



## Lamar Community College President's Report May 2023

### Transform the student experience.

#### Lamar Days Parade

Since before 1995, the Lamar community has been coming together for the annual Lamar Days Rod Run. This event, held at Willow Creek Park, offers a range of activities including a Car Show, Poker Run, Concessions, Parade, Vendor Booths, and more! The event attracts approximately 200 cars and motorcycles from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. Additionally, it features around 30 vendor booths, 10 food trucks, and draws in about 2,000 visitors from across Colorado and beyond. The Lamar Days Rod Run spans an entire weekend and serves as a testament to the support and dedication of the Lamar community, the positive impact of tourism in rural Colorado, the strong camaraderie among classic car and motorcycle enthusiasts, and the inviting and family-friendly atmosphere of Lamar. Lamar Community College was represented in the Lamar Days Parade by a wonderful group of staff and their families. Led by President Reyes, they handed out candy, college-affiliated goodies and informational slips regarding upcoming events hosted by the college.





### **LCC's Alumnae Spotlight – Kellie Sanchez**

Lamar Community College (LCC) is committed to supporting adult learners in achieving their dreams and goals. We understand that returning to school can be daunting, but at LCC, we provide the necessary resources and support for success, regardless of your educational journey. One inspiring example is Kellie Sanchez, a former student who overcame personal challenges to pursue her education.



Kellie, a dental assistant, decided to explore new opportunities due to physical strain and changing personal needs. A chance to contribute to a statewide program arose, but it required an associate's degree for a supervisory position. With the support of her employer, Kellie enrolled at LCC and embraced the available resources. The dedicated staff guided her through the admissions process, while financial aid assistance covered her children's daycare expenses and provided a laptop for her studies. Kellie's determination paid off as she graduated with an Associate of Science degree, achieving academic honors and a renewed passion for learning.

Kellie's success story demonstrates that it's never too late to pursue education. At LCC, we take pride in serving adult learners from all walks of life, whether parents seeking career advancement or retirees desiring new skills. We offer a range of career pathways, funding support, and professional opportunities to help you overcome obstacles and unlock your potential. If you're considering going back to school, take that leap of faith and let LCC support you in achieving your goals.

### **LCC's Alumnae Spotlight – Phil Rawers**

Former student Phil Rawers stands as a remarkable success story of Lamar Community College's Equine Business Management program. Graduating in May 2023 with a certificate in agriculture, Phil now thrives in the equine industry at Hillcroft Farm in Kentucky. Working alongside internationally ranked combined driving competitors Misdee Wrigley Miller and James Miller, Phil cares for the farm's driving horses, engaging in the captivating sport of carriage driving.



Throughout his time at LCC, Phil demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work, earning academic excellence as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He volunteered at a horse ranch in Colorado and built close relationships with LCC staff and faculty. Reflecting on his experience, Phil attributes his success to the Equine Business Management program's comprehensive curriculum, which instilled crucial work ethic, attitude, cleanliness, and the ability to accept constructive criticism. The program's hands-on approach enabled Phil to gain invaluable industry experience, effectively preparing him for his current role at Hillcroft Farm.

With aspirations of becoming a horse breeder, Phil envisions establishing his own equine resort, featuring antique driving carriages, and functioning as both an interactive history museum and a therapeutic riding school. Encouraging prospective students interested in horse programs at LCC, Phil wholeheartedly recommends the college as a transformative experience that will equip them with lifelong career skills.

Phil's success story exemplifies the exceptional education provided by Lamar Community College's Equine Business Management program. It underscores the significance of pursuing one's passion and acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in the chosen field. Phil's accomplishments at Hillcroft Farm serve as a source of pride for Lamar Community College, inspiring current and future students of the Equine Business Management program.

For those aspiring to a career in the equine or agricultural industry, Lamar Community College's Equine Business Management program offers the comprehensive education and training required for success. The college eagerly welcomes enrollment in its horse and agriculture programs, ensuring a pathway to a prosperous career in the industry.

### **COSI Graduates**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, LCC celebrated early graduation with our COSI scholarship recipients. This academic year we had 13 recipients as graduates and we couldn't be more excited for their future! The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative program, commonly known as COSI, is a transformative initiative dedicated to expanding access to higher education and fostering economic prosperity in Colorado. COSI aims to make college more affordable and attainable for students by providing scholarship opportunities, mentorship programs, and support services. Through partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, and communities, COSI strives to create a comprehensive support network that empowers students to pursue and successfully complete their postsecondary education. By investing in the potential of Colorado's students, COSI is paving the way for a brighter future, not only for individuals but also for the state as a whole. This program exemplifies the commitment to educational equity and socioeconomic mobility, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to Colorado's vibrant workforce and community.



