



# ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE



# Learning Center



Photo credit:  
Charles Hood  
English  
Instructor

## Meet Karen Lubick, Chair of Academic Development & Coordinator of Basic Skills

Earlier this year, when the campus reorganized its departments within divisions, a new area was created: Academic Development. Mrs. Lubick was chosen as Chair, a liaison among faculty, staff, and programs being designed to assist our Basic Skills students. Her vision is to empower them with connections to supplemental learning resources in and out of the classroom. The Learning Center (LC) is the perfect place to foster these connections.

Ms. Lubick has served as a

Developmental English instructor for over twenty years. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at CSU Northridge.

A California native, she has a strong interest in educational standards and academic excellence. In 2014, she was awarded the ASO Most Inspirational Faculty Member award.

Having coordinated AVC's Honors Program for ten years, Ms. Lubick looks for ways to bridge content areas and teach deep critical thinking skills in all of

her courses. She tells students not to just think outside the box, but to realize "that there is no box." She has given several presentations on remedial education and adult learning styles at national conferences, most recently presenting at the College Composition/Communication Conference. Those who frequent the Learning Center regularly might see Ms. Lubick chatting with students, faculty, and staff on any given day. LC personnel welcome her to our corner of the campus.

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*Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile.*  
—William Cullen Bryant

# Adjunct of the Year: Snizhana Jane Bowers



For the second year in a row, a Learning Specialist received the highest honor awarded to adjunct faculty—Outstanding Adjunct. Snizhana Jane Bowers provided workshops and individual sessions in Palmdale while also teaching as an adjunct math instructor. This year, Mrs. Bowers is a full-time math instructor and has been replaced as math learning specialist by Mr. John Thurston, a well-known and popular math instructor at the Palmdale Center.

Mrs. Bowers completed a myriad of credentialing courses at CSUB which gave her a deeper understanding of teaching and learning processes and methods. Her participation in programs across campus (FYE and STEM Summer Bridge, as examples) and as a presenter at faculty professional events are well noted. Her contributions to learning assistance as a discipline

equal to others was demonstrated by her scholarly pursuits such as attending a Great Teacher’s Seminar, the African American Male Summit, and a conference of the Association for Tutoring and Learning Assistance.

Few can match Mrs. Bowers’ zeal for students to achieve success. In the math classes she teaches, Ms. Bowers regularly shows students how to develop better study skills, such as forming study groups with their peers, organizing their notes, and managing time. The incorporation of study strategies into her curriculum leads to high praise from students.

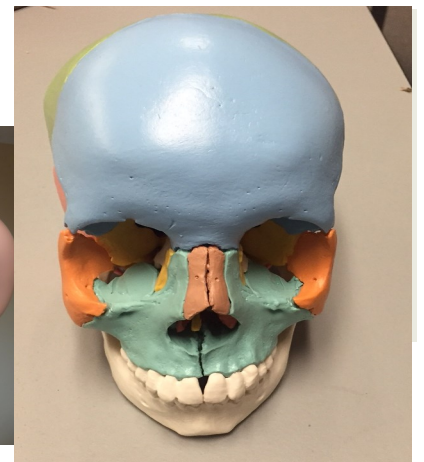
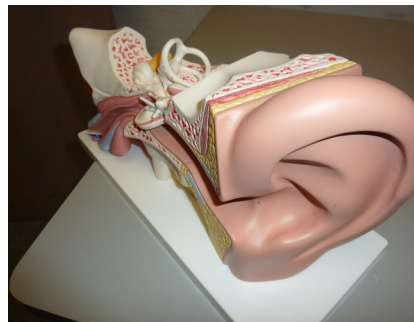
Mrs. Bowers will continue to keep strong ties with the Learning Center and for that, we feel fortunate.



## STEM Grant Donations

STEM generously donated funds towards the purchase of three anatomy models: heart, brain, and ear. The models will address a variety of learning differences and promote active participation by engaging all types of learners via the visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile styles of learning. The SI leaders will use the anatomy models to involve the students in hands-on activities that promote collaboration, comprehension and problem solving. This is a great opportunity for students to learn by doing and to process the information, developing a functional under-

standing of the material, using reasoning skills, and practicing these opportunities repeatedly during SI sessions.



## The Pride of Desk Assistants



Kimmachey McGee, “Kim” for short, is one of two Computer/Media Front Desk Assistants (the other Sheena Shez) who takes pride in making the Learning Center whiteboards reflect a positive view of the current workshops and 411 sessions. Their colorful displays catch students’ eyes. All of our Front Desk assistants are friendly and helpful to students who come to use computers and to ask for information about resources in the Learning Center and across campus. Stop by and say hello!





## Writing Center Tutors Attend Conferences

With the awarding of grants by the AVC Foundation, Writing Center tutors have attended two conferences of the SoCal Writing Centers Association, an organization of faculty and staff from universities and colleges throughout the southern region of California. Last year, the tutors, accompanied by Prof. Diane Flores-Kagan and Wendy Rider, Faculty Learning Specialists, and Michele Lathrop, Tutorial Specialist, traveled to UC Irvine where four presented a break-out session on “Dealing with Emotional Students”. This year the conference was held at the University of San Diego where former AVC Master Tutor, Barbara Pawlak, was a panelist with other tutors who have progressed to graduate studies.

