

2024-25 CHANCELLOR'S AWARD



OCTOBER 30, 2025



CHABOT
LAS POSITAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege to introduce the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District's 2024–2025 Chancellor's Award recipients. These awards shine a light on members of our district who embody innovation, demonstrate leadership, and strive to enrich the educational journey of our students and the vitality of our broader community.

The strength of our district rests in the combined efforts of classified professionals, faculty, and administrators. Among this year's honorees are individuals who have gone above and beyond—excelling in their roles, motivating others, and offering meaningful support. Their accomplishments remind us that collective progress begins with the dedication of individuals. Each recipient was nominated by colleagues or supervisors who saw in them a model of excellence worth celebrating.

I extend my deepest appreciation to this year's awardees for their outstanding contributions. Within this program, you will find the many reasons they were nominated and selected for this honor. I am equally grateful to the members of our district community who recognized the importance of acknowledging and uplifting the achievements of their peers.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gerhard', written over a light gray circular background.

Ronald P. Gerhard
Chancellor



LAS POSITAS

COLLEGE

SARAH ANDERSON



Outreach Specialist

DEPARTMENT: Student Services

NOMINATED BY: Anne Kennedy

“Sarah has demonstrated exceptional innovation and dedication in her role as outreach specialist, making a significant impact on student access and community engagement. Her ability to build trust and forge partnerships with the local high schools has resulted in a measurable increase in student enrollment. Sarah approaches outreach not as a one-time effort but as an ongoing relationship, ensuring students feel supported from the first point of contact through their enrollment process.

Sarah’s dedication and enthusiasm for her work are evident every day. She tirelessly works to engage with prospective students and families by providing campus tours, conducting application workshops and presentations at high schools, coordinating campus outreach events such as High School Counselor Day, Fall Preview Night, LPC Open House, and New Hawk Day.

As the direct contact for many incoming students, Sarah patiently and effectively fields emails from numerous students and parents, resolving issues and connecting them to the proper departments. In addition to her outreach success, Sarah’s collaborative spirit, professional excellence, and Caring Campus attitude make her a deserving recipient of the Chancellor’s Award.”

STEPHANY CHAVEZ



Program Director, Child Development Center

DEPARTMENT: Child Development Center

NOMINATED BY: Virginia Tsubamoto

“Stephany has worked her way up from being an LPC Early Care and Education student to now being the program director. I have had the pleasure of working alongside Stephany since 2013. Stephany leads by example and has literally “been in the shoes” of all the different roles at the Child Development Center.

Stephany is an advocate for her classified staff, student assistants, student parents, families, and most importantly the children we serve. She is more than willing to step into the program to support her staff by modeling best practices. Stephany

finds creative ways to bridge the Child Development Center with other programs on campus and works to support the Chabot College Children’s Center. The growth of the Child Development Center would not be possible without her leadership and the potential for more growth is undeniable.”

LAURA CORNETT



Horticulture Instructor/ Faculty Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

NOMINATED BY: Jean O'Neil-Opipari

“Laura is an amazing powerhouse; she has grown the Horticulture program, helped to resurrect the Horticulture Club, coordinated part-time faculty, and maintained the LPC growing grounds, all while centering students at all times. She has attracted adjunct faculty who are experts in the field. She has introduced students to industry organizations (i.e., Master Gardeners, California Landscape Contractors Association). She provides the students with field trips to inspire their love of horticulture (i.e., Bancroft Gardens, Filoli Gardens). Laura is instrumental in the

Horticulture Club's twice-yearly plant sale. This spring, Laura coordinated a wonderful Earth Week, which included an Earth Day Resource Fair and Meatless Friday in the cafeteria. This year, Laura single-handedly brought back composting of pre-consumer waste from the cafeteria to the Earth Tub.

Laura has done so much for the Horticulture program and LPC. She does all these things while consistently showing care and consideration to her students. She is a true mentor, and her students love her. It is for all these reasons that I nominate Laura Cornett for the 2024-2025 Chancellor's Award.”

TIM DRULEY



Webmaster

DEPARTMENT: Office of the President

NOMINATED BY: Kelly Costello

“I'm proud to nominate Tim Druley, webmaster at Las Positas College, for the Chancellor's Award. Tim is someone who consistently goes above and beyond—not just for LPC, but for the entire district. His dedication, collaborative spirit, and reliability make a big impact behind the scenes. Tim consistently goes out of his way to support the district, often assisting with complex or time-sensitive tasks that are more district-related than campus specific. His ability to collaborate and communicate effectively ensures seamless integration across platforms that serve

the entire district.

What sets Tim apart is how dependable he is and his ability to assess critical situations. On multiple occasions, he has responded to urgent website needs from the Chancellor's Office, even during evenings and weekends. It doesn't matter when or what's needed, Tim shows up and gets things done. He's also incredibly flexible and responsive to both district and LPC needs. He understands priorities, adapts quickly, and always keeps the bigger picture in mind. Tim is a great communicator and explains technical things clearly and patiently. His collaborative nature and positive attitude make him a pleasure to work with.”

