategic planning process. Following up the work that began at Visioning Day back in October, the mandatory Flex Day will provide members of the campus community with an opportunity to identify key performance indicators for each of the ten Institutional Strategic Goals, bringing the College one step closer to the development of its Strategic Plan.
Make a Difference

Public Safety Club Embodies Public Service

In the last few months, the College’s Public Safety Club has gone above and beyond in their service to others. During Fall semester, the students collected — and, in turn, donated — funds to both the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation and the “Fallen Four” Oakland Police Officers Memorial Fund.

Over the holiday season their “Pizza Night and Silent Auction” brought in $600 which they have designated in part for LPC’s Viticulture Program, as they want to help both the local community and College programs. In addition to the cash donations, the Club members collected more than 350 brand new toys that were given to children of the CalWORKs Program and Livermore Haven shelter.

Following the earthquake in Haiti, the Public Safety Club embarked on a new fundraising drive and collected $255 within the first two days. Their goal is to raise a total of $1,500 as part of this “Fill the Boot” Campaign for Haiti Relief — an amount that would set a new record for the Club’s previous single-effort mark of $1,400.

Las Positas College salutes the students of the Public Safety Club for demonstrating such generosity and commitment to serving the community, and thanks their faculty advisors for helping to guide their good deeds.

Creative Thinking

Talk Hawks Take Invitational Tournament Into Second Year

Several weeks ago, Las Positas College hosted the Second Annual Talk Hawk Invitational Speech Tournament. Featuring eleven different individual events with both novice and open categories, the tournament welcomed competitors from SFSU, SJSU, CSU Chico, Chabot College, Ohlone College, CCSF, and a number of other local community colleges.

In addition to inviting the Forensics community to participate in a day of debate, the Talk Hawks invited some members of the Tri-Valley community to take part in the event as judges. Several members of Dr. Pollard’s Presidential Advisory Council expanded their partnership with the College by volunteering to serve as guest judges for the tournament.

Congratulations to the Talk Hawks for a job well done — and kudos to the Forensics coaches for their support of these students!

Lifelong Learning

Teaching & Learning At The Center Of Innovation At LPC

These days members of the campus community would have a pretty hard time finding the Innovation Center at Las Positas College, but not because of any signage snafus or re-routed roadways — because the well-utilized and well-respected resource hub is now known as the “Teaching and Learning Center” (TLC).

Based findings that emerged from the Accreditation process and the Center’s merge with Staff Development, the name was changed to more accurately reflect the scope of all that it provides to faculty, staff, and administrators. This semester, the Teaching and Learning Center is putting on more than a dozen instructional technology workshops and one-on-one training appointments on a variety of topics. In addition, the Staff Development Committee and TLC staff hosted an open house to introduce people to some of the new and exciting features offered at the Center.

Recently the Teaching and Learning Center has been acknowledged for its valuable role at the College, with the staff nominated for the “What’s Right at LPC” award and being referenced in one of ACCJC’s commendations.
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)
Grading is underway, and field lighting and landscaping included as options on the project.

Parking Lot H & Photovoltaic (Solar) 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 will be in March 2010.

College Center for the Arts
The exterior siding, stucco, and windows are 99% complete. The building interior is 95% 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 95% complete. The total project is 90% complete.

Fire Alarm System Upgrade
This project is complete.

Child Development Center
The roof membrane has been installed on buildings B & C. The framing for Building A is underway and 95% complete. Installation of building paper on both buildings B & C is starting.

Collier Creek Storm Water Outfall
Installation of the storm drain and 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 the contractor is working on items to receive final completion. IT staff currently plan to move in to the new facility in March and April.