



EDUCATION FOR ALL



President's Report **Late August - Early September 2026** President - Dr. Rosana Reyes

LCC Student Awarded Prestigious Chime Workforce Scholarship



On Tuesday, August 25, Horse Training & Management student River Stepanek was named a 2026 Chime Workforce Scholar. Funded by the Chime Scholars Foundation and administered by the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, the scholarship provides each recipient with \$1,000 to assist with educational expenses while they complete a certificate or associate degree that will prepare them to work in a high-demand field.

"We could not be prouder of River for receiving this scholarship," said Savanna Mauch, Horse Training & Management Instructor and Career and Technical Education Department Chair. "In the scholarship narrative, it says they are looking for students who are hard working. I could not choose a description to better fit River than that. Not only does she excel in all of her horse training courses, but she is also a good student in the classroom and takes care of our instructor horses and facility duties as part of her work study position. River is very deserving of this scholarship, and we are proud to have her represent the LCC horse programs."

Dr. Rosana Reyes Appointed to New CDHE Advisory Committee

On Wednesday, September 2, Dr. Rosana Reyes, President of LCC, was selected by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) to serve on its Advisory Committee on Thriving Institution Outcomes. Established under House Bill 26-1006: Thriving Institution Designations for Higher Education, the committee will provide CDHE with crucial insight on the outcome standards, recognition standards, and continuous improvement approach that's used to identify institutions for Colorado's thriving institution designation.





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To receive the designation, public institutions of higher education must demonstrate strong performance outcomes for historically underserved student populations, including students who are Hispanic or Latino, first-generation, low-income earners, adult learners, transfer students, and students attending college or university in rural areas.

Knoebel & NWSS Scholarship Given to LCC Horse Program Students

At the beginning of September, Ike Smith and Ellie Laflin, two freshmen at LCC, were chosen by the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) as two of only 10 inaugural recipients of the Betty Knoebel Scholarship. Created through an endowment from her family, the scholarship honors the philanthropist Betty Knoebel, her love of horses, and her contributions to higher education and medical research by granting each recipient \$10,000 toward their education in the equine industry. Smith and Laflin are both pursuing an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree in Horse Training & Management, with Laflin also completing an A.A.S. in Equine Business Management. Additionally, Smith competes on the rodeo team and Laflin on the ranch horse team. On Thursday, September 3, both students attended the scholarship recognition ceremony at the National Western Center in Denver, where the NWSS also broke ground for the new Betty Knoebel Arena. The arena will be part of the NWSS's new Equine Center, construction of which is anticipated to begin in 2027.

"As the future Betty Knoebel Arena and Equestrian Center take shape, so too does the future of our industry, and we are proud that two LCC students are part of this exciting chapter," said Savanna Mauch, Horse Training & Management Instructor and Career and Technical Education Department Chair. "A huge thank you to the Knoebel family and National Western Stock Show for believing in our students and helping them build a future in the equine industry."



From left to right: Ellie Laflin, Savanna Mauch, and Ike Smith at the Betty Knoebel Arena Ceremonial Groundbreaking.



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LCC Selected to Shine at CO HSI Summit



In early September, two outstanding members of the LCC community were selected to present at the Colorado Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CO HSI) Consortium's 3rd Annual Summit. Taking place on Friday, October 2, at Pikes Peak State College, the summit is a time for Colorado-based educators, staff, and students to delve into how Hispanic-Serving Institutions can best serve Latino and Latinx communities. Titled "Seguimos Floreciendo: Advancing HSI Servingness through Best Practices and Innovation," this year's event will help drive this mission forward through engaging speakers, interactive workshops, and other opportunities to share ideas and create strong partnerships.

Israel Rodriguez, Coordinator of Residence & Student Life **"Cultivating Campus Culture"**

Israel Rodriguez, LCC's Coordinator of Residence & Student Life, is drawing on his experience to show how student-centered programming can be used to intentionally foster belonging, engagement, leadership, and connection for students at Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Through this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to design programs that respond to students' identities, interests, needs, and campus experiences while remaining inclusive and accessible to all campus populations. They will also engage in a hands-on programming audit, allowing them to identify areas of strengths and gaps in their current student engagement efforts, and work through a program-design activity to transform a traditional campus event into a more intentional student-centered experience. At the workshop's conclusion, participants will be encouraged to apply what they've learned by developing one actionable programming idea to implement at their institution.



Dr. Karla Moreno, Biology Faculty **"Helping Latinx Students See Themselves as Scientists"**

Dr. Karla Moreno, Biology Faculty at LCC, is focusing her presentation on developing student-centered, evidence-based teaching practices to help Latinx, first-generation, and multilingual students develop confidence, belonging, and a stronger scientific identity. Drawing from her experiences teaching biology, anatomy and physiology, and chemistry, Dr. Moreno will highlight practical strategies to achieve this, such as inquiry-based laboratory experiences, collaborative learning, student-led research presentations, and scientific discussions. Emphasis will be placed on how these approaches, along with encouraging students to learn science, move them to think, communicate, and see themselves as scientists, inspiring them to bring what they learn in the classroom to their communities and future opportunities.



POWER OF 13

LCC Hosts SBCCOE Leadership Retreat

On Tuesday, September 8, LCC hosted the State Board for Community Colleges & Occupational Education (SBCCOE) Leadership Retreat. With members of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Executive Team, college presidents, state board members, and other valued CCCS employees in attendance, the event was a time for colleagues from across the state to connect and share ideas on how to continue making a CCCS education accessible, rewarding, and geared towards long-term success. Some highlights included a fireside chat between CCCS Chancellor Dr. Marielena DeSanctis and Chair Brad Rupert, a delicious lunch catered by local restaurant Tavern 1301, gifts bags with local skincare products from Colorado Mills, an informative campus tour, and plenty of photos with LCC's mascot Lightning the Lope.





PARTNER OF CHOICE

LCC Continues Legacy of Success with Third Annual Career Fair & Business Expo

On Wednesday, September 16, LCC hosted its third annual Career Fair & Business Expo, bringing together regional high school students, LCC students, and adult community members to connect with and learn more about local businesses and career opportunities.

The event provided participants with an opportunity to engage directly with local employers and explore a variety of career pathways available throughout the region. In addition to employer interactions, attendees could participate in breakout sessions designed to provide practical career and educational resources. Sessions included job searching and applying for jobs with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), exploring the use of AI in the workplace, learning about LCC admissions and scholarship opportunities, and understanding the role and services of non-profit organizations in the community. The success of the event was made possible through a collaboration between several regional partners, including Prowers Economic Prosperity, CDLE, Cornerstone Resource Center, and the Colorado Small Business Development Center Serving East Colorado. Their support helped expand the resources available to participants and strengthen connections between education, employers, workforce services, and the broader community. Now in its third year, the Career Fair & Business Expo continues to provide an important opportunity for the region to connect students and community members with local employers while increasing awareness of the career, education, and workforce resources available in Southeast Colorado.

