



Lamar Community College President's March 2024 Report

President – Dr. Rosana Reyes



TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

Student Life

Student vs Staff Volleyball

Lamar Community College recently buzzed with excitement as students and staff gathered for a thrilling volleyball match that pitted the two groups against each other in a friendly but competitive showdown. The event, held at the college's gymnasium, brought together players and spectators alike for an evening of spirited sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Teams were formed from both students and staff, with players of all skill levels joining in the fun. The atmosphere was electric as the teams battled it out on the court, showcasing their volleyball skills and teamwork. Cheers and applause filled the air as players made impressive plays and rallied their teammates to victory.

The event was not just about the game but also about building connections and fostering a sense of community on campus. Students and staff enjoyed the opportunity to interact outside of their usual roles, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories.

In the end, the real winners were the participants and spectators who came together to celebrate teamwork, sportsmanship, and the vibrant community spirit that thrives at Lamar Community College.



Women in Sports Day

Lamar Community College's Lady Lopes celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day in style! The event was a vibrant celebration of the remarkable achievements of our phenomenal female athletes.

LCC Athletics took the opportunity to recognize and honor these talented individuals, highlighting the immense power of sports to unlock limitless potential. From showcasing their skills on the field and court to demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship, our Lady Lopes embody the spirit of perseverance, dedication, and excellence.

As we commemorate National Girls and Women in Sports Day, we applaud our female athletes for their hard work, determination, and positive impact both on and off the field. Their achievements inspire us all, reminding us of the boundless possibilities that sports offer.

Lamar Community College Athletics is proud to support and celebrate our Lady Lopes, who continue to make us proud with their outstanding accomplishments. Here's to our female athletes, shaping the future of sports and inspiring generations to come!



LCC Writing Contest – Love in Literature

This February, Lamar Community College (LCC) spread the love of literature with a special Valentine's Day Writing Contest, hosted by the LCC Library. The contest invited students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the power of words by submitting original poems or short stories inspired by the theme of love.

The contest aimed to foster creativity and literary expression while highlighting the importance of storytelling and the written word. Participants were encouraged to explore various aspects of love, from romantic relationships to familial bonds and friendships, in their submissions.

Entries were judged based on creativity, originality, and adherence to the theme. The winners received recognition on the LCC Library's website and social media channels, as well as a special prize to commemorate their achievement.

The Valentine's Day Writing Contest was open to all members of the LCC community, regardless of writing experience. Whether they were seasoned wordsmiths or novice writers, it was a fantastic opportunity to share their love for literature and showcase their writing skills.

To participate, individuals simply submitted their original poems or short stories to the LCC Library by the submission deadline. Winner Jake Rogers was announced on Valentine's Day, spreading literary love and inspiration throughout the campus community.

The Lamar Community College Library's Writing Contest celebrated love in literature on Valentine's Day, allowing creativity to soar and words to shine bright.



Food Truck Friday

Introducing Food Truck Friday at Lamar Community College—an exciting new event we hope to make a regular thing! Food Truck Friday is a fantastic opportunity for students, faculty, staff, and the local community to come together and enjoy a variety of delicious food options right on campus.

Every Friday, we'll be hosting a selection of food trucks offering a diverse range of culinary delights. Whether you're in the mood for gourmet burgers, tacos, vegan bowls, or sweet treats, there will be something to satisfy every craving.

Food Truck Friday isn't just about the food; it's also about creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere on campus. It's a chance to socialize with friends and colleagues, enjoy the beautiful Colorado weather, and support local food vendors.

We're excited to launch Food Truck Friday and hope it will become a regular highlight of campus life. Join us for this inaugural event and help us make Food Truck Friday a beloved tradition at Lamar Community College!



Horse Training Management and Equine Business Management – Student of the Month

Hailing from Brule, Nebraska, Garret Harms is pursuing a degree in Horse Training and Management at Lamar Community College. Not only is he a member of the rodeo team for Team Roping, but he is also part of the Smarty Collegiate Program. Garret has been recognized as the student of the month for his outstanding contributions to the college community.

