College Sets Its Sights On The Future With Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015

Following the revision of its Mission Statement, the creation of its Vision Statement, and the development of its Institutional Strategic Goals, Las Positas College engaged in a year-long strategic planning process during 2009-2010. The goal was to engage the College community in a strategic planning process that was radically inclusive, that integrated institutional planning efforts, and that provided an opportunity to develop a collective vision for the organization. More than 200 members of the campus community participated in this initiative through their involvement at Visioning Day and Flex Day.

To describe in only a handful of paragraphs the way in which the Strategic Plan was developed does not fully give credit to the process or appropriately acknowledge the experience of all those who took part. Dr. Pollard launched the initiative in the Spring of 2009 by posing a series of seemingly simple questions to the College community: Do we share a clear, compelling, and collective vision of the future? What would Las Positas College look like at its very best?

As is the case in virtually all aspects of life, some challenges were encountered along the strategic planning process; but at each point, those involved engaged in dialogue, worked through the issues, and worked to maintain a focus on the future. There was broad participation in virtually every phase of the initiative: College Council helped steer the process and facilitate communication; at Visioning Day, internal and external members of the College Community laid the groundwork for actualizing LPC’s Strategic Goals; the “Common Ground” Ad-Hoc Task Force refined the strategic planning model and aligned it with other institutional planning processes; and, during Flex Day, the faculty, staff, students, and administrators came together to develop strategies and key performance indicators for each of the ten Institutional Goals.

All of this was achieved under the stewardship of Strategic Planning Lead, Dr. Jim Gioia, who designed the process, framed the outcome and experiential aim, and helped the organization hone its future-thinking skills. Together with the collective efforts, spirit, and vision of all participants, the result is the Las Positas College Strategic Plan 2010-2015: a plan that is strategic, dynamic, measurable, interconnected, and institutionalized — and a plan that serves as the first chapter in the future history of the College.

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Colin Schatz, Computer Science faculty member, who successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at Stanford University
- Dr. Laurel Jones for her recent selection as the next President of Mission College
- Dr. Pam Luster and Jeff Baker for accepting the positions of Interim Vice President of Academic Services and Acting Vice President of Student Services, respectively, to provide leadership and support to the College during the upcoming year
- Vice President Kratochvil, Natasha Lang, and the LPC Business Office for their diligent work on the College’s budget
Global/Social Responsibility

Operation Gateway II Opens Doors
Next month, Las Positas College will provide student veterans with a vehicle for success. Although this vehicle isn’t armored or equipped with a GPS system, it is designed to assist them on their educational journey and help them navigate through their LPC experience. Operation Gateway II will be held on campus July 15-17, and is designed to assist returning veterans looking to pursue their education at Las Positas College. Organized by the staff of LPC’s Veterans First Program — and following on the success of last year’s inaugural event — the three-day orientation will feature information on topics such as registration and course planning, readjustment services, and Post 9/11 benefits.

Respect for Diversity

Commencement: Different Paths, One Common Achievement
Last month at its 20th Commencement ceremony, Las Positas College celebrated the spectrum of student success. With the largest number of eligible graduates in its history, LPC showcased the diversity of its students — their different backgrounds, wide-ranging strengths, and unique paths to and through the College — and the common thread that links them together: the focus on their educational goals. Jill George, the 2010 Valedictorian, shared her “LPC story” with the audience and exemplified all that can be achieved when you follow your dreams.

Adapt to Change

President Pollard Briefs College With Update On Budget
Throughout the academic year, Dr. Pollard and the Vice Presidents have worked to maintain a high level of communication within the organization, providing the College community with developments in a number of areas; a frequent dialogue topic has been the budget. Most recently, Dr. Pollard updated the campus about the status of 2009-2010 and projections for 2010-2011. She outlined how LPC has “identified several strategies to increase our institution’s discretionary budget for the upcoming fiscal year.” The full message is available on the “Budget Updates” page of the Las Positas College website.

Make a Difference

SST Designed to Transform Tutoring
In an effort to improve support for students and maximize limited resources, the Tutorial Center is changing the way it delivers some services. Beginning in the Fall, students will be able to take advantage of free Self-Scheduled Tutoring (SST), an approach that involves no paperwork, no waiting, and no limit to the number of sessions in which students can participate — a recipe for success! The hope is that this new format will enable more students to be served even more efficiently. Since it is “dedicated to students’ educational success by providing quality learning support relevant to their individual needs,” the Tutorial Center will continue to offer drop-in tutoring as well.

Creative Thinking

Look At Life Through A “Kaleidoscope”
For two decades, readers have been wowed by the works featured in the Las Positas College Anthology — and this year is no exception. “Kaleidoscope,” the 2010 edition of the publication, is a collaborative project that includes prose/fiction, poetry, artwork, and photography created by LPC students and members of the community. The anthology was designed by the Literary Magazine class at the College and, last month, the group held an event to launch the publication and celebrate the artists’ work. Kudos to the students for their hard work and talented efforts, and to their advisors for guiding them through this project.

Lifelong Learning

Moving Forward With Follow-Up Report
By October 15, LPC must submit to ACCJC a Follow-Up Report addressing Accreditation Recommendations 3A, 3B, and 4, and the work is progressing as planned. Last month, the drafts — developed by the Ad-Hoc Accreditation Work Group — were presented to College Council; soon thereafter, the campus community was invited to review and provide feedback on the draft documents via the Wiki process. Work will continue to write and edit the response drafts over the summer, and then on August 31st College Council will hold a special meeting to approve the Report and send it forward for Board approval.