GEORGE FREELLEN



Fire Service Technology Instructor/Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Health and Kinesiology (PATH)

NOMINATED BY: Anne Kennedy

“George has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and commitment in his role as the coordinator of the Regional Fire Academy and FST Instructor. George mentors students, providing them with personalized guidance, career coaching, and support. His mentorship plays a role in launching successful careers in the fire service for many graduates.

In addition to his work with students, George is a passionate advocate for the Fire Service Technology Program. He steps up to enhance outreach efforts by working with the outreach specialist to attend events and help with numerous tours of the Public Safety Complex, where he engages with prospective students to promote careers in public safety. George also works to build partnerships with local fire departments. His efforts have not only elevated the profile of the program but also strengthened the connection between LPC and the broader community it serves. George Freellen exemplifies the spirit of the Chancellor's Award through his outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to student success.”

JAMES GIACOMAZZI



Athletic Director/Head Men's Basketball Coach

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety, Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Health and Kinesiology (PATH)

NOMINATED BY: Ravi Bhambhra

“In my 13 seasons of junior college coaching, including numerous athletic directors from which to draw comparisons, there has never been a harder working, more dedicated-to-the-students athletic director than our own, James Giacomazzi.

The man arrives before all the other coaches, stays well past when the other coaches leave, and is always available for questions, concerns, opinions, or obstacles that our coaches encounter. He carries a positive energy that is

contagious, and the impact he has on the team of the athletic department has been apparent to me from the moment I arrived.

With the job centered on the students, “Coach G” sets an excellent example of how to lead. He says hello to all the student-athletes and knows them by name. He is genuinely invested in all the student-athletes, (and it's important to mention this) not just his men's basketball student-athletes. Las Positas College is lucky to have him leading our athletic department.”

JOSUÉ A. HERNÁNDEZ



Program Coordinator, Student Life and Leadership

DEPARTMENT: Student Services

NOMINATED BY: Angelica Cazarez

“I am excited to nominate Josué Hernández for the Chancellor’s Award. As the program coordinator of Student Life and Leadership, Josué has redefined what student engagement looks like at Las Positas College. His impact has been nothing short of transformative. Under his leadership, student participation in campus life has reached unprecedented levels. From revitalizing student government to reinvigorating student clubs, Josué has cultivated a culture of belonging and empowerment.

Thanks to his dedication, we’ve seen record-breaking turnout in student elections and a renewed sense of morale among the student body. Josué’s influence extends far beyond events—he’s instilled a belief in students that they truly belong and deserve a seat at the table. He ensures that student voices are heard. He consistently inspires students to create meaningful, inclusive events that benefit the entire campus community. One of Josué’s standout achievements is the establishment of the Mini Market Pantry, addressing food insecurity with compassion and efficiency. This year, he also collaborated with CLEA (Chicano Latino Education Association) members to launch the inaugural Latinx Graduation, a milestone event that celebrated identity, culture, and student achievement in a powerful and memorable way.”

JARED HOWARD



Counselor/Counseling Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Counseling

NOMINATED BY: Joel Gagnon

“Jared Howard is an exceptional counselor, visionary leader, model faculty member, and stand-up guy. Celebrated by students for his kind heart and clear communication, Jared has long been the most sought-after counselor at Las Positas College. He supports students in reaching their goals, keeping his advice straightforward, supportive, and encouraging. Behind the scenes, he has changed countless policies and student supports, coordinating the Counseling Department and serving as the Student Services lead on Guided Pathways for

the past three years.

He’s simplified the onboarding process, created the LPC student communication plan, and has been critical in growing New Hawk Day to its most recent version, serving nearly 800 students and family members. When Jared sees a form, website, process, policy, or service that is overcomplicated or otherwise unfriendly to students, he goes right to work improving it and doesn’t stop until he gets it right. As a colleague, he is kind, empathetic, and supportive, collaborating across campus and forging relationships in nearly every division and program. Beyond being a top-notch educator, coordinator, and counselor, Jared’s colleagues widely consider him a friend. His warmth and care have established him as someone you can count on personally and professionally.”

SUZANNE KOHLER



Senior Administrative Assistant

DEPARTMENT: **Admissions and Records**

NOMINATED BY: **Adria Anderson-Kelly | Aubrie Ross**

“Suzanne works tirelessly to ensure that students and staff are supported. She has remained graceful under pressure and always gives her time, including serving in the Classified Senate and preparing agendas and minutes for the Academic Senate. Her care, energy, and enthusiasm amaze me!”

“Suzanne Kohler is truly an exceptional member of the Las Positas College community, and her dedication makes her an ideal recipient of the Chancellor’s Award. Her commitment to our college shines brightly through everything she

does, particularly her invaluable involvement in the Classified Senate. What truly sets Suzanne apart is her proactive and supportive nature. She doesn’t just participate; she actively contributes to fostering a positive and thriving environment.

