

2026

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD



OCTOBER 1, 2026



CHABOT
LAS POSITAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



20
26



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FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Colleagues,

Each year, the Chancellor's Awards provide us an opportunity to recognize the people whose leadership, service, and commitment exemplify the strength and character of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.



Our district continues to make meaningful progress. Enrollment is growing, more students are staying on their educational path, and key indicators of student success continue to improve. Those outcomes are not the result of any one program or department. They reflect the combined efforts of classified professionals, faculty, and administrators who help students enter college, navigate barriers, persist, and reach their goals.

This year's honorees have distinguished themselves through exceptional service, collaboration, innovation, and support for others. Each was nominated by colleagues or supervisors who recognized the significance of their contributions. Their individual stories, shared throughout this program, demonstrate the many ways our employees strengthen our colleges and advance our mission.

I extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to this year's award recipients. I am also grateful to those who took the time to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of their colleagues. Together, these honorees remind us that student success and institutional excellence are built through the dedication of the people across our district.

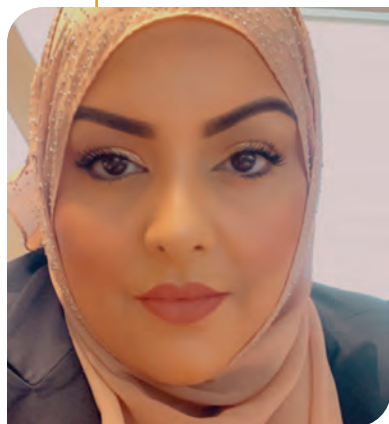
Regards,



Ronald P. Gerhard
Chancellor



CHABOT
COLLEGE



Wafa Ali

Counselor/Instructor and International Student Counselor

DEPARTMENT: **Counseling**

NOMINATED BY: **Sadie Ashraf | Sean Day | Brenda Dominguez**

Wafa Ali is recognized for outstanding work as a counselor, instructor, and collaborative leader. As an international student counselor and co-lead of the Health and Wellness Pathway, Wafa demonstrates a deep commitment to student access, belonging and success. Through intentional outreach and consistent support, Wafa helped the International Student Program achieve 100% completion of matriculation components and priority registration eligibility for the first time in its history, sustaining that success over multiple semesters. She also brings valuable institutional knowledge to the Counseling Division, supports scheduling and Student Educational Plan tracking, and contributes to continuous improvement efforts. Colleagues describe Wafa as thoughtful, hardworking, and generous with her knowledge while being deeply committed to helping both students and colleagues succeed.



Caren Barnezet Parrish

French Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Language Arts**

NOMINATED BY: **John Chan | Cristina Moon | Lisa Ulibarri**

Caren Barnezet Parrish has given 18 years of service toward advancing affordable, high-quality online education at Chabot College. As the sole full-time French faculty member, she developed open educational resources that transitioned the French program to a Zero Textbook Cost model, directly reducing financial barriers for students. As OER faculty lead, she now mentors colleagues across the college as they adopt or create open materials. Caren has also been a key contributor to Chabot's online learning work through COOL and Peer Online Course Review, helping establish a locally certified review process and set high standards for accessible, engaging online courses. Her colleagues describe her as accomplished, collaborative and deeply committed not only to her own students, but to improving learning opportunities campuswide.



Safiyyah Forbes

Past Vice President

DEPARTMENT: **Academic Services**

NOMINATED BY: **Claire Bailey | Cheree Manicki | Megan Parker Paul Pinza | Jessica Vile | Christina Vuong**

Safiyyah Forbes is grounded in equity, compassion, and commitment to student success. She engaged stakeholders across the college to plan Chabot's first winter intersession, which became one of the most successful terms in college history. When spring enrollment fell short, she rallied teams across student services and academic departments to provide proactive outreach, registration support, financial aid connections and access to late-start classes, efforts that resulted in more than 500 additional FTES. Safiyyah also strengthened Academic Services through work involving Credit for Prior Learning, IDEAA in curriculum, classified and part-time faculty handbooks, dean onboarding, accreditation and other collegewide initiatives. Colleagues valued her calm, clarity, accessibility.



