



Lamar Community College President's November 2024 Report

President – Dr. Rosana Reyes



TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

Student Life

LCC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Grito Contest

Lamar Community College brought vibrant energy to campus with an exciting Grito Contest in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month! Students enthusiastically participated, showcasing their best gritos—a traditional Mexican shout that embodies joy, pride, and cultural spirit.

The contest was a lively reminder of the rich cultural diversity that strengthens our campus community.

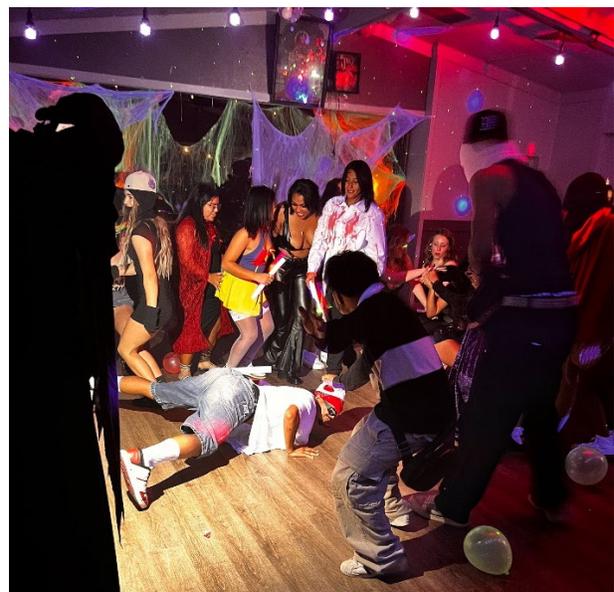




LCC Student Life Hosts Spooktacular Halloween Bash

Lamar Community College students celebrated Halloween in style at the Halloween Bash hosted by Student Life. Held on October 31, the event transformed a local venue into a spooky yet festive gathering space where students enjoyed an evening of fun, community, and Halloween spirit.

The celebration featured a variety of activities, including a costume contest, games, music, and delicious treats. Students showed off their creativity with costumes ranging from classic monsters to clever pop culture references. Winners of the costume contest earned prizes for their unique and imaginative ensembles.



Dr. Reyes Hosts “Conversation with the President” to Engage LCC Students

Lamar Community College held a “Conversation with the President” event, where Dr. Reyes, LCC’s President, took the time to connect directly with students. The open forum encouraged students to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas about their experiences at LCC—covering the good, the bad, and even the challenging aspects of campus life.

Dr. Reyes emphasized the importance of transparency and active listening, creating a welcoming space for students to voice their opinions. Topics ranged from academic programs and campus resources to student life and suggestions for improvement.

The insights gathered during the event will play a crucial role in guiding LCC’s Strategic Planning process. By addressing student needs and priorities, the college aims to enhance accessibility, affordability, and the overall quality of education and campus life.



LCC’s New Behavioral Health Program Enriches Campus Life

Lamar Community College’s newly established Behavioral Health program is already making a significant impact by offering innovative opportunities and essential resources to support student well-being.

Through a variety of engaging events, the program has provided students with creative outlets and mental health resources. Among the highlights was the Art Therapy: Paint and Sip Night, where students explored creativity in a relaxing environment, and a Mental Health Awareness Booth, offering information and resources to help students navigate challenges.

Most recently, LCC partnered with a therapy dog training program to host an event featuring puppy therapy on campus. Students had the chance to interact with the



adorable therapy dogs-in-training, which brought smiles, stress relief, and a sense of connection.

The Behavioral Health program continues to demonstrate its commitment to fostering a supportive campus environment. By prioritizing student mental health and creating opportunities for engagement, LCC is ensuring students have the tools they need to thrive both academically and personally.



LCC Hosts Exciting Knowledge Bowl Meet with Over 14 High Schools Participating

Lamar Community College recently welcomed students from across the region for a thrilling Knowledge Bowl Meet, showcasing incredible talent, teamwork, and enthusiasm from over 14 participating high schools. Many familiar faces could be seen in the crowd due to LCC's robust Concurrent Enrollment population.

