Designing Colleges of the Future and Developing the People to Lead Us There

Last month, Las Positas College welcomed colleagues from seven colleges of the Strategic Horizon Network (SHN) when it served as host for the program’s Winter Colloquium. The session’s theme was “Designing Colleges for the Future” and the focus was on the ways community colleges can be forward-thinking institutions to address an ever-changing environment and increase student success. One of the key components of such an organizational design is investing in the “intangible resources” that exist within the college, and LPC is doing just that.

Las Positas College faculty and staff are getting opportunities to enhance their skills and strengths through a variety of professional development activities. Recently, the Teaching & Learning Center — formerly the Innovation Center — held an Open House to unveil its new look and renewed focus on staff development. The Center, affectionately referred to as the “TLC,” has expanded its offerings of workshops and trainings, and established a growing library of staff development materials. The Staff Development Program — which has merged with the TLC — conducted a campus-wide survey of College personnel to gauge specific areas of interest and design content that better meets the needs of faculty, staff, and administrators.

Staff Development also sponsored the Flex Day held on campus last week. This day-long working session was focused on furthering the College’s strategic planning efforts. The event enabled the campus community to review and validate the significant work produced on Visioning Day, outlined how to develop and utilize key performance indicators, and provided all in attendance — working collaboratively with colleagues from across the institution — with a chance to identify strategies by which Las Positas College will achieve its Strategic Goals. Flex Day was an interactive, hands-on session that gave participants a chance to stretch their individual communication, creative, and team-building skills and, collectively, write the future history of LPC.

Along those same lines, the Classified Senate is currently finalizing plans for its Flex Day on April 2. The theme for the event is “Exploring the Hidden Gems of LPC” and, as part of the day’s program, the group will view and discuss the PBS documentary “Discounted Dreams, High Hopes and Harsh Realities at America’s Community Colleges.”

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

• Sylvia Rodriguez, selected as the recipient of the “What’s Right At LPC” Award for March
• The Talk Hawks for taking home the Third Place Sweepstakes Trophy at the Northern California Forensics Associations Spring Championship Tournament
• Jonathan Brickman, Martha Konrad, and Donna Manning and the Health Center for being nominated for the “What’s Right At LPC” Award this month
• LPC Campus Safety for leading the College through a successful evacuation drill and test of the new fire alarm system

Key Dates & Upcoming Events:

- ASLPC Talent Show
  March 18, 6:00 - 9:00 PM
  LPC Quad
- Early Music Concert Series “‘Three Generations of Bach’ featuring Yuko Tanaka”
  March 20, 7:30 PM
  LPC Library
- CCN Brown Bag
  March 25, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
  Staff Lounge (1601)
- Senza Una Lira/Penniless 2nd Annual Italian Film Festival
  March 26 & 27, 6:00 PM
  MDB Lecture Hall (2420)
- Classified Flex Day
  April 2, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- NACC Pow Wow
  April 17, LPC PE Complex
- President’s Office Hours
  April 22, 4:00—5:00 PM
- EOPS Awards
  April 23, 12:00 - 2:00 PM
  Cornerstone Fellowship
- LPCF Best of the Best
  April 24, 6:00 PM
  MDB Atrium (Reading) Room
- 32nd Annual Festival of the Arts Awards & Gala Reception
  April 28, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
  LPC Library
- RENT
  April 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 at 8:00 PM
  April 11 & 18 at 2:00 PM
  LPC Theater

President’s Community Connections

Livermore Chamber of Commerce "Dreammakers & Risktakers" Luncheon
Mar. 30

CCLC “Commission on the Future” Meeting
Apr. 9-11

AACC Annual Convention
Apr. 17-20

Northern California Forensics Associations Spring Championship Tournament

32nd Annual Festival of the Arts Awards & Gala Reception
Global/Social Responsibility

Emergency Text Service Designed to Keep “U” Alert

In an effort to increase awareness of its emergency text messaging service, Las Positas College held “AlertU Week” on campus, March 8 - 12. AlertU is a system that enables the College to send out important security information about the campus and community in the event of an emergency. The information is sent to mobile phones via SMS (short message service) and offers two-way messaging, allowing subscribers to receive and relay critical info from inside and outside a crisis zone.

