



## Lamar Community College President's May 2024 Report

*President – Dr. Rosana Reyes*



### **TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.**

#### **Dreams Do Come True**

Destiny Morales-Forney, a determined and compassionate individual, has achieved her lifelong dream of working in the medical field. From a young age, Destiny had a singular goal: to spread love and healing wherever she goes. This dream was nurtured by Alma, a paraprofessional in Kindergarten who later became the CTE & Nursing Coordinator at Lamar Community College. Alma's goal has always been to help her students succeed, and she has played a significant role in Destiny's journey.

After years of hard work and dedication in Lamar Community College's Nursing Program, Destiny has earned her nursing diploma, ADN. Alma stood proudly by her side during the graduation ceremony, celebrating this significant milestone.

Destiny's achievement is a testament to her perseverance and the unwavering support she received from mentors like Alma. Congratulations, Destiny, on turning your dream into reality and stepping into a future filled with love and healing.



## Student Life

### Crunch Time Munch

During finals week, Lamar Community College's Student Life and Tutoring Department supported students by offering a variety of breakfast items. Students enjoyed hearty options like granola bars, pastries, and breakfast burritos each morning, helping them start their day right and stay focused on their exams.

This initiative aimed to reduce stress and ensure students had access to essential nourishment, promoting better academic performance and overall well-being. Lamar Community College remains committed to fostering a supportive and productive environment for its students.

### Finals Week in the Library

Annessia Forney, the Library Director, recognizes the vital role that the college library plays for students, especially during finals week. It serves as a peaceful haven where students can gather their thoughts and prepare for crucial exams. Additionally, the library serves as a communal space where students can come together to share experiences. To support students during this challenging time, Annessia offered treats and extended the library's hours, providing students with the time and space they need to prepare for their exams.



### **LCC Spring Horse Show**

The students' dedication and hard work throughout the semester culminated in an impressive display at today's competition. The Horse Training & Management team showcased their skills in Reining, while the Equine Business Management team competed in Ranch Trail. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lance Baker, who graciously served as the judge for the event.

Both programs had the opportunity to win four prestigious buckles each, including Champion, Reserve Champion, Most Improved, and Student of the Year awards. The students' exceptional performances were a testament to their commitment and passion for equine management.

#### **Champions:**

Horse Training & Management: Audreauna Shahan, riding horses from Ryan Bray and Dude & Rynea Kissel.

Equine Business Management: Raylee Cathcart, riding a horse from Gordon Jamison.

#### **Reserve Champion:**

Horse Training & Management: Garrett Harms, riding horses from Sally Schwartz and Matt Wilson.

Equine Business Management: Allysah Boyd & Izzy.

#### **Most Improved:**

Horse Training & Management: Araya Martinez.

Equine Business Management: Audreauna Shahan.

#### **Student of the Year:**

Horse Training & Management: Sophia Anger.

Equine Business Management: Allysah Boyd.



### **Antelope Night – Student Awards**

Lamar Community College recently hosted its annual Antelope Night, a vibrant event dedicated to celebrating student achievements and excellence. The awards night recognized the hard work, dedication, and outstanding accomplishments of students across various programs and disciplines.

Students, faculty, and staff gathered to honor those who have excelled academically, demonstrated exceptional leadership, and contributed positively to the LCC community. Awards were presented in categories such as Academic Excellence, Leadership, Community Service, and Outstanding Student of the Year.

The evening was filled with inspiring speeches, heartfelt congratulations, and moments of pride as students were acknowledged for their remarkable efforts. Antelope Night not only highlighted individual achievements but also reinforced the strong sense of community and support at Lamar Community College.





### **Nurse Pinning Ceremony**

Lamar Community College recently held its Nurse Pinning Ceremony, a cherished tradition that honors the hard work and dedication of its nursing graduates. The event celebrated the transition of nursing students into professional nurses, marking a significant milestone in their careers.

During the ceremony, each graduate received a nursing pin, symbolizing their commitment to compassionate care and professional excellence. The event was attended by faculty, family, and friends, who gathered to support and congratulate the new nurses.

The Nurse Pinning Ceremony highlighted the graduates' achievements and the rigorous training they underwent in LCC's esteemed Nursing Program. It was a heartfelt occasion filled with pride, applause, and inspirational speeches, reflecting the values of service and dedication inherent in the nursing profession.

### **85<sup>th</sup> Commencement**

Lamar Community College recently celebrated its 85th Commencement Ceremony, marking a significant milestone in the institution's history. The event honored the hard work and achievements of the graduating class, bringing together students, faculty, family, and friends for a memorable celebration.

The ceremony featured inspiring speeches from distinguished guest and LCC alumni Beecher Strube and college leaders, who commended the graduates for their dedication and perseverance. Diplomas were awarded to students from various programs, recognizing their academic accomplishments and readiness to embark on the next chapter of their lives.

As graduates crossed the stage, their achievements were met with enthusiastic applause and cheers from the audience, reflecting the pride and support of the LCC community. The 85th Commencement Ceremony not only celebrated individual successes but also highlighted the college's commitment to providing quality education and fostering student growth.



## TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

### New Employees

#### Welcome Travis Greenlee

Growing up in Southwest Colorado I have been involved with rodeo and ranching in some capacity for my entire life. In high school, I competed in every event except cutting. As the State Champion Bareback rider, Saddle Bronc rider, and All Around Cowboy, I earned a full scholarship to Odessa College, where I excelled at both ends of the arena. Transitioning to professional rodeo, I focused on the rough stock events but have always prided myself on my versatility. I have continued to stay involved with rodeo in many ways, including raising bucking bulls, judging, working as a pick-up man, and being deeply involved in the full production of many amateur rodeos.