Jasmine Garcia

Counselor

DEPARTMENT: **Counseling**

NOMINATED BY: **Adriana Aguilar**

Jasmine Garcia is one of Chabot College's newer full-time counselors and has already made a lasting impact. She leads one of the college's largest events, supporting high school seniors as they complete matriculation and prepare for fall registration. Her strong organizational skills help coordinate the cross-campus effort and create a smoother transition into college for incoming students. Jasmine's passion for this work and commitment to helping students successfully begin their Chabot experience are evident in the care she brings to the event and to her role as a counselor.



DARA GREENE

Counselor/Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Counseling**

NOMINATED BY: **Sadie Ashraf**

Dara Greene is recognized for 20 years of dedicated service to Chabot College and sustained leadership in Counseling and the broader academic community. As PSCN coordinator, she works with counseling faculty to keep offerings relevant, rigorous and student-centered while supporting dual enrollment instructors, curriculum development and the PSCN Advisory. Dara has also been instrumental in advancing collegewide work involving curriculum and Credit for Prior Learning. In the classroom and in counseling sessions, she is known for thoughtful engagement with students. Colleagues value her deep institutional knowledge, intellectual rigor and ability to approach complex issues with clarity, academic integrity and a collaborative, solution-oriented mindset.



CHRISTINA JETHI

History Part-Time Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Social Sciences**

NOMINATED BY: **Mona Abdoun**

Christina Jethi meaningfully contributes to students, faculty and the broader Chabot community as a part-time history instructor. She represents the Social Sciences Division on the Faculty Senate and serves as Senate notetaker, helping keep shared governance work organized, transparent and accessible. Christina has also emerged as a faculty leader on artificial intelligence, organizing Faculty Senate AI Faculty Forums and participating in the Social Sciences AI Community of Practice to help colleagues examine AI's implications for teaching, learning, academic integrity, equity and student success. Her use of Zero Cost Textbook materials and participation in Chabot's Practical Anti-Racist Teaching Institute further reflect her commitment to accessible, equitable and student-centered instruction.



DMITRIY KALYAGIN

Business Instructor and Department Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: **Applied Technology and Business**

NOMINATED BY: **Jaswinder Bhargal | Lynn Klein
Melissa Patterson | Catherine Pinkas**

For more than 25 years, Dmitriy Kalyagin has helped shape Chabot College's Business Department in response to student, community and industry needs. As department coordinator, he manages scheduling, curriculum, staffing, new hires, evaluations, meetings and events while supporting a large group of full- and part-time faculty. Colleagues credit his organization, institutional knowledge and willingness to take on responsibilities well beyond his assignment with helping make the department highly productive and effective. Dmitriy is also known as a generous mentor who shares course materials and encourages faculty to support colleagues teaching new courses. Students seek him out for career and transfer guidance, and colleagues describe him as patient, dedicated and consistently focused on the success of the department and its students.



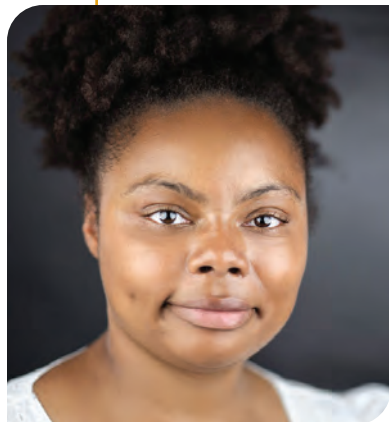
DEREK KRAUSE

Fire Service Technology Part-Time Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Applied Technology and Business (Chabot) /
Public Safety, Adv. Manufacturing, Transportation, Health &
Kinesiology (LPC)**

NOMINATED BY: **William Buell**

Derek Krause has strengthened fire service education across both Chabot and Las Positas colleges. As a fire academy and fire fitness instructor at both institutions, his expertise in live fire, rescue and emergency service certification courses has elevated training within each college's fire academy. Derek has also been instrumental in bringing the two academies into closer alignment, helping the programs support one another more effectively. His cross-college collaboration reflects a clear focus on what best serves students and strengthens public safety education across the district.