His willingness to help other students, especially when they were away taking care of their horses, has not gone unnoticed. Garret went above and beyond by riding some of the horses as needed, showcasing his dedication and passion for equine care. Known for his cheerful disposition and ever-present smile, Garret is a positive presence on campus.

This semester, Garret has taken on the challenge of training two mares from Matt Wilson and Sally Schwartz, demonstrating his commitment to honing his skills in horse training. His hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to help others make him a valuable member of the LCC community.

“I heard about LCC on Facebook and a friend recommended that I should go there. I chose LCC to better my horsemanship and to learn how to start colts. I feel like LCC was the best place to go just because of the way the program was run and the quality of horses that are at LCC because it's important to have a good horse to learn on. I've learned so much in two semesters that I would have taken many years to learn on my own. The best thing I've learned at Lamar, I think would probably be patience and confidence because it's easy to get upset at younger horses that aren't doing what you asked them to do so, it takes a lot of patience to give them confidence that they will be able to learn it on their own. The one thing I've learned the most at LCC is that I wasn't expecting camaraderie and friendship. I came out to Lamar, knowing absolutely nobody and I have made so many friends, acquaintances, and possible people to work for just coming out of Lamar. I recommend LCC to anyone that is wanting to come into a colt-starting profession to be able to be the most well-rounded starter that you could be coming out of college.”



Rodeo Banquet

Lamar Community College's rodeo team came together for a memorable evening at a fundraising banquet, rallying support and raising an impressive \$8,000 for their program. The event, held at a local venue, brought together team members, coaches, families, and supporters for a night of community and generosity.

The banquet celebrated the dedication and hard work of the rodeo team members, highlighting their achievements and the impact of their fundraising efforts. The \$8,000 raised will go towards supporting the team's travel expenses, equipment needs, and other essential costs associated with competing in rodeo events.

Throughout the evening, there were speeches, presentations, and a silent auction, all contributing to the fundraising total. Team members shared their experiences and gratitude for the support they received from the community, highlighting the importance of teamwork both on and off the field.

As the night drew to a close, there was a sense of accomplishment and unity among the rodeo team. The fundraising banquet had not only raised vital funds but had also strengthened the bonds within the team and with their supporters. It was a testament to the community's generosity and belief in the team's mission, setting the stage for a successful season ahead.

Region IX Golf Invitational

The Lamar Community College (LCC) Golf Team showcased their talent and skill at the recent Region IX Golf Invitational held at Spreading Antlers Golf Course and La Junta. The invitational, held on Thursday, March 21, saw the team deliver impressive performances, finishing 4th overall in a field of competitive teams.

On Thursday at Spreading Antlers Golf Course, the team displayed their prowess with a total score of 302. Brady Mecham led the team with an outstanding individual score of 72, highlighting his exceptional talent and contributing significantly to the team's success.

The following day, the team continued their strong performance at La Junta, posting a total score of 308. Bryce Raduziner delivered a stellar individual performance, scoring 75 and further demonstrating the team's depth of talent.

Overall, the LCC Golf Team's combined efforts earned them a commendable 4th place finish in the invitational. The team's dedication, hard work, and skill were evident throughout the tournament, showcasing their potential and setting a strong foundation for future success.

The LCC Golf Team and coach Roy Dewbre are proud of their achievements at the Region IX Golf Invitational and look forward to continued success in future competitions. Their performance serves as a testament to their commitment to excellence and their passion for the sport of golf.



Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

Lamar Community College was overjoyed to invite over 150 students to join Phi Theta Kappa for the spring semester! These students have all completed at least 25% of their certificate or degree and hold at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA in their degree/certificate coursework. Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and largest academic honor society for two-year colleges, and it has an excellent national reputation for the quality of its students. Joining Phi Theta Kappa is an excellent way for students to expand their college experience, meet other high performing students, build their resume, gain leadership and service skills, and take advantage of many scholarship and career-building opportunities. Phi Theta Kappa Induction was held on March 20th, 2024.



