

**Donald R. Milanese Award for Educational Integrity & Excellence**

**Past Recipients of the Milanese Award**

2005: Don Milanese

2006: Elena Cole & Gilberto Victoria

2007: Karen Halliday

2008: Martha Konrad

2009: Maureen O'Herin

2010: Catherine Suarez

2011: Karen Kit and Steve Gunderson

2012: Julie Thornburg and Renee Pegues

2013: Andi Shreibman and Sylvia Rodriguez

2014: Ted Kaye

2015: Jadin LeeForbes and Tessie Rabon

2016: Sean Prather and Rajinder Samra

2017: John Ruys & Karin Spirn

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## Annual Speeches

### 2015 Jadin LeeForbes and Tessie Rabon

The Donald R. Milanese Award for Educational Integrity and Excellence is given to a person or persons demonstrating the utmost integrity, consummate professionalism, unfailing commitment to students, and unwavering dedication to educational excellence.

Both recipients this year demonstrate all of these characteristics. They are at the forefront of the campus and are probably two of the most identifiable faces on campus. They are chiefly responsible for the delivery of important communications and resources to the campus community. Without them, all of us would be lost, uninformed, and without the necessary items to make our classes and offices run smoothly. Between them, they work longer hours than...even the president.

Both the recipients are quiet, gentle folks who have the knowledge of the whole campus at their fingertips. They both always have a smile for everyone they meet. They help guide lost visitors, students, and faculty...even an administrator or new president from time to time.

Please help me congratulate the 2015 Donald R. Milanese Award winners, Tessie Rabon and Jaden Lee-Forbes from the Campus Welcome Center.

### 2014 Ted Kaye

~ Dr. Barry Russell

[2011 – 2013: not available, Dr. Kevin Walthers]

## **2010 Catherine Suarez**

As an academic, this member of our campus community understands that teaching doesn't only happen inside the walls of a classroom – and this person possesses the gift of sharing many talents and abilities with others by giving back.

The recipient of this year's Donald R. Milanese Award truly embodies the principles of “educational integrity and excellence.” She is committed to and compassionate toward her students – caring deeply about their academic success and lifelong learning – and she believes strongly in collaborating with colleagues. As the only full-time faculty member in her discipline, she has worked hard to develop programs that meet the needs of students.

Outside of the College, she has made significant contributions to the larger community. Through her involvement with local organization she works with at-risk adolescent girls, and she is the co-founder and director of a non-profit that works to provide resources to people in need and in transitional or crisis situations. Last year, in recognition of her efforts to give back to the Tri-Valley and beyond, she was honored as a “Hometown Hero.”

She recognizes that learning can take many forms, and that diversity and cultural learning are critical components to an education. Here at LPC, she has been involved in, and in many cases led, a number of successful and innovative initiatives on campus: she spearheaded La Semana Cubana (Cuban Cultural Week), planned the Foreign Language Department's first-ever cultural immersion trip to Spain, and serves as an advisor to the Native American Culture Club.

This year – “for consistently demonstrating the utmost integrity, consummate professionalism, unfailing commitment to students, and unwavering dedication to educational excellence” – the 2010 Donald R. Milanese Award for Education Integrity & Excellence goes to **Catherine Suarez**.

Donald R. Milanese Award  
for  
Educational Integrity & Excellence

to Maureen O'Herin

FOR CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATING  
THE UTMOST INTEGRITY, CONSUMMATE  
PROFESSIONALISM, UNFAILING  
COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS, AND  
UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO  
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**(FROM HER COLLEAGUES)**

***POSITIVE AND PERSONABLE...***

- ❖ She has the most amazing sense of humor.
- ❖ She makes the most wonderfully inappropriate jokes at stressful English meetings—it is painful to sit next to her sometimes because we laugh so hard!
- ❖ She keeps everyone's spirits up
- ❖ She is tireless—we keep telling her not to take on any more projects because she has too many as it is

***PREPARED AND PROACTIVE...***

- ❖ Her teaching materials are so detailed and well thought out.
- ❖ She is so helpful in a pinch—we all borrow her ideas and handouts because they are so amazing.
- ❖ She has helped us all in teaching Shakespeare, especially when many teachers taught Macbeth at the same time, she provided guidance and resources.
- ❖ She has brought the SF Shakespeare touring group to LPC.
- ❖ She always claims that she's not a morning person, but she is always here before anybody else, bright-eyed and working furiously. She has so much energy; students often say that her energy keeps them going in the morning.
- ❖ She is too modest to ever mention it, but: both of her children are attending Harvard.

***PROFESSIONAL & PRIZED...***

- ❖ She actually understands SLOs!
- ❖ She is highly beloved by her students, for good reason.
- ❖ She is an exceptional teacher.
- ❖ She was a brilliant accreditation leader.