Since the effectiveness of this program is dependent upon voluntary participation, “AlertU Week” was designed to make the campus community more aware of the communication methods in place to augment the existing emergency notification processes. Rich Butler, Director of Safety and Security, did a presentation at Town Meeting to familiarize faculty and staff with AlertU so that they could share the information with students and encourage them to register for the service. Signing up is a short, simple process: just text LPC to 253788 (AlertU), then reply Y to the text message received in return.

Respect for Diversity

BSU Leads LPC Celebration of Black History Month

Last month, the Black Student Union (BSU) hosted an evening for the College and community to celebrate Black History Month. The subject matter that the BSU presented to the more than forty guests in attendance was particularly powerful because the program was completely designed by the students — in fact, the students were the program.

The students who planned and participated in the event talked about their personal experiences and why they joined the Black Student Union at LPC. In addition to sharing their own stories, the BSU students engaged the audience by conducting a quiz about Black History Month.

Kudos to the BSU students for the thoughtful way in which they structured this activity, and to their advisors for guiding them in their efforts to share this celebration with the campus community.

Adapt to Change

CCN Explores Campus Descriptors with Dialogue

On March 25, Campus Change Network (CCN) will hold a brown bag meeting for members of the campus community. “Temporary Buildings at LPC: Dialogue About the Spaces We Create” will provide faculty, staff, students, and administrators with the opportunity to discuss some of the changes resulting from construction and growth on campus, as well as give feedback about the way in which the institution approaches and communicates those changes.

Initially emerging from a reference to the temporary trailers that will be located near the front of the College as part of secondary effects/swing space planning, this open and informal dialogue session will explore these physical changes to the campus more broadly and deeply — and through the lenses of equity and inclusion.

The group will invite the campus community to share thoughts on how the College perceives temporary buildings/trailers, how these perceptions are communicated, how these perceptions are influenced by cultural stereotypes, and how the issue influences campus climate.
Make a Difference

Dr. Philip Manwell: Champion for the Arts at LPC & Beyond

On March 4, residents of the Tri-Valley came together for a very special evening at the Bankhead Theater. To mark National Arts Education month the Alameda County Arts Commission, in partnership with the Alameda Office of Education, sponsored “Champions for the Arts: A Celebration of Our Regional Arts Heroes” to recognize local supporters of the arts and highlight music and both performing and visual arts by students from Livermore, Pleasanton, and Fremont.

The event featured performances by middle and high school groups, and the presentation of the “Champion of the Arts” awards to several art heroes, including LPC’s own Dr. Philip Manwell. As the Dean of Arts & Communications, Dr. Manwell has played a key role in the success of programs at the College — advocating for the arts, strengthening community partnerships, and supporting faculty in their efforts to expand and enhance students’ experiences and successes. He was also instrumental in the design and development of LPC’s soon-to-be-completed College Center for the Arts.

Congratulations to Dr. Manwell for this well-deserved honor and for his many contributions to the arts on campus and in the community!

Creative Thinking

RENT Moves In at Las Positas College

This semester excitement is growing on campus and in the community, as audiences eagerly anticipate the debut of RENT as the Spring musical at Las Positas College. Set in New York’s Lower East Side in 1989, this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning show follows eight young artists as they “forge relationships, express creativity and find meaning and hope in the face of poverty and the presence of AIDS.”

The musical opens on Friday, April 2, and runs on weekends through April 18. Faculty and staff were wowed with a sneak preview of RENT when the cast performed a song from its well known soundtrack at Town Meeting. It looks to be another stellar success from the Performing Arts department, and another chance to showcase some of the many talented students at LPC.

Lifelong Learning

Accreditation & Assessment Are Focus at Town Meeting

It was just over one month ago that Las Positas College received its Comprehensive Evaluation Report from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), and already work on the Follow-Up Report is well underway. As part of its findings, the Commission requires that the College submit a Follow-Up Report by October 15 in which it demonstrates resolution on two of the seven recommendations included in the Evaluation Report: Recommendations #3 and #4.

Recommendation #3 outlines that LPC must “fully integrate its processes for the assessment of student learning outcomes [SLOs] with its processes for program review and planning.” To that end, the March Town Meeting was dedicated to a presentation on assessing SLO data, incorporating it into program reviews, and a college-wide dialogue about the next steps. Facilitated by faculty leads in SLOs and Academic Program Review and the Director of Institutional Research, this session walked faculty and staff through the process and provided them with the tools to integrate these two planning and evaluative methods.
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 are 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.

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 over the next two months.