Attending these conferences gives AVC tutors a chance to network with tutors from other colleges, sharing information, strategies, and resources that help them grow in knowledge and tutoring skills. The AVC students they serve benefit as a result. Next year, Santa Barbara will be the conference destination.



## Web-based Programs: Learning Express Library & Reading Plus

A claim of **Learning Express Library** (LEL) is that it “helps learning centers improve the lives of students every day by providing the most comprehensive selection of academic and career-related resources available.” Indeed, it is jam-packed with tutorials, practice tests, downloadable eBooks, and individualized study plans.

Access to LEL is on the Learning Center website and available to AVC students and faculty with 900 numbers. Career-related information applies to Allied

Health, Firefighting, Law Enforcement, Nursing, Veterans and more. Preparation for the Compass assessment test is another feature.

**Reading Plus** is a web-based program that helps students develop the skills they need to be proficient readers and independent learners. Students can begin to read faster with better comprehension. Sign up for Reading Plus at the Reading Center in Lancaster.

*How many lives will your learning center change today?*



**I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion.**  
—Henry David Thoreau

## LAC = Learning Assistance Center

Learning Center faculty teach both credit and non-credit courses at AVC. Credit courses include the following:

- LAC 020 Managing Writing Anxiety
- MATH 020 Managing Math Anxiety
- MATH 021 Math Study Strategy
- LAC 098 Math for Nursing
- LAC 099 Dosage Calculation

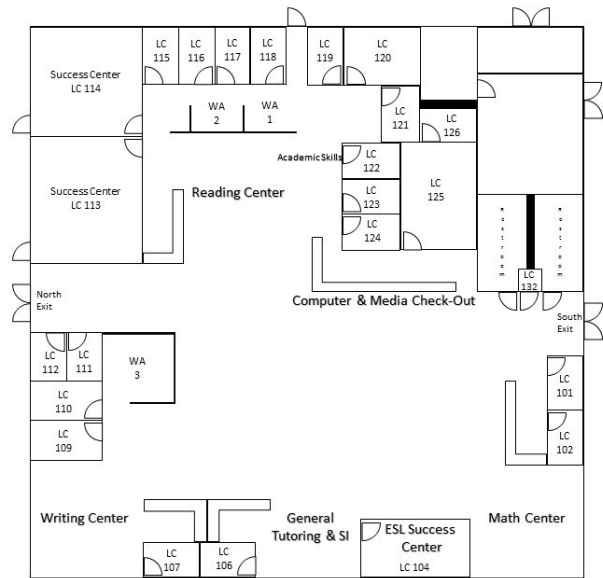
Students who enroll in credit tutor training courses and tutor in the Learning Center or in the AV community may be eligible to receive a certificate from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), an international organization. The courses are LAC 100 Introduction to Tutoring, LAC 200 Advanced Tutoring, and LAC 299 Master Tutor. To inquire, contact Prof. Flores-Kagan, ext. 6018.

When students come to the Learning Center to receive tutoring, they enroll in a non-credit course, LAC 900, Supervised Tutoring. When they attend a workshop or meet with a learning specialist to create an individual learning plan, they enroll in LAC 901, Supervised Learning Assistance. Both courses are for 0 units and do not appear on a student’s transcript. Best of all, they are free as are all of the services in the Learning Center.

# Learning Center Map

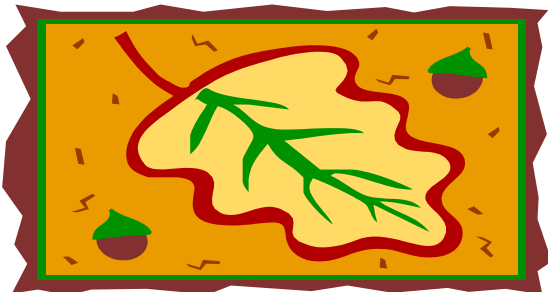
## AVC Learning Center Mission Statement

The mission of the Lancaster and Palmdale Learning Centers is to support classroom instruction by providing assistance to students with a variety of services aimed to promote their success in college. These services include: Instructor-led workshops and one-on-one sessions, individual and small group tutoring by trained peers, supplemental instruction, access to computers and online programs, academic support, study skills, learning assistance, and tutor training courses taught by faculty learning specialists. All of these services are designed to reinforce course content and to emphasize good study habits. Learning Center instructors and staff members are committed to providing a friendly, nurturing, and stimulating environment that encourages our diverse population of students to become independent, lifelong learners.



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LC services are also offered  
at the Palmdale Center



## 2015 CRLA Recipients and 2015 – 2016 Scholarship Winners

Students receiving certificates in June gathered with Dr. Caproui and Prof. Flores-Kagan. From left, Ana Escalera, Jenna Jacobson, Alexis Clarke, Amy Kraemer, Josue Cabanas, Elizabeth Meza, Frances Johnson, and Erica Cruz.

Scholarship winners below are Rande Maddox, Timothy Grahek, and Amy Kraemer.

