



Lamar Community College President's August 2024 Report

President – Dr. Rosana Reyes



TRANSFORM THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE.

Student Life

Sand and Sage

Lamar Community College (LCC) proudly participated in this year's Sand and Sage Parade, a cherished local tradition that brings the community together in celebration. LCC students, faculty, and staff represented the college with a spirited float, showcasing the vibrant energy and pride of the campus.

The parade provided a wonderful opportunity for LCC to connect with the community and celebrate the shared heritage. The event was a festive occasion, and the LCC family was warmly welcomed as they marched through the heart of Lamar.





Orientation

Lamar Community College (LCC) recently welcomed its newest students with a dynamic and reimagined New Student Orientation, designed to help students build connections and foster relationships from the very start of their college journey. The orientation, which took place over the course of the afternoon, introduced incoming students to campus life, academic expectations, and a vibrant community eager to support their success.

This year, LCC implemented significant changes to the orientation schedule, moving away from the traditional format of back-to-back informational sessions. Instead, the college embraced a more interactive approach, centering the experience around activities that encouraged students to engage with one another and their new environment.

The new format included small group discussions, icebreakers, and team-building exercises, all aimed at helping students form bonds with peers, faculty, and staff. A campus scavenger hunt and a “meet your mentor” session were among the highlights, providing opportunities for students to navigate the campus together and establish meaningful connections.





Welcome Back Bash

As the new academic year began, Lamar Community College welcomed students and staff back to campus with a lively Welcome Back Bash BBQ. Held during the first week of classes, this event was the perfect opportunity for everyone to reconnect with friends, meet new faces, and celebrate the start of a fresh semester.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ, lively music, and a relaxed atmosphere as they settled into the new school year. The event was designed to foster a sense of community among students and staff, providing a fun and informal setting to socialize and ease into the academic routine.



Bowling Night

Lamar Community College (LCC) students enjoyed an exciting evening of strikes, spares, and socializing at a recent Bowling Night held at Lamar Lanes. The event, organized by LCC Student/Residence Life, aimed to provide students with an opportunity to unwind, connect with peers, and enjoy some friendly competition outside the classroom. Students, both seasoned bowlers and beginners, took to the lanes with enthusiasm, cheering each other on and forming new friendships along the way.

Lamar Lanes, a popular local venue, provided the perfect setting for the event, with its vibrant ambiance and top-notch facilities. The night also included fun challenges, such as a "glow in the dark bowling" round where participants had to bowl in the dark using only the glow of the black light and fluorescent bowling balls.



Ag Olympics

This year, Lamar Community College once again brought students, instructors, and community members together for the annual Ag Olympics, held in the Equine Complex arena. The event served as a fun and informal gathering, allowing students from the equine, rodeo, and agriculture programs to showcase their skills in a series of unique, agriculture-themed competitions.

Participants tested their agility, strength, and grace in events such as hay bale relays, manure cart obstacle courses, ribbon roping, and goat tying. The Ag Olympics provided an excellent opportunity for students to network, exchange ideas, and build lasting relationships within the LCC community.



Open to the public, the event was not only a display of talent but also a celebration of the hard work and dedication of LCC's agriculture students. The connections made during this event are sure to support students well beyond their time at LCC.

Lopes Alumni Spotlight

We are excited to announce some fantastic news about one of our distinguished alumni, Cam Sisneros! Cam has just received the thrilling news that he has been drafted by the Cubs in the 14th round of the MLB Draft. Lamar Community College couldn't be prouder of Cam and all that he has accomplished. We wish him the very best as he takes on this exciting new opportunity with the Cubs. We know he'll make us proud!

A big thank you to our Lopes alumni for your continued support and encouragement. Cam's success highlights the strength of our LCC community. Let's all rally behind him as he embarks on this amazing journey!



TRANSFORM OUR OWN WORKFORCE EXPERIENCE

New Employees

Welcome Business Faculty – Jennifer Mortimeyer

Jennifer Mortimeyer holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver and a Bachelor of Human Resource Management from Bellevue University. She is a returnee to LCC; having previously served for several years as the Director of Human Resources and as an Adjunct Business Instructor. Jennifer established a local nonprofit and served as its Executive Director for several years prior to her return to LCC. She is eager to share her years of human resource, finance, and management experience with students at LCC.



Jennifer is a sixth-generation Colorado native. She and her husband, Justin, stay busy chasing after their four children who span the range from kindergarten to college. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling (particularly to historical sites), and volunteering.



