

### **Mongolian Student Leaders Share Needs, Recruitment Efforts over Coffee & Doughnuts**

Following a well-attended December friendship event with Oakland's Mongolian Community, President Besikof visited the Asian Pacific American Student Success (APASS) Center for a roundtable discussion with students and employees who are bringing more students to Laney. Showing appreciation for these students and colleagues' efforts to promote the College, the group was treated to breakfast, and a conversation ensued about further outreach, support and community relations-building activities that need to continue, most notably Peralta's Free College efforts.

Following the breakfast, many of the same students pictured below, along with colleagues Huizhen Su, Arlene Lontoc, and Diana Devasseuran gave of their time to provide volunteer support, including interpreting, at Laney's One-Stop Saturday and Information Session events. Speaking with APASS Director David Lee afterward, President Besikof remarked that he was in awe that enrolled students such as these would value the college to the point of promoting it within their own community on their own initiative.



To learn more about the APASS program and its services at visit us at [www.laney.edu/apass](http://www.laney.edu/apass)

#### **Upcoming Podcasts**

The Laney College President's Desk podcast just recorded its 61<sup>st</sup> episode. Upcoming shows will feature former City Councilman and community business leader Loren Taylor, a spotlight broadcast on Laney's Student Services, and a special show highlighting Laney's innovative, Guided Pathways-based SOAR program. Recent podcasts hosted by KGPC Station Director Felicia Bridges, Student Randi Cross, and President Besikof include the following, which are hyperlinked:

[The Music Episode](#), featuring Laney Professors John Reagor and Victor Siu

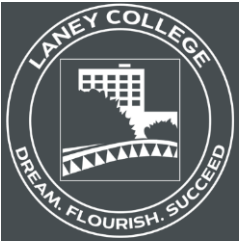
[The Health and Wellness Episode](#), showcasing Laney's Wellness Center and students who have formed clubs around mental health and wellness

[The Veterans Center Episode](#), recorded on location at the Laney Veterans Resource Center

[The Student Episode](#), putting the spotlight on student cohost Randi Cross

[The Careers in I.T. and Public Relations Episode](#)





# LANEY COLLEGE



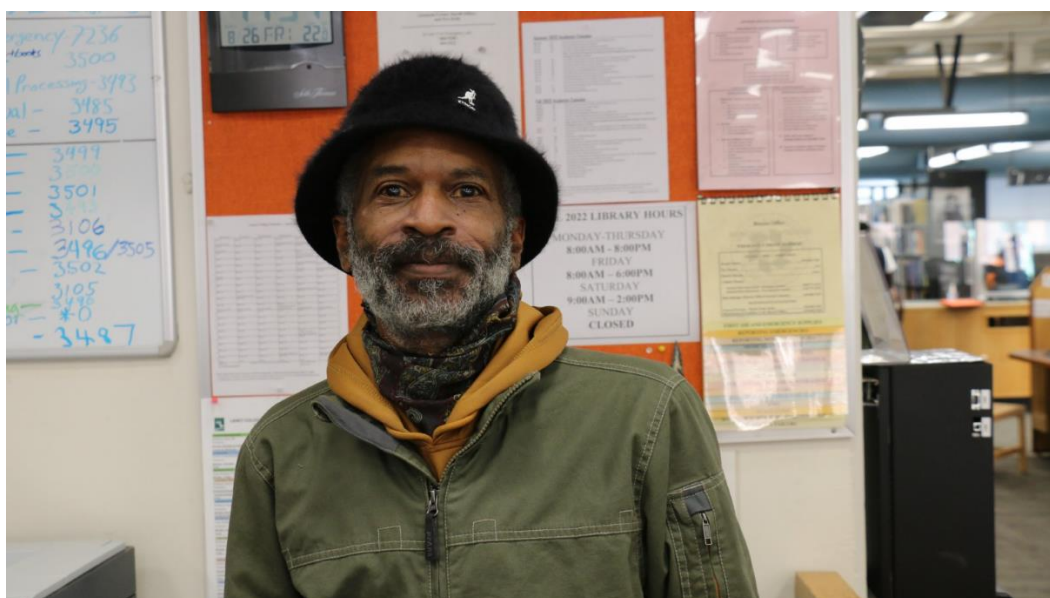
President's Report to the PCCD Board of Trustees

January 23, 2024

Dr. Rudy Besikof, President



## Laney Celebrates the Life of Library Colleague Douglas Banks



Pictured: August 2022

Laney College mourns the loss **Douglas Banks**, an employee of the District for nearly 20 years, who passed peacefully on January 10, 2024.

Douglas started his career with the college in 1995 working for the Peralta Police as a parking lot attendant. After the District moved security services to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, Douglas joined the staff of Laney Library where he worked as a Library Technician II. Over the years, he became a mainstay at the library, serving as the evening lead at the Loan Desk. He provided a wide range of circulation services and technical assistance to students, easily and enthusiastically adapting to new technology and systems.

Douglas was kind, smart, funny, creative, and curious. He was an artist and a free spirit. He could hold forth on an extraordinary range of topics, contributing insight and amazing facts gleaned from his extensive reading interests. Laney will miss him dearly.