The competition brought together bright young minds who demonstrated their knowledge and problem-solving skills across a variety of subjects. The event buzzed with energy as teams worked together to tackle challenging questions and outpace their competitors. Congratulations to our top teams!

-  First Place: Karval
-  Second Place: Lamar A
-  Third Place: Walsh

LCC extends a heartfelt thank-you to all the students, coaches, and supporters who made the Knowledge Bowl a resounding success. Events like these not only foster academic excellence but also create opportunities for connection and growth among students from different schools.



LCC Hosts CLEP: Lunch and Learn to Empower Students with College Credit Opportunities

Lamar Community College hosted a CLEP: Lunch and Learn, an informative session led by Julie Jones, Director of the MAP Center. This engaging event introduced LCC students to the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the opportunities it provides to earn college credits by passing standardized exams.

Held in a relaxed and welcoming environment, the Lunch and Learn session provided students with an overview of CLEP, highlighting its benefits, including cost savings and the ability to accelerate their academic journey. Julie shared practical advice on how to prepare for CLEP exams and explained how earning credits through the program can help students meet degree requirements more efficiently.

Attendees enjoyed lunch while learning about the variety of subjects offered through CLEP, the registration process, and the support available through the MAP Center. Many students left feeling inspired to explore this innovative path to earning college credit.

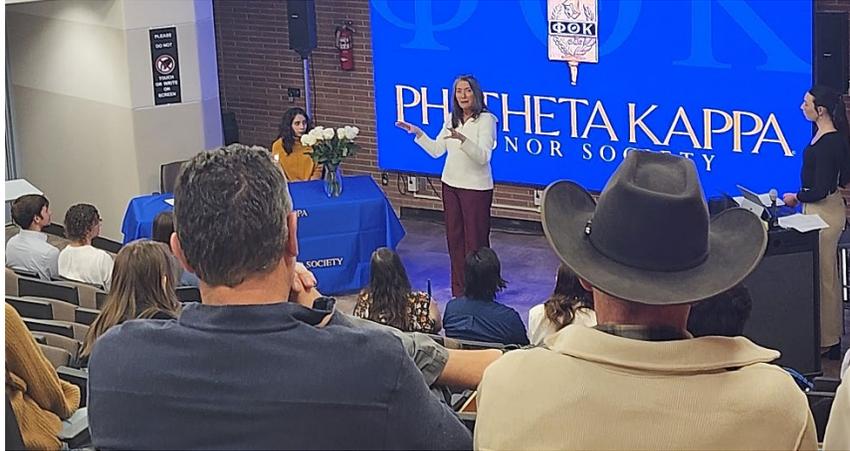
LCC Celebrates Excellence at Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Lamar Community College recently hosted its annual Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Induction Ceremony, honoring students for their outstanding academic achievements and commitment to leadership and service. The ceremony welcomed new members into the prestigious international honor society for two-year colleges, recognizing their hard work and dedication to excellence.

Family, friends, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate this milestone, as inductees pledged to uphold the core values of Phi Theta Kappa: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship. The event featured inspiring remarks from LCC faculty, PTK advisors, and keynote speakers who encouraged students to embrace their potential and continue striving for success.

“Being a part of Phi Theta Kappa is not only a testament to your academic accomplishments but also an opportunity to grow as leaders and make a meaningful impact in your communities,” said Kelly Emick, PTK Advisor.

Kelly Emick was recently recognized by the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation for her 15 years of dedicated service as Lamar Community College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Chapter’s Advisor. Her unwavering commitment and guidance have inspired countless students to achieve academic excellence and embrace leadership opportunities. Congratulations, Kelly, on this remarkable milestone!



TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

New Employees

Welcome Assistant Controller – Ahmad Nassar

Lamar Community College is pleased to welcome Ahmad Nassar as our new Assistant Controller. A detail-oriented accountant with extensive experience as a tax examiner, Ahmad brings a wealth of expertise in financial compliance and strategic planning.

Ahmad holds an MBA, equipping them with advanced financial acumen to enhance operational efficiency and streamline accounting processes. Their background in tax compliance provides valuable insights for optimizing financial strategies and ensuring accuracy in financial reporting.



We are excited to have Ahmad join our team and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to LCC's financial operations.