Welcome Head Ranch Horse Coach - Cole Bennett

I currently reside near Syracuse, KS, with my wife, Brittani, and our daughter, Brynnleigh, and son, Chet. We run a small cow calf operation and a horse training business, Cole Bennett Cowhorses, LLC. I was born and raised in Syracuse, where horses were a big part of my family, and we got to help dad gather cows and go to playdays and do all the events. In high school, I competed in riding saddlebroncs and team roping. I continued on after high school, growing my skills, working in feed yards and riding pens, along with a few different ranch jobs where my goal was always to be a better horseman. Along the way, I started collecting for extra money here and there.

I didn't have a plan to get where we are today; I just always admired the guy riding the best horse no matter where I went, and I wanted to have a horse like that. But we didn't have the money to buy one, so I would ask questions and start doing things I saw people doing. Eventually it worked out to be able to start our horse training business, and I am really grateful to get to do this every day! Along with raising our kids in the lifestyle I got to enjoy growing up in.

I have been competing at the state level in open competition with the NRCHA since 2017. Competing with the Colorado reined cowhorse association, Panhandle reined cowhorse association, and a few other affiliates. We competed in our first premier event in the NRCHA in 2020. I also enjoy competing at VRH and ranching heritage challenge events throughout the year. I tested and received my NRCHA judge's card in December of 2023.

Welcome Behavioral Health Faculty – Catherine Tempel

Catherine Tempel, an experienced Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate/Psychotherapist, has joined Lamar Community College (LCC) as a behavioral health faculty member. Catherine is eligible for full, unrestricted LPC licensure in November 2024 and brings a wealth of expertise in Psychodynamics, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), crisis intervention, and clinical practice with diverse clientele. Her background includes extensive work in group and individual therapies, trauma-informed care, and family dynamics.

Additionally, Catherine has significant experience in Special Education, with a focus on Autism, Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia. She is



currently completing a Doctoral program in Clinical Psychology at Walden University. LCC is excited to welcome Catherine and looks forward to the valuable contributions she will make to the behavioral health program.



Welcome Men's Basketball Coach – Jaxon Autry

Jaxon Autry joins the Running Lopes with a strong coaching background, having spent six years as Assistant Coach at Garden City Community College. During his time there, he helped the Broncbusters achieve a 112-71 record, including a historic Jayhawk Region championship in 2009 and a 6th place finish at the National Tournament. A Kim, Colorado native, Autry was a standout point guard for the Mustangs, leading them to a state championship in 1993 and earning unanimous All-State honors.

After high school, Autry gained valuable experience as a manager for the Colorado State University men's basketball team. He holds a bachelor's degree in history from CSU-Pueblo and a master's in human performance from Adams State College. Over the past 22 years, Autry has coached basketball at various levels in Colorado and Kansas, achieving notable successes, including state and national tournament placements.

Currently, Autry runs HWCC REP basketball in Southwestern Kansas, a program that develops players of all ages. In 2023, he trained his first professional signee, Kobe Dickson, and helped coach a team to a Reserve National Championship. Autry, his wife Kate, and their three children, Cooper, Baylor, and Jossier are excited to join the Lamar community and contribute to the Running Lopes' success.

Welcome Biology Faculty – Dr. Karla Moreno

Dr. Karla Moreno is a distinguished academic with a deep expertise in human health and nutrition. She earned her Ph.D. in Horticultural Science and a master's degree in Agrifood Science and Technology from the Autonomous University of Chapingo in Texcoco, Mexico, and a Bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Veracruz.

Dr. Moreno has held significant roles in Mexico, including as a Nutritionist at the National Institute of Medical Science and Nutrition "Salvador Zubirán" in Mexico City, and as a Fellow Research Scientist at the Autonomous University of Chapingo. She also contributed to public health as part of the Human Health and Nutrition Council for the Government System for Integral Family Development in Veracruz. Her



dedication to research and education earned her an honorable mention upon completing her doctorate.

In addition to her work in Mexico, Dr. Moreno has served as a Special Education Teacher Aid in Lamar, Colorado. Currently, as a faculty member at Lamar Community College, she is passionate about guiding students through their educational journeys. Dr. Moreno enjoys teaching biology, where she inspires students to appreciate the complexity of science, and she is committed to making a positive impact in the Lamar community.

CREATE EDUCATION WITHOUT BARRIERS THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

Night of Honor

Lamar Community College (LCC) hosted a special "Night of Honor" during the first volleyball game of the season to recognize and thank the generous donors who contributed to the replacement and refinishing of the college's gym floor. The event took place in the LCC Wellness Center and celebrated the invaluable support from KLMR and Scooters, whose contributions made the project possible.

