Las Positas College President Dyrell Foster, Ed.D. Speaks at Palma Ceia Baptist Church

LIVERMORE, CA - Dr. Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College President, was recently invited to speak on serving and bringing equity to our under-served communities at the presentation of African American Music, "The Celebration of the Black Jazz/Gospel Keyboardist," an event hosted by the Palma Ceia Baptist Church Department of Music & Professor Silverster Henderson, Minister of Music. The event was held at the Palma Ceia Baptist Church on Wednesday, February 26, in Hayward, CA.

Dr. Foster’s speech, ‘Higher Education - The Value of Faith Based Community Partnerships,’ detailed the importance of building community partnerships with nonprofits, faith based organizations, and business and industry leaders leading them to serve as mentors, provide internships and help students identify career fields aligning with their talents and interests early on in their educational journey.

“Chabot College and Las Positas College are committed to developing partnerships and aim to increase our students success. We know college benefits not only our students, but their families, our communities and our society as a whole. We want to have partnerships and opportunities established so when our students earn their degree, jobs are available to keep them in our community. We can’t afford to not have our talented youth in our educational pipeline. We all have the same hopes and dreams for our children, not for only a better life, but a life where they can reach their full potential,” Dr. Dyrell Foster.

A top priority of Dr. Foster is shifting the current approach in higher education from asking students what they want to major in to what they want to do as a career. The latter prevents students from attending college to earn a degree that doesn’t translate into the job or career they want. Institutions and counselors hold the responsibility of working with students when they first step on campus to help them select a major that leads to a fulfilling career that pays a livable wage.

“I firmly believe that young people just need an opportunity, whether it’s to receive financial aid, to have the opportunity to attend college, or being provided someone as a resource who can open a door for them can make a world of difference. I’ve embraced the responsibility to give back, to help others along in their journey to success - I do that work everyday in higher education. I know that we need to continue to reach back and help others in the same way that we’ve been helped,” said Dr. Dyrell Foster.

About Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

CLPCCD serves 29,000 students annually, in the San Francisco East Bay Area, particularly southern Alameda County, through its two colleges: Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore. CLPCCD is governed by a seven-member board of trustees which is responsible for all policy decisions. Board members are elected from trustee areas by the registered voters of nine communities: Castro Valley, Dublin, Hayward, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Sunol, and Union City.