



CONNECTION

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



June 2024

Las Positas College Celebrates 34th Annual Commencement

Las Positas College proudly celebrated its 34th annual commencement on Friday, May 24, with two ceremonies honoring the remarkable achievements of the Class of 2024. The joyous event marked a significant milestone for graduates, their families, and the entire LPC community. Held at the LPC campus, the ceremonies reflected the institution's commitment to academic excellence and student success. A total of 386 students participated in the ceremonies, joined by over 1,350 guests.

This year, 1,712 associate degrees and 357 certificates of achievement were awarded, symbolizing the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. The ceremonies not only celebrated academic achievements but also highlighted the personal growth and resilience of students who navigated their educational journeys amid unprecedented challenges.

In addition to celebrating the graduates, the LPC Friend of the College award was presented to Sandia National Laboratories, recognizing their outstanding support and contributions to the college. As the Class of 2024 embarks on their next chapters, they carry forward the knowledge, skills, and values instilled during their time at Las Positas College. The commencement served as a reminder of the transformative power of education and the endless possibilities that lie ahead for LPC graduates. With the support of their families, faculty, and peers, the new alumni are well-prepared to make meaningful contributions to their communities and pursue their aspirations with confidence.



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LPC Foundation Awards 85 Student Scholarships



Las Positas College Foundation Scholarships offer valuable financial assistance to students pursuing their educational goals and continuing their academic journey beyond Las Positas College. This year, the program awarded a total of 85 scholarships amounting to over \$300,000. Among these awards

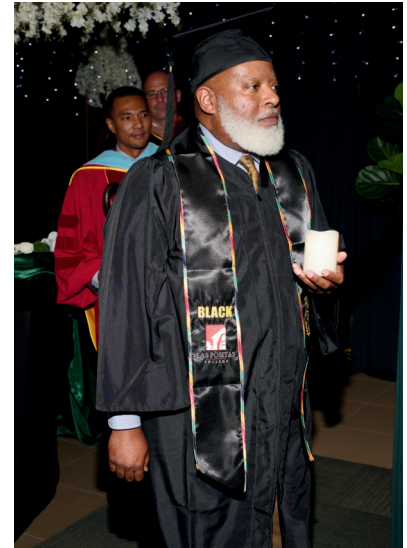
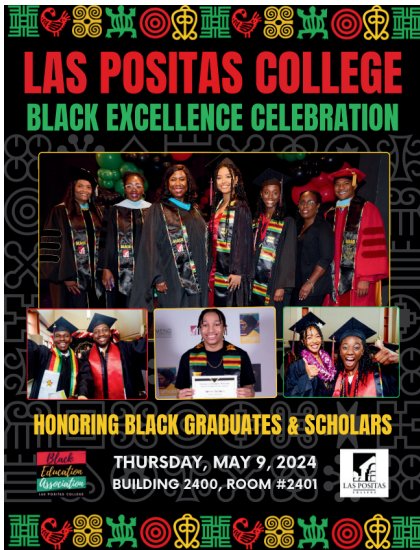
were the Promising First Responders Scholarship, Veterans First Scholarship, The Barbara and David Mertes Memorial Transfer Scholarship, and other academic excellence, and career-specific scholarships.

The scholarships were awarded during the 47th annual LPC Student Scholarship Ceremony on May 17th, adding to the significance of the event. With a variety of scholarships available, students can find support based on academic achievement, financial need, field of study, and more. The application process involves completing an online form and submitting required documentation, with deadlines varying by scholarship. Recipients are selected by a committee based on criteria specific to each scholarship, and awards can help cover tuition, fees, books, and other educational expenses.

Receiving a scholarship not only provides financial support but also recognizes students' achievements and motivates them to excel academically. This support is crucial for students balancing their education with work, family, and other responsibilities. For more information, visit the LPC Foundation's website or contact the Foundation office directly. Las Positas College Foundation Scholarships play a crucial role in ensuring students have the resources they need to succeed in their academic pursuits.



Celebrating Black Excellence



Las Positas College recently held its Black Excellence Celebration on Thursday, May 9, in a heartfelt ceremony dedicated to honoring Black graduates and scholars for their remarkable academic accomplishments. Hosted by Ken Cooper, Executive Director of the LPC Foundation, and sponsored by the LPC Black Education Association, the LPC Black Student Union, Umoja, and the Black Cultural Resource Center, the event was a poignant recognition of academic excellence within the Black community at LPC.

Amidst a backdrop of pride and celebration, 47 Black Scholars were commended for achieving an outstanding 4.0 or higher GPA, exemplifying dedication and excellence in their studies. Additionally, the ceremony honored 91 other students who maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Black Excellence Celebration served not only as a platform to recognize individual achievements but also as a testament to the collective success and resilience of Black students. It also underscored the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education, showcasing the invaluable contributions of Black Scholars to the Las Positas College community.



Swim and Dive Team Makes a Splash

Following a remarkable season, the Las Positas swim and dive team celebrated the achievement of 10 student-athletes who earned All-American honors. Among them, eight individuals and five relay teams showcased their outstanding performances, securing positions among the top 16 in the nation.

Leading the Hawks men were sophomores Zach Zauhar-Kurr and Ryan Ridosko, who earned All-American status in nine individual events and contributed to all five relay teams. Freshman Logan Borrelli impressed with a tenth-place finish in the 200-yard backstroke, while sophomore diver Zach Ulrich secured fifth place in the 1-meter dive and sixth in the 3-meter. All five of the Hawk's All-American relay teams hailed from the men's side, showcasing exceptional teamwork and talent.

The men's team clinched the Coast Conference Championship for the second consecutive year and placed eighth in the State Championships. Zauhar-Kurr claimed the state title in the 400-yard Individual Medley, finishing second in the country. On the women's side, four freshmen, including diver Sarah Dorn and swimmers Samantha Fehr, Makenzie Duffin, and Annie Holm, earned six All-American honors, contributing to the team's success.



Photos by Jakob Arnarsson/The Express

(From left to right, standing) Logan Borrelli, Zach Zauhar-Kurr, Keane Laird Jimenez, Ethan Santiago and Vincent Vandersall. Kneeling: Assistant coach Kelly Gentry (left) and head coach Jason Craighead.



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.