In October, Dr. Pollard and her executive team accepted an invitation from the Center for Community College Development to join representatives from fourteen other community colleges at the Strategic Horizon Network’s Winter Colloquium to discuss organizational development and issues facing institutions and leaders in higher education.

The Strategic Horizon Network (SHN), which began out of the University of Michigan in 2004, works to assist participating institutions “move beyond conventional approaches to management and leadership by committing to new ways of doing business in five areas: 1) analysis and creation of opportunity, 2) assessment and reporting of value, 3) enhancement of strategic management capability, 4) change design and management, and 5) leader development throughout the institution.” Anne Arundel Community College (MD), Lorain County Community College (OH), Rio Salado College (AZ), and Tulsa Community College (OK) are among the SHN participants. The colloquium was focused on exploring ways to build organizational capacity through abundance theory to unleash the full potential of the College.

These concepts were shared with the campus community earlier this month when Dr. Pollard launched the Strategic Horizon Network at the November Town Meeting. She engaged the staff and faculty in dialogue around a series of questions to generate thoughts on the conditions needed for success, embracing opportunities, and looking not only at what we do, but how we do it.

Next steps in this two-year initiative include identifying additional College representatives to join the SHN team, and continued dialogue at Division Meetings, informal “Yak ‘N Sak” sessions, and in the soon to be created online “Futuring Forum Think Tank.”

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Scott Miner for receiving the Section Educator Award from the American Welding Society for quality instructional performance devoted to promoting welding skills.
- Todd Steffan and Veterans Club for a well-organized and inspiring tribute to honor those who served on Veterans Day.
- LPC “Talk Hawks” and coaches for recent first place wins at two regional forensics tournaments.

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

Campus Community Works To Expand Smoke-Free Zone

This Thursday, the LPC Student Health Center and BACHUS Club are sponsoring a Great American Smokeout event at the College to inspire members of the campus community to quit smoking for just one day. During the Smokeout, they will offer health information, tips on how to quit, free fruit, and prizes. In addition, one component of the event is to promote awareness of the change to our designated smoking areas. As of January 2009, smoking will only be permitted in the parking lots on campus.

This modification is the result of shared governance efforts through our Health & Safety Committee and strong support from student groups. Over the Winter Break, all of the smoking shelters across campus will be removed, and steps are being taken to inform students, faculty, and staff of the new guidelines. A half-page ad about the change was included in the Spring 2009 Class Schedule, and students who order a parking permit online will receive with their placard an insert that outlines the new designated areas.

Respect for Diversity

LPC Celebrates Cuban Culture

From December 1 to 6, Las Positas College will hold its second annual celebration of La Semana Cubana. Scheduled activities include art displays, a panel discussion and guest lecturer, and performances of music, dance, and drumming. The events are made possible by support from the Alameda County Arts Commission, LPC Foundation, BasicNecessities.org, and Campus Change Network. The festivities end on Saturday with a Bembe Celebration, complete with live music and traditional Cuban food.

Giving Thanks with ISP

With the holidays just around the corner, the International Students Program (ISP) is looking for members of the campus community to welcome our foreign students into their homes for Thanksgiving. This heartwarming initiative would give ISP students an opportunity to learn about an American tradition and experience a feeling of family while here at LPC — their home away from home.

Adapt to Change

Growing College Connects with “Growth Cities” at Power Breakfast

On November 6, Dr. Pollard attended the Tri-Valley Power Breakfast — entitled “Growth Cities” — along with her executive team and dozens of other community leaders. The event, hosted by the San Francisco Business Times and held at the Bankhead Theater, featured representatives from Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton, and San Ramon. These panelists answered questions in a town hall format, enabling the audience to join in the dialogue around economic trends, transportation, changing demographics, and other issues facing the community. Dr. Pollard was asked to provide some remarks to the attendees and shared her thoughts about the growth that Las Positas is experiencing, the ways the institution can meet students needs during these changing times, and the vital role of the College within the community.
Make a Difference

Veterans Day Tributes

Thanks to our Veterans First Initiative and Veterans Club, Las Positas College was able to take part in a touching tribute on November 11 to honor those who served. The Veterans Day activities on campus began with remarks from some of our LPC veterans and the presentation of colors, and concluded that evening with the traditional playing of Taps. Later that night, several of our students — representing their fellow veterans — were honored during special pre-game and half-time ceremonies at the Golden State Warriors basketball game.

LPC Opens Doors To and For High School Seniors and Their Parents

Next month on December 2, Las Positas College will play host to hundreds of local high school seniors exploring their educational options. Accompanied by their parents, these students will have the chance to learn about the many programs and services LPC has to offer, hear from representatives of four-year institutions about transfer opportunities, and meet with faculty, staff, and current students. The evening begins with info tables for various College programs and departments, and ends with breakout sessions focused on specific disciplines and majors.

Creative Thinking

Shakespeare: In Hollywood and On Campus

Last Friday marked the opening night for LPC’s Fall production, Shakespeare in Hollywood. The play, directed by Wesley Morgan, is a wacky tale about the hijinks that ensue when the “real” Oberon and Puck appear during the filming of 1935’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” Performances run in the Theater this Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm, with the final show on Sunday at 2:00 pm.

Coming to an FM Dial Near You?

A new home on the FM dial could be just six months away for Radio Las Positas, according to representatives from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The station’s application for a Non-Commercial and Educational license to broadcast on 89.9 FM was among five submitted to the FCC, and the decision is expected as early as June 2009.

