



## Lamar Community College President's Report November 2021

### Transform the student experience.

#### Student Compliance

LCC is pleased to report its students are delighted to be back in-person and are cooperating fairly well with the current mask requirement as well as following the college's Phase I vaccine or testing requirement. Cases on campus have remained low as compared to the surrounding community. No one loves masks, but most everyone wants to remain in-person, safe, and active so students are doing a good job complying.

Plans are underway for a spring return to campus with similar protocols, including a move to Phase II or III if on-campus cases increase.

#### Men's basketball team hike

September 5, LCC Men's Basketball Head Coach, Justin Cellars took his team to Red Rocks (Open Space) for a team building exercise. Cellars likes to take the team to these settings to get them out of their comfort zones and to have them push themselves.



Cellars tells the guys after they are back on the bus, "It will never be more difficult in a game than when we were hiking up the mountain for 8 miles". Cellars states "Throughout the hike our group came together and as we were coming closer to the top, you could feel the energy change in them. We talk a lot on what kind of energy we "broadcast" and a key is to broadcast positive energy from the start, not only when you are close to an accomplishment or when a game is sealed in our favor." He will continue going to different spots in Colorado each year so that our players can continue to experience the state as a whole. The team made it to the top, logging almost 8 miles in

under 4 hours to reach an elevation of 7,750 Ft. Some of these students have never seen the mountains, so the goal is to get them out to experience these different things.



### **Meet your Rodeo Team**

On October 4 the LCC Rodeo team gathered with horses and roping dummies to the Learning Garden where students could meet the team, learn to use a lasso and get up close and personal with the horses. This is something many students have not experienced before. Some students even opted for a ride.



### **Horse and Rider Fieldtrip**

October 14, selected sophomores in the Horse Training Management program experienced gathering cattle with their specialized horses. A few students are selected each month to go with instructors. This is a good opportunity for horses to get out of the arena and an excellent opportunity for students to see different ways their horses can be used. This is a special treat for both student and horse.



### **PTK Muffins**

On October 28, LCC Phi Theta Kappa made use of the extra zucchini in the LCC Learning Garden and made chocolate chip muffins. These were handed out throughout the morning. This was a “just to make your day better” event and was appreciated by everyone who had a taste.

### **Halloween Gymkhana**

October 30 was the annual LCC Halloween Gymkhana. This is a full day filled with Barrels, Poles, Candy Bar Races, Drag Races and Rescue Races. The day ends with a costume contest where horse and rider dress up in their Halloween best. The winners of this year’s contest were the zebra from the movie “Racing Stripes”, Princess Jazmine and her “tiger” from Aladdin along with a young Sleeping Beauty and her donkey who was dressed as Maleficent. Abigail Schmidt, also pictured, was awarded as the highest point winner for her age division.



### **Student Life Events**

With more than seventeen events under their belt so far this semester, Student Life has been alive and well despite the pandemic. Coordinator of Housing and Student Life, AJ Arredondo has been very creative. He started the semester off with a team building exercise for the RA's. He had them each create a section of the famous painting "Starry Night" and it proudly hangs as a new masterpiece for all to see.



Even under COVID guidelines, student have found a way to stay engaged and connected. With a mix of study nights; movie nights at the local theater; ping-pong, cornhole and pool tournaments, as well as fun nights with milk and cookies. It has been a good mix, bringing students of all interests together.



On constitution day, Constitutions and flags were handed out with a light breakfast that the students could enjoy before visiting the library for in-depth discussion of some of the Amendments. Milk and Cookies night is always big hit with LCC students, and this last one came with a little twist. Several employees on campus took the time to make cookies from scratch and donated them to mesh perfectly with the hot chocolate.



The most recent event was the Halloween party. Costumes, food, games and prizes made for a good time.



### Honoring those who served

Veteran's Day, the LCC softball team visited the Fairmont Cemetery in Lamar, Colorado to plan flags and honor those who served.



## **Transform our own workforce experience.**

### **Welcome Janet Steinkamp**

In September Lamar Community College (LCC) was pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Janet Steinkamp as its Interim Vice President of Academic and Student Services. Steinkamp has been serving in the position as the college conducts its national search for someone to fill the position permanently. Steinkamp is currently Chief Executive Officer and Senior Consultant for Health Systems Development, LLC and Senior Adjunct Faculty and Dissertation Chair for Grand Canyon University College of Doctoral Studies. She has a long history of serving students, including previously serving as Associate Vice President of Red Rocks Community College Health Sciences Campus and Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services at St. Cloud Technical and Community College in Minnesota. Steinkamp has a Doctorate in Education in Organizational Leadership from Grand Canyon University; a Master in Arts from the College of Professional Psychology, College Student Personnel Administration & Secondary and Post-Secondary Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado; and a Bachelor in Arts in Career Counseling and Guidance from Mesa State College. Previously, Steinkamp has served as Director of the Office of Behavioral Health State Innovation Model (SIM) Project for the Governor's Office in the

Colorado Department of Human Services and Department of Behavioral Health. She was also previously Executive Director of Take Heart America, a National Cardiac Arrest Survival Initiative.



### **Hiring of New Faculty and Staff**

September Lamar Community College (LCC) is pleased to announce the recent hiring of several new faculty and adjunct instructors and Academic Support Staff. LCC's newest faculty and adjunct instructors are Dr. Khaled Chowdhury, Ron Dunn, Dr. David Friedman, Cortney Beshara, Susan Gibbons, Donnie Hollingsworth, Russ Waston, Colby Mick, and Elizabeth Kenny. New staff members are Jude Fagnan, Yancy Shelton and Jennifer Long.

