



The Laney

NEWSLETTER

Q&A with Laney's New Vice President of Student Services



Vicki Ferguson joined Laney College as Vice President of Student Services in early January of this year.

A native of the Southeast, Mrs. Ferguson came to Northern California 15 years ago and has worked at community colleges in various capacities, most recently as Dean of Student Services at Contra Costa College.

Q. Tell us a little bit about you.

A. I'm a southern girl hailing from Gadsden, Alabama. I am the youngest of seven and in spite of my accomplishments, my siblings still see me as the "baby" of the family. I'm married with two children, Naomi, 13 and Isaiah, 11.

I graduated from Alabama State University (HBCU) in Montgomery with a degree in psychology. I also have a MS in Community Agency Counseling from Jacksonville State University.

Before my counseling career began in community colleges, my trajectory was in the mental health field. I counseled adolescents and adults suffering from substance abuse issues and mental health disorders.

Q. What attracted you to Laney College?

A. What attracted me to Laney was a number of things. A major factor was its location and commitment in serving the community. I knew that I wanted to continue working at a community college located in an urban setting because that is where my skill set, experience and passion is most beneficial and fulfilling. I consider Laney my "home" now.

Q. Who do you admire and why?

A. I admire a number of people, but if I had to choose one it would be Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I admire him for pressing on during really trying times. He wasn't a perfect man but nevertheless, he had a burning fire in his spirit to help mankind strive for perfection in how we treat each other.

Fun Questions!

Q. What's your favorite food?

A. Hands down, spaghetti with meat sauce all day long!

Q. What's your favorite movie?

A. Hard question. Difficult to choose just one. My all-time favorite old school sitcom is "Sanford and Son."



Vicki Ferguson

Laney Classified Professionals Attend “Growing Our Own”

Over 75 Laney classified professionals attended the professional development event, “Growing Our Own” on Feb. 9 at the Student Center. Coordinated and led by trainers from the consulting group, InsideTrack, the session focused on understanding the experiences, including difficulties, students may face when pursuing their education.

Classified professionals play a pivotal role at assisting students every step of the way during their time in college. “Growing Our Own” helped bring together staff from the different departments and divisions on campus to better understand the impact each of them has in students’ lives. Staff also

learned about how other departments serve the student population and identified ways in which they could benefit from each other’s knowledge to improve student services.

InsideTrack will hold other professional development events for classified in the coming months.

Photos from “Growing Our Own”





Q&A with David Lee, Laney's New AANAPISI Program Director



David Lee still remembers when he first visited Laney College 10 years ago.

"I spent a day walking around campus and meeting students. I was struck by the infectious energy and school pride on display everywhere I turned," Lee said.

That positive impression he had of Laney motivated him last year to apply for the position of Director of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) program and Asian Pacific American Student Success (APASS) program.

Q. Tell us a little bit about you.

A. As a San Francisco native, I grew up in Chinatown and attended public schools and graduated from San Francisco State University with a doctorate in educational leadership. I ran a Chinatown non-profit organization for many years that helped Asian Americans register to vote and participate in civic life. I also taught in the political science department at San Francisco State.

I enjoy volunteering for non-profit and civic organizations and have served in various leadership roles including as a KQED Board Director, Commissioner of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department and Chairman of the U.S. Census Bureau CIC Steering Committee.

Q. Who do you admire and why?

A. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with many famous politicians. However, my hero isn't famous or powerful; his name is John Lau and he was both my children's squash coach.

John didn't pick up squash until 1971 when he began as a student at UC Berkeley. He soon became an ardent student of the game; so much so that in 1991, John became the nation's #1 ranked Veteran's Champion singles player in the United States: the first player with Chinese distinction and one of the very few minorities in the sport of squash to earn a US ranking - a noted accomplishment given its history, squash, for the most part, was very much of a game reserved for Ivy-league elites who later belonged to private clubs.

John, a Chinese-American kid with a humble upbringing - a product of San Francisco public schools - was never afforded the privileges and advantages that were customary for a squash player to develop the amount of caliber and rank that he attained.

In spite of the hurdles, John never gave up on the game he loved. He wanted to prove to himself that a Chinese American could climb to the top of squash world by his skill, hard work, and sheer will-power. He became a squash coach and taught generations of children the game that he loved. He is now retired from 30 plus years of squash coaching and is working at APASS helping Laney students succeed.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish in your first year at Laney?

A. I knew of the AANAPISI program because several of my doctoral program classmates are directors at different colleges and universities around the Bay Area and Laney's program is well-known.

My goal for the first year is to re-open the AANAPISI/APASS office and to make it a resource for Laney students. I want to introduce our new program to the community and to let everyone know we are here to serve and support students.

Fun Questions!

Q. What's your favorite food?

A. My son calls me a sushi monster because I just can't resist the call of fresh sashimi. My favorites are Uni, Hamachi, and Ama Ebi.

Q. What's your favorite movie?

A. I am huge James Olmos fan and in my opinion his best movie is "Stand and Deliver."



Edward James Olmos in "Stand & Deliver"

CTE Students Awarded Scholarships



Six Laney College students were the recipients of the International Code Council (ICC) East Bay Chapter Scholarships. The students were chosen at the end of the Fall 2017 semester for their outstanding academic performance in the area of Construction Technology and desire to provide building code enforcement services.