Her willingness to step up and go the extra mile, especially in supporting the Classified Senate, speaks volumes about her character. No matter the task, Suzanne is always ready to lend a hand, demonstrating a remarkable level of dedication that goes above and beyond the expected. It’s clear that Suzanne is more than just an employee; she’s a genuine advocate for Las Positas College.”

DANIEL MARSCHAK



Music Department Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: **Arts and Humanities**

NOMINATED BY: **Lilibeth Mata Juarez**

“Working with Dan, Cindy and Andreas is such a delight. The team of music faculty is very involved and come up with the greatest ideas to increase their program’s visibility, not only in the campus community but in the Tri-Valley community. Since I started working here, the music department has added more certificate programs to their curriculum such as the Piano Technology program, which allows students to learn how to fix a piano and become employable.

The music department comes up with great event ideas to bring more awareness about their program. They offer a ‘Be a Music Major for a Day’ event in the spring semester to welcome high school juniors and seniors to spend the day on campus in classes with our current music majors. Each summer, they also host jazz camps to increase awareness of their programs. They are great, kind and caring faculty who truly value their relationships with their students and advisory board. I strongly admire Dan’s way of coordinating his music class.”

CARLOS MORENO



Computer Science Instructor/Computer Studies Coordinator/MESA Faculty Sponsor (Past)

DEPARTMENT: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

NOMINATED BY: Kristi Vanderhoof

“Professor Moreno has been instrumental in establishing the MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) program at Las Positas College, which serves many first generation and low-income students in STEM majors. He recruited the first cohort of MESA students and has served as the faculty sponsor since its inception.

In addition to his work with MESA, Professor Moreno served this past year as the computer studies coordinator while also working as the only full-time computer science faculty member. Students often comment on how much they enjoy Professor Moreno’s classes, and he is well loved on campus.

Professor Moreno has also worked in conjunction with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in order to help computer science students from LPC to be hired as paid interns in the LLNL’s summer cybersecurity program. In addition, in summer 2024, Professor Moreno taught a Robotics Camp as part of the Community Education Program at LPC. For his dedication to teaching and to increasing the number of historically underrepresented professionals in STEM, I highly recommend Professor Carlos Moreno for a Chancellor’s Award.”

CAROLYN Y. SCOTT



Executive Assistant to the Vice President

DEPARTMENT: Academic Services

NOMINATED BY: Nan Ho

“Carolyn Scott is a leader who is genuinely joyful when she brings people together to celebrate students and colleagues. Every day, her organizational skills bring calm efficiency to the academic team; what goes above and beyond is how generously she shares those same skills to a multitude of activities and events, ensuring their success. Just a small sampling of the far-reaching positive impacts Carolyn has includes activating cross-campus teams to warmly welcome new faculty at a well-organized orientation; coordinating the sabbatical leave process, from start to

finish, for faculty while collaborating with both Chabot and district teams; and serving on the Accreditation Steering Committee, including making a presentation at Town Meeting.

Carolyn is often the first person encountered by community members and education and industry partners. Her contributions to our Tri-Valley Partnerships Projects have helped strengthen LPC’s partnerships with our K-12 partners. Her ideas and innovations helped us host our largest groups of English and math alignment meeting participants, all benefiting students. Carolyn truly goes above and beyond through her leadership as the president of the Black Education Association (BEA).”

VICKI SHIPMAN



Career Technical Education (CTE) Project Manager

DEPARTMENT: Academic Services

NOMINATED BY: Nan Ho

“Vicki Shipman exemplifies how creativity and vision, coupled with broad and deep expertise, create opportunities for our students. As Las Positas's career technical education project coordinator, Vicki is highly respected and appreciated for her ability to help faculty translate into reality their ideas for new and improved CTE programs. These include drone technology, music technology, welding, paramedic, fire academy, work experience, automotive, engineering technology, computer network technology...the list goes on.

Those who work with her know that you can sit down with Vicki, explain what you want to do, and she will already be tapping into her vast knowledge of resources while you are still talking. And sometimes, before you are done, she already has a plan, a budget, and a timeline! Her questions and suggestions are incisive and solutions-driven, always with a foundation of respect for the expertise of our faculty. Vicki was instrumental in starting and expanding the effectiveness of our excellent outreach team, which in turn, has greatly increased Las Positas College's visibility and engagement with the communities we serve. Look across campus and you will see the results of her collaborative work on initiatives that serve students.”

