Strength In Numbers: Moving From I To We


Everywhere we look, we find references to and reports of numbers and figures, dollar amounts and dividends, and the budget bottom line. It’s clear that, financially, these are trying times across the State, across the country, and across the globe, and that — across the board — in many of the places we’d like to see increases, “numbers” are down. However, in a different context — when it comes to collaborating, building partnerships, and advancing the work and success of our institution — there is strength in numbers. Indeed, we are actualizing our collective strength as an organization.

We can see undeniable evidence of this synergy: the development and endorsement of our new Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals; the implementation of our Facilities Modernization Program; the work on our Accreditation Self-Study; and our upcoming Strategic Planning initiative, Vision 2015. It is clear that — by working together, combining our individual strengths, and focusing our collective efforts on a common goal — the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and we can reach even greater heights than we would just working on our own.

Some years ago, the College embarked on a campaign to connect with the community, familiarize them with the face of LPC, and show them that we are their college — “I am LPC.” While an important moment in our history, the campaign was singular in focus as we were defining ourselves within our community. However, as we move forward into the next phase of our institutional growth and design the blueprint for our future, a new tagline could be adopted to reflect our commitment to a spirit of collaboration and collegiality — “We are LPC.”

KUDOS: Student, Faculty & Staff Recognitions

- Lauren Hasten, Anthropology faculty member, for recently publishing her article, “An Anthropological Context: Making Your Mission Statement Mesh With Your Curriculum”
- Dr. Amber Machamer, Director of Research & Planning, for being named one of the “Top 40 Under 40” by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED).
- Steve Gunderson, Sherman Lindsey, Ethan Castor, Andres de la Cruz, Michael Furayama, and Haywood Beard, “The I.T. Guys,” selected as the recipients of the “What’s Right At LPC” Award for October
- Bacchus and Gamma Health Club for bringing the National Marrow Donor Program and bone marrow drive to campus
- Barbara Stuart, Teri Henson, Natasha Lang, Jadin Lee Forbes & Tessie Rabon, Brian Hagopian, Catherine Suarez, Karen Zeigler, and James McGuirk being nominated for the “What’s Right At LPC” Award this month
Global/Social Responsibility

**LPC Students Share Strategies To Help Others Flourish During Flu Season**

Several weeks ago, students in LPC’s Surgical Technician program held a hand-washing seminar to help the College prepare for flu season. This interactive and educational activity was conducted on the patio of the Student Center, engaging students as they visited the cafeteria.

In addition to distributing pamphlets containing resources and helpful information about the seasonal flu and H1N1 viruses, the Surg Tech students used Glo-gel and a black light under a tent to demonstrate how germs can remain on hands if not washed properly. The seminar, which was well-received by the campus community, was planned and presented within a short two-day turnaround.

The College has also taken steps to keep people informed, with tips on prevention featured prominently on the LPC homepage: knowing the symptoms, washing hands often, and talking with health professionals about vaccination. Our Health Center, which helped with the hand-washing event, is also playing an integral role in helping students, faculty, and staff stay healthy, with lots of useful tools and links posted on their website: [http://laspositascollege.edu/healthcenter/news.php#h1n1](http://laspositascollege.edu/healthcenter/news.php#h1n1)

**Respect for Diversity**

**Open House Spotlights Successes And Looks At Lessons Learned**

On September 30, Staff Development and the Basic Skills Committee hosted a Learning Communities Open House, providing an opportunity for faculty to learn from their colleagues about different models of learning communities and best practices.

Dr. Vincent Tinto, the featured presenter last year at the College’s Student Success Institute, sees learning communities as “opportunities for students to encounter learning as a shared experience,” with data showing that they positively impact “the overall success and retention of developmental and transfer students.” Presentations included highlights of the College Foundation Semester, support for ESL students, ways to integrate curriculum between disciplines, and freshmen First Year Experience cohorts.

In addition to presenting an introduction to these models and lessons learned from those involved, the Open House was intended to identify faculty participants and courses for a new LPC learning community in Fall 2010.

**Adapt to Change**

**Data Demonstrates Student Satisfaction And Examines Equity**

LPC’s Office of Research and Planning recently published a series of research briefs related to Student Satisfaction Surveys. The survey is administered every two years and, for these briefs, data was analyzed to look at diversity and equity issues in relation to gender and race.

