



CONNECTION

June 2025

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President

Las Positas College Celebrates the Class of 2025!

On Friday, May 30, Las Positas College proudly celebrated the achievements of the Class of 2025 with a memorable Commencement Ceremony held at the Physical Education Complex. Due to strong student interest and record participation, the college hosted two ceremonies—one at 10:00 a.m. and a second at 12:30 p.m.—allowing graduates to celebrate this milestone with family, friends, and the broader campus community.

The day was filled with excitement, pride, and reflection as graduates from a wide range of academic and career education programs crossed the stage. Faculty, staff, and administrators came together to honor their hard work and perseverance, and a live-stream ensured loved ones near and far could take part in the celebration.

This year's Commencement not only recognized academic achievement but also underscored Las Positas College's deep commitment to student success, inclusion, and opportunity.



In This Issue:

1. LPC Celebrates the Amazing Class of 2025
2. LPC Black Excellence Luncheon
3. Inaugural Auto Tech Career Fair at LPC
4. LPC's 5th Annual Literary Arts Festival
5. LPC Jiu Jitsu Club Upsets Stanford
6. Livermore Craft Beer Festival
7. LPCSG Welcomes New 2025-26 Executive Board

LPC BLACK EXCELLENCE LUNCHEON



LPC hosted a Black Excellence Luncheon on May 6, honoring the accomplishments of Black student graduates and leaders. Held in the Cultural Community Center, the celebration featured opening remarks from President Dyrell Foster and MC Kenneth Cooper, a spoken word performance by student Jennifer Karake, and leadership presentations from Umoja, A2MEND, and the Black Student Union.

Graduates received ceremonial stoles from Vice Presidents Sean Brooks and Dr. Jeanne Wilson, marking an important milestone in their academic journey. While the event centered on celebrating Black excellence, all students and staff were invited to attend, reinforcing LPC's commitment to inclusion, belonging, and community. The luncheon brought together students, faculty, and staff to reflect on achievement, cultural pride, and the power of support systems in advancing student success.

AGS Recognized at State Convention

At the 99th Annual Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS) Honor Society State Convention in Ontario, CA, two Las Positas College students and one advisor were honored for their exceptional achievements.

Amir Salehifar, 2024–2025 LPC AGS President, was nominated for the Kathleen D. Loly Academic Scholarship but received the more prestigious Robert Montovani Scholarship for excellence in academics, service, and leadership. He will transfer to UC Berkeley to major in Economics and is considering a career in consulting or law.

Isabella Qiu was awarded the Kathleen D. Loly Academic Scholarship, one of the highest recognitions for academic excellence. She served as LPC Student Government Vice President and Student Trustee and was active in the Math Club and Mu Alpha Theta. She also plans to transfer to UC Berkeley to study Statistics.

AGS Advisor Ashley McHale received the Kathy Patterson Outstanding Advisor Award. A decade-long advisor at LPC, she serves as Chair of Scholarships and Awards on the AGS State Advisory Board, Treasurer on the AGS Board of Trustees, and holds leadership roles at LPC including Academic Senate President and Puente math instructor.





LPC's 5th Literary Arts Festival

The fifth annual Las Positas College Literary Arts Festival lit up the Mertes Center for the Arts on Saturday, May 10, with a full day of readings, workshops, and performances. Organized by LPC English professors Toby Bielawski, Richard Dry, and Martin Nash, the festival welcomed a diverse lineup of celebrated authors and artists, including bestselling novelist Thrity Umrigar, Afghan-American memoirist Tamim Ansary, social justice writer Julissa Arce, and Daniel Handler—also known as Lemony Snicket—who led a creative writing workshop titled “How to Write Like a Burglar.”

Festival goers enjoyed engaging panel discussions on topics like publishing, food and wine writing, and poetry slam techniques. LPC's 22nd annual poetry slam, hosted by performance poets Bri and Tri, gave students a chance to shine on stage, with prizes awarded to top scorers. The event closed with the release of the 2025 edition of *Havik*, LPC's nationally recognized Journal of Arts & Literature. With support from the LPC Foundation, community partners, and local donors, this year's festival once again highlighted the college's strong commitment to the literary arts.



LPC JIU JITSU CLUB UPSETS STANFORD



LPC's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club took top honors at the Bay Area Collegiate Jiu Jitsu Championship last weekend in Milpitas. Led by club president Maverik Wilson, the five-member LPC team—Alex Serebryakov, Carlos Trejos, Hakeem Salemi, Shazi Lodhi, and alum Naeem Salemi—faced off against skilled teams from San Jose State and Stanford in a grueling king-of-the-hill format. After advancing through two tough rounds, LPC found themselves in the finals against Stanford's “A” team.

With the match on the line, anchor Naeem Salemi, a former Granada High School wrestler, mounted a stunning comeback. After the Stanford team eliminated four of LPC's competitors, Naeem methodically took down opponent after opponent—including a seasoned Stanford judoka—to clinch the championship in dramatic fashion.

LIVERMORE BEER FESTIVAL: CHEERS TO A GREAT CAUSE

Las Positas College hosted the 8th Annual Livermore Valley Craft Beer Festival on Saturday, May 10, welcoming craft beer fans from across the region for an afternoon of tastings, live music, and community spirit. Held on the LPC athletic field, the event featured more than 45 Northern California breweries, along with food vendors and entertainment—all in support of the college's Fire Service Technology program.

Now in its second year at LPC, the festival has become a celebrated tradition that blends local flavor with philanthropy. Last year, proceeds from the event generated a \$25,000 donation to the Fire Technology program, helping fund vital equipment and training resources for future firefighters.



Student Government Welcomes New Executive Board



LPC recently concluded its 2025-2026 Student Government Executive Board Elections with unprecedented student participation. More than 1,100 students cast ballots, marking the highest turnout in LPCSG election history.

The strong response followed two months of planning, outreach, tabling events, and candidate forums, all coordinated by the dedicated LPCSG Election Committee. Student engagement remained high even through the weekend, with candidates actively connecting with peers during New Hawk Day.

New LPCSG Executives include:

- President: **Naomi Mangini**
- Vice President: **Arya Ferozy**
- Director of Legislation: **Shifa Arif**
- Director of Finance: **Madina Qaderi**
- Student Trustee: **Amelia Springborn**

The newly elected officers were officially sworn in during the LPC Student Government End-of-Year Gala on Thursday, May 8, capping off a historic election season that demonstrated the strength and spirit of student leadership at Las Positas College.



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.

Establish a knowledge base and appreciation for health and wellness in the workplace; create a sense of urgency about wellness; prioritize wellness in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to support wellness.