Visit with the President

Lamar Community College (LCC) recently hosted a dynamic event, "Visit with the President," aimed at fostering direct communication between students and college leadership. The event, led by LCC President Dr. Rosana Reyes, provided an opportunity for students to share their feedback and ideas on how to enhance their college experience.

The event brought together students from diverse backgrounds and academic programs. President Reyes emphasized the importance of student input in shaping the college's future, stating, "Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve our services and programs to better meet your needs."

During the event, students engaged in open and constructive discussions with President Reyes, sharing their perspectives on various aspects of campus life, including academic programs, student services, and campus facilities. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and receive direct responses from college leadership.

The "Visit with the President" event highlighted LCC's commitment to student success and continuous improvement. By actively seeking student feedback and incorporating it into

decision-making processes, LCC demonstrates its dedication to providing a high-quality educational experience for all students.

President Reyes expressed gratitude for the students' participation and feedback, stating, "Your input is instrumental in helping us create a vibrant and inclusive campus community where every student can thrive." The event concluded with a renewed sense of collaboration and partnership between students and college leadership, setting the stage for ongoing dialogue and positive change at LCC.



TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

New Employees

Welcome Graciela Gallegos

Hello everyone, my name is Graciela, but you can call me Gracie. I am thrilled to join Lamar Community College as the new Cashier. Being born and raised here in Prowers County, LCC holds a special place in my heart, and I am a proud alumnus. After graduating from LCC, I furthered my education at Arizona State University, where I earned my bachelor's degree.

I am excited to be back at LCC and look forward to serving the college community once again. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need any assistance with financial transactions or have any questions. I am here to help make your experience at LCC as smooth as possible. Thank you, and I can't wait to meet you all!



CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

Grief Training and Education Program

Lamar Community College, in collaboration with the University of Utah, recently hosted a comprehensive training session and education program focused on the grief of suicide. This initiative aimed to equip participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to support individuals and communities affected by suicide.

The training session included in-depth discussions on the complexities of grief after suicide, emphasizing the importance of empathy, understanding, and effective communication. Participants learned about the unique challenges faced by those grieving a suicide loss and explored strategies for providing compassionate support.

Through interactive workshops and expert-led discussions, attendees gained valuable insights into the psychological, emotional, and social aspects of suicide grief. The program also highlighted the role of education and awareness in suicide prevention and postvention efforts.

By partnering with the University of Utah, Lamar Community College demonstrated its commitment to addressing critical mental health issues and supporting the well-being of its community members. The training session and education program served as a testament to the college's dedication to fostering a supportive and compassionate environment for all.



Transfer Fair

Lamar Community College recently hosted a bustling Transfer Fair, providing students with a valuable opportunity to explore their academic futures and potential transfer options. The fair, held in the Student Union, welcomed representatives from various colleges and universities, creating a vibrant and informative atmosphere for attendees.

Students had the chance to engage with representatives from a wide range of institutions, including state universities, private colleges, and online universities. These representatives offered insights into their respective programs, transfer requirements, and campus life, helping students make informed decisions about their next academic steps.

One of the highlights of the fair was the opportunity for students to have one-on-one consultations with transfer advisors. These advisors provided personalized guidance, helping students understand how their credits would transfer and what steps they needed to take to ensure a smooth transition to their chosen institution.

Overall, the Transfer Fair at Lamar Community College was a resounding success, empowering students to take charge of their academic futures and explore the myriad possibilities available to them. The fair exemplified the college's commitment to supporting student success and facilitating seamless transitions to four-year institutions.



FFA CDE Contest

Lamar Community College recently welcomed 850 students from 47 schools across Colorado for the annual FFA Career Development Events (CDE) competition. The event, held on the college campus, showcased the skills and talents of future agricultural leaders.