Welcome Inclusive Higher Education Director – Alexandra Elwin

Lamar Community College is excited to welcome Alexandra Elwin as the new Inclusive Higher Education Director. A Southeast Colorado native and graduate of McClave High School, Alexandra recently returned to the area with her husband of 11 years and their two daughters. Their decision to come back to Southeast Colorado was rooted in their desire to raise their children close to family and within the supportive, close-knit community they value deeply.

Alexandra holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, which laid the foundation for her career in helping others. She began as a child

welfare caseworker in Prowers County, a role that challenged her to build self-confidence and taught her the value of persistence and resilience in facing tough challenges. Her career journey later led her to serve as a Family Development Specialist at The Cornerstone Resource Center, eventually transitioning to Early Intervention, where she worked with families of children with developmental delays. Alexandra discovered a true passion for supporting others, helping them overcome obstacles, and achieve their goals.

LCC Employee Engagement Committee Hosts Pumpkin Decorating Party

The Employee Engagement Committee recently brought festive fun to Lamar Community College with a Pumpkin Decorating Party for faculty and staff. The event provided a creative and relaxing break from the workday, allowing participants to showcase their artistic talents and celebrate the autumn season.

Attendees enjoyed decorating their pumpkins with a variety of paints, glitter, and other craft supplies, resulting in a colorful array of unique designs. From spooky creations to whimsical masterpieces, the decorated pumpkins added a festive touch to the campus atmosphere.

The Employee Engagement Committee extends its gratitude to everyone who participated, helping to make this seasonal gathering a success. Events like this continue to strengthen connections and spread joy throughout the LCC community.



CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

East Colorado SBDC Welcomes Martha Alvarez as Associate Director

The East Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is delighted to announce Martha Alvarez as the new Associate Director, starting her role on Monday, October 28, 2024. A native of Lamar, Colorado, Martha brings a wealth of experience and local insight to this critical position, which supports small businesses across a 20-county region.

Martha holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from West Texas A&M University and has extensive experience in radio and news communications. Since 2019, she has served in various roles with the City of Lamar, gaining valuable knowledge about the local business community through projects such as URA district management and downtown revitalization initiatives.



As part of its ongoing efforts to support local entrepreneurs, the East Colorado SBDC is excited to announce the opening of a new office in partnership with Lamar Community College (LCC) and the LCC Innovate & Make Space. This full-time location will serve as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship across the region. Stay tuned for details about the upcoming grand opening event!

LCC Hosts Successful ESL Night to Support Community Members

Lamar Community College recently hosted an English as a Second Language (ESL) Night, creating an inclusive and welcoming space for community members to learn more about educational opportunities and receive hands-on support with the college application process.

The event, led by Gabriel Benabides, Recruitment and Reengagement Program Manager, highlighted the importance of providing accessible resources for individuals seeking to improve their English skills and further their education. Gabriel shared detailed information about LCC's programs and services, emphasizing how the college supports non-native English speakers in achieving their academic and personal goals.

In addition to providing program details, Gabriel organized personalized assistance for attendees as they navigated the application process. This hands-on support ensured that participants left the event with a clear understanding of their next steps and the confidence to pursue their educational aspirations.

“Embarking on your education journey by enrolling in the ESL course is a powerful step toward unlocking new opportunities, building meaningful connections, and shaping a brighter future.

This course is not just about learning a language; it's about gaining confidence, discovering your potential, and empowering yourself to achieve your dreams," Gabriel shared. "Every word you learn, every conversation you master, and every challenge you overcome brings you closer to the life you envision."

Investing in the Workforce of Southeast Colorado

With a commitment to supporting local businesses, Lamar Community College offered a no-cost Workforce Soft Skills 101 Training, equipping participants with vital tools for professional success.

Participants engaged in sessions covering a wide range of topics, including effective communication techniques, conflict resolution, problem-solving strategies, professional etiquette and workplace conduct, as well as team collaboration and interpersonal skills. These interactive sessions equipped attendees with practical tools to navigate workplace challenges and foster positive work environments.

Among the businesses represented at the training were The Tack Shack and Colorado Mills, whose employees benefitted from this unique opportunity to build their skills at no expense.

