

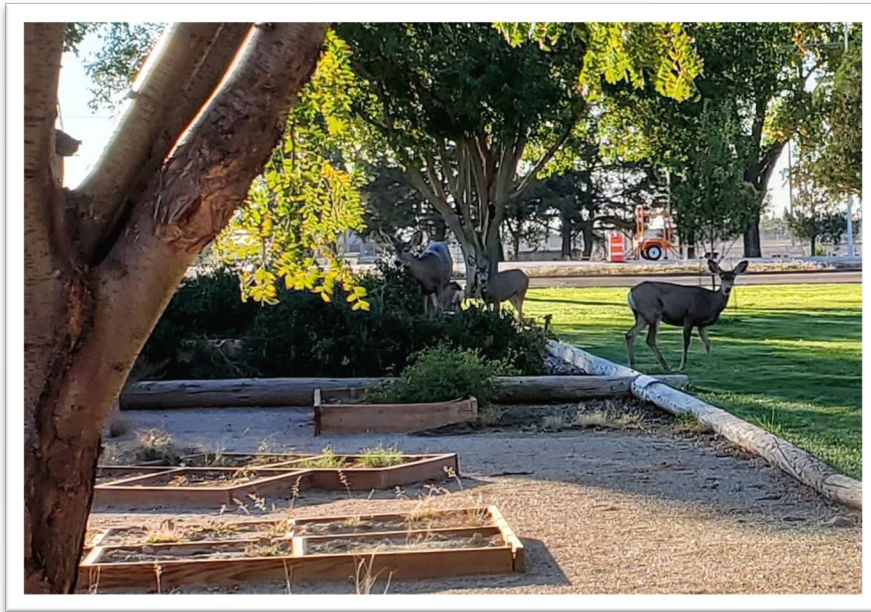


Lamar Community College President's Report November 2022

Transform the student experience.

Visitors in the Learning Garden

LCC is home to students from many corners of the world, including those of the antlered variety. Our resident deer population has taken to enjoying the many vegetables and flowers in the learning garden much to the dismay of our groundkeeper, Kyle Kurtz. Due to the proximity of the nature walk and woodland area LCC is the primary source of nutritious foliage for the local deer, turkey, bobcat, bird, and duck population with at least two ducks calling the pond on campus their home. Students will often experience these sociable ducks waddling up to them from their pond in search of dropped snacks.



Tutoring Lab New Hours

LCC's Tutoring lab has undergone a change in coordination and Tayla Turner has taken measures to ensure that every student has the opportunity to receive assistance in their courses. Tayla has altered the hours of operation and staggered the tutoring hours so that each course subject is available in morning shifts and evening shifts so traditional and non-traditional students can access tutoring on their own schedule. She has also taken steps to ensure students know about *TutorMe*, which is online tutoring available 24/7.

NFL Day at the Salon

Each year, the LCC Salon celebrates the beginning of football season with an NFL themed party day. This year the Salon served finger foods and let clients draw prizes for discounts on haircuts, colors, and nail services. The Salon is open to the entire community as well as employees and students on campus and offers a wide range of services to both men and women. This discount party serves to bring in lots of clientele for the practicing students and is the first day that they are allowed to perform salon services on real clients.



Pizza with the President

LCC has a tradition of providing a casual luncheon with the president to connect the students with leadership and to get feedback on how to improve their experience. The casual atmosphere puts the students on the same level as leadership so that they do not feel intimidated and can speak their minds freely for the most honest representation of how to best provide for our students. This year's event was held at the end of November and was the last Pizza with the President for Dr. Lujan.

Women's Soccer Program

Lamar Community College introduced new soccer programs to the athletics department this fall. Soccer has brought approximately 48 new students to campus and has become a prevalent sport in our community. Kevin Hurtado, the women's soccer coach, has had ups and downs in the season but won their first ever official game against Hesston College. The women's soccer team has been competitive in conference and Kevin hopes to get a few more wins in the last stage of conference play.