ELIZABETH WING BROOKS



Humanities and Film Studies Instructor/Discipline Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Arts and Humanities

NOMINATED BY: Irena Keller

“Professor Elizabeth Wing Brooks goes above and beyond to help students blossom by enriching their learning experiences in multiple ways. Besides working tirelessly on creating degrees and new courses for her program, she is leading the LPC Film Club, one of the best and most active clubs at Las Positas College. In this club's framework, Professor Elizabeth Wing Brooks takes students on field trips during weekends and organizes evening events, such as Moonlight Movies, that benefit the whole campus and the surrounding community. Professor Brooks also participates in many task forces and events that benefit students. She is

helping to build a study abroad program that will bring opportunities for our students to expand their horizons, travel with instructors, and learn about multiple cultures and places. She also regularly participates in student research symposiums and advises honors students. She is one of the honors instructors who has mentored the most students over the years. This year, she was nominated by the honors students as the Honors Instructor of the Year! In one of her student's words: ‘The best professor I could have had to help me complete my first honors project. She was extremely helpful, kind, caring, and supportive.’”



CHABOT

C O L L E G E

NOELL ADAMS



Degree Audit/Student Education Planning (SEP) System Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Admissions and Records

NOMINATED BY: Paulette Lino

“It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Noell Adams for the Chancellor’s Award. She exemplifies the values, professionalism, and excellence that this award seeks to recognize. In her role as the degree audit/student education planning system coordinator, Noell consistently goes above and beyond expectations. She is widely respected for her dedication, integrity, and collaborative spirit. Her contributions have had a significant and far-reaching impact—not only at Chabot College but across the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District.

Her key accomplishments include providing ongoing support and training to Chabot and LPC colleagues; upgrading and merging DegreeWorks into a single instance (in partnership with ITS); developing an automated tool that helped the colleges identify and combat fraudulent enrollments; designing and overseeing Chabot’s process for proactively awarding degrees/certificates; recommending and implementing solutions to increase the probability that students with transfer goals will actually transfer to a university and earn a degree in a timely manner; and reconfiguring programs to ensure compliance with Cal-GETC requirements. Noell’s work demonstrates a rare combination of technical expertise, strategic vision, and an unwavering focus on student success.”

EUGENIA CHAN



Library Coordinator/User Experience and Technology Librarian

DEPARTMENT: Library Academic Pathways and Student Success

NOMINATED BY: Pedro Reynoso

“On behalf of the entire Chabot Library staff, I am pleased to nominate Eugenia Chan, library coordinator, and user experience and technology librarian, for the Chancellor’s Award. In a very short period of time at Chabot College, (less than four years) Ms. Chan has brought a caring and thoughtful approach to the Library Department, Language Arts Division, and campus community at large. As the chair of her tenure review committee, I have observed Eugenia’s passion for fostering inclusive, student-centered environments, both in person and online.

As the user experience and technology librarian, Ms. Chan has been an asset to Chabot College. For example, Eugenia was instrumental in the complete redesign of the library’s homepage, which made it more user-friendly and accessible to all students using the most culturally appropriate user experience methods and universal design technology. Eugenia’s genuine approach to serving all library patrons is not only shaped by her unwavering commitment to demystifying information systems and resources, but also by her critical literacy pedagogy that centers the student and delivers clear instruction so that patrons can become empowered and lifelong learners.”

SALEEM GILMORE



Director, Student Equity and Success

DEPARTMENT: Student Equity and Success

NOMINATED BY: Matt Kritscher

“Dr. Saleem Gilmore, director of student equity and success at Chabot College, has gone above and beyond the call of duty since day one over two years ago when he joined the campus and district community. Dr. Gilmore created new summer learning communities for students furthest from opportunity in partnership with the city and local school districts. He also transformed the former bookstore into the state’s leading resource hub for basic needs while expanding external funding resources through non-profit partner organizations and grants to

further enhance student support.

The Gladiator Resource Hub serves as a model intake venue for members of the community who may not even believe they can go to college due to extreme poverty and other life challenges. Dr. Gilmore made it a welcoming place where current students can hang out, study and learn self-resilience strategies through financial literacy and holistic family support. He leads student equity initiatives throughout the college while serving above and beyond on community advisory boards and support programs. Most of all, Dr. Gilmore is an authentic leader, who seeks to lift others up while centering the needs of students at the heart of his work.”

BRIAN GOO



Director of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

DEPARTMENT: Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

NOMINATED BY: Kirti Reddy

“Brian Goo began his position focused on the research and planning aspect, but over the last year he has really taken on the institutional effectiveness role. Brian has integrated his leadership in shared governance committees, such as the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee and the Program and Area Review Committee. He also works closely with, and is a resource for, the tri-chairs.

He has also been instrumental in keeping accreditation work and requirements in the conversation during what could be a mid-year slowdown. Director Goo

has been a part of the executive team with the president, vice presidents and confidential assistants—providing his expertise in overall planning but also in technical matters and wherever he is needed. Director Goo has coordinated with both the District Office and Las Positas College colleagues and strengthened the relationship across the district with his insight, knowledge, and competency.”