The evening was marked by the unveiling of the shiny, new floor and new jumbotron scoreboards, which added to the excitement of the game. A highlight of the event was a hula hoop contest that brought immense joy to the crowd, engaging both young and old in the festivities. The event drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, reflecting the community's strong support for the college. The "Night of Honor" was a resounding success, serving as a heartfelt tribute to the donors' commitment to enhancing LCC's facilities and supporting the athletic program.





Prowers County Sheriff's Office Youth Academy

Lamar Community College was proud to host the Prowers County Sheriff's Office Youth Academy, an initiative aimed at fostering career exploration and educational advancement among local youth. This program provided participants with valuable insights into law enforcement careers, hands-on experience, and academic credit opportunities. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates for their dedication and accomplishments. Additionally, we commend the Sheriff's team for their commitment to advancing career exploration and supporting educational growth in our region. This partnership underscores our shared commitment to preparing the next generation for successful futures.



MIT STEM Students visit LCC

LCC was thrilled to host a group of MIT students who visited Lamar to share their STEM expertise and enrich our community. These talented students spent time at the Lamar Library, engaging with around 40 middle schoolers. Through interactive activities and discussions, they sparked curiosity and inspired a passion for science among the young participants. It was a fantastic opportunity for our community to benefit from their knowledge and enthusiasm, and we are grateful for their efforts to make a lasting impact on the next generation of learners.

ACEN Site Visit

Lamar Community College (LCC) recently hosted a site visit as part of the continuing accreditation process for its Associate Degree Nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). This important evaluation ensured that the program met the high standards necessary to prepare students for successful careers in nursing.

As part of the accreditation process, LCC also held a public participation meeting, where community members were invited to share their feedback and opinions on the nursing program. The college valued the input of the community and appreciated everyone who attended and contributed to the discussion.



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

Lopes Café

Over the summer, another fantastic addition to the LCC campus emerged. Lamar Community College is excited to announce the continued partnership with Sodexo and the introduction of the Lopes Café. This new café offers a convenient grab-and-go option for students and staff, providing an assortment of coffee, tea, boba, sandwiches, and wraps.

Students now have the option to allocate a portion of their meal plan funds to their Lopes Café account, allowing them to use their student ID to make purchases. The Lopes Café offers a convenient way to grab a quick bite between designated cafeteria meal periods. Located in the Student Union, the Lopes Café is a welcome treat and a vibrant new spot on campus!



Micro-Credential Behavioral Health Program

Lamar Community College (LCC) is excited to announce the launch of a new micro-credential program in Behavioral Health, designed to equip students with essential skills and knowledge in this critical field. This program offers focused, practical training that can be completed in a short time, making it ideal for individuals looking to enhance their qualifications or enter the behavioral health profession quickly.

The micro-credential program covers key topics such as mental health support, crisis intervention, addiction recovery assistance, and effective communication strategies, providing students with a strong foundation to pursue careers in various behavioral health settings. Upon completion, participants will earn a recognized credential that can be applied to further education or directly in the workforce.

LCC Home Sold

LCC is happy to congratulate Bryan Fierro, Yesenia Holguin, and their family on their new home, proudly built by our LCC Construction Trades program. This beautiful home stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and students. It reflects the skills and craftsmanship honed through our program and marks a significant achievement for everyone involved. We are proud to have played a part in helping Bryan, Yesenia, and their family create a place to call their own.



Top 25 Academic Honor Roll Team

Lamar Community College (LCC) is proud to announce that our women's basketball team has achieved the prestigious rank of #2 in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Top 25 Honor Roll for Two-Year Colleges. This remarkable accomplishment reflects the team's dedication to excellence both on the court and in the classroom.

The WBCA Top 25 Honor Roll recognizes programs that have demonstrated exceptional academic performance while competing at the highest levels of collegiate basketball. LCC's women's basketball team has exemplified this standard, making the entire college community proud.



TOP 25 ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL TEAM



TWO-YEAR COLLEGES
RANKED #2



LAMAR WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL

Skill Advance Mobile Learning Grant

The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade have awarded Lamar Community College an \$859,000 Skill Advance Mobile Learning grant. The Mobile Learning Lab will provide training opportunities in Industrial Technology and related fields, focusing on manufacturing principles that enhance the safety and efficiency of industrial processes and machinery. The lab will be equipped with a classroom for theoretical learning and a modular area with customized training equipment for a practical, hands-on experience. LCC will offer training in electrical and mechanical manufacturing, renewable energy, welding, construction trades, and industrial agriculture.

Designed for education-on-the-go, the lab will bring customized training to many counties in the region including Prowers, Bent, Otero, Kiowa, Baca, Crowley, Las Animas, and Huerfano counties. Through the College's Workforce Resilience Alliance, supporting partners like Trinidad State College and Otero College can leverage the lab to increase access to customized workforce development.