### **Nurse Pinning**

The college nurse pinning ceremony is a poignant and symbolic event that marks the culmination of a nursing student's educational journey and the transition into the nursing profession. It is a time of great significance and honor as students are recognized for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the noble profession of nursing. During the ceremony, each student is presented with a special nursing pin, signifying their readiness to provide compassionate care and make a positive impact on the lives of patients. The pinning ceremony also serves as a rite of passage, welcoming students into the esteemed community of nurses and instilling a sense of pride and responsibility in their chosen vocation. It is a moment of celebration, reflection, and anticipation, as these newly-pinned nurses embark on their careers with the knowledge, skills, and compassion to make a difference in the healthcare field.



## Antelope Night

The college student awards ceremony is a highly anticipated event that recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of students across various disciplines. It is a time when the campus community gathers to honor those who have excelled academically, demonstrated exceptional leadership, or made significant contributions to their fields of study. The awards ceremony serves as a platform to applaud the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of these individuals, showcasing their talents and accomplishments. As names are called and awards are presented, the atmosphere is filled with pride, inspiration, and a sense of accomplishment. It is a moment that not only celebrates the achievements of the honorees but also inspires and motivates their peers to strive for excellence. The college student awards ceremony is a testament to the commitment of both students and the institution to fostering a culture of achievement, recognition, and success.



## Commencement Ceremony

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, LCC celebrated its 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Commencement Ceremony and the first ceremony with Dr. Rosana Reyes as President! College graduation is a momentous occasion that marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and academic achievement. It is a time of celebration and reflection, where graduates stand on the threshold of new beginnings and endless possibilities. With diplomas in hand, they embark on their journey into the professional world armed with knowledge, skills, and a sense of accomplishment. College graduation signifies the closing of one chapter and the opening of another, as graduates step into the realm of adulthood and embrace the

challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It is a time of pride, joy, and anticipation as graduates and their loved ones commemorate this significant milestone in their lives. We at Lamar Community College are incredibly honored that these people of all different walks, ages, and backgrounds chose to further their education with us and we are so proud that they have completed this portion of their journeys as a Lope!



## **Adult Admission Information Night at LCC**

The admissions department at LCC is expanding our outreach to the adult demographic by hosting informational events. The first one was held May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 and while it was not heavily attended, it still showed us where we need to reach out to the adults in our community and the issues that adults are facing when contemplating furthering their education. Many adults face boundaries such as work schedules, family schedules and children, housework, transportation and ultimately the cost of attendance is not entirely about funds. One third of college students start their educational journeys as adults, nearly 5 million college students are parents, and 58 percent of adult learners work while enrolled in school. We at Lamar Community College have started providing information to these demographics to help them face these challenges as they come back to college with key enrollment advising, courses that are best suited for their busy schedules and scholarship/grant information to help them cover the costs of their education. We hope to have many more attendees in the future and to assist families in our community make the most out of their educational opportunities.

## **Baseball All-Region Honors**

Six players from the Lamar Community College Runnin' Lopes were given Region 9 All-Region Awards in recognition of their play during the 2022-2023 season. Brian Ledezma earned First-Team, Garrett Rede earned Second Team, Brayden Peyon, Jonathan Davis, Damien Ashley and Hunter Boneau were honored with Honorable Mentions.

**FIRST TEAM ALL-REGION:** Brian Ledezma, a sophomore from Albuquerque, NM earned his award while playing 1st base. Ledezma recorded 67 hits including 16 doubles, 18 Home Runs, 69 RBI's and finishing with an average of .411 in the 61 game season.

**SECOND TEAM ALL-REGION:** Garrett Rede, a sophomore transfer from Rio Rancho, NM earned his award playing Shortstop and mixing in at 3rd base for the Lopes. Rede recorded 60 put outs and 95 assists. He recorded 62 hits including 19 doubles, 15 Home Runs, 56 RBI's and finishing with an average of .350 in the 61 game season.

