

# *Las Positas College*

## *For Immediate Release*

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### **Las Positas College Foundation Gala raises over \$100,000 for LPC Students and programs**

(Livermore, Ca) - The Las Positas College Foundation annual "Best of the Best" gala raised over \$100,000 for the benefit of the LPC campus community. Celebrating its 15th year as the signature fundraiser for the LPC Foundation, the "Best of the Best" highlighted well-known local cuisine from Posada Contemporary Southwestern restaurant and several Livermore Valley wineries while showcasing outstanding students and programs at Las Positas College. Over 200 guests, including civic and educational leaders, new and long-time supporters of the LPC campus and community, were welcomed into the Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts on the college campus.

"Each year our Foundation Board, comprised of community leaders, dedicates many volunteer hours planning for our signature fundraising event. This year's "Best of the Best" brought together some of the area's finest wineries paired with a menu created especially for this event by Posada Contemporary Southwestern restaurant in Livermore," said Kenneth Cooper, executive director of the Las Positas College Foundation. "We also enjoyed highlighting our excellent academic programs at Las Positas College. Students from our Performing Arts program comprised a jazz combo that wowed attendees and guests also heard how our faculty and staff provide innovative programs to increase LPC student success."

In addition to ticket sales and a silent auction, a special "Fund-A-Need" auction held during the event raised over \$30,000 in grant funds used to support innovative projects not covered by state dollars. "The funds raised from the Best of the Best are so important because we use them to address critical unmet needs in our college," said LPC Interim President Roanna Bennie. "This includes scholarships, innovation grants, and support for programs that provide truly exceptional educational experiences for our students and campus community."

Bidders had the opportunity to win tickets to the Battle of the Bay (San Francisco Giants versus Oakland Athletics), VIP Suite tickets to Justin Timberlake's "Man of the Woods" tour, an overnight spa retreat and fantastic auction items that included fine jewelry, winery tours and other unique experience packages.

Proceeds from the "Best of the Best" will benefit the students, staff, faculty and community, which LPC serves by supporting students who would otherwise be unable to afford many of the expenses of attending college including textbooks, living costs, and family support.

Most of the wine and auction items for the event were donated and the food, lighting and decorations were provided at or below cost to minimize overhead and ensure the maximum funds reach student beneficiaries.

Top sponsors of this event included: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and Sandia National Laboratories, The Independent, Kaiser Permanente, Souza/Balazs and UNCLE Credit Union.

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**About the Las Positas College Foundation:** The Las Positas College Foundation has two goals: (1) to inform and educate the Tri-Valley communities about the extraordinary successes, remarkable opportunities and financial challenges at the College that they own; and (2) to give businesses and individuals an opportunity to invest in the future of the College's students. The Foundation's main focus is the funding of student scholarships, supporting vital educational programs, and continuing outreach to the community through college sponsored programs

**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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