Student Life

Student Life Coordinator Yolanda Herrera and Library Director, Jennifer Goodland, partnered up these last few months to offer students opportunities to engage with each other, expand their creativity and display their unique personalities through a series of events and activities

Man Hunt

Student Life hosted an event called Man Hunt that was more like a giant game of hide and seek across the entirety of campus. The Resident Assistants dressed up in Halloween costumes and sought to find the other participating students. Very few students were able to hide successfully and everyone enjoyed the gleeful screams and excitement of being found by the seekers.



Spike Ball Tournament

This event is played in teams of 2 using a circular net with volleyball rules. This game brought out the competitive nature in the students and all enjoyed a chance to show off their skills to their fellow classmates. Prizes were awarded to the first place team.

Movie Night at the Local Theater

Student Life partnered with the Lamar Theater to offer a movie night to students. The movies shown were Invitation and Smile. The students got quite the scare watching smile they all came back to the dorms talking about the jumps and scares that they had. When the movie was over the students had a caramel apple night in the Todd Burch Hall lobby.

Halloween Dance

Student Life hosted the annual Halloween dance followed by a costume contest. This was a great night of fun, food, and drinks. The winners of the contest received a cash prize. The first-place winners sported a Stranger Things group costume and split the \$100 prize.

Short Story Contest and Spooky Movie Night

Library Director, Jennifer Goodland, challenged students to dive into their creativity and write a short story that was scary in nature. Categories such as Zombie and Apocalypse were just a few to choose from and the winners of the contest were given priority seating and snacks for the spooky movie night that Jennifer provided on October 31st. Quite a few participants were chosen, and we all enjoyed a good story.

Ping Pong Tournament

Students participated in a ping pong tournament in Todd Burch Hall on November 3rd. There were 20 total participants in the tournament and first place won a projector while second place took home a cozy throw blanket with a hot chocolate kit.

Hypnotist

One of the most exciting and entertaining events that Student Life hosted was a live hypnotist show. Tracy Gray came and performed for the students, hypnotizing some to the utter disbelief of more skeptical students. Believe what you like, but the event was a huge success and students had a grand time watching their friends get picked on from the crowd.

Game Night and Bowling Night

Wii sports game nights and bowling continue to be a much-appreciated event by the students that live on campus and those that are more non-traditional. These events were hosted closer to Thanksgiving break for those that would be staying on campus for the holiday weekend.

Phi Theta Kappa

Lamar Community College was excited to invite approximately 80 students to join Phi Theta Kappa this semester. These students have all completed at least 25% of their certificate or degree and hold at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA in their degree/certificate coursework. Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and largest academic honor society for two-year colleges, and it has an excellent national reputation for the quality of its students. Joining Phi Theta Kappa is an excellent way for students to expand their college experience, meet other high performing students, build their resume, gain leadership and service skills, and take advantage of many scholarship and career-building opportunities. Phi Theta Kappa held new member orientation on October 11th and Induction on November 2nd. Phi Theta Kappa officers selected Dr. Lujan as their keynote speaker in honor of her ongoing support for our chapter and presented her with a bouquet and a giant card signed by students from across the college.

Cowboy Coffee

Dr. Brian Gauck hosted a morning coffee chat and snack for all students Mondays and Wednesdays in the month of November. This gave students the opportunity to grab a quick cup of coffee before class and get to know the members of the Ag and Equine Faculty. With our Equine Facility further off campus, students from general courses of study do not often get to mingle with or communicate with students and faculty from the Ag and Equine programs. These morning events were an excellent way of reaching out to those students and introducing them to alternative programs that they perhaps hadn't considered before.

Transfer Fair

On November 16th, Lamar Community College hosted a transfer fair in which recruiters from various colleges in Colorado and out-of-state showed up to discuss transfer options with our students. This event was extremely successful as students asked questions and decided the next steps in their educational journey.

