



# CONNECTION

March 2025

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

Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President



## Inspiring Future Healthcare Leaders: Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit

Las Positas College recently hosted the Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit on Saturday, March 1, welcoming over 1,000 attendees to campus — marking one of the college's largest external events to date. The summit, presented in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, aimed to inspire and empower students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue careers in medicine.



The event brought together healthcare professionals, educators, and students, including middle school, high school, and college students along with their parents. Attendees heard inspiring stories from Black physicians about their journeys into healthcare, overcoming barriers, and making a difference in their communities. The event also included interactive workshops, mentorship opportunities, and resources to guide students interested in medical careers.

Founded in 2013, Black Men in White Coats was created in response to a concerning report highlighting the declining number of Black men applying to medical school. Kaiser Permanente collaborates with high schools, medical schools, and physicians to provide mentorship and inspiration to youth who may be interested in healthcare careers.

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# LPC CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE



Las Positas College recently celebrated the Lunar New Year in style with a lively event in honor of the Year of the Snake. Held on Wednesday, February 12, in Building 1600's Cafeteria, the event featured an array of fun activities, delicious food, and the much-anticipated Lion Dance. Due to the rain outside, the festivities were held indoors, ensuring a cozy and exciting atmosphere for everyone.



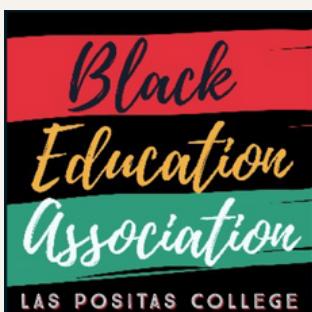
Attendees enjoyed traditional Lunar New Year games, tasty food and snacks, and the colorful dragon and lion dances, creating a joyful experience for students, faculty, and staff alike. The celebration was a fantastic way to come together and welcome the lunar new year with great food, fun, and cultural traditions.

## TASTE OF SOUL LIGHTS UP BLACK HISTORY MONTH

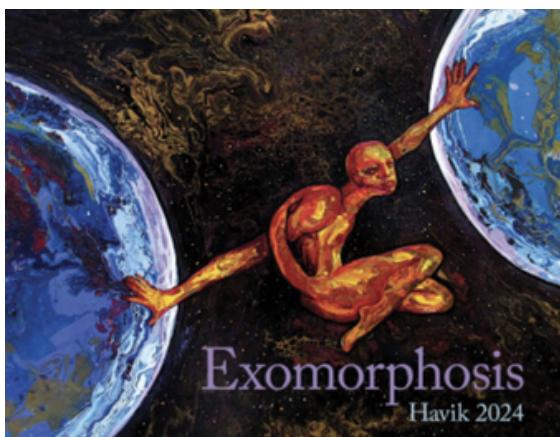


The Taste of Soul event, sponsored by A2MEND, was a celebration of African American culture held on Wednesday, February 26, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the upper Quad. As part of LPC's Black History Month festivities, the event offered an exciting blend of food, music, and activities for students, faculty and staff.

Food was the star of the show, with Southern Comfort Kitchen serving up mouthwatering Southern classics, including Southern Fried Chicken, Po-Boy sandwiches with a choice of fish or shrimp, and crispy Cajun fries that had everyone coming back for more. The event was a wonderful opportunity for the LPC community to come together, enjoy delicious food, celebrate culture, and share in a joyful experience that highlighted the spirit of unity and fun. It was also a great way to cap off Black History Month.



# LPC Journalism Students Shine with 34 Awards



Las Positas students earned an impressive 34 awards at the nationwide Associated College Press (ACP) convention and the statewide Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) convention, held at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. All three Journalism and Media Studies (JAMS) Department publications—The Express, Naked, and Havik—brought home major honors, marking one of the most successful showings in the program's history.

Havik, LPC's student-run literary magazine, won ACP's Best in Show award for the fourth consecutive year and earned the People's Choice Award for Literary Arts Magazine. The Express secured First Place for Best Online Newspaper and Second Place for Newspaper/News magazine, with its website named the best in the nation for two-year schools.

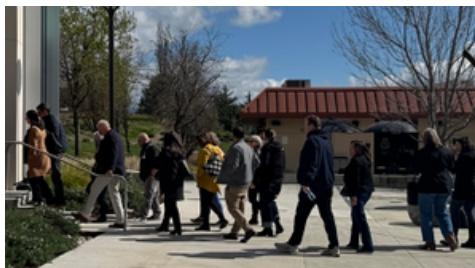
Individual winners included Olivia Fitts, who earned multiple first-place awards, and Rain Hepting, who won First Place in Copy Editing. "Each award represents hours of focus, teamwork, and growth," said JAMS faculty lead Melissa Korber. "Their success went beyond my wildest expectations."

## LPC HOSTS LEADERSHIP PLEASANTON ON EDUCATION DAY



On Thursday, March 13th, Las Positas College welcomed 40 participants from the Pleasanton Leadership group as part of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's annual Education Day. This program brings together local business and community leaders to foster greater understanding of local institutions and initiatives. During their visit to LPC, participants had the opportunity to tour the campus and engage directly with college leadership.

LPC's leadership team provided an overview of the college's programs, resources, and student support services. Amy Brown, coordinator for the LPC Middle College program, shared details about this unique opportunity that allows high school students from three local communities to earn college credit while completing their secondary education. Three Middle College students also spoke about their experiences, offering firsthand perspectives on how the program has shaped their academic and personal journeys. After the presentations, the group joined LPC's Outreach team for a walking tour of the campus.





The series kicked off on February 1 with "Autonomous Sensors: Flying into the Future," exploring the growing use of drones in various sectors. On February 8, "Taking the Twinkle Out of Stars" focused on adaptive optics technology used to observe celestial objects clearly. The series wrapped up on February 15 with "Space Telescopes: Observing the X-ray Universe," highlighting the use of X-ray light to study extreme space environments.

These events showcased LLNL's dedication to promoting science education and sparking curiosity in the local community.

## LPC Again Recognized As a Highly Ranked Community College

Las Positas College has once again been recognized for its commitment to academic excellence and student success. Bold.org recently released its 2025 listing of the best community colleges in California, and Las Positas College was named among the top nine institutions in the state.



Bold.org highlighted several key factors in its rankings, including academic offerings, student support services, and pathways to four-year universities. Las Positas stood out for its 24 occupational-focused associate degrees, 44 certificate programs, and 17 transfer-focused associate degrees, which provide students with flexible and effective ways to achieve their educational and career goals. The college's small class sizes and dedicated faculty were also noted for fostering a personalized learning experience.

Las Positas College's performing arts program received special mention, with associate degrees in theatre arts and music, as well as numerous student clubs focused on music, dance, and art. Additionally, the college's Free Tuition Promise, which covers full tuition for first-time, full-time students enrolled in 12 or more units per semester during their first year, was recognized as a standout offering. As a designated sanctuary campus, Las Positas remains committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all students and community members.

Las Positas College hosted the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Science on Saturday lecture series again this year, offering fascinating insights into cutting-edge science and technology. The 2025 theme, "Up in the Air," featured four engaging sessions on aerial and space-based technologies.

### 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.