ERIC HELTZEL



English Instructor

DEPARTMENT: **Language Arts**

NOMINATED BY: **Tom deWit**

“Eric Heltzel was born and raised in Hayward. He’s a former Chabot ‘tutor of the year,’ a Chabot graduate, and now a part-time English instructor. Eric puts in hours way above and beyond just being an English instructor. He has chaired the Chabot Climate Action Workgroup for the last five years. He is the de facto advisor to the RAGE (Revolutionaries Advocating for Greener Ecosystems) students, who are really thriving under his tutelage. He has spent hundreds of hours working on sustainability and the future of the Mohr-Fry property.

He is holding up the sustainability vision for the college, district, and for our colleagues at Chabot and LPC. He worked on multiple occasions with Dr. Matt Kritscher to help hone grant language. He leads partnerships with the City of Hayward, Hayward Area Recreational District, and the East Bay Dischargers Authority—organizations that provide a lot of real-world experience for our students and interns. He also advises the interns. He does all this with care and commitment to the college, the city, and the earth. Eric never gripes and always brings a ‘let’s make this happen’ disposition to our colleagues and students.”

WING KAM



Webmaster

DEPARTMENT: **Office of the President**

NOMINATED BY: **Dmitriy Kalyagin | Catherine Pinas | Sujoy Sarkar | Alise Smith**

“Wing is an extraordinarily hard-working webmaster. He works with departments to understand their needs and then creates meaningful messages and webpages to add value to our communication with students. He is always available to consult and to find the best messages and visuals to attract students.”

“Wing has helped to improve the business department website. He has worked with an outside agency and the Career Center to add multiple jobs available to our students to our website. He has always gone above and beyond to accommodate the business department’s needs.”

“I am honored to nominate Wing Kam for his exceptional service and dedication to teamwork in support of the Applied Technology and Business (ATB) Division at Chabot College. Over the past year, Wing has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to collaboration, responsiveness, and excellence in all the projects we’ve worked on together. His willingness to meet deadlines and his follow through on every update made a huge difference in the efficiency and success of our website overhaul.”

CHERYL MACKEY



Administration of Justice and Paralegal Studies Instructor

DEPARTMENT: Applied Technology and Business

NOMINATED BY: Miguel Colon

“Cheryl manages two significant and high-value disciplines (administration of justice and paralegal) and coordinates the Alameda County Sheriff’s Academy. In between these duties she consistently takes the time to offer important programs to the campus community. Programs such as: Active Shooter Training, Black Lawyers Legal Field Networking Workshop, Public Speaking & Networking Workshop, and Professionals in the Legal Field Workshop. Please note that all of these events were offered during the spring semester! When not managing her programs, Cheryl

participates in statewide policing initiatives related to human trafficking, police de-escalation training and tactics, and more. Cheryl has served and actively participated on the Academic Senate and Health and Safety Committee.”

DAN MILLER



Instructor/Head Athletic Trainer

DEPARTMENT: Health, Kinesiology, and Athletics

NOMINATED BY: Jeff Drouin

“Dan Miller is an alumnus of Chabot College where he played baseball and was the Tenney Scholar Athlete Award winner his sophomore year. After graduating from CSU Hayward, Dan worked at Bishop O’Dowd High School and volunteered as an athletic trainer at Chabot College with the hopes of returning to work at the college full-time. Dan realized that dream when he was hired as a full-time faculty athletic trainer in 1991. In the last 33 years, Dan has served as the head athletic trainer and physical education instructor. He has taught kinesiology, health

and physical education courses and students have often returned to intern for Dan as they are working towards their athletic trainer certification.

Most notably, Dan has a dedication to his profession unlike any athletic trainer I have ever known. Dan makes a point to be present at all home contests in all 16 of Chabot’s intercollegiate athletic contests, even when there are overlapping events. His job often includes working long days and late nights and weekends. He does it with professionalism and dedication. Dan’s many decades of service to Chabot and its athletic department deserve recognition.”

CRISTINA MOON



World Languages Instructor

DEPARTMENT: Language Arts

NOMINATED BY: Caren Barnezet Parrish

“I currently oversee the French program at Chabot College and have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Moon for the past seventeen years. She demonstrates excellence in teaching and outstanding leadership in Open Educational Resources and Zero-Textbook-Cost initiatives. Dr. Moon has consistently demonstrated her commitment to student success through her teaching of all four semesters of Spanish at Chabot. She has delivered these courses across multiple modalities—including on-campus, hybrid, and online—

showcasing her adaptability and dedication to high-quality instruction. I have served on her professional review committee and can attest that her students consistently praise her engaging teaching style, positive demeanor, and the authentic peer-to-peer interactions she fosters through platforms such as VoiceThread and Canvas. Her online courses are exemplary. All four have been reviewed and awarded the “Quality Reviewed” badge by the California Virtual Campus—Online Education Initiative, a rare and prestigious distinction. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Moon is readily available to students—her consistent presence on campus and frequent impromptu tutoring sessions reflect her genuine care and accessibility.”

