



## Lamar Community College President's January 2024 Report

*President – Dr. Rosana Reyes*



### **TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.**

#### **Student Life**

##### Final Exams

Final exam week at Lamar Community College is a culmination of academic dedication and hard work. As students immerse themselves in intensive study sessions, the campus buzzes with a palpable sense of focus and determination. It is a time when the culmination of semester-long learning is put to the test, both figuratively and literally. The library becomes a hub of concentration, and late-night study groups emerge as students collaborate to tackle challenging subjects. Our Library Director, Annissia Forney, and Tutoring Coordinator, Tayla Turner, worked in tandem and extended open hours to accommodate students and provide a safe, quiet place for their studies. While the pressure is high, the spirit of camaraderie and support is equally strong. As we navigate through final exams, the collective pursuit of knowledge and academic excellence unites our college community in a shared commitment to success.

##### Holiday Writing Contest

Excitement fills the air as the campus library announces its annual Holiday Story Competition! Calling all creative minds and wordsmiths to spread the festive cheer through the power of storytelling. Students are invited to submit their original and enchanting holiday tales, weaving

the magic of the season into literary masterpieces. Whether it's heartwarming, whimsical, or filled with holiday hilarity, participants are encouraged to let their imaginations soar. The library becomes a hub of festive spirit, adorned with twinkling lights and tinsel, creating the perfect ambiance for the season of joy. Join us in celebrating the magic of the holidays through the art of storytelling – where every tale has the potential to bring warmth and smiles to our college community. May the best story illuminate our hearts and become a cherished part of our holiday traditions!

### Welcome Back Movie Night

We kicked off the semester with a fantastic Welcome Back Movie Night that encouraged students to unwind and reconnect with their fellow peers after the winter holiday. Blankets, popcorn, and the company of friends set the stage for an evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and shared experiences. The event began with a warm welcome from campus leaders, creating a sense of community and setting a positive tone for the semester ahead. As the first movie started, cheers and excitement filled the air, fostering connections among returning and new students alike. Welcome Back Movie Night wasn't just about the films – it was a celebration of the college community, providing a memorable start to the spring semester.

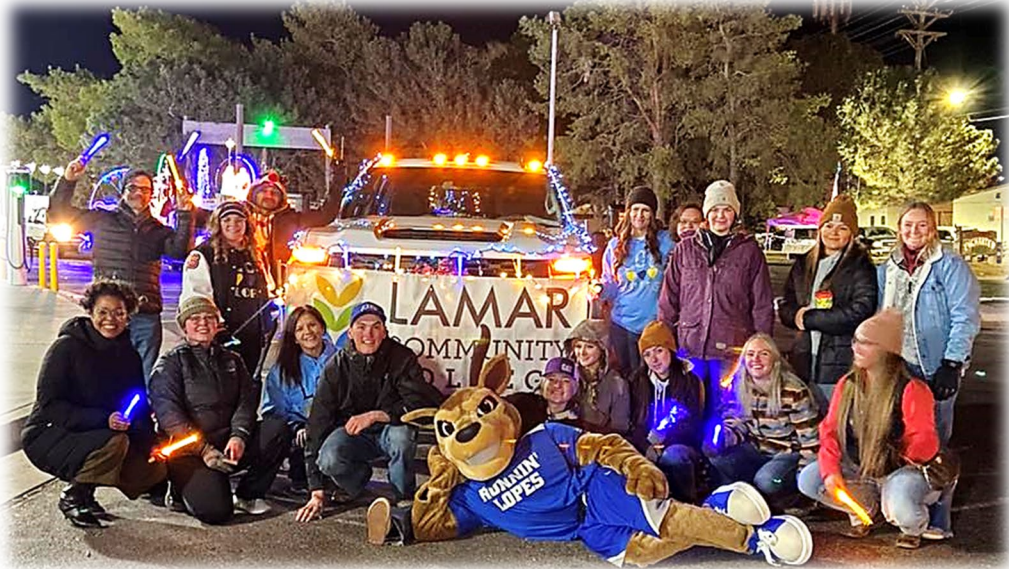
### COSI Back to School Bash

Students embarked on an exciting academic journey at the COSI (Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative) Back to School Bash! This celebration marked the commencement of a vibrant spring semester, filled with learning, growth, and community engagement. Hosted by the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative, this event invited students to dive into a world of possibilities. Students participated in engaging activities and discovered the incredible impact of COSI on educational opportunities in Colorado. From illuminating discussions on scholarship initiatives to interactive displays showcasing the power of education, the COSI Back to School Bash promises an enlightening experience. The celebration extended beyond education, offering a chance to connect with fellow students, enjoy soft music, and savor delectable treats from local food vendors. As campus leaders inaugurate the event, they set the stage for a semester filled with exploration, collaboration, and academic achievement.



## Parade of Lights

Students joining a winter holiday parade brings a vibrant and youthful energy to the festivities. Their participation adds a dynamic and diverse element to the celebration, showcasing the spirit of community and inclusion. Whether marching, performing, or creating festive floats, these students contribute to the joyous atmosphere of the parade, spreading cheer and embodying the essence of togetherness during the holiday season.



## LCC Ranch Horse Team

Lamar Community College's Ranch Horse Team has clinched an exclusive invitation to the prestigious Bridles and Brains Invitational Collegiate Ranch Horse Competition. Set at the Will Rogers Memorial Center in Fort Worth, TX, from January 31st to February 1st, 2024, this event, hosted by the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo in collaboration with major equestrian associations, puts LCC in the spotlight as the sole representative from Colorado among the nine institutions nationwide. This recognition reflects the team's unwavering dedication to horsemanship, showcasing their excellence in regional competitions.