**FROM DR. LAUREL JONES, VP AS**

- ❖ She is walking sunshine; she always greets you with a smile and, if you are lucky, a big hug! She brought this positive attitude to her faculty representation and leadership on our recent Accreditation Self-Study project. With no hesitation, she contacted faculty and classified staff to ascertain who would lead standards; she worked with technology wizards on making the process accessible and easy to understand, and she gently reminded the Vice President of Academic Services that this was a working document and not a Tolstoy novel. She also refused to sing the

Accreditation Ballad when requested! That said, she was a faculty model for leadership, positive participation, sensitive and quality reflection and a superb communicator for those who needed assistance understanding the process. Without this stellar faculty representation, the Self-Study would have been much less successful and the product not nearly as comprehensive or thorough.

## **2008**

**Martha Konrad** (for Chancellor's Award, similar was done for Milanese Award)

This recommendation is for the extraordinary commitment which Martha gives each day to the College, to the faculty and staff within Academic Services and to the Vice President of Academic. In my 36+ years of service to this District, I have not come into contact with anyone who has given so much and without any expectation of recognition than Martha Konrad. There are many reasons for this unparalleled level of service, including her strong belief in ensuring that the mission of our College is fulfilled. But above all else is Martha's consistent dedication to never compromise on quality in whatever she does. The image of the College, both internally and externally, must reflect the very best, and Martha takes great pride and ownership in guaranteeing excellence.

Martha's work spans the broad spectrum of responsibilities associated with the Office of Academic Services, including all aspects of personnel work, curriculum development and implementation, budgetary preparation and monitoring, enrollment management, accreditation, sabbatical leave, scheduling and so forth. This represents a wide and diverse body of knowledge and application, and Martha has consistently demonstrated extensive expertise and facility in competently handling each of these areas and several others. She has genuine intellectual curiosity to constantly learn, and she looks forward for new opportunities and challenges. When someone seeks information or assistance, Martha is ready and willing to share in her knowledge. She is a life-long learner, and the College has benefited richly from her interest and commitment to grow professionally.

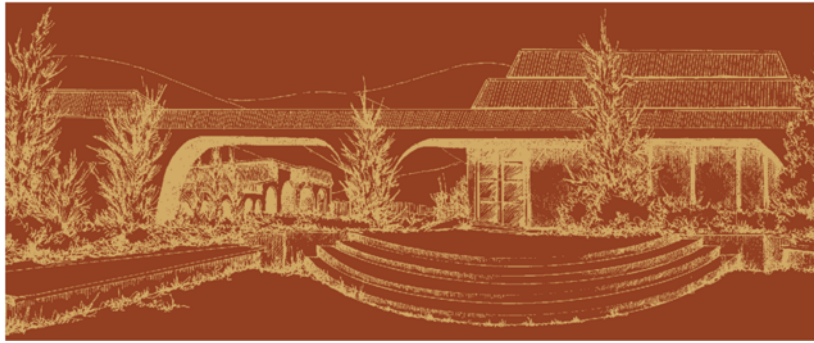
Although there are many areas in which Martha has excelled, most noteworthy is her work in curriculum. She has eminent knowledge in this complicated yet critically important area for Academic Services, and of course, for the College. As the College's only support staff to the Curriculum Committee, she is entrusted with significant responsibility and tremendous workload throughout the academic year. From preparing the curriculum agendas; writing the curriculum minutes; coordinating, assembling and distributing divisional curriculum proposals; proofing and updating the course outlines; incorporating the approved curriculum changes into the new catalog/addendum/website; consolidating all changes and revisions recommended by the Curriculum committee; and finally submitting all approved curriculum to the Board of Trustees and Chancellor's Office--each of these responsibilities falls primarily upon Martha.

In my opinion and I believe this viewed is shared throughout the College community, Las Positas College has become a statewide model for its curriculum process and quality of course outlines due in large measure to Martha's persistence in maintaining quality control, in providing personalized support to the faculty and staff, and in meeting all time lines. I am honored to recommend Martha Konrad for the Chancellor's Award because of her distinguished and unwavering service to the students, faculty and staff of Las Positas College and the communities we serve.

**2006**

Elena Cole and Gilberto Victoria

... I am so honored and humbled that the attainment of Educational Integrity and Excellence award has association with me and with my career. Throughout my career as an educator, I have strived to never compromise my integrity and to stand up and take responsibility for my actions. I also have never forgotten why we are in our profession, i.e., to provide our students with the finest educational experience possible, and I hope that this quest has been my guide and transparent. And to these ends, Elena Cole and Gilberto Victoria have consistently exemplified the highest professionalism in their words and actions. What inspiring models of excellence and dedication Elena and Gilberto are for all of us. My sincerest and heartfelt congratulations to each of them, and most importantly, to their profound legacies, which will live on in their students. ~ Donald R. Milanese



# Las Positas College

presents the

2006

*Donald R. Milanese Award  
for  
Educational Integrity & Excellence*

to

## **FIRST LAST**

**FOR CONSISTENTLY  
DEMONSTRATING  
THE UTMOST INTEGRITY,  
CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONALISM,  
UNFAILING COMMITMENT TO  
STUDENTS. AND UNWAVERING**

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President, Las Positas College