

Laney Faculty Member Contributes to Pulitzer Prize–Winning Investigation

Laney College congratulates Journalism faculty member Dan Kopf on his role in a Pulitzer Prize–winning investigation announced as part of the 2026 Pulitzer Prizes. Kopf, who serves as Data Editor at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, contributed data editing to “Burned,” an in-depth investigative report examining a flawed insurance algorithm that impacted Los Angeles wildfire survivors. The project received the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism.

At Laney, Kopf teaches Data Journalism (JOURN 70), a course offered each spring that provides students with hands-on experience in data-driven reporting. His work in the field and in the classroom reflects Laney College’s commitment to providing students with access to industry-leading professionals and real-world learning opportunities.

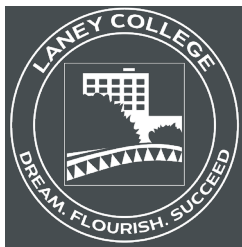
This recognition highlights both the impact of investigative journalism and the strength of Laney’s Journalism program in preparing students for careers in media and storytelling.

Laney College Marketing Efforts Recognized at CCPRO 2026



Laney College’s marketing and communications work was recognized at the Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) 2026 annual conference, held April 8–10 in Paso Robles.

Laney received a Bronze Award for brochure design, created by Marcus Creel (PCCD) and Chanda Brewer (Laney College), and a Silver Award for website design, recognizing the



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collaborative work of Chanda Brewer (Laney College), Aaron Harbour (PCCD), and Jonathan Freeman (PCCD).

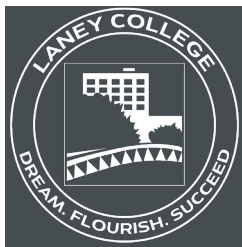
In addition, Laney College journalism student and *Peralta Citizen* Editor-in-Chief Eliot Faine was awarded a CCPRO scholarship, highlighting the strength of Laney's student media program.

Laney College Hosts Rotary Engagement at Bistro



Laney College welcomed nine members of Oakland Rotary #3 to the Laney Bistro for a shared dinner with students from the Laney Rotaract Club, fostering connections between students and community leaders.

Rotary President Goralka presented commemorative coins to Rotaract students, Employment Services Project Manager Raya Zion, and Interim President Rebecca Opsata to mark the occasion. Meals were prepared and served by students in Laney's Culinary Program, who later joined guests to engage with the Rotarians.



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The event highlighted the strength of Laney's community partnerships and showcased the talent and professionalism of Culinary students, with Rotary members expressing high praise for the quality of the food and service.

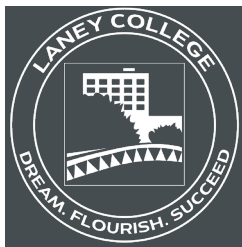
SpringFest 2026 Celebrates Student Engagement & Campus Collaboration



Laney College's Office of Student Services successfully hosted SpringFest 2026, drawing strong participation from students, faculty, classified professionals, and campus support programs. The event created a vibrant and welcoming environment, connecting students with resources, services, and opportunities across campus.

The success of SpringFest reflects the collective effort and commitment of the Laney community to student engagement and support. Special recognition is extended to the Facilities and Custodial teams for their essential role in event setup and logistics, ensuring a smooth and successful experience for all.

SpringFest continues to highlight Laney College's dedication to fostering connection, access to resources, and a strong sense of community.



Laney College Honorees Recognized with 2026 Flying Pig Awards

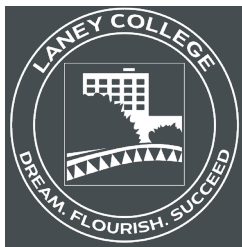


Laney College faculty and leadership were recognized at the April 14, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting as part of the Chancellor's Flying Pig Awards, which honor individuals and teams who go above and beyond in service to students and the District.

Jennifer Gerry, Tutoring Program Manager and math faculty member at Laney College, received an individual award for her student-centered leadership and commitment to creating inclusive, supportive academic environments.