Lamar Community College Horse Show



LCC's Horse Training Management and Equine Business Management programs put on a horse show at the end of every semester to demonstrate the capabilities of their students. This semester's horse show was held on November 18th at the LCC Arena and was open to the public. The students compete in several categories such as ranch horse team, colt starting and specialized training. Faculty, family, horse owners, and others attend and cheer on the students.

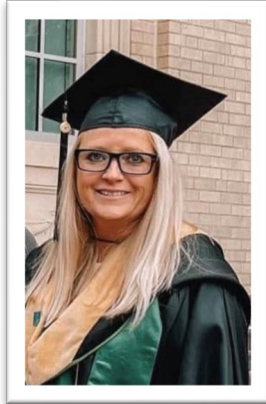


During the lunch break, the HTM/EBM Advisory Council meets to hear about the programs and to offer advice and ideas for improving the curriculum and student placements.

Transform our own workforce experience.

New Employees

Welcome Amber Settles



Amber joins LCC as an adjunct instructor. She currently teaches Intro to Psychology I, Intro to Sociology I and Human Sexuality. Amber also works as a clinician with High Plains Community Health Center. Amber has been working in the helping field for her whole career. In 2019 she decided to go back to school and get her master's degree in social work. She graduated in December 2021 and now is working in her dream job and providing therapy to our community. She works with all ages and all stages. Amber is thrilled to be able to serve her community through the past year in her internship and beyond. She started her educational journey at Lamar Community College and is grateful to be able to give back and support others starting out their education with LCC as well.

Welcome Larry “Mitch” Waltisperger

LCC welcomes Mitch to the Ag and Equine programs as our new Rodeo Coach. Mitch is from a small community in the hill country of Texas called Tarpley. He was raised around horse, cattle, and rodeo. His whole family has been involved in rodeo while led to him developing a passion for rodeo and the western way of life. He started in junior rodeos, high school rodeos and put himself through college on rodeo scholarships. In 2008 while attending Western Texas College in Snyder he was a member of the Reserve National Championship Team at the CNFR. After that he continued to rodeo in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. After the conclusion of his rodeo career, Mitch felt it was his calling to coach the next generation of rodeo athletes and to help them achieve their goals in and out of the arena.

Welcome Dr. Zachary Sands

Zach Sands has joined the LCC faculty and teaches English and Humanities courses. Dr Sands is originally from Michigan but has moved around a lot since graduating from community college himself. He has taught for over thirteen years at multiple colleges and universities around the country and beyond, including one year at the College of Micronesia on the island of Pohnpei and one year in the Republic of Moldova as a Fulbright Scholar. He is a prolific writer and self-taught musician who also enjoys cooking. Dr Sands is excited to join the full-time faculty at LCC and looks forward to helping the college continue to grow.

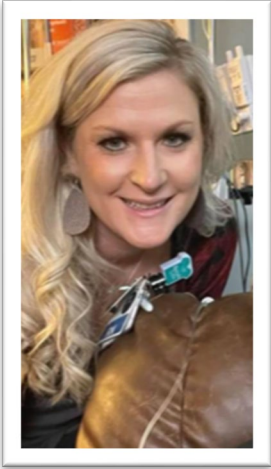


Welcome Brian Gauck



Brian joins the LCC team as the Agriculture Professor. Dr. Gauck's lifetime in agriculture and passion for leadership brought him to Lamar Community College. He is a native of Milan, Indiana and is the first educator from a family lineage of farmers. Growing up, he participated in FFA and was a 10-year 4-H Member. He earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education from Purdue University; both specializing in Agriculture. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Education at Colorado State University, specializing in Organizational Learning, Performance, and Change. Dr. Gauck's experience includes five years as a regional Soil and Water Conservation Extension Specialist for Purdue University, adjunct instructor for Indiana Wesleyan University, and ten years as a high school instructor in Vocational Agriculture and Citizenship and Leadership Development. Dr. Gauck is a Navy

Veteran, having served as a helicopter pilot in Operations Provide Comfort Enduring Freedom. His military service brought him to North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) in Colorado Springs, where he worked in homeland security and defense before his retirement in 2013. Dr. Gauck is a member of the Association of Leadership Educators, a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association as a rodeo photographer, and other community service organizations. He also served as a volunteer coach for the Air Force Academy Rodeo Team. His interests include learning classical piano, supporting military charities, and our western heritage.