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:** Brayden Peyton, a sophomore transfer from Albuquerque, NM played catcher for the Lopes. Hitting .287, 43 hits, 10 Home Runs and collecting 36 RBI's. Jonathan Davis, a freshman from Midlothian, TX played outfield hitting .358 on the season, along with 57 hits, 12 doubles, 9 Home Runs and collecting 43 RBI's. Hunter Boneau, a redshirt sophomore from Parker, CO a right-handed pitcher for the Lopes. Hunter threw 38.1 innings out of the bullpen, while collecting 45 strikeouts against 19 walks, 61 hits and a 9.86 ERA. Damien Ashley, a redshirt freshman transfer from Port Charlotte, FL a right-handed pitcher threw 71.2 innings as a starter for the Lopes. Collecting 64 strikeouts against 22 walks and a 8.54 ERA.





### **NJCAA All-Academic Awards 2022-2023**

Every year, the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) pays tribute to student-athletes who exemplify exceptional dedication both in the classroom and on the field. These outstanding individuals are nominated to the prestigious "teams" designated by the NJCAA, and their selection is based on their remarkable overall GPA. Balancing the demands of academics alongside collegiate sports is undeniably challenging for these students. It requires immense time management skills, unwavering commitment, and a resilient spirit. Yet, these extraordinary student-athletes rise to the occasion, proving that they can excel in both arenas. Their achievements

serve as a testament to their exceptional work ethic, determination, and unwavering pursuit of excellence.

Congratulations to the following students for their academic success for the 2022-23 school year:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Team (4.0 GPA)</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Team (3.8-3.99 GPA)</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Team (3.6-3.79 GPA)</b>	<b>Sport</b>
Skyler Ahern	Baseball	Luis De La Torre	Baseball	Aquilo Friday	Baseball
Garrett Rede	Baseball	Evan Muhlberger	Baseball	Kris Cook	Men's Basketball
Abcde Garcia	Softball	Ryan Smith	Baseball	Daniella Barra	Volleyball
Teagan Kehm	Softball	Aubree Leyba	Softball	Michael Navarro	Men's Soccer
Katelynn Czerpak	Softball	Chandler Smethers	Golf	Cyrus Perry	Men's Soccer
		Adam Navarro	Men's Soccer	Inigo Torres	Men's Soccer
		Kyle Beffa	Men's Soccer	Sydney Casas	Softball
		Brooklyn Gefre	Volleyball	Alex Villafranca	Softball
		Jami-Jo Quick	Women's Basketball	Grace Porter	Softball
				Melissa Rodriguez	Women's Soccer
				Alexi Hoy	Women's Basketball
				Shanah Estangel	Women's Basketball



### **New Mascot**

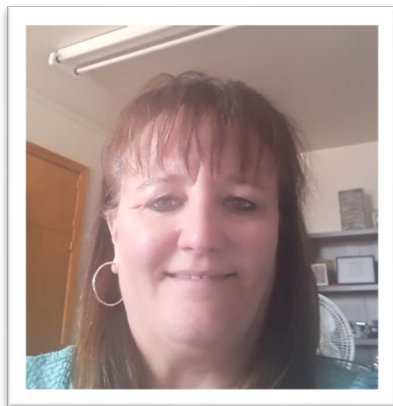
That's right. Lamar Community College is introducing an entirely new generation of Lopes led by a mascot! A mascot's job is to entertain and more importantly to enhance an environment of comradery and team spirit. Currently, we are waiting on the arrival of our mascot and are will be launching a community naming campaign. LCC is looking forward to having an energetic and peppy costumed figure to boost our morale and provide enthusiasm for our community members and students at games, parades, enrollment and student life events.

## **Transform our own Workforce Experience**

### **New Employees**

#### **Welcome David Tecklenburg**

The Lamar Community College Athletic Department would like to welcome former Lamar High School Superintendent and Head Volleyball coach Dave Tecklenburg as the new LCC head volleyball coach. Dave brings 31 years of public-school experience with 29 of those years right here at Lamar High School. Dave was the head volleyball coach for 15 years and compiled over 300 wins during his career. He led the LHS volleyball team to 10 state tournaments and finished runner-up three times. Dave brings a former 2019 LHS player and Lamar resident Ali Fierro to be his assistant coach this season. Welcome to Lamar Community College!



#### **Welcome Tammy Nickelson**

We are excited and eager to have Tammy Nickelson join our team. Tammy comes to us with over 26 years of accounting and budget experience. She served as the Finance Director/Budget Office for Prowers County. Prior to this role, Tammy worked at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. Her experience with Banner/Finance will be very important during this transition.