LCC continues to serve as a vital resource for workforce development, offering programs and training designed to meet the needs of businesses and individuals in the community. Events like Workforce Soft Skills 101 exemplify the college's commitment to fostering growth and success across the region.



LCC Nursing Students Awarded 12th Annual Pat Bates Memorial Scholarship

Lamar Community College recently honored two exceptional nursing students, Cris Bardales and Kaniesha Gonzales, as recipients of the 12th Annual Pat Bates Memorial Scholarship. The

awards were presented by Jerry Bates and his son, Brent Bates, continuing a legacy of generosity and dedication to the nursing profession.

Cris and Kaniesha, both second-level students in LCC's Nursing Program, will enter their final semester in Spring 2025. They were selected for the scholarship in recognition of their "never say quit" attitudes and perseverance—qualities that reflect the values Pat Bates cherished throughout her life and career.

Pat Bates served as a nurse for 39 years, providing compassionate care to local families and children. After her passing in 2012 following a battle with cancer, her family established the scholarship in her memory to support nursing students in the final stages of their journey to becoming registered nurses.

The LCC Nursing Program and its faculty extend heartfelt gratitude to the Bates family for their unwavering support over the years. Their generosity continues to inspire and empower future generations of nurses, ensuring Pat Bates' legacy lives on through the care and dedication of LCC's graduates.



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

Celebrating Success at LCC's Fall Horse Show

Lamar Community College's Fall Horse Show was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support of our attendees and the dedication of our students. The event featured four Champion buckles up for grabs, with students from the Horse Training Management (HTM) and Equine Business Management (EBM) programs competing in various categories.

HTM students showcased their skills in reining, while EBM sophomores excelled in Ranch Trail, and EBM freshmen impressed in Ranch Riding. We are so proud of the growth and dedication each student demonstrated in their events, highlighting their hard work and passion for horsemanship.

🏆 Champions 🏆

- EBM Sophomore: Ally McKissack on Reba
- EBM Freshman: Addison Engelbrecht on Rio
- HTM Sophomore: Araya Martinez on Kim Cromer's gelding
- HTM Freshman: Emily Hooper on Sally Schwartz's mare

Congratulations to our champions and all participants for their remarkable performances. Your hard work continues to shine, and we are excited to see what the future holds for each of you as you grow as horsemen.



LCC Hosts Successful Career Fair Connecting Students and Employers

Lamar Community College recently hosted its annual Career Fair, bringing together students, community members, and a diverse array of employers from the region. The event provided attendees with the opportunity to explore career paths, network with professionals, and learn about job and internship opportunities in various industries.

With booths representing sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and business, the Career Fair offered something for everyone. Employers shared insights about their organizations, discussed potential career trajectories, and connected with aspiring professionals eager to make an impact.

For LCC students, the event served as a valuable resource to enhance their job search strategies and prepare for life after graduation. Many attendees took advantage of resume critiques, mock interview sessions, and professional development resources available at the fair.



LCC's 49th Annual Arts, Crafts, and Food Festival Celebrates Community and Excellence

Lamar Community College recently welcomed the community to its 49th Annual Arts, Crafts, and Food Festival, an event that highlighted the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Southeast Colorado. Local vendors set up booths showcasing a wide range of handcrafted items, unique merchandise, and delicious food, making the event a vibrant hub of activity. This cherished tradition reflects LCC's ongoing commitment to accessibility and inclusivity by providing a platform for community members to share their talents and engage with one another. With free or affordable booth opportunities, the festival emphasizes affordability and ensures that participants from all backgrounds can contribute to and benefit from the event. By fostering connections between local artisans, businesses, and residents, the festival aligns with LCC's focus on resource development and quality. It not only supports local economic growth but also creates a space where excellence is celebrated, and community pride flourishes.

The festival also exemplifies accountability and operational excellence, as LCC continues to organize high-quality events that enrich the region while demonstrating responsible use of resources. The success of the 49th Annual Arts, Crafts, and Food Festival underscores the college's ability to deliver impactful experiences that bring value to the community. Lamar Community College looks forward to continuing this annual tradition, ensuring it remains a cherished event for years to come.