Laney College Academic Senate President Eleni Gastis was also recognized alongside faculty leaders across the District for her role in shared governance, contributing to collaborative decision-making and upholding academic values during District-wide transformation efforts.

Additionally, a cohort of student leaders—including Tuguldur Natsagdorj, Rey Saitoh, Bianca Ramirez, Kristina Hoessl, and Rosa Perez—was honored for their contributions to District Transformation Plan task forces, ensuring that student voice remained central to key decisions impacting dual enrollment, distance education, and district-wide collaboration.



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Laney College Celebrates Employees at 2026 Appreciation Event

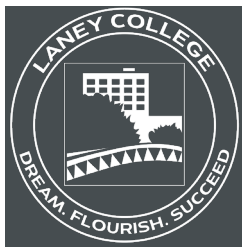


Laney College hosted its 2026 Annual Employee Appreciation Event and We Rise Awards on April 17 at Plank in Jack London Square, bringing together faculty, classified professionals, and administrators for an afternoon of recognition and community celebration.

This year's We Rise Award recipients were Sanford "Bishop" Faison (Student Worker), Huizhen "Joan" Su (Classified Professional), Steve Shilsky (Part-Time Faculty), Danitza Lopez and Karl Seelbach (Full-Time Faculty), and Ally Tomas (Administrator). The event also honored retirees, newly tenured faculty, and employees celebrating years of service.

The celebration featured a shared meal and team-building activities, including bowling and games, creating a lively and engaging atmosphere for employees to connect and celebrate one another's contributions. The event highlighted Laney College's

strong sense of community and appreciation for the individuals who support student success every day.



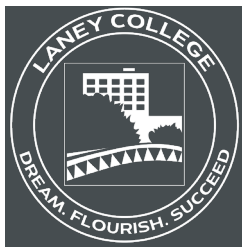
Laney College Administration Participates in Emergency Incident Command Training



Laney College administrators participated in an emergency incident command training exercise designed to strengthen campus preparedness and coordinated response efforts.

The session included a structured agenda outlining incident command roles, assigned leadership responsibilities, and use of an event recording template to support real-time documentation and communication during emergencies.

This training reflects Laney College's ongoing commitment to campus safety, effective crisis response, and ensuring leadership readiness in emergency situations.



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Laney College Hosts Black Student Success Week

What Does Black Student Success Look Like?

Led by Dr. Robert Mossi Alexander (A²MEND), this session explores what Black student success looks like at Laney and beyond.

"Black student success is not accidental—it is intentional."

Monday, April 20 | 12:00–1:30 PM | BEST Center

Laney College participated in the statewide Black Student Success Week from April 20–24, 2026, bringing together students, faculty, and community members for a series of events focused on equity, advocacy, and student achievement.

Centered on the theme "Revolution (Re)defining Black Student Success," the week featured daily webinars, student engagement sessions, and a campus event led by Dr. Robert Mossi Alexander exploring strategies to support Black student success at Laney and beyond. Additional programming included a special event with local entrepreneur Toriano Gordon of Vegan Mob, highlighting pathways in culture and entrepreneurship.

These efforts reflect Laney College's continued commitment to fostering belonging, improving outcomes, and supporting the academic and personal success of Black students.

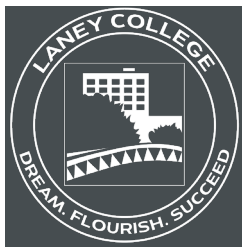
HERE & NOW Exhibition Showcases Student Talent Across Peralta Colleges



Laney College's June Steingart Gallery hosted the opening of *HERE & NOW: The Third Annual Juried Student Exhibition* on April 16, featuring work from 50 student artists across the Peralta Colleges.

The exhibition showcases diverse artistic disciplines and recognizes outstanding work through awards supported by the Peralta Colleges Foundation and the Laney Art Department.

As one of the final exhibitions before the Tower Building's decommissioning, the show underscores the gallery's legacy in supporting student creativity and expression.