## End of Year BBQ

We had a fantastic time grilling up some good times with our amazing faculty and staff at our year-end BBQ! Lamar Community College leadership wanted to express our sincere appreciation for all the hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment that our staff and faculty show to our students. During the barbeque, Dr. Rosana Reyes, LCC President, honored Kendra King, Cosmetology faculty and CTE Department co-chair, with her Years of Recognition Service Award. As we said goodbye to staff and faculty who were taking a break over the summer, we thanked them for their dedication and support. To those who remained on campus, we looked forward to an amazing semester ahead filled with exciting opportunities!



**Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

### **Kids Basketball Camp**

Every year the Lamar Community College basketball coaches put on a Kids Basketball Camp for the community. Open to boys and girls from the 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, the Kids Camp is all about providing the children in the community an opportunity to learn basketball skills, make new friends, and have a wonderful and supervised time. This year, Men's Basketball coach Justin Cellars showed Women's Basketball coach Delino Lewis the ropes in how LCC facilitates these youngsters and teaches them some valuable fundamentals.



## National Emergency Medical Services Week

May 21<sup>st</sup>- May 27<sup>th</sup> boasted the 49<sup>th</sup> annual National EMS Week, a special week set aside to celebrate the EMS profession and its dedicated providers. Lamar Community College is a proud participant in the Care Forward Colorado program and is heavily advertising the revitalization of Colorado's healthcare workforce with zero-cost, short term training programs. In a year or less, trainees can learn skills to become a certified nursing assistant, emergency services professional, and many more professions that are desperately needed in Colorado's healthcare facilities. Please join LCC in thanking our local first responder from Lamar Fire Department, Wiley First Responders, Granada First Responder, Holly EMS Service, and the Rural Fire Department for their service and for helping train the next generation of first responders.



### Take EMT Courses at LCC

\* **FREE**

Enrolling Now for Fall 2023

\* Thanks to grant funding, individuals living in Prowers County may qualify to earn their basic EMT Certificate or further their education as an Advanced EMT at **little to no cost!**



#### Are you:

- ✔ Age 16+
- ✔ Living in Prowers County
- ✔ Looking for a new career
- ✔ Against taking on debt

*Apply & Register Today!*

Visit [lamarcc.edu](http://lamarcc.edu) for more information

To Discuss EMT Courses Call  
719.336.1597 or 719.336.1629

To Discuss Grants Call the  
MAP Center at 719.336.1920



## **Legacy Horse Show and Sale**

The second annual Lamar Community College Legacy Horse Sale, held on April 28, proved to be a resounding success. With a packed venue and the participation of over 75 potential buyers, including online attendees, a total of sixteen horses were sold, fetching prices ranging from \$1,500 to \$18,000. The overall sales reached an impressive approximate total of \$127,400, marking a significant 24% increase in average sale per head compared to the previous year. The event, organized based on recommendations from the HTM and EBM Advisory Committee, provided students with valuable hands-on experience in sales event planning, marketing material development (including videos, social media, and a printed program), horse preparation, vet checks, and auctions. Each horse was showcased in front of an enthusiastic audience, resulting in fast-paced and lively bidding. While bidding moments brought a mix of emotions for students witnessing their trained horses being passed to new owners, the attendees expressed high praise for the program, faculty, and students.



Plans are already underway for next year's sale, building upon the success of this year's event. Importantly, a portion of the sales proceeds directly contributes to the Horse Training Management and Equine Business Management auxiliary accounts, bolstering the programs' resources. The accomplishment of this sale was made possible through the generous support of numerous sponsors within the community.



**Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.**

### **Imagine and Make Space Summer Camps**

Michele Girard, Director of the Imagine and Make Space (IMS) has organized several dates throughout the summer in which she will host artistic summer camps available to the entire community. Michele offers a range of crafts and certifications from sewing, quilting, fiber and knitting, beading, jewelry making, leather crafts, toy making, and ceramics/pottery. Many families from the local communities take advantage of these summer camps and let their children explore their creativity with us. Each camp provides a different theme and materials for attendees to learn a new machine/participate in a new craft such as handmade tote bags, embroidery on personal items and watercolor art.





## **Cosmetology Program Expansion**

The LCC Cosmetology Program has been on the rise! Cosmetology and Barber instructor Kendra King has expanded the program to include more course hours for Nail Tech for the summer and already has a waiting list. In fact, the course has gotten so full that Kendra has had to take over additional classroom space near the LCC salon to accommodate the growth in her program.