Welcome Kara Reeder

Please welcome Kara Reeder to the nursing faculty and LCC team. Kara is a native of our area and moved back to raise her family after obtaining her BSN degree from Texas Tech and working in critical care nursing for 8 years in Amarillo and Lubbock. She has 3 kids with her husband, Dustyn. She has expertise in ICU, surgical, chemotherapy, and leadership nursing areas, and was previously a clinical adjunct for our program. Her most-recent work experience has been at Prowers Medical Center. Kara is happy to be a part of the team and says she is excited to help guide the next generation of health care professionals in Southeastern Colorado.

Conversation Day

Conversation Day is an annual all-employee meeting where employees gather, enjoy good food and conversation with their coworkers, and participate in HLC and Strategic Planning activities. Dr. Lujan and leadership lead the charge along with the help of our HLC Accreditation Liaison Officer, Kelly Emick. All the employees are divided into groups for the activities where they share ideas, concerns, and strategize on how LCC should best approach the Strategic Planning action priorities they are assigned.



This year's Conversation Day included a student panel in which we got important feedback from the students on how we are doing as a college and how we can improve their experience.



Strategic Planning – Action Priority Groups

As part of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, each year LCC focuses on one theme and engages the entire college in action priorities related to that theme. Year one was “aesthetics/amenities”, year two was “communication” and this year’s focus is “expanding access”. The President’s Leadership Council’s (PLC) and hoc planning group – Kelly Emick, Robert Vazquez, Kyle Lasley, Shealynn Robins, Jennifer Goodland, and Courtney Beshara – worked with PLC and Dr. Lujan to identify priorities for this year. In the longstanding tradition of process improvement from LCC’s many years as an Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) campus, each employee will participate in one of the projects.

1. College-wide Priority Projects

1.1. Student Success Priority

Recommend updated schedule courses, programs, and services to fit the needs of the communities we serve. Look at hours of operation, course availability, services, etc. to see if we are meeting the needs of the students we want to serve.

1.2. Community Success Priority

Develop calendar, responsible parties, and processes, to successfully plan, coordinate, and offer meaningful campus events to bring community members, potential students, and others to LCC throughout the year. Examples include Career Fairs, Knowledge Bowl, Girls in the Middle, FFA Conference, Transfer Fairs, Colorado History Day, etc.

1.3. Resource Success Priority

Increase recruitment activities and strategies for enrollment growth in all categories of students, including adult learners.

1.4. Employee Success Priority

Work with employees and the Employee Engagement Committee to expand opportunities for employees to support campus events and activities (including athletic events), increase wellness activities, and engage with each other.

In addition to college-wide projects each department and unit may have its own action priorities and projects related to expanding access (removing barriers).

Presidential Search Finalist Campus Visits

The first of November brought excitement and bit of sadness to campus. Dr. Linda Lujan will be retiring from her position as President and a candidate has been chosen to succeed her. Although we are very fond of Dr. Lujan and all her accomplishments at LCC, we understand that her desire to spend time with family and enjoy the fruits of her labor. Lamar Community College hosted the three presidential search finalists. During their visit, each candidate was given a tour of campus and the surrounding town and booked up with several meetings with important staff and student groups to get a better understanding of what LCC is all about. Their day ended with a public forum in which the community members were invited to ask questions and give feedback to Chancellor Garcia on this important decision. Ultimately, we are excited to report that a candidate was chosen and has accepted the position to begin shortly following the new year.