CARRA MOORE

Administrative Assistant

DEPARTMENT: **Applied Technology and Business**

NOMINATED BY: **William Buell**

Carra Moore is an integral contributor to Career Technical Education funding management and to the Fire Technology Program and Fire Academy at Chabot College. Her administrative support helps sustain the day-to-day work behind these programs, and she played an

instrumental role in developing the college's first public safety mixer at the Hayward Fire Training Center. The event brought together students, faculty and graduates from fire, emergency medical services and administration of justice to explore public safety pathways and strengthen connections across related programs.



ANGIE MUÑOZ

Outreach Specialist

DEPARTMENT: **HSI El Centro**

NOMINATED BY: **Remi Ramos**

Angie Muñoz has been an advocate for strengthening the connection between Chabot College and the communities it serves. As an outreach specialist for El Centro, she is often among the first college representatives prospective students meet, and she works

to ensure they feel welcomed, supported and confident taking their first steps into college. Angie builds relationships with local schools and community organizations, raises awareness of El Centro services and supports Summer Bridge to help students transition successfully to college. Her work is especially meaningful for students from underserved backgrounds, including the Latinx community. Angie also serves as vice president of CLEA and is known as a dependable colleague who readily steps in to support students and the campus beyond the boundaries of her formal role.



ALFRED RAGER

Fire Service Technology Part-Time Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Applied Technology and Business**

NOMINATED BY: **William Buell**

Alfred Rager created and helps sustain the Fire Safety Club at Chabot College, now in its second year. As faculty adviser, he manages a group of approximately 80 to 100 student volunteers who contribute their time and skills to on-campus and community service projects

throughout the year. The club gives students in public safety pathways opportunities to represent their programs, serve the greater Hayward community, and build confidence through meaningful participation. Al's leadership has created a structured way for students to connect their education with service, teamwork, and community engagement.



AMELIA SETE

Counselor

DEPARTMENT: **Special Programs and Services**

NOMINATED BY: **Savannah Hui**

Amelia Sete has had a lasting impact on students through her work with the Movement AAPI and Nesians Unite programs. Students describe her as a counselor who takes time to understand their cultural backgrounds, challenges and aspirations, creating a space

where they feel seen, heard, and valued. She supports academic and personal goals, connects students with resources, mentors student leaders, and helps foster cultural awareness and community. Her dedication was especially evident as she balanced her own master's program while continuing to support students and their success. Students credit Amelia's empathy, consistency and genuine care by strengthening their sense of belonging and providing encouragement as they navigate college and their own identities.



LAKESHA STEWART

Black Cultural Resource Center Program Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Special Programs and Services

NOMINATED BY: Virginia Criswell | Terra Lee | Ariel Nelson

Lakesha Stewart is recognized for the extraordinary breadth of her leadership and service to Chabot College students. As the sole staff member operating the Black Cultural Resource Center (BCRC), she has created a welcoming and affirming space where students and employees of all backgrounds can learn about Black culture, history and joy. Her programming includes the popular Chop It Up Tuesday series, Black History Month activities, wellness workshops, community drives, Black Graduation and visits from prominent guest speakers. Lakesha also serves as president of the Black Education Association and adviser for My Sister's Keeper. She is described as a tireless advocate whose creativity, warmth and commitment have made the BCRC a vital source of belonging, education and support on campus.