The Bridles and Brains Invitational is poised to be a defining moment for LCC's Ranch Horse Team, subjecting them to a comprehensive evaluation of their equestrian skills. The competition spans six challenges, including Ranch Roping, Ranch Penning, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Public Speech, and Media Interview, testing the riders' adaptability and their equine partners' exceptional abilities.

Aubrie Brown, a sophomore in Lamar Community College's Horse Training and Management and Equine Business and Management programs, eagerly anticipates the competition. As a team member, she emphasizes the close-knit family atmosphere within the group, highlighting their support for each other both inside and outside the arena.



*"I am most excited about the ranch roping and ranch penning because those two events simulate what we do on the ranch, where I love to be. My stud, Boss, and I also just love working cows. I'm most nervous about our public speech presentation, but I know it will go well once I get there. I'm excited to show off what Lamar Community College can do, competing against all the other schools that were invited to this show, because I know we will excel," Brown shares.*



### **LCC Basketball**

LCC basketball games before the holiday season are a thrilling prelude to festivities. As these teams compete with passion and determination, the anticipation for upcoming tournaments and championships builds. These early-season games not only showcase the skills and teamwork of the players but also create a sense of excitement and unity among fans. Whether on the court or in the stands, the intensity of college basketball games adds an exhilarating dimension to the lead-up to the holidays, bringing communities together to cheer for their teams and share in the joy of the sport.



## TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

### New Employees

#### Welcome Amber Heggie

Having graduated from Florence High School in 1996, he/she promptly enrolled in the cosmetology program at the Toni & Guy Academy in Colorado Springs. With over 25 years of experience in the hair industry, including ownership of two salons, the individual is a staunch advocate for continuous education, consistently staying abreast of the latest trends and techniques in the field.

This year marks a significant decision to transition into a career in education. Motivated by a belief in sharing extensive knowledge and experience, the journey into education has proven to be a delightful, thrilling, and challenging experience so far. The individual is embracing the new path with enthusiasm and dedication.



#### Welcome Benjamin Griffin

Ben grew up on the East Coast (Virginia), engaging in various sports. Fortunate to play collegiate Division 3 soccer, he enjoys spending time with the family and coaching youth sports. Ben, along with his wife, welcomed a daughter into their mixed family 11 months ago, making a total of 6 kids.

Having explored diverse roles in athletics, Ben worked as an academic advisor and Graduate Assistant while earning a master's degree. The journey extended to dressing up as the Mascot at California State University Stanislaus and eventually becoming an Assistant Athletic Director for Internal Operations. While specializing in compliance, there were opportunities to serve as a sports administrator for Men and Women's soccer.

Additionally, he took on the role of advisor for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and actively participated in student-athlete engagement, as well as gameday operations.

"It has been my dream to be an Athletic Director. I enjoy working in athletics, and I have seen the powerful changes that athletics has brought not only into my life, but as well as others. I see the potential within Lamar and as we work together, we can change the lives of our student-athletes, the community and ourselves."



## Holiday Breakfast

The college leadership team expressed gratitude to their dedicated workforce by serving a hearty breakfast. This gesture of appreciation not only fueled the staff for their day ahead but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and recognition within the institution. By personally serving breakfast, the leadership team underscored the value they place on their team's hard work and contributions, creating a positive and inclusive atmosphere that resonates with the spirit of teamwork and appreciation. Breakfast was served by President Dr. Rosana Reyes, Vice President Larry McLemore, Human Resources Director Tara Silvey, and Vice President Chad DeBono (below).



## CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

### Latino Career Pathway Partnership

Lamar Community College, recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), meets the criteria of having an enrollment with at least 25 percent Hispanic students. Embracing its commitment to community engagement and postsecondary access, the College partnered with the Lamar High School to organized the Latino Career Pathway Partnership, aiming to support English language learners in making informed decisions about their post-secondary journey. The bilingual event featured a comprehensive exploration of how to access a postsecondary education, basic college information, and financial literacy, offering valuable insights for academic and career planning. Held on December 7, 2023, this inaugural event marked the beginning of monthly meetings dedicated to empowering and uplifting the academic and career goals of our community.



## REDEFINE OUR VALUE PROPOSITION THROUGH ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE.

### Construction Trades Program – Open House

The College Construction Trades Program recently hosted a successful open house, showcasing the skills and accomplishments of its students. Attendees had the opportunity to explore hands-on demonstrations, witness impressive construction projects, and engage with faculty and students. The open house not only highlighted the program's commitment to practical education but also served as a platform for prospective students and the community to gain insights into the dynamic world of construction trades. The event reflected the program's



dedication to transparency, education, and community engagement, leaving a positive impact on all who participated.

**BEFORE**





# AFTER





### **2024 Reserve Champion in the Collegiate Speed Challenge**

Ty Arnold has achieved the impressive title of 2024 Reserve Champion in the Collegiate Speed Challenge. Ty demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work, evident in their outstanding performance in the arena. Congratulations to all participants for their commendable efforts! Furthermore, our success has earned us an invitation to participate in the prestigious National Western Stock Horse Collegiate Horseman's Challenge. This exclusive event involves competition among five colleges with horse programs in Colorado and Wyoming. As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead, we are excited to witness the continued growth and achievements of our students in the equestrian arena.



### **High Plains Community Health Clinic Returns to Campus**

The High Plains Community Health Clinic on the LCC Campus, recently reopened, is a vital resource for our students, staff and community, providing quality healthcare services. The clinic aims to enhance the overall health of campus residents. The reopening signifies a dedication to fostering a healthy and supportive environment, ensuring that individuals have convenient access to medical care right within the campus premises. The clinic's revival reflects our institution's commitment to the holistic welfare of its members.