

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District For Immediate Release

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Chabot and Las Positas Colleges Receive California Community Colleges Grant

Nearly \$506,000 in total awarded to improve online learning outcomes and offerings



(Dublin, CA) - Chabot and Las Positas colleges have been named two of 70 colleges throughout California to receive grants from the Improving Online CTE Pathways program developed by California Community Colleges' California Virtual Campus -Online Education Initiative. Chabot's grant, totaling approximately \$326,000, is earmarked to develop six online Career and Technical Education certificates, fund improvement in online course accessibility with an emphasis on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and equity and create and curate zero textbook cost materials. LPC's grant, totaling \$177,187, will be allocated to develop a fully online Supervisory Management certificate of achievement, provide for faculty professional development and fund course accessibility coordination. "Chabot is committed to providing equitable opportunities for student success," said Dr. Stacy Thompson, Vice President of Academic Services. "We strive to create an environment where all students receive the tools they need to reach their academic and career goals. Receiving this grant allows us to create six additional online certificate programs that lead to jobs in high demand in the Bay Area and that pay a living wage. In addition, our faculty and staff will work to increase accessibility through improved ADA compliance in our online courses. We will also use the grant funds to adopt Zero Textbook Cost materials, which supports increased student retention and success."

It's estimated that online course enrollment at Chabot increased 144 percent between 2012 and 2017 and improving online course availability assists in accommodating students' need for flexible scheduling, reduced transportation costs and eliminates the need to find adequate childcare. In developing Online Educational Resources (OER) and Zero Textbook Cost materials, Chabot will significantly reduce one of the largest financial hardships of attending college. In its 2017 Student Satisfaction Survey, 50 percent of Chabot students reported they had a hard time paying for books, which surpassed responses for housing (16 percent), transportation (20 percent) and food (21 percent).

"Giving students more options for online education is a priority for Las Positas College," said Dr. Kristina Whalen, Vice President of Academic Services "Not every student can study in a traditional classroom setting. Disabilities that make it difficult to attend classes on campus, lack of transportation, childcare issues, demands at home and work schedules have traditionally prevented students from enrolling in college. The more opportunities we provide for students to study when and where they can, the more students we'll be able to serve. Receiving this grant allows us to create our first completely online certificate program, further develop our faculty and help us fund coordination that will allow us to optimize course accessibility for our online students."

LPC's grant project will begin July 1 and run through June 30, 2020.

It's estimated that one-third of students in the California Community Colleges system now take at least one class online. Improving Online CTE Pathways grants are aimed at helping community colleges develop online programs that either lead to short-term, industry-valued credentials, or enable a student in a career pathway developed by Calbright College, the new California online community college, to continue their education in a career pathway offered by a traditional community college. This year, Improving Online CTE Pathways grants totaling \$27.5 million were awarded to California community colleges and college districts to develop and strengthen career education programs that can be completed online.

"These grants will help improve the online education ecosystem in the California Community Colleges," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "This holistic approach includes strengthening traditional college offerings and the opening of Calbright, the new online college that will serve low-wage working adults who can quickly gain short-term credentials."

Operated by Foothill-De Anza Community College District, CVC-OEI is focused on student success in California's community colleges through innovative online learning practices. Its primary focus is to increase the number of transfer degrees awards by the state's community colleges. Chabot College offers over 120 degree and certificate programs, nine are fully available online, and LPC has over 85 degree and certificate programs, with four degrees fully available online.

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 sevenmember 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.

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