WANDA BUTTERLY

Instructional Technology Specialist

DEPARTMENT: **Academic Services**

NOMINATED BY: **Ann-Marie Fisher | Kat King**

Wanda Butterly combines technical expertise, accessibility and innovation to improve teaching and learning at Las Positas College and across the district. As an instructional technology specialist, she supports faculty in accessible course design and has advanced accessibility practices through workshops, presentations, individualized support and service on college and district committees. Wanda also created an accessibility tool that helps convert or remediate Canvas content to meet standards. Through the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office PlayLab AI pilot, she developed ComplyBot, a FERPA-compliant tool that helps faculty create accessible, well-structured course content while incorporating Universal Design for Learning principles. Her work has been featured in statewide webinars and demonstrates her ability to turn emerging technology into practical tools that benefit faculty and students.



JOSE CALDERON

Veterans First Program Counselor

DEPARTMENT: **Counseling**

NOMINATED BY: **Michelle Zapata**

Jose Calderon goes above and beyond in service to students across multiple Las Positas College programs. In addition to his full-time role as a Veterans First counselor, he supports the Engineering Technology Learning Community and serves as a lead counselor for the STEME Pathway. During the 2025-26 academic year, when the college needed a Puente counselor/coordinator, Jose stepped forward to take on the additional responsibilities of counseling, teaching and coordinating a Puente cohort. Students and colleagues have responded positively to his leadership and support. Jose is known as an empathetic counselor, effective collaborator and strong student advocate who approaches challenges with a solution-oriented mindset and willingly takes on demanding work when students and programs need him.



DYRELL FOSTER

Las Positas College President

DEPARTMENT: **President's Office**

NOMINATED BY: **Sean Brooks | Ken Cooper | Nan Ho
Chip Woerner | Rajindar Samra | Jeanne Wilson**

Dyrell Foster's leadership is marked by vision, integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to student success. As president of Las Positas College, he centers students in institutional decision-making while building authentic relationships across the campus and community. He is known for being visible and approachable, creating an environment in which students and employees feel seen, respected, and valued. Dr. Foster has advanced work to remove barriers to achievement, strengthened equity-minded practices and supported a culture of inclusion and continuous improvement. He also elevated work-life balance as a collegewide planning priority, reflecting his belief that supporting employees strengthens their ability to serve students. His respect for shared governance, openness to diverse perspectives, and collaborative leadership have helped foster a more responsive, caring and student-focused college culture.



ANNE KENNEDY

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Outreach Specialist

DEPARTMENT: **Business, Social Science, and Learning Resources**

NOMINATED BY: **Kristi Vanderhoof**

Anne Kennedy is recognized for a collaborative, practical and innovative approach to career education outreach at Las Positas College. She regularly supports outreach and Career Center tours and events, helping expand services available to students and employers. Anne also creates opportunities for students to connect directly with employers and learn about emerging career trends. In fall 2025, she facilitated a partnership with BART that included outreach and student focus groups. In spring 2026, she organized an information session and tour of the Kaiser Permanente Data Center and a guest presentation on artificial intelligence in the workforce. Her efforts broaden students' awareness of career possibilities and demonstrate a consistent willingness to collaborate wherever her support can strengthen opportunities for students.



JULIE NGUYEN

Counselor

DEPARTMENT: **Counseling**

NOMINATED BY: **Lilibeth Mata Juarez | Meghan Swanson**

Julie Nguyen is recognized for leadership that strengthens both student success and campus community at Las Positas College. As coordinator of the Movement API Learning Community, she has helped build a program that intentionally connects academic support, mentorship and belonging. Students benefit from courses and counseling designed to support college and transfer success while fostering a strong sense of connection to the institution. Julie also contributes to major campus events, including One Love, Lunar New Year, Diwali and New Hawk Day, working across departments to create inclusive spaces where students from diverse backgrounds feel seen and supported. Colleagues describe her as organized, kind, attentive to detail and skilled at moving collaborative work forward while keeping students at the center.