The East Bay Chapter of ICC is dedicated to promoting a safe built environment through education, code development, and consistent

interpretation and application of building codes, standards and policies.

Five students received \$500 scholarships and one, a \$1,000 scholarship. The recipients were:

Ming Lu, David Lucero, Marisol Zavala Suarez, Fares Abassi Cathleen Schulte, and Andrew Vincent.

Congratulations!

New Course Highlight: Global Climate Change

This spring semester, the Laney Geography Department introduced a new course – “GEOG 19: Global Climate Change.”

Taught by Michele Forman, this new class examines the interdisciplinary science of climate change, the drivers behind climate phenomenon both historic and current as well as future climate scenario projections.

All aspects of the climate system are discussed, including the chaotic, unpredictable nature of weather due to an intrinsic variability arising from the dynamic interaction between atmosphere and oceans, as well as larger-scale climate forcing such as the variability in solar irradiance, plate tectonics, volcanic activity or greenhouse gases which impact longer time scales.

Students in the class examine the global challenges that will only accelerate in coming decades due to runaway levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, more extreme weather events (both warming and cooling), challenges to agricultural productivity, and rising sea levels which are already threatening small island nations, coastal cities, and which portend a future wave of climate refugees.

The course also examines current remediation efforts underway worldwide, and analyze in depth the polarized, political debate in the United States that continues to thwart accelerated global action towards renewable energy sources and carbon sequestration despite solid scientific evidence of human-induced climate change by NASA, NOAA, the National Academy of Sciences and the U.N. Environmental Program Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC).

Tell someone who's interested in climate change topics to consider GEOG 19 in the Fall 2018!



Michele Forman

Black History Month Various Events Photos

Chinese New Year Photos

African American Read-In at the Library



Mardi Gras Party at Laney Quad



Dance, music, and food at the Laney Quad



This publication is produced by the
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For questions, email laneypio@perata.edu.

PHOTOS: Flex Day at Laney

Laney College held its Spring 2018 Professional Development Day (Flex Day) on Friday, Jan. 19.

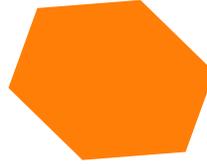
Laney College held its Spring 2018 Professional Development Day (Flex Day) on Friday, Jan. 19.

The event featured a “State of the College” presentation by Laney President Tammeil Y. Gilkerson where she highlighted important College accomplishments over the past year and encouraged the campus community to focus on the positive.

There was also a panel discussion where Senate Faculty President Donald Moore, Classified Senate President Robert Tracy, English Department Co-Chair Christopher Weidenbach, and President Gilkerson discussed the importance of participating

in the College’s participatory governance committees.

A mid-semester Flex Day will be held on March 16.



LANEY IN THE NEWS



Laney Ceramics Instructor Featured in Jewish Journal

Laney Ceramics faculty Sherry Karver and her word-photo-paintings were featured in a Jewish Journal article published on Feb. 21.

Karver has gained acclaim for her “biographies” – large photographs of crowd scenes with tiny words that according to the article are, “stream-of-consciousness ruminations superimposed neatly over the bodies of a few individuals.”

From the article:

“Karver’s biographies remind us that we’re not alone in our endless mental planning and scheming, our fretting and problem-solving and rehashing of minor slights. Being cursed with an annoying ‘inner roommate’ is part of the universal human condition, and remembering this fact that can help generate self-compassion, and a good laugh.”

Laney’s Tiny House

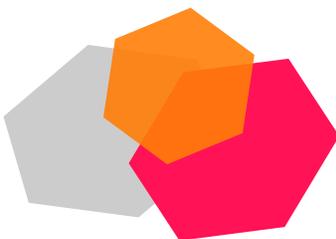
On Jan. 21, the Oakland Post published an article referencing Laney College’s Tiny House, which was built by faculty and students in the CTE Department.

From the article:

“Laney’s carpentry department has achieved success building tiny homes. They won a contest hosted by Sacramento Municipal Utility District for a tiny home they built in 2016. Councilmember Abel Guillén spearheaded a collaboration between the City of Oakland and their department with an \$80,000 grant to Laney carpentry to build a tiny home prototype for mass production.”

Grammy Award-winning Laney Alum Dies

On Jan. 15, the New York Times published a story about Laney College alumni and Grammy Award-winning singer, Edwin Hawkins, who merged gospel and secular sounds in a career highlighted by the accidental crossover hit “Oh Happy Day” in 1969, died on January 15, 2018 in Pleasanton. He was 74.



For the links to these stories, go to:
Laney.edu/laneypio/news.

Laney Alum in the Spotlight for Oscar-nominated Movie, “Disaster Artist”

Laney College has been mentioned in various news reports related to Tommy Wiseau, who is portrayed by James Franco in the movie “The Disaster Artist.”

Wiseau, who attended Laney College from 1989-1992, wrote and produced the 1993 film, “The Room.” Despite the intense negative reviews, “The Room,” gained a cult-following, leading to the production of “The Disaster Artist” which has been nominated for several awards this year, including an Oscar for “Best Screenplay.”



Actor James Franco (left) and Laney alum Tommy Wiseau (right).



Laney alum Edwin Hawkins, singer of "Oh Happy Days."