



Lamar Community College President's February 2025 Report

President – Dr. Rosana Reyes

Economic Mobility

LCC Nursing Program Achieves 100% NCLEX Pass Rate, Supporting Learner Success

At Lamar Community College (LCC), our commitment to fostering equitable, learner-centered environments continues to drive student success. A key measure of this success is the outstanding performance of our Nursing program, which achieved a 100% NCLEX-RN pass rate for the graduating class of 2024—marking the second consecutive year of perfect scores after an 83.2% pass rate in 2022.

This achievement directly aligns with LCC's strategic goal of increasing overall student success through consistent, equitable, and effective learner-facing services. By ensuring that nursing students receive high-quality instruction, hands-on experience, and strong support systems, LCC is preparing graduates for rewarding careers in healthcare.

The impact of this success is significant. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual pay for registered nurses was \$81,220 in 2022, increasing to \$86,070 in 2023. With national NCLEX-RN pass rates for associate degree nurses at 87.75% in 2023, LCC's continued excellence places its graduates in a competitive position to secure in-demand, high-paying careers.

Education for All

Wellness Wednesday: A Step Toward Building Equitable, Learner-Centered Environments

As part of Lamar Community College's ongoing commitment to creating equitable, learner-centered environments, Wellness Wednesday hosted by Jannet Martinez-Chavira, Mental Health Counselor - Behavioral Health, provided an opportunity for students to engage in a meaningful and reflective activity.

The event centered on the power of connection and kindness, aligning with our goal to support all learners in meeting their academic and personal goals. Students were encouraged to take a moment to reflect on their relationships and express gratitude by writing a letter to someone special—be it a friend, family member, or someone who has made a positive impact in their lives. For those uncertain about who to write to, Jannet offered the option to craft an anonymous letter filled



with encouragement. These letters will be saved and shared with individuals in need of support during challenging times.

This simple yet impactful activity served as a reminder of how small gestures of kindness can foster a sense of belonging and contribute to a more supportive community. By incorporating such initiatives into our learner-facing services, we continue to build a culture that values emotional well-being, connection, and success for all learners.

Concurrent Enrollment: A Pathway to Student Success

Lamar Community College (LCC) is dedicated to creating equitable, learner-centered environments that support all students in reaching their goals. One key initiative is Concurrent Enrollment, which allows high school students to earn college credits, reducing both the cost and time needed to complete a degree.

Nathan, an 11th-grade concurrent enrollment student, shares how the program has benefited him: *"I wanted to take college courses while still in high school to save time and get a head start on my education. It also helps save my family money. Balancing sports, clubs, and work is tough, but LCC has made it easier."*

By offering flexible, accessible pathways like concurrent enrollment, LCC supports student success and strengthens college readiness—aligning with its mission to increase completion rates and build a future-focused learning environment.



Supporting Learner Success: LCC's Basketball Teams Shine in Division II Region IX

At Lamar Community College, we are committed to creating equitable, learner-centered environments that support our students in achieving their academic and personal goals. This commitment extends beyond the classroom and into every aspect of student life, including athletics.

Our Men's & Women's Basketball teams are currently competing in the Division II Region IX conference, showcasing the hard work, determination, and teamwork that mirrors the values we promote in our academic environment. As the teams head into the playoffs, we celebrate their dedication and resilience, which inspire not only their peers but the entire LCC community.

The success of our athletes exemplifies the importance of building a culture that recognizes and supports all aspects of student success, including career and personal growth. By fostering environments where students can excel both academically and athletically, we position them for success, aligning with our goal to increase overall success rates and drive learner achievement across the board.



Empowered Talent

Fostering Employee Engagement and Workplace Belonging – Lope-Grams

At Lamar Community College, we recognize that a strong, engaged workforce is essential to advancing our mission. In alignment with our goal to attract, retain, and sustain high-quality employees, LCC fosters a culture of belonging and appreciation through employee-centered initiatives.