Chowdhury joins LCC as the Physical Sciences Teaching Fellow and teaches chemistry, geology, and Earth Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Geosciences from Texas Tech University and specialized in the northern New Mexico region. He has previously taught various undergraduate and graduate-level classes and designed new courses and lab materials. Stagner Stulp said Chowdhury is already working hard to organize the labs and is "creating a wonderful vision for the direction of the Physical Science department."

Dunn will be serving LCC as Construction Trades faculty. He is the founder of a construction firm and has broad experience in the industry from job bidding, cabinet and countertop installation, flooring, solar installation and more. Dunn holds certifications in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and welding and has served in several community positions, including President of the City of Lamar Variance Board and the Lamar School Board. He helped to play a "pivotal role" in developing the program, Stagner Stulp said.

Friedman is coming onboard as a Sports and Exercise Science faculty member and manager of the Fitness Center. He earned his Doctorate in Health Science at the California University of Pennsylvania and is the founder of P3 Health and Human Performance Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing online content related to health and fitness education, fitness training programs and sports medicine. He has worked in

various fitness settings, including as a Postural Alignment Therapist and Exercise Specialist and a Precision Run Coach.

### **Professional Development**

On October 22, Perry Quarter Horses, a breeder out of Kansas, came for a professional development day for Instructors Savanna Tomoson and Ryan Bray. This involved the entire HTM program. They discussed horsemanship and when to know to start advancing horses.



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

#### **LCC Site Visits from HLC**

In November, LCC hosted a Higher Learning Commission peer reviewer who came to visit and affirm the quality of LCC's three distance learning sites in Eads, Springfield, and Granada. Approval means LCC will be able to offer full programs at those locations using its synchronous distance learning technologies and/or in-person classrooms. These sites are located in the high schools and are supported by a local site coordinator – all made possible through LCC's Title III grant. While the college awaits formal approval, it continues to offer courses and develop strategies to serve adult learners in the more remote locations of its service area.

#### **LCC Director of Residence Living, Student Life named UCCS program Ethics Champion**

Lamar Community College's (LCC) new Director of Residence Living and Student Life was recently named to the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) College of Business' Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative (DFEI) Collegiate Program. Andres "AJ" Arredondo



Jr. is one of 16 faculty and staff members appointed as “Ethics Champions” from various four- and two-year colleges in the Southern Colorado Ethics Consortium (SCEC) for the 2021-22 academic year. Arredondo and other Ethics Champions will work to expand principle-based ethics education throughout their campuses and regional communities. The appointees work collaboratively with the DFEI at UCCS to share resources and initiatives with educators throughout southern Colorado.



### **Youth clinic**

October 2, the LCC equine Business Management sophomore students hosted a free youth clinic. 10 students from the community came and did trails, learning horses body parts, ground safety and pattern planning for 4H shows. Kids bring their own horses.





### LCC Construction Updates COPERR

The LCC COPERR Housing Renovation Project, funded by a grant from the Colorado Attorney General, is making great strides toward a spring 2022 completion. The students reframed nearly every wall in October, completed window installation last week, and are looking ahead at preparing for new stucco and other exterior renovations before the Fall semester is over. We are hopeful that rough in for mechanical electrical and plumbing will be complete by the end of this semester so that the students will be able to transition into interior finish work in the spring. It is great to see such a productive group of students who love learning the trades.





Once completed this house will be sold in order to purchase another property to renovate. Additionally, plans are underway with the Town of Wiley to renovate a donated property there.

### **Moonlight madness table**

LCC staff greeted many spooky goblins, princesses, and marvel characters, and many other individuals and families as they enjoyed visiting the local merchants on Main Street in downtown Lamar for the annual Moonlight Madness event on the evening of October 28<sup>th</sup>. Information about the school was available as well as post cards which were filled out for future LCC inquiries.



## National FFA Convention

LCC's Agriculture and Horse Training and Management programs were represented at the the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a busy time interacting with all the future leaders and sharing opportunities to learn and live at LCC. There was strong interest and excitement in the college's programs. LCC Alumni Thomas Torres also paid a visit to the booth.



## Alumni gives back

On November 10, Nathan Goddard, alumni of the LCC Horse Training Management program revisited LCC for a day of teeth cleaning. This alum is now a horse dentist with Performance Equine Dentistry who brings his mobile dental office to LCC to give students a hands-on experience with equine dentistry.



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

### **Veteran's Coffee**

November 11, LCC honors everyone in our community who has served our country. To show our appreciation, all active and retired military had a free drink available in the new Student Union provided by the Brew2, coupled with a table of donuts.



### **Boots, Bling & Blessings**

The LCC Foundation raised at least \$40,000 from its fourth annual signature event, Boots, Bling & Blessings, on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Embracing the college's connection with the Ag and Equine community, the event is held in LCC's Equine Complex. Last year, the Foundation allocated nearly all BBB funds to help LCC's Equine programs, fund the EMT program, and out-of-state scholarships. The Foundation will determine this year's allocations at a future meeting.



### **ECE Classes for Adult Learners**

Lamar Community College (LCC) continues to offer Early Childhood Education classes on the weekends to help meet the growing demand for trained educators in Southeast Colorado and beyond. Starting in January, students interested in a career as a preschool or kindergarten teacher, childcare center administrator or caregiver for young children can get their certificate from LCC. LCC offers the Early Childhood Entry and Early Childhood Director certificates as well as the Early Childhood Education guaranteed transfer Associate's degree. Classes are held on Friday and Saturdays, and students will take one class at a time. Each class takes roughly three weeks to complete, and then they will move on to the next course. Classes are offered both on campus and at LCC's Distance Learning Sites in Eads, Springfield, and Granada, or students can tune into classes remotely. These classes were designed to meet the needs on non-traditional students and those who may wish to transition to a career in early childhood while continuing to work full time. Students who are already working in the field can take the course they need and are not required to earn an entire certificate or degree.