MARISA PASCAL

Geology Laboratory Technician

DEPARTMENT: **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math**

NOMINATED BY: **Jennifer Siders**

Marisa Pascal is recognized for contributions to geology education that extend well beyond her laboratory responsibilities. She has secured grant funding for equipment including a Raspberry Shake seismometer and a rock saw, creating additional hands-on learning opportunities for students. Marisa is also an active mentor to student assistants, involving them in projects and outreach activities that build their experience and confidence. Beyond campus, she regularly brings rocks and fossils to local school science nights and supports connections between Las Positas College students and local K-12 learners. She also contributed significantly to the college's science carnival. Her initiative, mentorship, and enthusiasm for outreach have strengthened both student learning and community engagement.



LYDIA PENAFLOR

Financial Aid Advisor III

DEPARTMENT: **Financial Aid**

NOMINATED BY: **Yari Gonzalez | Lavonna Routt**

Lydia Penaflor has dedicated years of service, deep expertise, and a consistent commitment to helping students and colleagues succeed. As a financial aid advisor and scholarship coordinator, she manages complex payment and financial aid processes while guiding the annual scholarship application and selection process. She promotes scholarship opportunities directly to students, including through classroom outreach, and helps coordinate staff support during the busy scholarship season. Lydia also shares her knowledge generously with colleagues, helping train and guide others through complex processes. Beyond Financial Aid, she serves as a mentor through the Asian Pacific Islander Association and volunteers for campus events. Colleagues describe Lydia as trusted, patient and genuinely caring, someone who makes people feel respected and supported while quietly ensuring critical work gets done.



TERRANCE THOMPSON

Career and Transfer Center Coordinator (Retired)

DEPARTMENT: **Transfer Center**

NOMINATED BY: **Dyrell Foster**

During Terrance Thompson's tenure, he provided unwavering commitment to student success, transfer access and belonging at Las Positas College. Through his leadership at the Career and Transfer Center, he helped students navigate transfer pathways with greater clarity and confidence. His commitment to equity also extends beyond his formal role through work with the A2MEND student charter, where he mentored and supported students, particularly African American male scholars. Terrance helped students build community, connect with resources and pursue their academic and personal goals. His student-centered approach, integrity, and consistent advocacy strengthened both individual student trajectories and the broader campus community.



ADELINA ELO

Director of Marketing and Communications

DEPARTMENT: **Public Relations, Marketing, and Government Relations**

NOMINATED BY: **Craig Shira**

Adelina Elo has rebuilt and modernized Chabot College's marketing function after more than a decade without a marketing director. She has worked across the college to create greater consistency, coordination, and student focus in how Chabot presents itself and communicates. Her accomplishments include collaborating on a clearer brand guide, helping modernize the Gladiator mascot using student-centered research, implementing a centralized marketing portal, and using data to inform campaigns tied to enrollment goals. Adelina works with employees at every level of the organization and is known for finding practical, creative solutions that keep projects moving while serving the college's larger goals. She has brought structure to a fragmented function and consistently keeping students and results at the center of the work.



STACEY FOLLOWILL

Senior Programmer Analyst III

DEPARTMENT: **Information Technology Services**

NOMINATED BY: **Bruce Griffin | Robyn Tornay**

Stacey Followill has demonstrated exceptional technical expertise, reliability and service during a year of major system changes and high-stakes projects. She served as a lead technical resource for initiatives including N2N LightLeap fraud protection, SSB9 student registration and faculty services, winter intersession, compressed calendars, DegreeWorks and Banner. She also overhauled enrollment management reporting structures and routinely resolves complex systemwide issues while maintaining the critical day-to-day work that keeps district systems operational. Colleagues describe Stacey as a quiet powerhouse who anticipates needs, remains steady under pressure and approaches problems with analytical precision. Her work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt across the district by students, faculty, and staff who depend on reliable systems and services.



