

April 28, 2023

D E A R M E M B E R O F T H E L C C C O M M U N I T Y

The spring semester has been in full acceleration as we complete budget reviews, host key athletic and enrollment events, celebrate students' and staff achievements, and prepare for the **Lamar Community College (LCC) 84th Commencement Celebration**. I hope you share my excitement at hearing our special guest speaker, Mrs. Peggy Branom '89 joining us this year as the guest speaker and at the opportunity to honor our graduates in the days ahead. It gives me great delight to host this event on our beautiful campus, which has served as a second home to our graduates for the past several years. Please keep our graduates and their families in your thoughts as we prepare for this year's commencement exercises.

Budget meetings with department leaders have all been conducted. We are in the process of reviewing requests and finalizing allocations. Thank you to all the department leaders for their strategic department plans and thoughtful budget requests. This process allowed me to understand further the efforts, priorities, and challenges in each area. We are aiming to be equitable, thorough, and strategic in the final allocations while balancing the financial impact of the fiscal year 2023 enrollment decline.

As we get closer to the end of the semester and the start of our peak enrollment period, let us continue to be intentional in the retention of our current students that will be returning next fall. Continuing students require constant re-engagement in order to maintain their persistence toward their goals. If you encounter students who have a struggle that might prevent them from re-enrolling, please let VP McLemore or me know. We will do all we can to support each student to overcome any barrier to their success.

Please know that each graduate conferred a degree next week represents your dedication, support, instruction, and commitment to *Enriching the Lives* of those we are here to serve *through Learning*. I applaud you and those that came before us for making their achievement possible. *Cheers!*

Dr. Rosana Reyes

UPDATES

- Summer 2023 FTE enrollment is currently 16% up compared to last year. Headcount is 18% up in comparison to last year at this time.
- COSI grants for the workforce, concurrent, and Finish What You Started initiatives are actively reviewing and seeking additional opportunities to support current and future students in attaining educational opportunities. Since February, the College increased the number of Back to Work Grant from 13 to 20, with 5 additional potential students in verification. The goal of this grant is for LCC to serve 65 completers when the grant ends in June 2024. Finish What You Start Grant increased from 6 to 13 since February, with 5 pending documentation to move to completion status. This grant aims to serve 45 completers by 2025. COSI Grant also increased from 39 to 44 students. This grant seeks to help 106 students.
- The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program provides grants to assist HSIs in expanding educational opportunities for and improving the attainment of Hispanic students. These grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability. The College is currently preparing an application for this grant, which will be submitted in early June 2023.
- Skill Advance Colorado grant funding is set for a new grant cycle; LCC will be engaging in Workforce related programming to support local industries in various training aimed at meeting the needs of incumbent workers and re-skilling and up-skill training to advance our regional economy further. Launch dates will begin at the beginning of the next fiscal year; planning is underway.
- Please be advised that the College has acquired the opportunity to have weekly articles in the local paper. If you have a special interest story, an expert opinion on a special topic relevant to your work at LCC, or a student/alum spotlight we should feature, please get in touch with Aubrey Lawrence.

- CCCS has established a 5% tuition increase (In-State & Out-of-State), a 2.5% online courses tuition increase (In-State & Out-of-State), a 5% staff and full-time faculty salary increase, and a 10% adjunct salary increase.
- Dayne Crockett of Skyler Design has provided updated schedules on the roof replacement for Bowman, Wellness, Trustees, and Betz. Recent rains have helped to identify some of the problems. Ready Roofers and Skyler Design were on campus on 4/25/23, addressing many of these problems. Please remember that regular assessments and inspections occur throughout the project. These are done by the Engineers, RoofTech Consultants, and the State Inspectors, Steve Hall. In addition, following these final inspections, all roofs will be flooded, drains will be tested, and verification of no leaks will follow.
- Runnin' Lopes athletics continue during the spring semester. Baseball, Softball, Golf, and Rodeo continue to compete. We wish them the best of luck on the remainder of their games/events.
- Chancellor's Summit on Adult Education will be held in Denver on June 1. This conference will allow us to learn best practices around prior learning assessment, adult recruitment, engagement, competency-based assessment, etc. This initiative is part of the system REACH Collaborative, focused on creating clear paths for more Black, Hispanic, and Native American adults to grow their skills and advance their careers. Attached here, please find a brief on this initiative. We encourage you to attend. Please let us know if you need financial support to do so.
- Antelope Night will be held on May 5, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Lamar Community Building.
- The Nursing Pinning Ceremony will be held on May 6th at the Lamar High School.
- Benefits Open Enrollment for Classified and APT Staff is in full swing; please contact HR Office for any questions.



Aubrey Lawrence has joined Lamar Community College as the new Marketing Coordinator. Aubrey graduated from Colorado State University with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing and a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. She is currently working to earn a certificate in Google Data Analytics, and plans to pursue a Master's in Marketing Research. Aubrey will be working to expand and enhance LCC's marketing efforts to increase engagement, enrollment and retention. She is excited to use marketing as a tool to connect individuals with educational pathways at LCC that will help them achieve their personal and professional goals. Outside of work, Aubrey enjoys reading, walking, and traveling.



• **Rachel Evans** joins the LCC team as our new Interim Foundation Director. Rachel is a former Army Officer and Iraqi War Veteran with experience in communications, management, administration, and other duty assignments. She received degrees from the United States Military Academy at West Point and Texas Lutheran University. Rachel, her husband, and their three children enjoy rural living, including caring for a few farm animals and gardening. They sometimes explore historical sights and are involved with their local church and other parts of the community. As Interim Foundation Director, Rachel looks forward to working with Lamar Community College and ensuring students are well supported as they pursue their education, and the College is effective in meeting its mission. She is thrilled to be part of the team.

- The IREPO Grant has been instrumental in enhancing LCC's teaching and learning experience by incorporating state-of-the-art technology to fostering a more engaging, active learning environment. As a result, both students and instructors have benefited from improved access to resources and more interactive classrooms. We transformed 22 classrooms with the addition of 2-4 85" flat screens each and new projectors, enabling seamless connectivity for instructors and students. Our lecture halls have also been upgraded with 3x3 ft and 4x4 ft display arrays. To make the technology even more accessible, all instructors have been equipped with Microsoft Surface Pros, allowing them to connect in any room via docking stations effortlessly. In addition, we have implemented a Microsoft Surface checkout program through our library, enabling students without personal laptops to borrow a Surface for the entire semester at no cost. Complementing this, we offered a Wi-Fi/hotspot checkout service for students and athletes who may experience connectivity issues at home or while traveling. In line with our vision of active learning, all classrooms have been furnished with new, versatile furniture designed to facilitate collaboration and integration with technology upgrades. All classroom furniture is mobile and can be shifted to complement the technology or curriculum. Our commitment to education extends beyond LCC, as we have equipped 15 local high schools with flat screens on mobile carts to support concurrent enrollment learners. The IREPO Grant has been extended to September 2023, allowing us time to finalize cosmetic enhancements and the launch of pedagogical trainings.