KENYA OROCHENA



Senior Administrative Assistant to the Dean

DEPARTMENT: Special Programs and Services

NOMINATED BY: Patricia Molina

“I am honored to nominate Kenya Orochena for the Chancellor’s Award. Kenya is the backbone of our department—working tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to ensure that 14 student support programs operate smoothly and effectively. Her work is foundational, and while it may not always be in the spotlight, its impact is far-reaching and deeply felt. Kenya’s role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, from processing critical documents and managing complex administrative systems to coordinating logistics that allow our programs to thrive.

She ensures that departments can purchase supplies, attend conferences for professional development, organize educational field trips, and celebrate staff milestones and holidays—all with precision and care. Her attention to detail and her ability to bring organization and order to our operations allow our programs to focus on what matters most: serving students. What makes Kenya truly exceptional is her willingness to go far beyond her job description. She serves as a mentor and active supporter of the LUNA student group, consistently attending their meetings, joining them on field trips, and celebrating their achievements. She models leadership, warmth, and professionalism—qualities that make her a powerful example for our students.”

MARIO OROZCO



Admission Specialist

DEPARTMENT: Admissions and Records

NOMINATED BY: Ariel Nelson

“Mario Orozco has served Chabot College for many years within the Admissions and Records Office, and his contributions have been nothing short of transformative. He has consistently gone above and beyond to support students, staff, and the broader campus community—often without the recognition he truly deserves. During the height of the pandemic, Mario played a pivotal role in implementing technology solutions that made it easier for students to submit documents electronically. His innovative thinking and quick action helped ensure

students could continue moving forward in their academic journeys with minimal disruption.

Through his creative outreach and onboarding strategies, he has helped increase access to concurrent enrollment, providing students with a valuable head start on their college education. Families often express their gratitude for Mario's patience, care, and efficiency—qualities that truly set him apart. In addition, Mario is a vital support system for our dental hygiene and nursing applicants. These highly competitive programs require detailed and timely processing, and Mario ensures that applicants experience a smooth, stress-free journey. It is time that his quiet leadership and exceptional service receive the recognition they so deeply deserve.”

JUZTINO PANELLA



Counselor/Instructor/Behavioral Health Coordinator

DEPARTMENT: Counseling and CARES Mental Health Services

NOMINATED BY: Sadie Ashraf

“It is with deep appreciation and enthusiasm that I nominate Juztino Panella for the Chancellor's Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership, tireless advocacy, and transformative impact on student wellness and behavioral health at Chabot College. Juztino leads with compassion, humility, and unwavering dedication. Throughout his career at Chabot, he has worked collaboratively with colleagues across campus to build bridges and create innovative programs that support the well-being and success of our students.

Early in his tenure, Juztino was one of only a few mental health counselors on campus, supporting a growing demand for services and responding to an overwhelming number of student crises each week. He collaborated with counseling faculty and administrators to co-found what is now our CARES Mental Health Services and to advocate for the creation of a full-time mental health coordinator position. Through these efforts, and with a flexibility and sense of humor that help him navigate challenging situations, Juztino exemplifies the heart of Chabot's equity-driven mission. His work uplifts students, empowers peer leaders, and strengthens the entire mental health support ecosystem on campus.”

RENATO RAMENTO



Counselor Assistant II

DEPARTMENT: Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS)

NOMINATED BY: Nathaniel Rice

“Renato is not only an all-around amazing, reliable, and resourceful individual, he is also great at taking initiative and making a difference. The amount of time he has spent on becoming a strong expert on the new DSPS student information system has been both a boon and an essential necessity for DSPS. Renato has taken the time to grow how the system works, toiled tirelessly under the hood, and has created numerous tutorials and walkthroughs to support both student and faculty access to navigating the system. This is all in addition to his selfless efforts

supporting students with alternative testing, regularly adjusting his schedule as needed to support the specific early morning needs of nursing students, and always being willing to help cover the front desk whenever needed. I want to publicly thank him and his efforts to support our students with disabilities. While he likes to work in the background, for these efforts I'd like to shine a spotlight on his efforts.”

REMI RAMOS



Financial Advisor II

DEPARTMENT: Financial Aid/El Centro

NOMINATED BY: Angie Munoz | Cresali Roldan-Sun

“Remi Ramos goes above and beyond his role as a financial aid advisor at Chabot College, and his impact is felt across campus and in the community. One of Remi's major contributions has been updating our financial aid webpages to make them more accessible and easier to navigate. Thanks to Remi's work, students can now find the information they need quickly and with more confidence. Remi also works with El Centro to provide bilingual support to our Spanish-speaking students and families. Whether it's offering one-on-one assistance, helping parents understand

the FAFSA, or presenting at community events, he always makes sure our students and their families feel seen, heard, and supported.”

