**October Awareness Events**

Did you know the month of October is National Book Month? It's also Adopt A Shelter Dog Month, Dental Hygiene Month, and even National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The month of October is filled with key “cause” awareness activities and events and LASC is no exception.

At LASC and nationwide, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. LASC will be hosting several events on campus to create awareness of this issue through guest speakers and a free self-defense workshop for women. If you are interested in participating on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Committee (formerly HART), please contact Dean Oscar Cobian at 323-241-5328 or cobianom@lasc.edu.

National Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15th and runs through October 15th. September 15th was chosen as the start date for this commemoration because five Latin American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua) all celebrate their independence on this date. Belize, Chile, and Mexico also observe their independence days during this period. Visit the Student Services Building to see a beautiful display of flags from these and other countries. Hispanic Heritage Month also honors the presence and contributions of Hispanic-Americans in North America.

Congress dedicated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month to increase awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Look for LASC’s Disabled Students Programs & Services update in this newsletter.

Take some time to participate in any of October’s awareness activities here at LASC. It’s more than just Liver Awareness Month, you know.

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**Student Success Newsletter**

**Volume 2, Issue 2**

**Los Angeles Southwest College—Student Services**

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**New Tech Prep Program at The Career Center**

Student Success is the primary mission at the LASC Tech Prep Program. This is possible through sequential programs of study for high school students in five Career Pathways: Business, Technology, Health, Human Services, and the Green Academy. These Career Pathways are being created as a direct response to the needs of the community workforce.

Students will complete the Work Readiness Certificate Program and receive training which introduces them to cover letter and resume writing, business wardrobe and etiquette, new-hire forms, and customer service.

The Tech Prep Program provides tours, field trips, guest lectures, and weekly workshops which expose students to college life so they can learn what to expect once they are on a college campus. It also can help students with vocabulary & learning style assessment and even college IDs.

Call 323-241-5406 or visit LASC’s Career Center in SSB 228 to find out about the many other career resources available to LASC students.
“By assessing SLOs, we can get a handle on how well students are learning and how we might develop new approaches to improve teaching and learning.”

On Thursday October 14, 2010, teams consisting of all academic departments and student services staff will participate in program-level SLO training by the BRIC-TAP facilitators. Check the schedule to see the time/location of your group. All participants will develop/refine their SLO assessment strategy using a BRIC-TAP Inquiry Guide on SLO assessment.

By assessing SLOs, we can get a handle on how well students are learning and how we might develop new approaches to improve teaching and learning. An example of an improvement made in a course based on results/analysis from SLO assessment is in Anthropology.

Last semester, Dr. Angela Jenkins assessed 3 sections of Anthropology 101 (Human Biological Evolution), embedding several questions in her final exams to address the SLO: “Apply a biocultural framework to the understanding of human development and contemporary human life.” One of the assessment results indicated that students were better able to remember and repeat factual information than explain its significance. She concluded that the course must focus more on developing critical thinking skills to meet the expected outcomes.

Improvement plans for Dr. Jenkins include more in-class activities, homework, and practice assignments that ask students to apply information to specific situations. A laboratory component might be considered as well. These plans will be implemented for two semesters, followed by a reassessment to determine effectiveness. Details of her assessment results are available on the SLO website.

Also, our Academic Senate approved three SLO-related motions on September 14, 2010 that revised our SLO completion timeline. Now, at least one SLO for every course will have been assessed by end of Fall 2011. This fall semester, we will assess about one-third of our active courses. This coordinated effort will involve our faculty, department chairs, SLO Mentors (Guadalupe Ramos and Kristine Wright), our research analyst, and the SLO Coordinator.

A SLO Addendum to the Course Outline of Record was also adopted and will be used to identify/modify course SLOs. A 6-semester SLO cycle was also adopted in which the results of assessment are systematically analyzed and improvement plans are implemented and then reassessed.

