Board Report

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2010: Forward Momentum & Future Thinking

Mention “the first day of school” to just about anyone, and it brings about memories that go back as far as our childhood days: the anticipation of being in a new class with a new teacher, the excitement of reconnecting with friends, and the eagerness — perhaps even nervousness — to learn and do something entirely different. Much of that can still carry over into adulthood, and it is true for many students and staff alike at Las Positas College as the new semester begins.

For some students, Spring 2010 will provide their first college experience; for others, it will mean picking up where they left off last semester or last year, or returning to seek a new career path or direction in life after many years away from the classroom. Whatever their goal or motivation, they will have plenty of company on campus: one week before the start of the semester LPC was already seeing increased enrollment, with a fill-rate of approximately 87% in primary sections — figures that are estimated to top 90% as soon as classes begin. The College also continues to serve more students in need of wide-ranging support services and resources. There has been steady and significant growth in the number of students receiving financial aid, with the number of students receiving payments up 59% compared to the same time last year. In addition, there are now roughly 375 veterans enrolled at Las Positas College — 75 students above the Spring 2008 figures — and the enrollment trend is also evident in our International Student Program, with more and more students choosing to come to the Tri-Valley and pursue their education at LPC.

We welcome this new year — along with its new opportunities — and greet it with forward momentum and a future-thinking frame of mind; we will seek examples of inspiration and innovation from within our own walls, just beyond our doorstep, and clear across the globe; and we will look to both our students and Self-Study standards to provide guidance on new directions for programs and services through evaluating effectiveness.

DeRionne P. Pollard
President

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

• Vice President (and now Dr.) Pam Luster for successfully defending her dissertation entitled “Discovering Effective Student Equity Practices in California Community Colleges: An Action Research Study”
• The District M&O staff for welcoming the LPC campus community into their wonderful new facility for a celebration of the holiday season.
• Scott Miner, Welding faculty member, for finishing among the top 12 (out of more than 130 participants) at the 2009 Professional Welders Competition
• Vice President Bob Kratochvil for recently being featured in the “Member Profile” section of ACCCA Reports’ December issue
Global/Social Responsibility
College Collaborates, Students See Increase In Services
Following its approval at the Board Meeting in October, an MOU between Las Positas College and the Concord Vet Center is already in full swing. Through this partnership, the Concord Vet Center offers veterans on-campus counseling services, including individual and group counseling, marital and family counseling, medical referrals, employment counseling, and transition counseling. Las Positas College is one of first colleges in the State and across the nation to have a Veterans Center satellite-site on the campus, thus expanding its model program to provide even more comprehensive services to the now 375 veterans enrolled at LPC.

Respect for Diversity
LPC Joins Community To Honor MLK
Next week, a group of faculty, staff, students and administrators from Las Positas College will join the Tri-Valley YMCA and local community members to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. at the organization’s 10th Annual Fellowship Breakfast. Representatives from the College have attended this event in years past as a way of connecting with the community and celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King. This year, the group will also have the pleasure of hearing the keynote address from our very own President Pollard. This inspiring, uplifting, and entertaining event will be co-hosted by Tim Sbranti, Mayor of Dublin, and former Assemblymember Guy Houston.

Adapt to Change
Welcome Back To The Welcome Center
With its streamlined structure and success in meeting student needs, LPC’s “Welcome Center” is back for a repeat performance. From January 12 to January 22, the Welcome Center will return to serve as an efficient and effective one-stop service center for students as classes commence. This innovative approach features College representatives from Admissions & Records, Counseling, and Financial Aid centralized in Building 1600 to assist students in navigating issues they may encounter as the semester begins. This time — to better meet the needs of students and faculty — all Admissions & Records services will be temporarily housed at the Welcome Center during this two week period.

Make a Difference
Well-Deserved Recognitions For Representatives From LPC
Last month, two members of the campus community were acknowledged by their peers and the public for exceptional work and dedicated efforts in their respective fields. Counselor Gilberto Victoria was recognized by the Hispanic Business Education Network as a “Hero Under the Shadows” for encouraging and supporting the Latino community in their educational pursuits. That same week Kristy Woods, Math instructor, received a Teaching Excellence Award from the California Mathematics Council for Community Colleges. Kudos to both faculty members for such exciting honors!

Creative Thinking
Art Student Aims High And Achieves
In their January/February 2010 issue, “The Artist’s” magazine featured the winners in the Student Division of its Annual Art Competition — including Las Positas College student, Julie Cuy. She was awarded Second Place in the Landscape category for her oil painting entitled *Sunset, Tokyo*. Julie — an art student studying with instructor Bill Paskewitz — has only been taking classes for about three years, but finished strongly in this international competition. Congratulations to Julie for a job well done, and to Bill for helping his students to soar and succeed!

Lifelong Learning
Health Sciences Summit Keeps A Finger On The Pulse Of Program Possibilities
Several weeks ago, Las Positas College held its first-ever Health Sciences Summit. The half-day event was designed to bring together local leaders in the field to look at opportunities for partnerships and ways to expand and further develop LPC’s growing program. Attendees were presented with environmental scan data, regional education and employment opportunities, and an overview of Health Sciences in the Tri-Valley. The Summit also featured a keynote address from Wright L. Lassiter, III, Chief Executive Officer of the Alameda County Medical Center.