The Laney Newsletter

Photos

Laney's Class of 2018

The Laney Graduation Ceremony was held on May 25, 2018 at Laney Football Stadium. Over 1,000 students earned their degrees or certificates during the 2017-18 academic year. Below are photos of graduates, administrators, faculty, and Cat Brooks - the keynote speaker. Congratulations to all the graduates!

View more photos @ Laney.edu/multimedia.

Graduation Photos

(Continues from cover...)

Gateway to College Graduation

EOPS Graduation

African-American Graduation

View more photos @ Laney.edu/multimedia

California Awards $1.1 Million Grant to Laney College to Support Work with Formerly Incarcerated Adults

On May 14, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors awarded $1.1 million to Laney College to promote the institution's work with formerly incarcerated adults. Laney was one of 11 community colleges to receive the Chancellor's Higher Education Innovation Award which totals $20 million. The awards recognize innovations that improve student success and are sustainable and capable of being scaled across the state.

Laney College's Restoring Our Communities (ROC) is an academic program launched in October 2016 that provides support to formerly incarcerated adults seeking to obtain a higher education or career and technical training. ROC has innovated practices that not only contribute to the integrated goals of the college, but the larger goals of the city, county, and state. The program hires formerly incarcerated program leads to provide peer-to-peer support and mentoring.

Program participants receive various services, including help navigating the admissions process, registering for classes, applying for financial aid, and provision of books, transportation, food assistance, and more.

"I'm incredibly grateful to the board of governors for the recognition of the innovative work happening at Laney College. Restoring Our Communities is one of our most innovative programs giving formerly incarcerated adults a chance to get their lives back by earning an associate degree, transferring to four-year institutions, or learning vocational skills to help them secure a good paying job," said Laney President Dr. Tammeil Y. Gilkerson. "I also want to thank ROC Director Roger Viet Chung, Alejandra Landin, and Vincent Garrett for their passion to create a program that recognizes the impacts of mass incarceration in our communities and work to change the narrative that being formerly incarcerated determines a person's worth and ability.
(Continues on page 3...)

$1.1 Million for ROC

(...Continues from page 2)

"Their mentorship not only empowers our students, but helps them navigate the complicated legal and regulatory systems that often keep people in a never-ending cycle," Dr. Gilkerson added.

According to the 2015 "Senate Bill 105 Final Report" by the California Department of Finance, 96 percent of currently incarcerated individuals will be released back into the community. Coupled with California's 2011 Public Safety Realignment Bill to help reduce the state prison population to 137.5 percent of designed capacity, local counties, such as Alameda are tasked with serving a growing reentry population, and to prevent recidivism though strategic services and partnerships.

"We're glad that the state has recognized that ROC's model can be replicated across multiple community colleges and we hope that we can be a leader in helping these institutions follow our service model," said ROC Director Roger Viet Chung. "The heart and soul of ROC has been in our amazing formerly incarcerated staff, Alejandra and Vincent, who have for the most part provided the blueprint for effective service and effective peer mentoring. Without them, it would be impossible to be where we are today."

"Improving student outcomes is the cornerstone of our Vision for Success and the programs these colleges and districts have developed are truly making a difference for thousands of our students," said Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "On behalf of the board and the entire system, I extend my congratulations on this well-deserved honor, and thank our colleges for the incredible work they're doing to help change our students' lives for the better."

A review committee, comprised of the chancellor's executive staff and board members recommended the awardees and award amounts to the chancellor and board of governors. Those applicants receiving the highest scores are recommended for an Innovation Award.

Do you have any article ideas or event photos for the next issue of the Laney Newsletter? If so, email them to dbernal@peralta.edu by June 30.

Other colleges that received the Innovation award were:

- Shasta College - $1,500,000
- Foothill-De Anza Community College District (De Anza College) - $1,900,000
- Glendale Community College - $1,900,000
- San Mateo Community College District (Skyline College) - $3,000,00
- Santa Rosa Junior College - $1,600,000
- College of the Redwoods - $1,200,000
- Imperial Valley College - $2,500,000
- Chaffey Community College - $1,000,000
- Kern Community College District (Bakersfield College) - $2,300,000
- Irvine Valley College - $2,000,000

Laney Ethnic Studies Professor and ROC Director Roger Chung

Faculty and Classified Recognized at "Spring Fling"

On May 17, Laney College held, "Spring Fling" - an event at the Bistro to recognize classified professionals and faculty, including newly tenured instructors and retirees.

Organized by members of the Laney leadership, the event drew a good crowd who enjoyed delicious tacos and desserts, beverages, music, games, and raffle prizes.

Honored at the event were also the winners of the "We Rise" Award, a new award created by President Gilkerson that gives the Laney community an opportunity to nominate outstanding faculty, classified professionals, and administrators.

"We Rise" Award Winners:

Permanent Classified: Alain Tumba Longo, Duplicating Technician

Hourly Classified: Xioming (Simon) Liang, IT Specialist

Full-Time Faculty: Kathy Williamson, Math Faculty

Part-Time Faculty: Elizabeth (Beth) Maher, ESOL Faculty

Administrator: Kevin Wade, Dean of Student Services

Congratulations!

Laney Students IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In May, Laney student Ritchie Garcia, a veteran, was accepted into the Veteran's Accelerator Summer Program at Stanford University. Congratulations!

Ritchie Garcia

The Laney Newsletter is published by the Laney College Public Information Office. For questions, email dbernal@peralta.edu.

Photos

Spring 2018 Honors Banquet

This year's graduating class chose "Always Forward. Never Backward," as the theme for the Spring 2018 Graduation and also the Honors Banquet, held May 10 at the Bistro.

Families, friends, and Laney staff celebrated the accomplishments of students who achieved the highest academic excellence during their time at Laney.

Among those honored were students from Phi Theta Kappa, leaders of the Associated Students of Laney College (ASLC), and winners of the various scholarships.

In addition, Dean Medallion and President Medallion winners were also recognized.

The following are students who received Deans and President Medallions:

Dean of Liberal Arts:
Brian Howey

Dean of Mathematics & Science:
Sahiba Taneja

Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences:
Abigail Baires

Dean of Career & Technical Education:
Jian Hong

Dean of Student Services:
Brazile Clark

Dean of Enrollment Services:
Melling Wu

President's Medallion: Tram Ngo

View more photos @ Laney.edu/multimedia.