The FFA CDE competition provides students with hands-on experience in various agricultural fields, including livestock judging, agronomy, agricultural mechanics, and more. Participants engage in

practical, real-world challenges that test their knowledge and skills, all while fostering camaraderie and sportsmanship among participants.

For many students, the competition is a highlight of their FFA experience, offering a chance to showcase their hard work and dedication to their chosen field. The event also serves as an opportunity for students to network with peers from other schools and learn from industry professionals.

Lamar Community College takes pride in hosting such a significant event, which not only highlights the college's commitment to agricultural education but also showcases the talent and dedication of FFA students across the state. The college looks forward to continuing its support of FFA and providing a platform for students to excel in their agricultural pursuits.





CCCS Listening Tour

Lamar Community College is proud to announce its role as a host for the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Listening Tour, a pivotal event shaping the future of education in Colorado. Leaders from the CCCS and the State Board for Community Colleges are embarking on a statewide tour to gather insights and ideas from learners, employers, communities, and stakeholders.

The listening tour, scheduled for March 28th, 2024, at Lamar Community College, aims to engage with various stakeholders to develop a new strategic plan guiding CCCS and its 13 colleges from 2025 through 2030. Dr. Landon Mascareñaz, Chair of the SBCCOE, emphasizes the importance of this tour, stating, "Listening and learning across our state will lay a new foundation for the future of our community colleges."

The event invites individuals to share their feedback and ideas, whether in person or through an online survey provided by CCCS. This inclusive approach ensures that all voices are heard, shaping a strategic plan that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of Colorado's communities.



Meet and Greet with Prowers Medical Center Auxiliary

Lamar Community College recently hosted a heartwarming Meet and Greet event, bringing together the Prowers Medical Center Auxiliary (PMCA) and recipients of the Nursing Student PMCA Scholarship. The event, held on campus, provided an opportunity for scholarship recipients to express their gratitude and connect with the generous donors who support their educational endeavors.

The PMCA scholarship, established by the Prowers Medical Center Auxiliary, aims to support aspiring nurses in their pursuit of higher education. Through the scholarship program, deserving nursing students receive financial assistance to help alleviate the burden of educational expenses and pursue their dreams of becoming healthcare professionals.

At the Meet and Greet event, scholarship recipients had the chance to personally meet and thank members of the PMCA for their generosity and support. The event fostered meaningful connections between donors and recipients, highlighting the impact of philanthropy on the lives of students and the broader community.

In addition to expressing their gratitude, scholarship recipients shared their aspirations and goals for the future with members of the PMCA. The event provided a platform for students to showcase their dedication to the nursing profession and reaffirm their commitment to making a positive difference in healthcare.

The Meet and Greet event underscored the importance of collaboration and partnership between educational institutions like Lamar Community College and community organizations like the Prowers Medical Center Auxiliary. Together, they work to empower aspiring nurses and support the future of healthcare in the region.

Lamar Community College extends its heartfelt thanks to the Prowers Medical Center Auxiliary for their ongoing support and commitment to education. Through initiatives like the Nursing Student PMCA Scholarship, they are helping to shape the next generation of healthcare professionals and make a lasting impact on the community.

Parkview Elementary School Tour

Lamar Community College (LCC) recently welcomed 5th graders from Parkview Elementary School for an exciting and educational scavenger hunt on March 7, 2024. The event was designed to introduce the young students to the college campus and its various programs.

Upon arrival, the students were greeted by Dr. Reyes and LCC's new mascot Lightning, who set the tone for a fun-filled day. The students were then divided into small groups and guided to different locations on campus, including the Nursing department, Map Center, Cosmetology, Tutoring Lab, Library, Dorms, and Welding.

At each station, the students were given specific tasks to complete, encouraging them to interact with the college environment and learn about different areas of study. The scavenger hunt provided a hands-on learning experience, allowing the students to explore potential future career paths and gain a better understanding of college life.

