

President's Report
Late March - Early April 2026

President - Dr. Rosana Reyes



LAMAR
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



PARTNER OF CHOICE

Welcoming Aspiring Agricultural Professionals at the FFA CDE Contest

On Wednesday, March 25, faculty from Lamar Community College (LCC)'s Agriculture Program hosted the Regional Future Farmers of America (FFA) Career Development Events (CDE) Contest. 883 high school FFA students from 44 schools competed in 12 career-focused competitions, ranging from Agricultural Business Management to Veterinary Science. The largest competitions were Floriculture, with 124 participants, and Veterinary Science, with 119 participants. In the Floriculture Contest, students completed a comprehensive knowledge exam, identified common tools and plant materials, and demonstrated hands-on skills by arranging a corsage. The Veterinary Science Contest required students to complete a written exam, identify common disease symptoms and tools, and demonstrate technical skills across two laboratory scenarios.

The event was successfully coordinated and supported through collaborative partnerships involving LCC faculty, staff, and student leaders, as well as local agriculture instructors, local businesses, agricultural professionals, Prowers County, Colorado State University, and Oklahoma Panhandle State University.





EDUCATION FOR ALL

LCC Officially Recognized as a First-Generation Serving Institution

On Monday, March 30, LCC was officially designated as a First Generation-Serving Institution. Given by the Colorado Department of Higher Education and based on the most recent three years of enrollment data, this designation recognizes institutions whose average first-generation resident undergraduate student population meets or exceeds the statewide average. During the 2024-2025 academic year, 56% of LCC students were first-generation college students. This milestone is another marker of LCC's dedication to creating pathways for student success.





EDUCATION FOR ALL

LCC Employees and Students Honored for Excellence

On Wednesday, April 8, LCC faculty, staff, and students were honored during the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) 2026 Employee and Student Excellence Awards. Employees received their awards in the morning, while a ceremony for the students was held later that evening.

For the Employee Excellence Awards, four recipients were selected for the categories of Administrator, Classified, Faculty, and Instructor of the Year. Each of these employees was chosen by their colleagues based on their demonstrations of leadership and integrity, commitment to professional development, and continual efforts to make a positive impact on the LCC community.

2026 Administrator of the Year

Kelly Emick, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Student Services

2026 Classified of the Year

Brian England, Security Officer

2026 Faculty of the Year

Jake Specht, COPERR Field Instructor/Manager

2026 Instructor of the Year

Richard (Rick) Robbins, Adjunct Faculty



From left to right: Brian England, Chancellor Marielena DeSanctis, Kelly Emick, Jake Specht, and LCC President Dr. Rosana Reyes at the CCCS Employee Excellence Awards.



EDUCATION FOR ALL

Out of LCC's student body, three students were selected by the leadership team for the Rising Star Award and Inclusive Excellence Champion. The Rising Star Award, which is given to two recipients, recognizes students who have made outstanding leadership contributions on campus and in the wider community. The Inclusive Excellence Champion is awarded to a student who has advanced, diversity, equity, and inclusion practices on their campus.

2026 Rising Stars

RJ Foreman, Banan Vandever

2026 Inclusive Excellence Champion

Julissa Esquivel



From left to right: RJ Foreman, Chancellor Marielena DeSanctis, Julissa Esquivel, and Dr. Rosana Reyes at the CCCS Student Excellence Awards.



ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Governor Jared Polis Pays Visit to LCC

On Friday, April 10, LCC had the privilege of hosting Jared Polis, the 43rd Governor of Colorado. During the visit, Governor Polis heard from faculty, staff, students, and community partners about LCC's tremendous impact on the Southeastern Colorado region through workforce development, economic mobility, and strong student employment outcomes that are exceeding state averages. Two standout experiences were tours of LCC's Equine Complex and the recently finished home on 3101 Memorial Drive in Lamar, which was completed by students and alumni from the Construction Trades Program. The combined collaboration of everyone involved made the day an absolute success.





EDUCATION FOR ALL

Future-Focused Fun at the LCC Middle School Fair

On Thursday, April 16, LCC hosted a Middle School Fair for 100 eighth graders from Lamar Middle School. Students toured the campus, stopping at various departments for educational, hands-on activities. In the CTE and Welding Departments, they tried out the simulators and learned more about the environment at LCC. While visiting the Cosmetology Department, the students took part in a race with hair dryers, mock razors, and shaving cream, giving them a glimpse into the basics of barbering and cosmetology. In the Nursing Department, they completed a scavenger hunt to test their knowledge of registered nurse equipment. They also had the chance to visit Todd Burch Residence Hall and enjoy student life activities like jousting and 9 Square. Alongside the fun were discussions about degree options, concurrent enrollment, and future plans. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity for the young people of Lamar to get an early exposure to the college atmosphere and consider the different career pathways available to them.





EDUCATION FOR ALL

7th Annual Boots, Bling, and Blessings Brings Funds and Festivities

LCC held its 7th Annual Boots, Bling, & Blessings fundraiser on Saturday, April 18. Hosted by the LCC Foundation at the school's Equine Complex, the evening brought together more than 150 attendees, including local business owners, county commissioners, LCC employees, and community supporters. Guests enjoyed a full BBQ dinner, games, and silent and live auction opportunities that helped drive fundraising efforts throughout the night. Additionally, the event included remarks from Dr. Rosana Reyes, President of LCC, and Foundation Board Chairman Joe Spitz. Dr. Brian Gauck, Dean of Academic Services, served as Master of Ceremonies. Several student scholarship recipients were also highlighted, showcasing the direct impact of community investment in LCC's students and programs.

The evening concluded with a live concert by Pueblo-native country music artist Cody Cozz, creating a high-energy finale to a night centered on celebration and support for LCC. With Community State Bank serving as the presenting sponsor, the event raised over \$70,000 in support of the LCC Foundation, helping remove barriers to education and strengthen opportunities for students across the region.





PARTNER OF CHOICE

Welcoming the Harlem Wizards to Lamar

On Wednesday, April 22, the LCC Wellness Center hosted a basketball game between the world-famous Harlem Wizards and the Southeast Colorado Roadrunners, a regional team comprised of the Colorado State Patrol, Prowers County Sheriff's Office, Lamar City Police, Lamar Light and Power, Lamar Fire Department, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The game was organized by a local chapter of the Al Kaly Shriners to raise funds to help children with physical deformities, bone disease, neuromuscular disorders, and other challenges travel to Shriners Hospitals around the world. This was LCC's second year hosting the event, and more than 500 people came out to lend their cheers and support to this incredible community initiative.



The Harlem Wizards and Southeast Colorado Roadrunners at the LCC Wellness Center.



PARTNER OF CHOICE

LCC Partners with SBDC for Small Business Summit

In partnership with the East CO Small Business Development Center (SBDC), LCC hosted the Small Business Summit on Thursday, April 23. The event successfully brought together 30 local entrepreneurs for a day of high-impact learning and professional networking. This was evident through its four specialized workshops, which were designed to address modern business challenges, including optimizing pricing strategies, mastering customer service excellence, navigating marketing trends, and leveraging artificial intelligence for operational efficiency. In addition to the educational sessions, attendees had the opportunity to engage with various resource tables for direct support and participate in an interactive "Ask the Expert" panel, which provided personalized solutions to specific business hurdles. This collaborative environment offered attendees actionable tools for growth while strengthening the local business community through shared expertise and resource accessibility.