Now, as the Head Rodeo Coach at LCC, I'm excited to bring that versatility and love of rodeo combined with my passion for coaching to a school renowned for its Equine and Ag programs.

This role is a dream come true, offering a unique chance where we can blend various aspects of our western culture for the benefit of our students. I am looking forward to being a part of the LCC community and building a successful rodeo program.



#### Welcome Jannet Martinez-Chavira

Jannet Martinez-Chavira is a recent Master of Social Work graduate from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs with two years of clinical experience. Born and raised in Lamar, CO, she brings a deep understanding of rural communities to her practice. Passionate about mental health advocacy, she is dedicated to providing empathetic care. Jannet has previously worked at LCC as an advisor before beginning her graduate school studies. Outside of work, Jannet enjoys family time and travel with her spouse and four-year-old daughter.

## CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

### Legacy Horse Show and Sale

The third annual Lamar Community College Legacy Horse Sale, held on April 29, was a resounding success. The event attracted over 80 potential buyers, including online attendees, and featured a packed venue. Sixteen horses were sold, with prices ranging from \$2,100 to a record-breaking \$20,000. The total sales reached approximately \$155,900, marking a significant 22.39% increase in average sale per head compared to the previous year.

The success of the event was a result of meticulous planning based on recommendations from the HTM and EBM Advisory Committee. Students gained valuable hands-on experience in sales event planning, marketing material development (including videos, social media, and a printed program), horse preparation, vet checks, and auctions.

Each horse was showcased in front of an enthusiastic audience, leading to fast-paced and lively bidding. While bidding moments brought a mix of emotions for students witnessing their trained horses being passed to new owners, the attendees expressed high praise for the program, faculty, and students.



### Skill Advance Training

Lamar Community College has been awarded a \$26,000 grant to deliver customized training for employees at Colorado Mills. The training program began with classroom instruction on electrical terminology, graph interpretation, and equipment tag reading, providing a solid theoretical foundation for the participants.



To reinforce this knowledge, the program included hands-on training with electrical trainers designed to simulate the motors used in the manufacturing and refinery warehouses. Each employee was also provided with a workbook to ensure they could retain and practically apply the skills learned during the sessions.

This initiative marks the beginning of a promising partnership with Skill Advance, aimed at bringing additional training opportunities to Southeast Colorado. Lamar Community College is excited to continue supporting workforce development and enhancing the skills of local employees.



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

### **Region IX Baseball Tournament**

The Lamar Runnin' Lopes baseball team recently competed in the Region IX baseball tournament at UC Health Park in Colorado Springs. Seeded No. 5, the Lopes showcased their skills and determination in this double elimination event.

In their first matchup, the Lopes faced off against Western Nebraska, a team they had prepared hard to compete against. The tournament was an exciting display of talent and teamwork as the Lopes strived to advance and claim victory.

The Runnin' Lopes demonstrated their resilience and competitive spirit throughout the tournament. Go Lopes!



### **President's Leadership Council Retreat**

Lamar Community College recently hosted the President's Leadership Council (PLC) Retreat, an annual event dedicated to reflecting on the achievements of the current academic year and developing a strategic plan for the upcoming year. The retreat brought together members of the PLC group to engage in productive discussions and collaborative planning sessions.

During the retreat, participants recapped significant accomplishments, highlighting milestones and successes that have contributed to the college's growth and development. The sessions provided an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff.

Looking ahead, the PLC focused on creating a strategic plan that will guide the college through the next academic year. The plan aims to enhance educational opportunities, support student success, and further strengthen the college's role in the community.

The President's Leadership Council Retreat is a vital component of LCC's commitment to continuous improvement and forward-thinking leadership. The collaborative efforts and insights gained during the retreat will help shape a prosperous future for Lamar Community College.



### **Inclusive Higher Education Grant**

Lamar Community College is excited to announce the launch of Cultivate @ LCC, a program funded through an Inclusive Higher Education grant. This grant aims to promote accessibility and inclusivity in higher education by providing resources and support for students with disabilities.

The mission of Cultivate @ LCC is to identify students with documented disabilities and offer the necessary supports to make program completion achievable. Starting in high school, Cultivate @ LCC will work with students to demonstrate that college programs are a viable future for them.

The program aims to help students visualize a future they may have thought unattainable, provide employable skills through coursework, support the transition to independent living, and supply Lamar and the surrounding areas with qualified job candidates.

### **Construction Trades Program – Third Home**

Lamar Community College's Construction Trades Program has proudly completed its third home project, located on Memorial Drive in Lamar, CO. This milestone marks a significant achievement for the program, which provides students with hands-on experience and practical skills in the construction industry.

Throughout the project, students applied their classroom knowledge to real-world construction tasks, gaining valuable experience in building and finishing a residential home. The successful completion of this home highlights the dedication and hard work of both the students and faculty involved in the program.



### **Adult Career Enrichment Center**

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Lamar Community College is proud to announce the introduction of the ACE (Adult Career Enrichment) Center, designed to assist individuals without a high school diploma in devising an educational plan to achieve their career goals. Initially, the ACE Center will focus on GED preparation and support, helping members of the Lamar community earn their GED.

Over time, the ACE Center plans to expand its services to include alternative pathways for acquiring high school equivalency degrees beyond the GED test, as well as more comprehensive career planning resources.

Kyle Lasley, Dean of Academics, remarked, "The ACE Center is another example of LCC responding to community need. As a former K-12 administrator, I have experienced the difficulties that come with finding these types of services for people in the community. I was thrilled when Dr. Reyes began the discussion at LCC about assuming these services for the community. A GED can open doors to countless possibilities."

The ACE Center represents LCC's commitment to supporting educational advancement and career development for all members of the community.