Lifelong Learning

Psychology Department Shares Stand Out Speakers with LPC

On October 30, the Psychology Department and the LPC Psychology Club hosted a return appearance by Dr. William DeMent, a world famous sleep researcher and the “Father of Modern Sleep Science.” His speaking engagement followed closely on the heels of SLEEP DAY at LPC, a free educational event where students, faculty, and staff can learn all about sleep: its benefits, how to improve it, and related disorders.

Then on December 4, the Psychology Department and Club invite the campus and local community to spend an evening with Kim Peek, “The Real Rain Man.” Kim was the inspiration for the movie Rain Man, and has appeared on such shows as 60 Minutes and 20/20, as well as programs on PBS and The Discovery Channel. He and his father have appeared at Las Positas several times to share Kim’s story, skills and message, and in the process have become part of LPC’s extended family.
Facilities Update

Central Utility Plant
Southland mobilized and commenced work on the utility loop in April, 2008. The utility loop was completed August 29, 2008, six weeks ahead of schedule. The Design Build Contractor, Southland Industries has finalized detailed design for the Central Plant. The project will be submitted to DSA for access review November, 2008. DSA approval is expected by February 2009. Construction of the central Utility Plant will commence directly upon DSA approval.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
Construction commenced in August, 2008. The site grading is complete. Presently the construction of Carports A & B are done. The construction of foundations for the warehouse/ shop building, and fuel depot are underway. Due to weather and unforeseen underground utility and soil conditions the milestone to finish hardscape and temporary pad has been moved from October 15, 2008 to December 2008, depending upon weather. Achievement of this milestone will allow the existing Maintenance & Operations shops and storage facilities will be relocated to the new site allowing construction to commence on the District-wide Information Technology Building. The M&O office building supplier has defaulted on their contract and their surety has taken over responsibility to deliver this building. The schedule to finish the M&O office bldg, is under negotiation with the surety, Liberty Mutual/Guardian Group.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
Document submittal to DSA for permit review took place September 29, 2008. DSA has issued comments on fire/life safety, structural and access comments have not yet been issued. Upon issuance of all comments the A/E team will respond to all comments and resubmit to DSA for final approval. The project will be bid with three options as the budget for the complete project as designed is inadequate.

Solar PV System/Parking Lot H
The shade structures and solar panels, wiring, and components have been DSA approved. The parking lot was completed for use in the Fall Semester 2008. Shade structures and solar equipment are planned for installation in December, 2008 over the semester break. The installations will be sequenced to allow at least one half of each parking lot to remain in use at all times during the shade structures and solar equipment installations. Solar panels and related equipment, including shade structures for both parking lots “E” and “H” are scheduled for final completion by May 2009.

Student Services & Central Administration
This project was put on hold in the Schematic Design phase due to the difficulty gaining consensus around the configuration of the building. The project design will restart pending the selection of the design delivery method, specifically Design Build or the traditional A/E design, bid, and build. The delivery method decision and procurement planning is expected to begin in the coming months culminating in the selection of a Design/Build team or Architect to restart the design of the project.

Multi-Disciplinary & Physical Education Buildings
These projects are complete. Rework of stucco and building enclosure systems is required and will be performed by the contractor. Design of the remedial work is underway and will be issued to the contractor for completion by Summer 2009.

Campus Boulevard Phase I-III
The Design team redesigned a simplified project due to the original design being over budget. The new design was presented to the User Group in April, 2008. Input provided at that meeting was given back to the user group in August, 2008. Final comments were returned to the Design Team in September, 2008. The Design Team is currently studying the comments and ADA accessible routes. Upon approval construction documents will be completed.

College Center for the Arts
Work continues per schedule. Basement walls and foundations for the music classroom wing are underway. The erection of structural steel for that wing is scheduled to begin on December 8, 2008.

District-wide Information Technology Building
Board of Trustees has awarded the construction of project to Pencon, Inc. of Livermore. Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued December, 2008. Construction is scheduled to complete December 2009 for occupancy in January 2010.

Fire Alarm Upgrade
System design is complete and DSA comments have been issued. A meeting with the user-group will take place November 20, 2008 to review these comments. The engineer will then complete response to all DSA comments and resubmit for final DSA approval in December, 2008.

Child Development Center
Invitations to bid were published in October according to the Public Contract Code. On October 29, 2008 forty-nine (49) interested parties attended a mandatory pre-bid meeting, of which thirty-five (35) attendees were general contractors who are eligible to bid on the project. Bids will be opened on December 4, 2008.

Aquatics Center & Soccer Field
The synthetic turf multiuse/soccer field is substantially complete and the College has taken beneficial occupancy. Final landscape planting and lawn areas were completed in November, 2008 at the multi-use playing field, as well as the necessary handrail/guardrail installations around the field walkways. The Aquatics Center has continued with the construction of the Pool House. The shell has been completed with roofing activities underway. The ceramic tile work for the two swimming pools was completed, as well as the installation of the mechanical systems. Beneficial occupancy of the Aquatics Center is currently scheduled for December 2008 for occupancy January 2009.

Collier Creek
Storm Water Outfall
Design documents are 85% complete. Upon submittal of the final geotechnical report, construction documents will be completed. Submittal to DSA for permit review is expected December 2008 with approval expected March, 2009.