“Dr. Rosana Reyes is a dynamic leader who will step into the presidency with the confidence, experience, and energy needed to advance student success and strategic partnerships in Colorado’s southeast rural region,” said Colorado Community College System Chancellor Joe Garcia. “Our colleges are key to revitalizing our rural communities and essential to their economic, cultural, and civic enrichment. Dr. Reyes understands this charge, and I believe her DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) engagement strategies, fluency in Spanish, and her proven track record of successfully working with diverse and under-served communities makes her the right leader for LCC at this time in the college’s history and in its development as a federally-designated Hispanic-Serving Institution.”

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

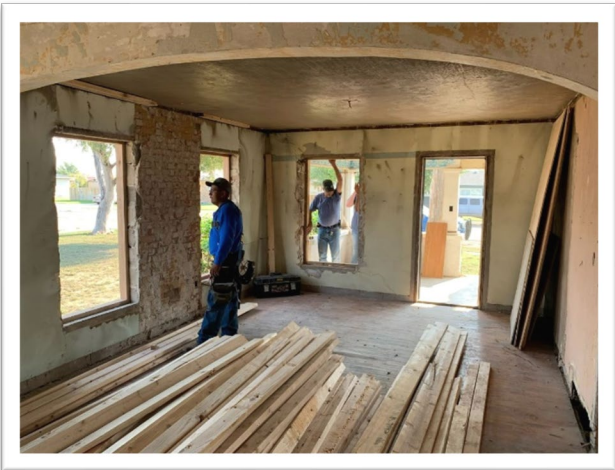
Men’s Basketball Service Project

LCC’s Men’s Basketball enjoyed a morning of reading to children of the Lamar Public Library. We’re not sure who enjoyed it more! All the athletic teams support the communities through a variety of service projects throughout the year. This engagement benefits children, elders, service organizations, and municipalities. Students report feeling valued, engaged, and productive. We are so proud of our teams, coaches, and communities for these great partnerships.



COPERR Project

LCC's Construction Trades program, which renovated and sold its first home last year, is renovating another home in Wiley this year as part of the COPERR project, funded through the Attorney General's Office. Students are learning about every aspect of renovation as they demo and rebuild key components. Recently, a donor offered a vacant lot in Lamar, so the next project will be a new build, which we're told will go much faster than a renovation.



ACT Testing

Lamar Community College serves as a testing site for the ACT testing in Colorado. High school students can sign up to test from all over Colorado and even some parts of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas due to proximity. Linda Freiberger, LCC's testing coordinator, hosted the Fall ACT Testing date on October 22nd and had hosted students from our local schools.

Ag Olympics

LCC hosted Ag Olympics this year in October in our Equine Complex arena. Ag Olympics is a social and networking event for LCC students in the equine, rodeo and agriculture programs and is open to the community. Students from each of these programs will compete in Olympic style events of agility, strength and grace with an agricultural flare. Hay bale relays, manure cart obstacle course, ribbon roping and goat tying are just a few of the events that can be witnessed. This is a rather informal event that takes place to bring together the instructors, students, and community members to exchange ideas, share stories and build lasting relationships that will carry

them farther than their short journey with LCC. Our own Brian Gauck took pictures to commemorate the event.



FFA Creed Speaking Invitational and Ag Day

Lamar Community College hosted this event in early November and the campus was abuzz with hundreds of high school students from our surrounding communities. This event is designed to educate and illuminate growing agricultural concerns, help students make connections with local farmers, ranchers and specialists in their field, and offer students an opportunity to see what LCC can offer them for their post-secondary education. Students who did not participate in Creed contests and presentations learned about the many programs that LCC offers. In addition to learning about Precision Ag, Horse Training Management and Equine Business Management, students also heard from faculty and chairs about all the other programs at LCC.





Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative – Ethics Orientation

The prestigious Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Collegiate Program at UCCS College of Business fellowships are awarded to UCCS educators who demonstrate excellence in pedagogical activities related to applied business, professional and organizational ethics. Lamar Community College is proud to be a part of this initiative and have nominated Student Life Coordinator Yolanda Herrera and English Faculty Dr. Zachary Sands as our 2022-2023 Ethics Champions. Representative Tracy Gonzalez Padron initiated our champions and provided an ethics orientation. During her visit to campus, Tracy provided an ethics seminar to our Student Government which included Ethical Leadership, Business Ethics, creating a personal code and how to become a role model for ethical behavior.

This October, students from LCC were invited to compete in the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Case Study Competition at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. Students Mason Mireles and Genesis Santiago were given a case study and had to prepare and present potential ethical solutions to a hypothetical board of directors. This was the first time that representatives from LCC had taken part in the competition, and though they did not place the experience they take away from this event will stay with them.



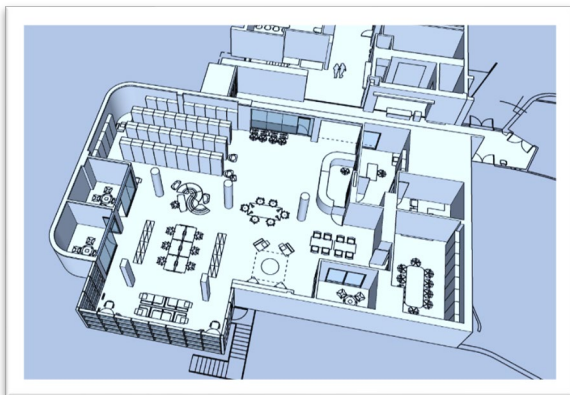
Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

IREPO Committee Update

The technology purchased with the federal IREPO grant should be installed and completed by mid-November. The IREPO coordinator and IT department participated in a training with Samsung and feel the best course of action for implementing the new technology would be to do individual training with staff and faculty on its usage as each instructor has unique needs. From this basic instruction, each department can create training based on the feedback from instructors. Along with the install of technology and training, new logo-branded lecterns have been introduced into the classrooms to compliment the new furniture for a crisp and modern feel.



Camera systems are still a work in progress as the IREPO and IT departments research the best fit for LCC and for faculty usage and coordinate with the technology from the Rural College Consortium. For classrooms, there seems to be some consensus that 2 cameras would be appropriate, whereas many of the trades and nursing would benefit from having additional cameras, up to four or more. Each set up gives approximately 16 presets that would accommodate multiple teachers in each classroom.



Library Renovation Project

As part of a state-funded capital improvement project, LCC is working with Hall Architects to renovate the Bowman Library and Tutoring Lab. This renovation will completely redefine the two spaces and create additional private study rooms as well as an archival storage and work room for the library staff. Hall Architects held an open forum in the Large Lecture Hall of LCC in October and displayed boards of designs, versatile furniture options and study booths. When asking for feedback, some attendees voiced both praise and offered ideas, concerns, and suggestions for some of the design

elements and how they would fit with the college mission and space.

Boots, Bling & Blessings

The weather on October 22 was glorious, the venue was sparkling, the food was amazing, and the crowd was delighted to enjoy this year's Boots, Bling & Blessings signature fundraising event. In addition to a silent auction, which featured all the usual categories of gifts and baskets as well as a few unusual items, like stud fees and a darling mini-Australian Shepherd puppy, there were some fun fundraising games. The number of sponsors continue to grow and the LCC Foundation board actively engages in planning and hosting the event. Among the evening's highlights is the "speechifying" portion where Dr. Lujan introduces scholarship recipients, who each spend a moment talking about themselves and thanking donors.





External Room Reservations

LCC provides meeting spaces and rooms at reasonable prices for all the surrounding communities. In the last few months, we have hosted all-employee meetings and events for several local businesses such as High Plains Medical Group, Santa Fe Trail Byway and the Five Rivers of Lamar. LCC serves as a community resource for meeting spaces and technology usage, and we strive to support all the surrounding communities in all their endeavors.