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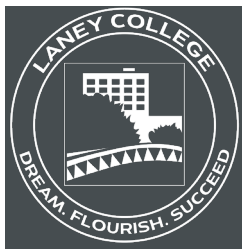
Laney Students and Alumni Connect with Media Careers at KQED



Laney College students visited KQED headquarters on April 22 for a behind-the-scenes tour led by Adult Education Project Manager Nik Howell and faculty member Marla Leech. The visit provided students with firsthand exposure to careers in public media and highlighted pathways from Laney to industry.

Students connected with Laney alumna Rikki Gates, now working at KQED, whose journey reflects the college's impact on career advancement. The group also met media professionals, explored studio production, and gained insight into opportunities in broadcasting and journalism.

The experience underscores Laney College's commitment to career exploration, industry partnerships, and supporting students in transitioning from education to professional success.



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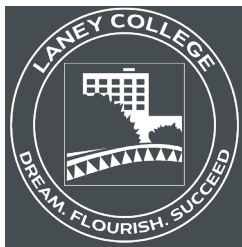
Barbershop Talk Builds Community and Connection at Laney College



Laney College hosted a Barbershop Talk event that brought together more than 40 students for an evening of open dialogue, connection, and community building. Held in the Cosmetology Building, the event featured free haircuts alongside facilitated conversations focused on identity, leadership, career pathways, and mental health.

Organized in partnership with A²MEND and Collegiate 100, and supported by Dr. Robert Mossi Alexander, A²MEND Counselor/Coordinator, the event created a culturally affirming space—particularly for Black male students—to engage authentically, build relationships, and access resources that support academic and personal success.

The strong turnout and engagement highlighted the impact of creating intentional spaces for student voice and belonging, with plans already underway to continue the series in Fall 2026.



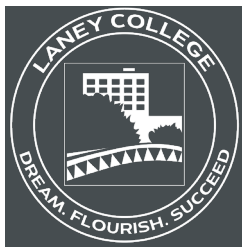
Laney Student Leaders Represent at Statewide SCCC General Assembly



Laney College student leaders, led by Associated Students of Laney College (ASLC) President Val Axtle and Vice President Kristina Hoessl, participated in the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SCCC) General Assembly, joining hundreds of student leaders from across the state.

Alongside fellow ASLC members, Laney representatives engaged in statewide discussions, voted on resolutions, and contributed to policy conversations impacting community college students. Their participation ensured that Laney student voices were represented in decisions related to equity, access, and student success.

Supported by Dr. Atiya Rashada, Director of Student Activities & Campus Life, the experience strengthened student leadership development and reinforced Laney College's commitment to empowering students to advocate, lead, and shape the future of higher education.



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Laney Culinary Arts Hosts Les Dames d'Escoffier at Student-Run Bistro

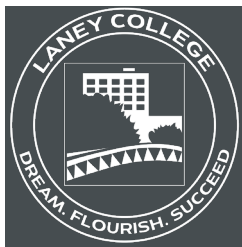


Laney College's Culinary Arts Program hosted members of Les Dames d'Escoffier for a special dinner event at the Laney Bistro, showcasing student talent through a three-course, prix-fixe meal prepared and served by students.

Led by Department Chair and Executive Chef Chantal Martin, the evening included a presentation on the program's history and a behind-the-scenes tour, offering guests insight into Laney's hands-on, industry-focused training model.

The event also highlighted the contributions of faculty such as Chef Laurence Jackson, whose extensive industry experience supports student learning and professional development.

This engagement reflects Laney College's strong connections with the regional culinary community and its commitment to preparing students for careers in the hospitality and food industries.



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Laney College Hosts Career & Technical Education Open House



Laney College hosted its Career & Technical Education (CTE) Open House on April 25, welcoming prospective students and community members to campus for a hands-on introduction to more than 20 career pathways and over 55 certificate programs.

Attendees engaged with interactive demonstrations—including advanced manufacturing and robotics—while connecting with faculty, exploring programs, and accessing student support services.

The event also featured career-ready resources such as professional headshots and opportunities to experience real-world training environments.

The CTE Open House highlighted Laney College's commitment to workforce development, offering accessible, career-focused education that prepares students for high-demand industries.