The highlight of the day was the visit to the LCC Wellness Center, where the Horse Training & Management program provided a horse for the students to observe and pet. This interactive experience was a memorable way to conclude the scavenger hunt and left a lasting impression on the young visitors.

Overall, the scavenger hunt was a great success, providing the 5th graders with a fun and educational experience at Lamar Community College. The event showcased the college's commitment to engaging with the local community and inspiring future generations of students.



LCC Concurrent Enrollment in Construction Trades

Exciting news for those in need of a high-quality shed! Lamar Community College (LCC) is pleased to announce the availability of two sheds built by students from Springfield High School as part of LCC's Construction Trades program. These sheds, completed over the last semester, showcase the students' impressive craftsmanship and dedication to their trade.

The sheds, located at Everitt Moore Home Center in Springfield, are a testament to the strong partnership between LCC and Springfield High School. Proceeds from the sale of these sheds will directly benefit the Construction Trades program, ensuring that future students have access to similar hands-on learning opportunities.

Ernie Felzien, the instructor for the Construction Trades program, played a pivotal role in guiding the students through this project. His dedication to teaching and mentorship has been instrumental in the success of the program and the students involved.

The sheds, measuring 10'x12' and designed as Saltbox Sheds, come fully insulated with receptacles and lighting inside. They are fully sheathed inside, with a 42" steel entry door and a 3' x 2' window. Additionally, they are roofed with 50-year shingles, ensuring durability and longevity.

Priced at \$6,000 each, these sheds offer exceptional value for anyone in need of additional storage space or a functional outdoor workspace. Don't miss this opportunity to support the Construction Trades program at LCC while acquiring a top-notch shed for your property. Visit Everitt Moore Home Center in Springfield to view the sheds and make your purchase today!



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

New Micro-Credential Behavioral Health Pathways

Lamar Community College (LCC) is launching five innovative "micro-credential" pathways this fall in response to the increasing demand for skilled behavioral health professionals. These pathways provide fundamental skills in mental health and substance misuse treatment, addressing the critical need for qualified workers in the field.

Designed to be completed in a single semester or less, the micro-credential programs offer targeted skill sets aligned with job market needs. They provide a seamless progression toward additional certifications and professional development opportunities. Students earning a micro-credential in behavioral health will gain foundational skills to start working in their community and earn college credit for further professional training.

The initiative, led by Academic Dean Kyle Lasley, aims to offer immediate career advancement. Micro-credentials are stackable, leading to an associate degree and beyond. The programs have been developed in collaboration with the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), Education Design Lab, and the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), ensuring they meet industry standards.

Amber Settles, LCC's Behavioral Health faculty member, is excited about the launch and its potential impact on rural communities. The programs, funded in part by a \$15 million grant secured through Senate Bill 22-181, aim to address the mental health and substance use challenges faced by one in five Coloradans.

The micro-credential pathways at LCC this fall include:

1. **Qualified Behavioral Health Assistant I (10 Credit Hours):** Entry-level behavioral health knowledge and competencies needed to become an effective practitioner.
2. **Behavioral Health Assistant II (16 Credit Hours):** Builds on QBHA-I through service-learning and a deeper understanding of diversity in behavioral health care.
3. **Behavioral Health + (6 Credit Hours):** Adds foundational behavioral health knowledge and crisis management skills applicable to various roles.
4. **Patient Navigator (12 Credit Hours):** Develops navigation skills within behavioral healthcare services and systems.
5. **Addiction Recovery Assistant (20 Credit Hours):** Focuses on addiction treatment and recovery support positions.

These programs align with Colorado's efforts to expand training in behavioral health. LCC will offer courses through online, in-person, and hybrid formats to cater to diverse learner needs. Prospective students and community members can contact LCC's admissions department for more information.