~ by Glenn Yoshida

**DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAMS & SERVICES OCTOBER UPDATE**

**OCTOBER IS DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

Did you know that approximately 43 million (or 17% of 250 million) people are disabled? Individuals with disabilities make up the largest minority group. There are hundreds of different types of disabilities; some are congenital, but most come later in life. The month of October has historically been proclaimed as a time to enhance awareness and sensitivity toward people with disabilities.

**Good News!**

DSPS is forming yet another partnership. A representative from Los Angeles County of Mental Health will soon become part of the DSPS office to offer much-needed mental health services. Stay tuned...
FINANCIAL AID QUICK GUIDE!

There Are Five FAFSA Application Steps

1. A student will go online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and follow instructions for completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application.
2. Within a week or two the Financial Aid Office notifies the student applicant by email or regular mail of additional documents needed to process the application.
3. The student then goes to the Financial Aid Office to obtain & complete all necessary documents. The student can also go to www.lasc.edu and click on the Financial Aid link for the documents.
4. The Financial Aid Office processes the application and sends an Award Notification Letter to the student applicant.
5. NEW! Then, all Financial Aid students are issued a debit card called MyLACCDcard. Students can choose to activate the debit card to receive their financial aid disbursement or direct disbursements to an account of their choice.

How Financial Need Is Determined

A student’s financial need is determined by calculating the difference between the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The student’s income and asset information is entered into the Department of Education’s computer system, which calculates the student’s official EFC.

Cost of Attendance
- Expected Family Contribution
= Financial Need

Students who are out of high school and under the age of 24 (with no children) are considered financially dependent on their parents. Generally, their parents must provide income and asset information on the FAFSA, with only a few exceptions to this policy.

Top Financial Aid Processing Issues

1. Students need to apply early! They can apply as soon as January 1st for the following academic year and should certainly apply by the May 1st Priority Deadline (students who submit by this date will be considered for programs with limited funds, i.e., Federal Work-Study). Apply early to avoid delays!
2. Students need to submit complete forms & all required documentation. They can avoid processing delays and running back-and-forth to the Financial Aid Office by (1) making sure their parents sign all forms and by (2) carefully reading the “Tracking Letter” that lists which forms & documents they need to complete their application.
3. Inaccurate forms and/or contradictory information that is provided will cause problems. Students must complete forms accurately and honestly.
4. Students must maintain an accurate and up-to-date mailing address with the Financial Aid Office.
5. Students can increasingly use online forms & tools to access information, check financial aid status, and to find needed forms.
ASO CLUB RUSH WEEK
OCTOBER 11-14, 2010
Visit with ASO Clubs in the Quad as they offer information, ask for new members, etc.

ASO HARVEST WEEK
OCTOBER 25-28 — PRIZES!
Monday October 25 — Pie eating contest
Tuesday October 26 — Apple dunking contest
Wednesday October 27 — Pumpkin carving contest
Thursday October 28 — Costume and Office Decorating

For more information or to sign up, stop by the ASO Office in SSB 118 or call 323-241-5253

Got Talent?
Get Ready For ASO’s
FOOD DRIVE TALENT BENEFIT
November 4, 2010
COME OUT AND SHOW YOUR TALENT AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE.
STOP BY AND SIGN UP IN THE ASO OFFICE, SSB ROOM 118.

LASC INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HIT THE BEACH
A Day at the Beach!
On Sunday, September 26th, Los Angeles Southwest College International Students gathered in Long Beach for a day of beach fun and city exploration. For many it was their first time visiting the city of Long Beach. The day was spent playing volleyball, visiting the Queen Mary, and enjoying Sunday football (American) at a local eatery.

Each month International Student Services hosts an event and workshop for our international student community. This month we will be hosting an event at the LA County Museum of Art, exploring the vast works of artists from around the world. In addition, International Student Services will be working with the Transfer Center to host a Transfer Workshop as our students look to continue their studies in an effort to reach their educational goals.

International Student Services hosts a Coffee Meet-up each Thursday from 3-4pm. Come by our office in SSB 116 to learn more about our programming.

~ by Darren Grosch