

President's Updates

April 19, 2024



DEAR ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES,

As we near the culmination of another enriching academic year and the conclusion of the spring 2024 semester, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering dedication and commitment to our students' success.

Graduation celebrations events are fast approaching, and we are gearing up to celebrate students' achievements at Lopes Night, the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, and the Lamar Community College (LCC) 85th Commencement Celebration. I am delighted to announce Mr. Beecher Strube '16 as this year's guest speaker, and I eagerly anticipate honoring the achievements of our graduates. Their success is a testament to the transformative power of education, and it is an honor to celebrate this milestone with them. Please plan on attending these important events.

Budget meetings with department leaders are nearing completion, and I commend each department for its strategic planning and thoughtful budget requests. This collaborative process enables us to better understand each department's priorities and challenges, ensuring equitable and strategic resource allocation.

Since my last update, we have implemented several administrative adjustments, including realigning the Registrar's responsibilities with the scheduler role. Additionally, we are pleased to welcome a new director of financial aid from within our ranks, as well as a new cashier and the coordinator of financial aid. We extend our best wishes to these individuals as they embark on their new roles, and we remain steadfast in providing them with effective onboarding, training, and support. We hope to welcome several new faculty and a full-time counselor to our team in the coming weeks.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who stepped up during these transitions and continue to support their new colleagues through training and mentorship. Paddy England, Michelle Crown, Jordan Kemp, and others have exemplified our spirit of collaboration and dedication to maintaining essential college operations.

We recently held our 6th BBB - Boots Blings and Blessings Foundation fundraising event. The event was a tremendous success, led by Rachel Evans and her capable, talented, and dedicated planning committee, including Tiarra Williams, Tara Silvey, Laurie Ybarra, Annessia Forney, Jaelin Parker, and Paddy England. Many others volunteered in other capacities to ensure the event was a success. Thank you all for your help and support. This year's BBB surpassed the previous BBB amounts by over \$10,000 but also exceeded our current year's goal of \$50,000. We are grateful to our sponsors, donors, attendees, and contributors. This level of generosity and support makes a difference in removing financial barriers toward our students' goals.

As we approach the peak enrollment period, let us remain vigilant in supporting our continuing students and addressing any barriers they may face when re-enrolling for the next semester. Your proactive engagement and support can make a significant difference in ensuring their continued persistence and success. If you encounter a student who has a struggle that might prevent them from re-enrolling, please let Dean Kemp, VP McLemore, or let me know. We will do all we can to support each student in overcoming any barrier to their success.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation for your dedication, support, and commitment to enriching the lives of our students through learning. Each graduate represents the culmination of our collective efforts, and I applaud you for your invaluable contributions to their achievements. Cheers!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Rosana Reyes'.

Dr. Rosana Reyes
President
Lamar Community College

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- Lamar Community College will begin to offer GED/HS preparation and testing support to adults seeking this credential starting this summer. Please stay tuned for more information on this in the coming weeks.
- The College continues to work diligently on seeking external grants to help expand our work and services to our students and the community. We recently received a Skill Advance grant to provide workforce training to Colorado Mills. Colorado Mills is an environmentally friendly, zero-waste, full-cycle company dedicated to connecting farmers and customers with sunflower products. The business is very diverse in the electrical components and the amount of electricity used. The LCC training will give CO Mills employees a better understanding of electricity for safety and productivity enhancement. We will be able to evaluate concerns faster and reduce the number of call-outs to electricians, lowering our business-related expenses. This grant-supported training is at zero cost to CO Mills.
- We continue refining and clarifying our internal roles, communications, and support. In this spirit, Dean Kemp has developed a chain of communication process, including an internal calendar to centralize and track external communications, and clarified the routing of marketing requests between the Communications Specialist and Marketing Coordinator to maximize internal and external promotions. The College is also more effectively leveraging student technology, including two-way texting and Navigate messaging, to maintain students' retention and progression.
- The College recently received funding to support nursing students, both those already in the program and those in the pipeline. We look forward to providing further funding qualification information on these efforts soon.
- Please see the attached capital projects list and updates that are underway or starting soon.
- To accommodate the Bowman Construction project, classes will not be scheduled in classrooms on the second floor of the Bowman Building for summer and Fall 2024; please check the schedule for the final plan.
- Benefit Open Enrollment Information from Human Resources. The open enrollment period begins April 22 and ends May 13. During this period, you can enroll in coverage, change plans, add/drop dependents, and drop coverage.