As part of this commitment, the Employee Engagement Committee recently hosted a Lope-Gram Valentine's event for staff, offering a fun and thoughtful way to celebrate the season. Employees had the opportunity to purchase Valentine gifts, which were then delivered by Lightning Lope, the LCC mascot, bringing smiles across campus. Events like these contribute to a supportive and connected workplace, reinforcing LCC as an employer of choice.

By prioritizing employee recognition, professional growth, and competitive compensation, we continue to strengthen our workforce and create an environment where employees feel valued and empowered to thrive.





Welcome Lucas Stalford

Lucas Stalford is the new Information Technology Specialist for Lamar Community College. He is originally from Lamar, Colorado and recently returned to the community in 2022. Having performed in numerous Technology and Support roles for over 26 years, Lucas brings a diverse experience to his work.

After graduating from CSU-Pueblo in 2008, Lucas worked in Pueblo and Colorado Springs for two local Data Centers. In 2013 he moved to Seattle to work for Amazon Web Services and a Virtual Assistant AI company. During his time at AWS, Lucas oversaw technical training for over 200 associates and apprentices and is always on the lookout for a willing student.

While continuously working to learn new technology, Lucas also enjoys sailing, disc golf, and working on his family farm. He is excited to continue expanding his knowledge and help everyone at LCC meet their ever-changing technology needs.

Staff of the Month – Holly Hopkins

Lamar Community College (LCC) is committed to creating equitable, learner-centered environments that help students achieve their goals. One shining example is Holly Hopkins, the Horse Program Assistant and Staff of the Month, whose dedication to student success makes a lasting impact.

Holly plays a key role in the Equine and Agriculture Department, teaching the EBM Practicum, managing newsletters, and keeping students engaged through social media. "My passion lies in helping students reach their lifelong goals, especially when they achieve milestones with their horses," she shares.



By fostering hands-on learning and industry connections, Holly supports LCC's mission to increase student success and career readiness—ensuring learners have the tools they need to thrive.

LCC's GED/ACE Program Supports Adult Learners on Their Path to Success

Lamar Community College's GED/ACE program is dedicated to providing adult learners with the opportunity to earn their high school equivalency diploma and advance their education. With flexible scheduling, personalized instruction, and a supportive learning environment, the program helps students achieve their academic and career goals. Whether seeking improved job prospects, college preparation, or personal growth, LCC's experienced instructors and dedicated staff are here to guide students every step of the way.

Currently, the program has 17 active student accounts, with:

- 2 students nearing GED readiness,
- 4 students at the pretest level, and
- 11 students engaged in practice tests.

Additionally, LCC is finalizing paperwork for Julie Jones, MAP Center Director, to serve as a GED test proctor, allowing students to complete their exams on campus instead of traveling outside of the community to other testing facilities.

Partner of Choice

Supporting Small Business Success: LCC and East CO SBDC Partnership

Lamar Community College remains committed to fostering strong partnerships that drive shared prosperity and create opportunities for learners to engage in work-based learning. As part of this commitment, LCC partnered with the East Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to host *How to Start a Small Business*, a free seminar designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to launch successful ventures.

This in-person session, held on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, at the Betz Technology Center, provided participants with valuable insights on market research, business licensing, financial planning, funding sources, and strategic business planning. The East CO SBDC played a crucial role in supporting small businesses by offering no-cost advising and affordable training, helping individuals turn their ideas into viable enterprises.

By collaborating with organizations like the SBDC, LCC strengthened its role as a trusted partner in workforce and economic development, ensuring that students and community members had the resources and support needed to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

Promoting Heart Health Awareness Through Community Engagement

Lamar Community College remains committed to building strong partnerships and fostering shared prosperity by engaging with the community in meaningful ways. In recognition of Heart Health Awareness Month, the Employee Engagement Committee provided valuable educational resources at the Valentine's Day basketball games on February 14th.

