College Communicates About Budget & Continues Cooperative Spirit

Last month, upon news of the potential impact of the State budget on community colleges, the administrative team worked quickly to bring the information to the College community, share news of the latest developments, and clearly communicate the strategies being employed to address the proposed reductions at LPC. In addition to creating a “Budget Updates” website, Dr. Pollard held a special Town Meeting session to present the College’s budget action plan and engage the campus community in a dialogue around the anticipated effect on our students, community, and personnel. She reviewed the guiding principles that would frame LPC’s fiscal reductions, and outlined four key themes: Operational Efficiencies, Reductions, Revenue Generation, and Stewardship/In-Kind Savings. Through this approach, the College was able to identify the estimated shortfall for the 2009-10 academic year.

Following the two-hour presentation and discussion, a blog was added to the “Budget Updates” website; this feature enables faculty, staff, students, and community members to submit suggestions for areas of cost savings or revenue generation. The website also serves as a repository for the many budget communications, include a recent memo in which the Vice Presidents delineated some operational guidelines and processes designed to actualize the budget action plan for Las Positas College. In areas all across the College, faculty and staff are working with their respective administrators to implement these guidelines, while maintaining the level of access, service, and academic excellence to our students and the community.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Veterans First Initiative Team — Todd Steffan (Veterans Coordinator), Sylvia Rodriguez (Dean of Enrollment Services), Jim McGuirk (Student Veteran), Mark Tarte (Faculty, Administration of Justice) — for providing incoming students with an exceptional experience at Operation Gateway
- Rich Butler for ensuring the safety of our students, faculty, and staff during the Fire Alarm System upgrade
- Scott Vigallon for conducting an engaging Distance Education presentation and training with our administrative team
- Karen Kit, Sheri Moore, and Linda Pflaster for organizing a “Days of Summer” hot dog lunch to help our campus community stay connected and beat the heat

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 ◊
Global/Social Responsibility

Veterans First Program Operates As A “Gateway”

Last week, a group of incoming LPC students took part in an orientation aimed at preparing them for their educational experience at the College. **Operation Gateway: A Veteran’s Transition to Success** provided returning servicemen and women with workshops and resources designed to meet their unique needs. This four-day session introduced them to the College, our Veterans First Program, and the many avenues of support available to them. Beyond a binder full of reference materials, the students heard from each presenter about LPC’s commitment to helping them achieve their educational goals and successfully transition back into civilian life. Ret. Colonel Bucky Peterson, Chairman of the statewide Troops to College initiative, noted that the program at Las Positas College is not only a model within California, but across the country.

Respect for Diversity

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award

To Be Presented At Convocation

During LPC’s afternoon session at Convocation, Dr. Pollard will present one member of the campus community with the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award. Given out for the first time last year, this award is co-sponsored by Campus Change Network (CCN) and the Office of the President. Following a review of all nominations, this honor is awarded to an individual who embodies the CCN Mission Statement — one who models culturally competent leadership; encourages honest communication and openness; promotes dialogue, reflection and action; educates and empowers others; and approaches their work with conviction, courage, and compassion.

Adapt to Change

SSA Planning Gets Underway

As significant progress continues on many of the new facilities on campus, work on another project is just getting underway. In May, the Board of Trustees approved the award of a design contract for the Student Services & Central Administration (SSA) Building to Steinberg Architects, and the College is now embarking on the design phase of the project. Members of the user group have been identified, and initial large- and small-group meetings have commenced. This new facility will house virtually all of the units within Student Services — creating a single, central location where students can access resources — and serve as the new “front door” of the College. The architects held an initial meeting of the full user group to begin to look at characteristics and functions to incorporate into the building.

Make a Difference

Students To Explore At EXPO

Next month, hundreds of new LPC students will have any opportunity to begin discovering all the ways Las Positas College can help them make their educational dreams and career goals a reality. On August 12, Student Services will put on EXPO, the annual student orientation at the College. Participants will tour the campus, meet faculty and other students, learn about the many services and resources available to them, and be introduced to strategies for college success. The last two years have seen record numbers of students attending EXPO and, with the enrollment numbers for Fall already above where they were at this time in 2008, we anticipate that trend may continue this year.

Creative Thinking

LPC To Set Up Welcome Center For Students

Facing a greater number of students and fewer resources with which to serve them, our Student Services team has developed a creative way to give them what they need and “meet them where they are.” Faculty and staff from various areas, including Counseling and Admissions & Records, will be housed together in a central location to serve as a “one-stop shop” during the first few weeks of Fall semester — answering questions, troubleshooting registration issues, and helping students get in classes and get on with learning. By setting up a temporary “Welcome Center” for students, the College can leverage its resources and streamline access by creating a single, service-based point of contact.

Lifelong Learning

Taking The College Into The Community

As she enters her second full academic year as President, Dr. Pollard continues to seek out opportunities not only to engage the community and increase awareness about LPC, but to create and embrace forums for learning and information sharing. Recently she was able to take part in several events that “increase recognition of Las Positas College within the Tri-Valley service area, state, and nation as a ‘First Choice’ for academic excellence,” as laid out in her Presidential Priorities. In June, she presented on two panels at AACC’s Future Leaders Institute, and last week she filmed a short television spot for Comcast. The video serves as an introduction to the College, and an invitation for the community to come experience it for themselves. In both cases the learning is a two-way exchange, and the work of the institution is advanced in the Tri-Valley and beyond.