STEPHEN GUNDERSON

Acting Chief Technology Officer/Previously Director of Technology Services

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology Services

NOMINATED BY: Ron Gerhard

Steve Gunderson’s leadership and service to district technology operations is much appreciated. He has brought together leadership and operational oversight for technology departments at both Las Positas and Chabot colleges. While continuing to support Las Positas College, Steve also brought structure and momentum to technology improvements at Chabot College. This helped create greater consistency across the district. Under his leadership, the colleges are better aligned around technology lifecycle replacement, classroom and new-building technology, server improvements and long-term planning. Colleagues value his ability to balance strategic planning with immediate problem-solving while respecting the distinct needs of each college. His leadership has strengthened coordination, reliability, and confidence in technology services across both campuses.



BRYN LUX

Marketing and Communications Associate

DEPARTMENT: Public Relations, Marketing and Government Relations

NOMINATED BY: Dionicia Ramos | Chip Woerner

Bryn Lux’s work has strengthened districtwide recruitment, retention and communications while supporting both Chabot and Las Positas colleges. She helps keep campaigns and communications organized and moving forward while contributing directly to student communications, social media, photography, press releases, and other marketing efforts. Bryn has helped strengthen social media strategy, content creation and analytics reporting, while also mentoring the colleges’ student social media assistants. She invests in professional growth to expand the team’s capacity and recently partnered with the two college marketing directors to present social media best practices to community college marketing professionals at a statewide conference. Colleagues value Bryn’s creativity, reliability, service orientation and willingness to handle both visible creative work and essential administrative responsibilities that keep a small team functioning effectively.



JANET MALSKI

Administrative Systems Analyst II

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology Services

NOMINATED BY: Robyn Tornay

Janet Malski has transformed Guided Self-Placement across Chabot and Las Positas colleges through technical expertise, collaboration and student-centered design. In rebuilding the placement modules, she worked closely with math and English faculty at both colleges to translate complex academic requirements into a more intuitive and functional student experience. The project required careful attention to algorithms, coding, usability, and the way students encounter academic placement early in their college journey. Rather than simply updating an existing tool, Janet approached the work as an opportunity to reduce frustration and create a smoother onboarding experience. Her willingness to collaborate across departments and refusal to settle for “good enough” has established a stronger benchmark for how technology can support institutional goals and student success.



WILLIAM TANDONGFOR

Custodial Services Manager

DEPARTMENT: Maintenance and Operations

NOMINATED BY: Troy Beard

William Tandongfor’s leadership has strengthened custodial operations and advanced sustainability across the district. In approximately two years with CLPCCD, he led implementation of the district’s Green Cleaning Program, introducing environmentally responsible cleaning products, standardized procedures and service frequencies, microfiber cleaning systems and a color-coded towel program designed to reduce cross-contamination. He also helped upgrade soap and paper towel dispensers at both colleges and has contributed to the district’s Zero Waste Initiative. Beyond these operational improvements, William is known for treating employees and campus customers with respect, fairness, and professionalism. His leadership has improved consistency and efficiency while fostering greater teamwork, dignity, and pride within custodial services.



CHASITY WHITESIDE

Administrative Systems Analyst I

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology Services

NOMINATED BY: Robyn Tornay

Chasity provides consistent, reliable, and innovative technical support that improves both district operations and the student experience. Most recently, she helped develop the California College Promise Grant MyPortal card on a short timeline, creating a clearer and more

intuitive way for students to access important information. Chasity also contributes to the MyPortal CARDS workgroup and leads critical start- and end-of-term processing in the student system, high-stakes work that affects thousands of students and faculty members. She supports system access and onboarding across complex networks and is known for a collaborative, solution-focused approach. Though much of her work happens behind the scenes, her technical skill, steady execution and willingness to step in where needed, help ensure that others can do their jobs effectively.

Congratulations
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AWARDEES



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