



# CONNECTION

November 2024

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



## LPC Hosts Green Economy & Climate-Tech Symposium

Las Positas College recently hosted a highly successful Green Economy and Climate-Tech Workforce Symposium, "Decarbonizing Our Economy: Technology & Workforce Solutions for a Sustainable Future," at the Mertes Center for the Arts. This collaborative event, led by Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group, Livermore Lab Foundation, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Startup Tri-Valley, brought together leaders from industry, government, technology, and education. The symposium focused on carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies, workforce development, and strategies to advance regional climate-tech initiatives and support a green economy.

The event featured highlights such as the Roads to Removal report presented by LLNL scientists, which outlined a national strategy for reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Attendees also engaged in discussions about bridging workforce gaps and fostering public-private partnerships. Jason Sydow of Next 47 emphasized the economic potential in decarbonization, while Yolanda Fintschenko of i-GATE highlighted the role of startups in driving innovation.



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# LPC CELEBRATES ITS FIRST DIWALI WITH FOOD, HENNA, AND FESTIVITIES



Las Positas College celebrated its first-ever Diwali on October 23rd, in a vibrant display of culture, community, and tradition. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains around the world, symbolizing new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. This year's celebration, organized by SEA and MOVEMENT API, invited students and staff to come together for a festive gathering on the LPC Quad.

The event featured a variety of activities, including the distribution of traditional Indian food and sweets, along with music and Henna painting. The Diwali celebration at LPC was an opportunity to embrace diversity, foster community spirit, and learn more about this joyous festival. The event was a beautiful expression of the college's commitment to inclusivity and cultural exchange.



# LPC SPOOKTACULAR CLUB & RESOURCE FAIR



Las Positas College's Halloween Spooktacular Club and Resource Fair, held on October 30, was a big success, attracting over 600 students to the Lower Quad for a festive day of excitement and community engagement. With over 40 clubs, programs, and campus resources represented, the event offered something for everyone—from students looking to join new groups to those seeking information on valuable campus resources.



The atmosphere was lively, with taco bowls and Boba tea trucks fueling the fun, and a photo booth providing attendees with a chance to capture memorable moments. Participants embraced the Halloween spirit with costumes and creative table decorations, making the event a true celebration of LPC's vibrant campus culture. It was an exciting opportunity for students to connect, explore, and enjoy a spooky good time!





# LPC Journalists Shine with 19 Awards and Top Honors



LPC's Journalism and Media Studies (JAMS) Department has had an outstanding season, with student journalists achieving significant recognition at both regional and state levels. The Express, LPC's student-run newspaper, earned 19 awards, including six first-place wins at the NorCal Regional Conference for the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC). The publication was also honored with the prestigious General Excellence Award. Adding to these achievements, LPC students gained top rankings at the California Newspaper Publishers Association (CNPA) Awards, highlighted by Justin Gomes' first-place news photography win.

This wave of success included standout contributions from editor-in-chief Jakob Arnarsson, whose award-winning profile on men's basketball player Alex Martin and game coverage highlighted the team's dedication to compelling reporting. Copy editor Rain Hepting earned first-place wins in live copy editing and editorial cartooning, while news editor Olivia Fitts and Gabriel Carver won for their illustration. Fitts was also named a finalist for the Associated Collegiate Press' Reporter of the Year, showcasing her exceptional storytelling. Melissa Korber, head of the JAMS Department, praised LPC's continued ability to nurture elite journalists committed to excellence.



**Front row (l to r): Melissa Korber, Sydney Breckenridge, Camille Leduc, Jakob Arnarsson, James Sevilla, Simon Clarke, Rain Hepting. Middle row (l to r): Luke Vavuris, Ian Kapulis, Mel Llamas (brown hat), Sabrina Hossain, Olivia Fitts, Gabriel Carver. Back row (l to r): Jason Chang, Francis Kennedy, Peter Zimmer, Justin Gomes.**



# Día de los Muertos Celebration Honors Loved Ones



LPC hosted a vibrant Día de los Muertos celebration to honor those who have passed. The event featured an Aztec dancer procession, followed by a moving ceremony to remember loved ones. A traditional Día de los Muertos altar was also set up in Building 1600, offering a space for remembrance and reflection. Community members were invited to bring photos of their loved ones to add to the altar or share them digitally for printing and placement.

This year's celebration also included flower crafting, face painting, and other hands-on activities that highlighted beautiful traditions from across Latin America.

Despite the challenges posed by strong winds, which disrupted the original setup, the event continued as planned, and served as a powerful reminder of the importance of honoring our past, our traditions, and the spirit of community.



## 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.

## LPC Library Card Drive Connects Students to Valuable Resources



Las Positas College hosted its Library Card Drive on October 16 in the Quad, offering students the chance to unlock a wealth of free resources. The event showcased access to digital tools like museum passes, language apps, audiobooks, streaming movies and music, tool lending, e-magazines, and e-books—all available through LPC's library and five participating local public libraries.

Students were encouraged to sign up for library cards from the Alameda County, Dublin, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Joaquin libraries. As an added bonus, participants were entered to win gift cards and received a limited-edition "Read Lead Succeed" tote bag from LPCSG when they showed their new or renewed public library cards.



Las Positas Connection is published by the Office of the President. Issues are posted online at [laspositascollege.edu/president](http://laspositascollege.edu/president). Chip Woerner, Editor

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