

Las Positas College For Immediate Release

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Las Positas College Debuts IT Support Professional Certificate through Grow with Google Partnership

(Livermore, CA) - Las Positas College has been chosen as one of more than 25 community colleges to debut an [IT Support Professional Certificate](#) through Grow with Google, Google's initiative to create economic opportunities for Americans, and the nonprofit, JFF, which is funded through Google.org to provide support for learners in seven states (CA, IL, MI, NY, OH, TX, and WI).

Launched in January on the Coursera learning platform, Google's IT Support Professional Certificate aims to train learners with no prior experience to be IT support professionals in about eight months. Almost 40,000 learners have enrolled in the online program since it began five months ago.

"Google is committed to training the workforce of today and tomorrow, and we are thrilled to team up with community colleges to help graduates jump start a new career in IT Support," said Grow with Google Director Jesse Haines. "Community colleges play an important role in helping Americans get ahead, and they will be strong partners in Grow with Google's mission to create more economic opportunities for Americans."

With over 150,000 open positions, and a median annual wage of \$52,160, IT support is one of the fastest growing fields in the United States. While there is demand for specialists, employers are often challenged to find trained talent, as the majority of IT support positions do not require a college degree but do require prior experience. Through hands-on assessments that allow learners to troubleshoot as if they were on the job, the IT Support Professional Certificate is designed to give learners the training and experience they need to get a job in tech support.

"JFF is excited to join forces with Google to lead the implementation of the Google IT Support Professional Certificate in over 25 leading community colleges across the country," said JFF President and CEO Maria Flynn. "This collaboration is an opportunity for JFF to leverage its extensive expertise in working with community colleges to support Google's innovative new IT credential that offers a pathway for students into self-sustaining IT jobs."

Students completing the program can directly share their information with more than 20 top employers looking to hire IT Support talent. Employers including Bank of America, Walmart, Spring, GE Digital, PNC Bank, Infosys, TEKSystems, UPMP and Google were among the first to sign up for the program. Additionally, 14 new companies have added their names to the growing list for the 2018-2019 school year: Hulu, MCPc, Cognizant and RICOH USA, as well as 10 members of the Walmart family - Sam's Club, Shoes.com, Jet, Allswell, Bonobos, Hayneedle, Modcloth, Moosejaw, Store No. 8 and Vudu.

"We're pleased to offer the IT Support Professional Certificate through Grow with Google and JFF," said LPC Professor LaVaughn Hart. "LPC currently has associate, transfer and certificate options in Computer Information Systems, Computer Networking Technology and Computer Science. The new certification supplements our offerings, prepares students for the CompTIA A+, Network+ and Security+ certification exams and provides students with 13 units of CSU transferable course

credit. This certificate is just another way LPC can help Tri-Valley students reach their educational goals."

The IT Support Professional Certificate is a key program in [Grow with Google](#). Like other Grow with Google programs, such as [Get Your Business Online](#) and [Applied Digital Skills](#), the certificate is intended to give more Americans access to the digital skills and help them find success in today's digital economy.

Since launching the program, Google has given 10,000 learners free access to the program through financial aid and Google.org scholarships to nonprofits focusing on low income learners through Year Up, Per Scholas, and Goodwill®; veterans through Student Veterans of America; and refugees through Upwardly Global.

For more information, please contact Professor LaVaughn Hart by telephone at (925) 424-1194 or by email at Lhart@laspositascollege.edu or visit <http://laspositascollege.edu/cnt-google/>

About Las Positas College

Las Positas College currently enrolls 8,000 students and offers curriculum for students seeking transfer to a four-year college or university, career preparation, or basic skills education. The College provides university transfer classes, retraining classes for those in need of employment or career advancement, a first-time educational opportunity for many adults, enrichment classes for those seeking a broader perspective, and career and technical training for those entering the technical and paraprofessional workforce.

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