“Remi has consistently demonstrated unwavering dedication, exceptional service, and a deep commitment to student success. Throughout his tenure, Remi has exhibited remarkable adaptability, especially in navigating the frequent and complex changes introduced by the Department of Education. His ability to stay abreast of policy shifts and implement necessary adjustments has been invaluable to our department. Moreover, Remi serves as the primary contact for Dreamer students, offering guidance and support with empathy and discretion.”

MARIA RODRIGUEZ-LARRAIN



MESA-Trio Director

DEPARTMENT: MESA/Science and Mathematics

NOMINATED BY: Sonya Lopez

“Maria Rodriguez-Larrain exemplifies dedication to student success and institutional improvement. Her active engagement with student success teams within the division is a testament to her commitment. Maria leads dynamic and thought-provoking discussions, encouraging a student-centered approach that challenges conventional thinking. By meticulously collating and processing essential data, she empowers the division to make informed decisions aimed at better serving students. Maria’s innovative practices and programs are pivotal in retaining

at-risk students and supporting transfer students.

She fosters an environment where students feel confident sharing their perspectives, which she then communicates to faculty and the division dean. This feedback loop ensures that innovative practices are continuously integrated to support at-risk students. Additionally, Maria is deeply involved in discussions about the compressed calendar, common course numbering, and student success pathways, all of which are crucial for facilitating smooth transfers for students. Her leadership has a direct and profound impact on the education of students.”



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ALVIN ABLAZA



Custodial Supervisor

DEPARTMENT: **Maintenance and Operations**

NOMINATED BY: **John Seybert | William Tandongfor**

“With a nearly flawless attendance record, Alvin Ablaza has provided excellent leadership to the graveyard shift custodial team at Las Positas College for about seven years. Though Alvin is always serving the needs of the Las Positas College community when everyone else is asleep, his dedicated commitment to making sure the campus is ready to welcome staff and students the following day does not go unnoticed. He is constantly supporting his team, keeping them motivated and well prepared, and is always willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever

needed, often coming in at the last minute to cover a last-minute or unforeseen need. Night after night, Alvin leads by example and serves the district with a smile and an infectious positive attitude, never complaining and always looking for ways to make the campus better and those around him feel appreciated.”

PAMELA BRACY-LEVINGSTON



Custodian

DEPARTMENT: **Maintenance and Operations (M&O)**

NOMINATED BY: **Michael Peterson**

“Pamela has done a remarkable job supporting the Las Positas College community by helping to keep building operations running smoothly. Throughout her years working for the district, her custodial work has consistently been excellent. She shows how having a clean and organized space makes it easier for students and staff alike to concentrate on their studies and work. I’ve noticed how students often ask Pam for help finding directions or resources on campus. She gladly helps, even stopping her work to walk the student to the right place, all with a

welcoming, caring and sunny disposition.

Pam’s ability to help students feel connected and included when they just have a simple question exemplifies Caring Campus and really contributes to the college community. It is impressive how Pam strikes a balance between being proactive about offering help while taking care not to disrupt learning. She always thinks of new ways to clean or organize a space and will gladly assist with any informal needs as well. Having worked for the district for years, Pam brings an institutional knowledge about the campus that helps greatly with finding M&O-related solutions to issues.”

KELLY COSTELLO



Executive Assistant to the Chancellor

DEPARTMENT: Chancellor's Office

NOMINATED BY: Ronald Gerhard

"Kelly Costello has been the indispensable right hand in the Chancellor's Office since 2018. Kelly is absolutely central to the day-to-day operations, not just of our office, but truly across the entire district. Knowledgeable, flexible, driven, and a true team player, she ensures every detail is considered, every plan is executed thoughtfully, and that our colleges receive the support they need.

From addressing community concerns and student complaints to organizing employee professional development, lending an ear to fellow employees, and ensuring everyone's perspective is acknowledged, Kelly plays a pivotal role in the success of our district. She consistently demonstrates grace under pressure, handling complex and sensitive matters with calm, clarity, and care.

Her commitment and organizational skills make her the backbone of our administrative team. She's the person who turns plans into reality and keeps all the moving parts in sync. Without Kelly's dedication and hard work, so much of what we do simply wouldn't be possible. She is truly deserving of this recognition."

JUANITA GILDEA



Purchasing Specialist

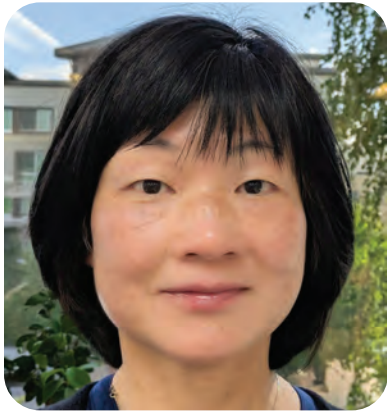
DEPARTMENT: Purchasing

NOMINATED BY: Marie Hampton

"Juanita is an asset within the purchasing department. Her congenial personality and willingness to go above and beyond her regular job duties is commendable. Juanita has taken on several assignments, such as coordinating surplus activities with both warehouses and staff, managing the public auction website, assisting the purchasing manager with the collection of data for PlanetBids implementation and assisting in the training of new hires in relation to Banner. Juanita has proven herself to be reliable, dependable and trustworthy in completing her regular job duties as

well as special assignments. Therefore, she should be acknowledged for going the extra mile in support of purchasing and the district. I highly recommend Juanita as a recipient of the Chancellor's Award."

