

# EDITORIALS

## Upbeat College News

A couple of important announcements concerning Las Positas Community College have brightened the pages of this newspaper in recent weeks.

Las Positas is one of four California community colleges selected this year for a nationwide program aimed at helping women get into the trades. Four other colleges were named last year. The National Science Foundation recently made a \$2 million grant to support the eight colleges.

At Las Positas the focus will be on careers in the automotive and welding fields. Participants will receive intensive technical training.

Spokesmen say the need for skilled workers is enormous. "Given the need, how can we disregard 50 percent of the potential workforce by failing to recruit women? ... these are high-wage, high-skill positions that provide students with a meaningful career path," observed Birgitte Ryslinge, Las Positas's vocational education dean.

The college also announced that the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has named the Chabot/Las Positas district as one of eight new OSHA Training Institute Education Centers. The first classes will be held May 6-9 at the district office in Pleasanton.

The program will train men and women to administer OSHA's workplace standards. Here, as with the abovementioned women-in-trades program, the need for skilled workers is said to be critical.

The first classes will deal with general industry and construction. OSHA has 28 courses in all and Chabot/Las Positas intends to offer them all. The center will serve a vast area embracing Northern California, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa.

These programs show that our local community college is assuming nationwide leadership in the vocational education field. We have a dynamo at work, creating vibrant partnerships with business and industry and expanding the horizons of job opportunities.