The Student Satisfaction Survey includes a broad range of questions about their background, satisfaction, and progress made in 34 different outcome areas (value-added). The comparison examined results from Fall 2005 (with 882 surveys returned) and Fall 2007 (960 surveys returned), and identified the following general findings about students’ experiences at Las Positas College:

- Female students have somewhat higher satisfaction with aspects of LPC and more gains in value-added variables related to diversity and inclusion.
- Non-white students report less satisfaction with certain aspects of LPC, less respect on campus, and more gains in the value-added skills related to diversity and inclusion.
Make a Difference

From Books to Baskets, Scholar-Athletes Score Big

Recently, Coach Tony Costello shared with the campus community some of the successes achieved by members of our Men’s Basketball team.

The Hawks have racked up some impressive numbers: they finished the 08-09 season with a 21-9 record; 7 scholar-athletes matriculating to 4-year universities; and 5 of those 7 players earning academic and/or athletic scholarships. These hard-working Hawks are: Evan Sanzo-Davis, leaving LPC with a 3.8 GPA and a full scholarship to Seattle University (Division I); Willie Richardson, earning a scholarship to Kentucky Wesleyan University; Xavier Lewis and Jeff Ford, continuing on to Notre Dame de Namur University; Chris Hansen, now attending Newman University in Wichita, Kansas on scholarship; Erik Biczekow, studying engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; and Bryan Kelly, majoring in Administration of Justice at CSU, Chico.

Kudos to this group of dedicated students, and to all of the LPC faculty and staff that helped them in their endeavors, both on and off the court.

Creative Thinking

Talk Hawks Take First

Last month, the Las Positas College Forensics Team competed in their first tournament of the year, entering a team full of newly-hatched Talk Hawks. Against a field of contenders from City College of San Francisco, Modesto Junior College, Santa Rosa Junior College, and sister-college Chabot, the Hawks took home the prize for First Place Sweepstakes in the Community College Division.

In addition to the team success, eight Talk Hawks finished with individual awards, including a first place finish for Novice in Open Persuasive Speaking and second place finishes in both the Novice Speech-to-Entertain and Open Informative Speaking categories.

Congratulations to the participating students for a great start to the 2009-10 season: Kricel Gutierrez, Kailas Menon, Alfonso Montes, Charlie Passero, Sara Slechta, Mark Svetik, Justine Whitfield, and Birney Young.

Lifelong Learning

LPC Transfers Major Information To Students

Last week the College held two of its annual events — Transfer Day and the Major Exploration Faire — opening its doors to four-year universities and community partners, and providing a wealth of resources to LPC students.

Transfer Day featured 43 different institutions, including eight CSU campuses, six UC schools, twenty-one private universities, and eight out-of-state colleges. Students were able to speak with representatives to explore opportunities for transfer.

Similarly, the Major Exploration Faire gave students the chance to speak with LPC faculty and their counterparts from four-year schools about majors in which they might be interested. Representatives included professors from CSU East Bay, San Jose State University, University of the Pacific, and Holy Names University. There were also community agency reps in attendance to talk about various career fields, such as health services, fire protection, and public safety.
Central Utility Plant
The building has been completed. Work on the punch list and training was scheduled for the week of September 21.

Maintenance & Operations Facility
Construction has been completed on Carports A & B, as well as the Modular Office Building. The facility is scheduled to be occupied by the end of October.

P.E. Phase III (Outside Loop Road)
DSA approval is complete, and the project is to be bid with two options. Site grading is scheduled to take place this Fall.

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 & Central Administration Building
Steinberg Architects is the firm selected to design the building, and user group meetings were held throughout the summer. A building footprint and preliminary design concept has been developed for the project.

Multi-Disciplinary Education Building
Exterior repair work is to be completed by October 2009. The punch list was scheduled for September 21 and is expected to be completed by October 2009.

LPC Fire Alarm System Upgrade
Work will be performed under the Southland Industries contract, and is currently in progress. Approximately 85% of the work has been completed.

Child Development Center
Framing has started on buildings B & C, and footings have been poured for building A. The retaining walls are complete and backfill has started.

Collier Creek Storm Water Outfall
Design documents have been completed. DSA approval was granted in June 2009 and construction got underway in September.

Aquatics Center & Soccer Field
The complex has been completed and is being used for Fall classes.

District-wide Information Technology Building
The building shell has been completed, with efforts now on interior finishes and site work. The electrical and data components of the project are 75% complete.