Attendees received literature and pamphlets on heart health, with information sourced from the American Heart Association. Adding to the spirit of the event, LCC's mascot, Lightning Lope, actively engaged the crowd, handing out beaded heart necklaces to promote awareness and encourage healthy habits.

Through initiatives like this, LCC continues to strengthen its partnerships and demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of both employees and the broader community.

FFA Horse Judging Clinic

Lamar Community College continues to build trust and collaboration with regional partners by hosting impactful learning experiences for future agricultural leaders. In just 51 days, LCC will welcome FFA chapters to campus for the Regional Career Development Events (CDE) on March 26th.

As part of this initiative, LCC offered a specialized horse-judging clinic on February 24th, providing students with hands-on experience. Led by Jaci Brown, the clinic covered key evaluation criteria for reining, ranch riding, and trail, followed by live judging of LCC's Ranch Horse Team in competition.

Through events like these, LCC fosters industry-aligned education and strengthens its role as a trusted partner in workforce development.



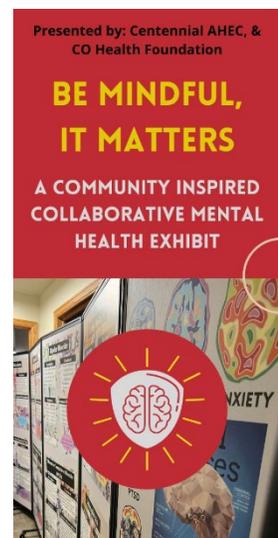
Power of 13

LCC Promotes Mental Health Awareness Through Collaborative Exhibit

Lamar Community College is proud to host Centennial Area Health Education Center's (CAHEC) *Be Mindful, It Matters* exhibit, a traveling mental health awareness initiative funded by the Colorado Health Foundation. This interactive and educational exhibit will be on display in the Betz Atrium from February 28 through March 19, 2025, and is free and open to the public.

In Colorado, 1 in 5 individuals experience poor mental health, yet 1 in 10 avoid seeking necessary support due to stigma. The *Be Mindful, It Matters* exhibit aims to challenge these statistics by fostering awareness, reducing stigma, and encouraging conversations around mental health. Visitors can engage with interactive displays, learn from real-life experiences, and explore tools for emotional well-being.

LCC is committed to building a more informed and supportive community, and this exhibit aligns with our dedication to providing collaborative opportunities that enhance student



success and community well-being. We encourage everyone to visit and be part of this important conversation.

LCC Construction Trades Program Featured at State Attorney General’s Partner Summit

LCC’s Construction Trades program was highlighted at the State Attorney General’s Partner Summit on February 19 at Pueblo Community College. The Summit provided a platform to showcase program successes, share resources, and strengthen collaboration among educational institutions and industry partners.

LCC Field Instructor and Construction Manager Jake Specht presented on the college’s growing partnership with local high schools, detailing the development of concurrent enrollment offerings, program costs, lessons learned, and future plans. Through these initiatives, high school students can now begin their Construction Trades education early, allowing them to accelerate certificate and degree completion after graduation.

The Summit brought together COPERR program leaders from Otero College, Trinidad State College, and Pueblo Community College, along with Attorney General Weiser and industry partners. This collaborative event reinforced LCC’s commitment to expanding educational opportunities and building strong workforce pipelines across the state.



Winter Mini-Mester Expands Opportunities Through Rural College Consortium

Lamar Community College (LCC) continues to enhance educational access through the Rural College Consortium (RCC) with its Winter Mini-Mester. Now in its second year, this accelerated course offering over the winter break has seen a significant enrollment increase—from 35 students in 2023-24 to 67 students in 2024-25.

LCC welcomed students from three rural partner institutions—Trinidad State College, Northeastern Junior College, and Colorado Northwestern Community College—demonstrating the power of collaboration in expanding learning opportunities. By leveraging shared resources and aligning academic offerings, the RCC provides students with flexible pathways to stay on track toward their educational goals.