

Press Release

LAMAR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RYDBERG HONORED AS LCC'S FACULTY OF THE YEAR

(Lamar, Colorado, February 16, 2006) J.J. Rydberg, lead instructor in Lamar Community College's Horse Training & Management program, regarded as one of the nation's premier horse training programs, was honored by the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) and the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) at the annual Faculty of the Year luncheon, Feb. 8 in Denver.

Like most programs at Lamar Community College, a great deal of the Horse Training & Management Program's character is set by its primary and lead instructor, JJ Rydberg. Since joining LCC in August of 2000, he has rebuilt the program to regain its status as one of the nation's premier horse training programs. He embodies the qualities of what small colleges are known for – expertise in his industry and dedication to his students and to student learning. Many weeks, his work day starts at 7 a.m. and finishes at 6 p.m. only to be repeated Monday through Sunday.

Two of his current students nominated him for this award. Among the more memorable excerpts of the nomination are “Mr. Rydberg always encourages us to study, learn and work not only in his classes but in all classes we take on campus,” “His dedication to our success is very evident to us,” and “Mr. Rydberg provides a positive atmosphere for all students and works hard to make what he is teaching fun and unforgettable... we receive the most from our education and can apply it to our future after college.” 100% of his students in the past two years have been employed after graduating from the program. After reading this LCC's Faculty Senate wholeheartedly confirmed his selection.

Upon learning of his selection for the award, Rydberg was quoted as saying, “I am honored to be selected, but not necessarily more worthy than my fellow faculty members. We all seek to engage our students and help them become passionate about their studies. I am fortunate that my students come to LCC with a sincere desire and drive to learn what our program can teach them.”

Prior to joining LCC, Rydberg spent most of his professional life training award-winning horses and competing in professional rodeo. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Adams State College (Alamosa, CO) in Physical Education, J.J. spent fifteen years in the professional rodeo circuit as a calf roper. For most of those years, J.J. was ranked in the Top 20 in the world.

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