



**LAS POSITAS**  
COLLEGE

# CONNECTION

March 2023

The President's Monthly Report to the Board of Trustees, Campus, and Community

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

Photo Credit: Kenneth Cooper

## Fond Farewell to Dr. Kristina Whalen Vice President of Academic Services

Congratulations to Dr. Kristina Whalen! The Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Whalen as Foothill College's next president. Dr. Whalen will begin her new position on March 31, 2023.

On March 8, 2023, the Las Positas College family hosted a farewell celebration for Dr. Whalen. Her departure is bittersweet for our college because she has made many contributions to our college and has proven to be an outstanding and effective leader. Her passion for equity and student success comes through in her decision making and in her actions. From leading academic services through 2+ years of COVID, submitting many curriculum addendums to ensure that we remained in compliance, to initiating professional development trainings, to bringing HyFlex innovative instruction to LPC, leading our dual enrollment efforts with our high school partners, initiating the courses taught at the federal correctional facility, and bringing a new course scheduling software to support enrollment management within our district. The most significant and most recent gift that she is leaving behind, as our college Accreditation Liaison Officer, is her leadership that resulted in the commission taking action to reaffirm our college's accreditation for the next seven years. We will miss you dearly and we wish you much continued success!



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# President's Scholars Program

## Now Accepting Applications

The President's Scholars Program is a vehicle to provide the opportunity for students in our local service area to attend Las Positas College without any financial barriers. The Scholars program is a financial need-based program that is intended to promote equity by providing financial support to outstanding scholars attending Las Positas College. The program includes a full scholarship that covers tuition, fees, parking, and textbooks for two years. This comprehensive program offers outstanding opportunities for leadership, service and mentorship.

### Eligibility to Apply

- Be a high school senior in good academic standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 from one of the following districts:
  - Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
  - Dublin Unified School District
  - Castro Valley Unified School District
  - Pleasanton Unified School District
  - San Ramon Unified School District
  - Lammersville Unified School District
  - Tracy Unified School District
- Have applied for admission to Las Positas College for the fall 2023 semester
- Must plan to enroll full-time, at least 12 units each term, while pursuing an associate degree, with the intent to transfer for a four-year college or university
- Complete the President's Scholars Application



Scan the QR code for more information and the application. *Deadline to apply is March 26, 2023.*



*2022-2023 President's Scholars*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE



## 2023 Tenured Faculty

Dr. Kristina Whalen, Vice President of Academic Services honored tenured faculty in the divisions of Arts and Humanities (A&H), as well as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with their tenured metals.

Professor John Kelly was honored by Dean Amy Mattern as a tenured theater professor. Dr. Nan Ho, honored Professor Carlos Moreno of Computer Science, Professor Christopher Dudzik of Chemistry, Professor Jeffrey Weichert of Computer Networking Technology, and Professor Russell Jensen of Chemistry.

Congratulations to our 2023 Tenured Faculty!



## President Speaker Series Presents Dr. Victor Rios

Dr. Victor Rios, Professor of Sociology & MacArthur Foundation Chair at U.C. Santa Barbara, spoke at the Spring Flex Day Keynote Session on the topic of "Educator Projected Self-Actualization in Community College." His research on students who overcome adversity to successfully navigate the higher education pipeline has demonstrated that resilience is often actuated by an emotionally-relevant educator.

His presentation emphasized the importance of emotional support from educators in the lives of marginalized students. Dr. Rios discussed how educators play a powerful role in guiding students that have been left behind, and provided many anecdotes with practical strategies that have worked in helping these at-risk students succeed in higher education.



# LPC'S OPEN HOUSE MARCH 25



## Visit LPC's Open House



Las Positas College invites you and your family to attend the LPC Open House on March 25th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to learn about the LPC experience through interactive sessions, conversations with faculty and presentations.

Information on our various programs will be available, as well as information on LPC's Guarantee Transfer to UC/CSU program, and our High School Concurrent Enrollment option.

To reserve your spot for this no cost event, please scan the QR code. We hope to see you on campus on the 25th!

This spring LPC was approved to participate in the California Community Colleges Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) which makes technical assistance available to institutions through full Partnership Resource Teams (PRTs). As part of the request, the College identified the Area of Focus to be centered on the implementation of Student Success Teams.

During the PRT's first visit in February, the team gathered information and established scope through interviews and meetings with designated individuals and groups. The intent was to learn more about the College's progress, challenges, and desired outcomes related to the implementation of Student Success Teams. During the second and final visit on March 16, the PRT team recommended resources and interventions that the College could implement, and discussed ideas to identify areas for continued enhancement of the college's Student Success Teams as part of the Pathways initiatives.

## IEPI-PRT Team Visit



# Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Visits LPC

On Thursday, February 16, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and members of his staff honored Las Positas College with a campus visit as part of their Educational Listening Tour. Congressman DeSaulnier has served as the U.S. representative for California's 10th Congressional District since 2015. The district includes most of Contra Costa County and parts of Alameda County. In Congress, DeSaulnier is known for his work on issues such as transportation infrastructure, education, and healthcare, as well as his advocacy for consumer protection and government accountability.

During his visit to LPC, Congressman DeSaulnier first met with Dr. Foster, CLPCCD Chancellor Gerhard, Board President Sbranti, and other Board Trustees and members of the LPC leadership team. The group then went on a tour of the LPC campus that included stops at the LPC Welcome Center and Mini-market, the Veteran's Center, new Horticulture Center and Academic Building 1000 where Congressman DeSaulnier held an informational session with 25 currently enrolled students. The campus tour ended in the cafeteria with a meeting and Q&A session attended by LPC faculty members, administrators, students, and LPC Foundation board members.

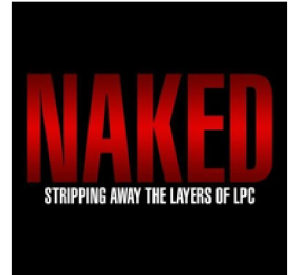


# LAS POSITAS COLLEGE CELEBRATES

## JAMS Take Top Honors

The Journalism And Media Studies (JAMS) department had quite the weekend in San Francisco on March 11. *The Express* newspaper, *Naked* magazine, and the *Havik* journal – were recognized as among the best student media in America. Both Associated College Press Associated College Press (ACP) and Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) awarded LPC media students with top honors.

For the second consecutive year in the ACP's national competition, *Havik* was named First Place Best of Show for literary arts publications among two-year schools. The latest publication, *We Are Here!* published in 2022, features creative writings from students, community members, and, thanks to an electronic submission system, contributors from around the world. *Havik* is a joint publication of JAMS and the LPC English department, co-advised by English Professor Martin Nash and JAMS Professor Melissa Korber, who both attended the conference.



## Talk Hawks 1st Place Overall

The Talk Hawks LPC's Forensics intercollegiate competition in the the areas of public speaking, oral interpretation of literature, readers theater, and debate took it all at the Northern California Forensics Association 2023 Championship Tournament. The LPC team finished first place, ahead of all other participating institutions.

Currently the team is traveling to Tokyo, Japan to represent LPC at the International Forensics Association's Championship Tournament.

Best of Luck!



## LPC Mission

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## College Planning Priorities

Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.

Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.