HELEN HENNEMAN



Accountant II

DEPARTMENT: Business Services

NOMINATED BY: Daniela Ballif

“Helen is extremely organized and focused on continuously learning and developing best practices to manage routine activities both efficiently and effectively. She brings a positive attitude and excellent quality work. Helen, as the bond accountant, strives to integrate the Facilities Department with Business Services. She has done a wonderful job in providing the information requested in a way that is easily understood by the facilities staff but also meets the requirement of the Business Services Department. Helen is motivated and positively engaged,

always willing to help and support her department in whatever capacity she is asked to help. She is a team player and her dedication to providing quality work is very much appreciated by everyone in Business Services.”

DIONICIA RAMOS LEDESMA



Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Government Relations (PRMG)

DEPARTMENT: Public Relations, Marketing and Government Relations

NOMINATED BY: Ronald Gerhard | Bryn Lux

“Since joining the district, Dionicia has brought clarity, strategy, and creative leadership to the Chancellor’s Office. She inherited a department in flux and quickly brought stability, focus, and a commitment to the strategic vision of PRMG to more directly support our colleges, programs, and students.

From crisis communications and branding to media relations and the implementation of new software, Dionicia leads with high standards, a collaborative spirit, and grace under pressure. She is deeply committed to amplifying the voices of our students, colleges, and district, and she does so with both strategic insight and heart. We are fortunate to have her leadership and honored to celebrate her contributions.”

“I have seen Dio dedicate tremendous time, intentionality, and care to her role. From handling difficult conversations with reporters to discussing legislative bills with state representatives, Dio carries out her role with incredible grace and respect. She manages all aspects of her role without missing a beat, helping our team stay on target with marketing campaigns while also keeping in mind smaller day-to-day details. I can also attest to the fact that she is an incredible boss. She keeps in mind my long-term professional development goals, advocating for learning opportunities and goal setting.”

PATTY RUSSELL



Senior Administrative Assistant

DEPARTMENT: Chancellor's Office

NOMINATED BY: Ronald Gerhard

"Patty is often the first face or voice you encounter in the Chancellor's Office and is truly the cornerstone of our team. Since 2019, and indeed for many years before that, she has been the steady presence and institutional historian who makes everything run smoothly.

Patty's dedication goes far beyond her job description. Whether it's supporting events (like Convocation and Chancellor's Awards), guiding employees who contact our office, or bringing her wealth of experience to solve unexpected challenges, she's always the first to roll up her sleeves without hesitation. Her positive attitude, selfless demeanor, attention to detail, and care for serving the district make her invaluable and irreplaceable. And on a personal note, Patty and I share the same love for Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. In those moments of great desperation when a sugar fix is absolutely essential, she's been selfless enough to share her hidden stash to keep us both going.

In short, Patty is the heart of our office and a truly deserving recipient of this recognition."

REVOYDA STARLING



Network Systems Specialist II

DEPARTMENT: Information Technology Services

NOMINATED BY: Sara Woods

"Ms. Starling is an asset to the district by providing services to multiple locations and by being flexible with her work hours. Her dedication to providing timely service and willingness to try new tasks is commendable. Ms. Starling has provided services for many of the board meetings and its members consistently and without hesitation. Ms. Starling has even provided support during non-duty hours and on weekends."

CHARLES “CHIP” WOERNER



Director of Marketing and Communication

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

NOMINATED BY: Angelica Cazarez | Bryn Lux | Dionicia Ramos

“Chip has elevated our institution’s public image through his innovative approach and unwavering commitment to storytelling. His work has garnered statewide recognition, including two statewide awards—one for a promotional video and another for design. These accolades are a testament to the impact and excellence of his creative vision. His ability to connect with every department on campus—bringing their stories to life and supporting their initiatives with care and

creativity—makes him a unifying force at Las Positas.”

“Chip sees Las Positas College as a hidden gem. With a strong background in private-sector marketing, he brings a fresh, innovative approach to his work. Under his leadership, LPC’s reputation has grown as a welcoming, accessible, and prominent institution that opens doors for all students to achieve success. As a collaborator with student services staff, he’s brought new ideas to drive in-person attendance at events. Known for his humor, you might catch him wearing a t-shirt he screen-printed in his basement to lighten the mood. That said, Chip is serious about his commitment to LPC. He seeks student input in all of his projects. At the core of everything he does is a deep belief in the value of LPC and its mission.”

**Congratulations
2024-25
Awardees!**



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