Kendra also submitted an article to the Lamar Ledger titled “Licensed to Create” regarding the Pros and Cons of earning and practicing with a degree in Cosmetology. The following is an excerpt from the writing and the full article can be found on our website here: <https://lamarcc.edu/licensed-to-create/>.

Cosmetology is an artful instruction of specific sets of skills for making people feel better about their hair, skin, and nails. Once a student acquires the instructional delivered cosmetology skills, these are expanded by the individual stylist’s creativity, helping clients, in turn, express theirs.

The field of cosmetology continues to expand. There are more than 600,000 stylists employed in the United States as hairstylists or cosmetologists. For the client’s health and protection, state licensing is a requirement to work in the industry. Academic preparation is required for your scope of practice to sit for a state board exam leading to a license in your state. At Lamar Community College, the Cosmetology Department masterfully delivers the required skills for multiple state certifications that allow you to sit for the state board exam, become licensed, and launch your career as an entrepreneur in this industry. With a 96% state board pass rate, we pride ourselves in teaching excellence in industry skills and business management.



## High School Tours

Lamar Community College offers personalized tours to local and outreaching high schools in Colorado and the immediate surrounding areas. Our admissions department organizes a tour based on information given about the interests and possible educational programs that the students will be pursuing post high school graduation. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, we were excited to welcome Edison High School from Yoder, Colorado. While Yoder is a smaller school than schools from the Denver and Pueblo areas, they are no less important to reach out to regarding their future educational opportunities. The Edison school students were given a campus tour that involved demonstrations from the Nursing program, Welding, and the Equine Business/Horse Training Management programs.



## **Construction Trades COPERR Grant**

Communities in Southeast Colorado have long faced challenges with blighted housing and shortages on available housing stock. This housing shortage is largely due to the age of houses and the lack of appropriately trained labor in the area. Many of these houses were constructed before 1990, and a large percentage of those were constructed before 1939. Because the cost to repair, rebuild, or renovate the houses often exceeds their resale value, many commercial homebuilders will not build in the area.

That is why Attorney General Phil Weiser announced a new grant program in the Office of Community Engagement designed to both revitalize rural housing and support construction training programs at community colleges in Southeast Colorado.

The Colorado Attorney General's Office, as part of its new Colorado Partnership for Education and Rural Revitalization (COPERR), announced in 2020 grants of up to \$5 million to Trinidad State College and Lamar Community College to develop skilled trades programs that will address labor shortages and increase the availability of viable and affordable housing in southern Colorado. In February 2023, the office announced an expansion of the program to include a new trades program at Pueblo Corporate College, a division of Pueblo Community College, and expanded programs at Trinidad State College and Lamar Community College.



Lamar Community College has received additional grant funding to expand its programming to include high school students at two remote high school locations located in the northern and southern parts of LCC's service area. LCC has used two mobile classroom trailers to work directly with high schools in each region, with the goal of either creating a pipeline for students into college or the ability to seek employment utilizing the knowledge they gain through COPERR courses. LCC anticipates completing six renovation projects with at least three renovations outside the city of Lamar, but within LCC's service area. Below are before and after images of the most current project that LCC Construction Trade students have undertaken in our community.



These quotes were published on the Colorado Attorney General's website:  
<https://coag.gov/coperr/>

“From the very beginning of this outstanding project, the attorney general and his team have recognized the importance of rural colleges working to solve rural problems, like substandard housing,” said retiring LCC president, Dr. Linda Lujan. “LCC is so appreciative of the funding, support, and trust placed in us through this grant and is excited to expand opportunities to other areas of Southeast Colorado as the college engages high school students in more remote areas in the construction trades program. It’s a win for students, communities, the college, and Colorado.”

“From my view as vice president of instructional service,” said Larry McLemore of LCC, “I see the COPERR grant opportunity as far reaching and critical in the LCC mission. As we redefine our responsibilities to our service area post pandemic, I see the innovation present in this grant as the model of what is possible for all areas of instruction. Not only serving the immediate need in housing infrastructure, the COPERR grant will set the example of how LCC meets the needs of our rural communities.”

“To me the COPERR program brings so much growth to Lamar and Southeastern Colorado,” said Jake Specht, construction trades instructor. “Students who may not have otherwise attended higher education are learning valuable skills in a program that suits them, all while also rebuilding our community. Watching the students grow and the progress of rebuilding homes has been one of the most rewarding things I’ve been a part of. It is exciting to think of what the future holds for both COPERR and the LCC Construction Trades program.”