Phi Theta Kappa REACH

The Lamar Community College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter has achieved the prestigious designation of a 2023 REACH Chapter. This remarkable recognition is part of Phi Theta Kappa's esteemed REACH Rewards program, celebrating chapters that exhibit exceptional membership development. Out of nearly 1,300 community college campuses across 11 nations, the Lamar Community College chapter stands proudly among the 159 chapters chosen and acknowledged for this outstanding achievement.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's mission is to recognize academic excellence and extend benefits such as scholarships and increased engagement opportunities to as many students as possible. PTK membership engages students beyond the classroom in academic and service learning, thus increasing rates of student success. This achievement reflects the exceptional work of the REACH Chapters in promoting student engagement and success.

The dedication of the Lamar Community College Phi Theta Kappa Chapter to this mission has not gone unnoticed. The outstanding efforts of the faculty advisors Kelly Emick and Jake Specht are acknowledged. Additionally, Professor Kelly Emick has successfully completed all five levels of the Five Star Advisor Plan, a self-guided online curriculum developed to better support this vital group.

The Lamar Community College chapter students and advisors are commended for their unwavering commitment to academic excellence and enriching the lives of students. Congratulations to LCC PTK on this well-deserved recognition!

Contemporary Art

Art students from Lamar Community College embarked on an enriching field trip to the Contemporary Art Museum in Denver. Donnie Hollingsworth, the art instructor, organized the visit to provide students with a firsthand look at the work of living artists, offering valuable insights into today's art world.

The trip aimed to expand students' visual language by exposing them to contemporary art and the artists shaping the current artistic landscape. Mr. Hollingsworth expressed his intention to showcase artists relevant to today's art scene, providing students with a meaningful and relevant experience.

This excursion was a departure from last year's visit to the Denver Art Museum, demonstrating Mr. Hollingsworth's commitment to offering diverse and engaging experiences to his students. The trip not only exposed students to new artists and art forms but also encouraged them to explore and document their experiences through photography.

Back in the classroom, students are translating their museum experiences into their work. Many are using the photos they took to create their own interpretations in drawing and ceramics classes. This hands-on approach allows them to apply what they learned and further develop their artistic skills.

The trip was a resounding success, with students returning to LCC with a renewed sense of inspiration and creativity. By exposing them to contemporary art and encouraging personal expression, Mr. Hollingsworth continues to cultivate a dynamic and engaging learning environment for his students at Lamar Community College.



Horse Training Management and Equine Business Management Internships

Students in both Equine Business Management and Horse Training and Management complete semester long internships at the end of the program. This helps contribute to our almost 90% employment rate of graduates!

Annette Kite is currently on her EBM internship and says, "I am interning at Lyons Veterinary Clinic in Kansas. I have learned the duties of examining horses to diagnose health problems, treating injuries, performing surgery, prescribing medication, blood and fecal tests, euthanizing sick or injured, providing vaccinations and advising owners regarding the care of their horses.

LCC prepared me for this by the long hours, hard work, and gratitude to learn about horses not just because it's something you love but something you're wanting to work for. Aside from the barn, I'm grateful for an understanding in business and communication skills.

After graduation I will be attending Arizona State University for a bachelors in Applied Biological Sciences (Preveterinary Medicine).

Advice I have for incoming freshman is that success is always a process, never an event and failure is always an event, never a person. Get experience with what you love. Qualifications will get you to the interview but experience and passion will get you further."



Handshake

Lamar Community College (LCC) is thrilled to announce its partnership with Handshake, a leading job posting platform connecting students and employers. This collaboration opens up exciting opportunities for Southeast Colorado employers to tap into local talent and strengthen our community.

With Handshake, employers can easily connect with LCC students and alumni, offering them valuable career opportunities. To get started, all Southeast Colorado employers are invited to reach out to Courtney Morris, LCC's Career Services Coordinator. Once connected, employers will receive an invite to start posting their jobs on Handshake.

This partnership reflects LCC's commitment to providing students with access to meaningful career opportunities while supporting the local business community. Together, let's build a stronger, more vibrant Southeast Colorado through collaboration and opportunity. Join us on Handshake and be a part of this exciting journey!