



DRAFT Viticulture & Winery Technology Spring

May 5, 2026 | 4:00 pm | Building 2100, Room 21147

LPC Mission Statement

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.

LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Affirm LPC's unwavering commitment to equity by deepening campus-wide engagement, enhancing professional development, embedding equity-minded practices in decision-making, assessment, and accountability processes, and building capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through sustainable college practices, processes, academic support, removal of barriers, and focused professional development.
- ❖ 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.

VWT Advisory Members:

Damian Bramlett
Jessica Carroll
Paula Checchi
Neal Ely
David Hendrickson
David Kent
John Kinney
Brandi Lombardi
Phil Long
Beth McCormick
Jean O'Neil-Opipari
Meredith Sarboraria
Vicki Shipman
Karl Wente
Nicki Wente

Agenda Item

1. Call to Order

2. Welcome and Introductions

Jessica Carroll, Neal Ely, Phil Long, Brianna Lopez, Damian Bramlett, Paula Checchi, Jean O'Neil-Opipari

3. Review of Agenda, 5/5/26

4. Review of Minutes, 12/9/25

5. Industry Updates

- **Hiring Needs**
 - JMC Cellars is seeking a harvest intern, send post to Brianna and Jean
- **Skills in Demand**
- **Emerging Trend/ Technologies**
- **Internship Opportunities**

6. Program Report

- **Enrollments – Spring, Summer & Fall, 2026**
 - **Spring 2026 Classes**
 - **Intro to Viticulture – VWT 10**
 - 33 students
 - **Fundamentals of Wine Science - VWT 23**
 - 22 students
 - **Spring Vineyard Operations – VWT 32**
 - 17 students
 - **Pest & Disease Management – VWT 35**
 - 12-14 students
 - **Wines of California – VWT 47**
 - 35 students
 - **Summer 2026 Classes**
 - **Summer Viticulture Operations - VWT 33**
 - 14 students
 - **Fall 2026 Classes**
 - **Wines of Europe - VWT 2**
 - 18 students
 - **Introduction to Enology – VWT 20**
 - 10 students
 - **Sensory Analysis of Wines- VWT 25**
 - 16 students

- Fall Vineyard Operations – VWT 31
 - 14 students
- Wine Service and Sale – VWT 55
 - 14 students
 - Early low Fall Vineyard Operations enrollment is not yet a concern.
- Campus Hill Vineyard & Facilities
 - When LPC replants, the industry can let us know if there are any varietals they are interested in experimenting with
 - [Presentation to LPC Facilities Committee](#)
 - How long has there been a mealy bug problem?
 - Has this issue ever been discussed with the foundation or advisory? No.
 - Existing vineyard land was donated to preserve views for adjacent housing; plan to communicate removal/replanting and plant flowers on fallow areas to maintain appeal
 - Visit TriValley has had a public meeting about the removal of Vineyards which may facilitate conversations with the neighboring HOA
 - A car hit the winery building, which should be repaired in the next few weeks.
 - Wine Making
 - Would like to use donated grapes
 - UCD agreed to donate grapes
 - LLNL Grant for \$80K
 - May be used for ATP swab, cleaning equipment, sensory analysis equipment
 - Wine Wednesday recap
 - May 13, extended hours
 - Livermore Library staff are tasting and getting a tour
 - Goal to have the tasting area open on the weekends
 - Facilities
 - Cross Country Course
 - Proposed 3.1 mile campus course, vineyard layout will accommodate dirt roads/paths to minimize interference.
 - Hilltop telescope dome
 - Fenced hilltop dome housing a telescope, access requires ladders. Ownership unclear (Jenny, Robin, Dan?)
 - Vegetation overgrown, moving may be expensive, planning assumes dome remains with vines planted around
 - Proposed pickleball courts near the winery
 - Safety, liability, and compliance concerns due to proximity during harvest and open lab doors; potential ABC regulatory constraints regarding youth facilities near a winery.
 - Noise impacts on teaching, exams, and production despite proposed sound barriers; visual and classroom proximity concerns.
 - Windy proposed location near the gym may be suboptimal for pickleball.
 - Chemical spray drift risk to courts if adjacent to vineyards.
 - Placement remains contentious; mitigation required to protect student learning and operations if built
 - Future Hiring
 - Hope to increase Damian's hours from 20 to 32, ranked 4 out of 11 to make his position full time.

- Winey Manager position approved by Board of Trustees, but on hold due to total cost of over \$200K with benefits.
- Hiring contractors until able to hire a full time winery manager. Zoran from UCD will help with compliance, bottling, and labeling. He will bill for the hours he is on campus.
- David Everett is working until June 30

7. VWT Foundation

- New officers
 - President – Dyrell Foster
 - Treasurer – Sean Brooks
 - Secretary – Paula Checchi
 - Board Director – Brianna Lopez
 - All paperwork submitted last week
- All compliance documentation, ABC license and banking are currently in David Everett's name. Transition to college ownership expected to be complex and time consuming.

8. Student Field Trips

- [Women and Wine Symposium](#)
 - Sunday, April 26 at UCD
 - Networking and tasting
- [UC Davis Viticulture and Enology](#) visit
 - Wednesday, May 18
 - 2 cars of students will meet at UCD

9. Recommendations from the board

- VWT degree for transfer (in process, Fall 2027)
 - Add O-chem, calculus, and make the degree transferable to UCD
 - Degree should also transfer to CSU
 - Previous entry level classes were not accepted by UC
 - Most Viticulture and Enology programs are not separate programs so LPC plans to merge viticulture and enology into one certificate.
 - Include business courses in the hospitality certificate
 - Streamline the existing curriculum, both certificate and degree

10. Next Regular Meeting: Fall, 2026 tentatively Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 3:00 pm

11. Adjournment