



Lamar Community College President's March 2025 Report

President – Dr. Rosana Reyes

Economic Mobility

Cosmetology and Barbering Program: Preparing Students for Success Beyond Graduation

Lamar Community College's (LCC) Cosmetology and Barbering program goes beyond teaching technical skills—it prepares students for long-term success in the beauty industry. One of the program's key components is a strong emphasis on business acumen. As part of their coursework, students are required to develop and present a comprehensive business plan, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence needed to launch their own ventures.

Throughout their studies, students work closely with experienced instructors who guide them in refining their business strategies while ensuring they master the practical skills necessary for board certification examinations. By combining hands-on training with business education, LCC's program ensures that graduates leave not only as skilled professionals but also as entrepreneurs ready to navigate the competitive beauty industry.

With this well-rounded approach, students gain the tools they need to succeed—whether they choose to work in established salons, open their own businesses, or pursue advanced certifications. LCC's commitment to both technical excellence and business preparation makes its Cosmetology and Barbering program a standout choice for aspiring beauty professionals.



Lamar Community College Receives \$40,000 Financial Literacy Grant to Empower Students

Lamar Community College (LCC) has been awarded a \$40,000 financial literacy grant from the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE), an organization dedicated to advancing financial well-being through education, research, and collaboration. This grant allows LCC to provide students with essential financial knowledge, equipping them with the skills needed to make informed financial decisions both during college and beyond.

LCC has already begun utilizing the grant to host educational events aimed at enhancing financial literacy among students. The first event featured financial planner Traegon Marquez, who led an engaging afternoon session open to all students. This session provided valuable

insights into budgeting, saving, and long-term financial planning, helping students build a strong foundation for financial success.

In addition, LCC hosted an SBDC (Small Business Development Center) Support Workshop focused on how to start a business. This workshop provided students and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical guidance on business planning, financial management, and startup strategies. By offering resources like these, LCC continues to support students in developing both personal financial skills and entrepreneurial knowledge that can contribute to their long-term success.

Education for All

LCC Foundation Hosts Inaugural Scholarship Celebration Dinner

The Lamar Community College Foundation held its first Scholarship Celebration Dinner on March 1, 2025, at the Lamar Elks Lodge, honoring students selected to receive scholarships for the 2024-2025 academic year and the generous donors who make these scholarships possible, including:

- Craig Choat, Bank President accepting on behalf of Community State Bank in recognition for their significant and impactful contributions to Lamar Community College.
- Kitina Maldonado, Frontier Bank Trustee Officer, accepting on behalf of the Weitgenant Trust in recognition for their significant and impactful contributions to Lamar Community College.
- Craig Schwab, Bank President accepting on behalf of GN Bank in recognition for their significant and impactful contributions to Lamar Community College.
- David and Cheryl Northrup, in recognition of their 28 years of unwavering support for LCC



With over 250 in attendance, the event was a night of celebration, gratitude, and community spirit, recognizing both the students' achievements and the invaluable contributions of donors. *"Thank you to everyone who supported the Lamar Community College Foundation's first Scholarship Celebration Dinner! Your generous contributions and presence made this event a memorable evening dedicated to celebrating our scholarship recipients and honoring those who support them. Together, we are making a difference in our community and enriching lives through learning!" – Rachel Evans, Foundation Director.*

LCC is deeply appreciative of the individuals and organizations who invest in student success, ensuring that higher education remains accessible and impactful for future generations.

LCC PTK Chapter Welcomes 29 New Members at Orientation and Induction Ceremony

Lamar Community College's Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter recently hosted its Orientation and Induction Ceremony, welcoming 29 new members for the semester—one of the highest numbers in recent years. With a 24% acceptance rate, well above the national average of less than 10%, this year's new member return reflects the academic excellence and commitment of LCC students.

During the event, new inductees learned about PTK's mission, scholarship opportunities, and leadership development, while current members and advisors shared insights into the impact of the organization. The LCC PTK chapter has a strong tradition of success, having achieved five-star status for the past few years, the highest ranking a chapter can earn.

As PTK continues to grow at LCC, the organization remains dedicated to recognizing and empowering high-achieving students, fostering academic and professional growth, and contributing to the college and local community. Congratulations to all our new members—we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Empowered Talent

Welcome I'Ceyonna Ware – Biology Faculty

I'Ceyonna Ware is the new Health Sciences Biology Faculty at Lamar Community College. Originally from Center, Texas, she brings a strong background in research, education, and science communication to the role. Before joining LCC, I'Ceyonna worked as a Recreation and Lands Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, where she managed environmental permits and authored articles for CompassLive, highlighting the work of scientists in conservation.

She also has extensive experience in higher education, having served as an Admissions Counselor and Research Assistant at Texas Woman's University. Her research focused on plant biochemistry and its applications in health sciences, including investigating the estrogenic activity of plant extracts. Passionate about mentorship and community outreach, I'Ceyonna is the founder of East Texas Dreamers, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting young adults in their educational and career journeys.

Outside of academia, she enjoys science writing, exploring nature, and engaging in public health initiatives. She is excited to contribute to LCC's Health Sciences program and support students in their academic and professional growth.





Welcome Isaiah LaTour – Title V Success Coach

Isaiah has a deep-rooted connection to Lamar Community College, having spent their early childhood on campus while their father served as the dorm director. These formative years fostered a strong appreciation for the LCC community and its values.

After graduating high school, Isaiah attended Otero College, where they played basketball and earned an Associate of Arts degree. His time at Otero provided invaluable academic and athletic experiences, shaping his dedication, teamwork, and commitment to excellence.

Returning to LCC marks a full-circle moment, and Isaiah is excited to be part of the vibrant and supportive community once again. Isaiah looks forward to contributing to the continued success and growth of Lamar Community College.

Welcome Nikki Visone – Interim Title V Director

Nikki Visone was born in Las Vegas, NV. After completing High School at Cimmaron Memorial he began his collegiate career Mt. San Jacinto in California, before transferring to Edgewood College in Madison, WI. Nikki completed 4 years of collegiate baseball before transitioning to coaching. Post Covid he took his first assistant job at Salem State University. Followed by Missouri Valley College the following year. In 2022 Nikki started his master's degree in Sports and Entertainment Management at Seattle University along with being a Graduate Assistant for the baseball team. After graduating he took an Assistant Baseball Coach position here with Lamar Community College until being promoted to Interim Title V Director in February of this year.



Partner of Choice

Lamar Community College Hosts Successful FFA Career and Leadership Development Event

On March 26, 2025, Lamar Community College welcomed over 850 students, staff, and volunteers for the annual FFA Career and Leadership Development Event. With 45 participating high schools, the competition provided an opportunity for students to showcase their skills, develop leadership abilities, and gain hands-on experience in various agricultural career pathways.

The event featured a series of competitive activities designed to enhance students' knowledge in areas such as public speaking, agronomy, livestock evaluation, and mechanics. Participants

had the chance to engage with industry professionals, network with peers, and receive valuable feedback from experienced judges.

LCC was proud to host such a large gathering of future agricultural leaders and remains committed to supporting FFA and its mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture and beyond.

Colorado State Patrol Educates LCC Students on DUI and Distracted Driving

Lamar Community College recently welcomed the Colorado State Patrol for an eye-opening presentation addressing critical issues such as DUI and distracted driving. Students gained valuable insights into the dangers and consequences of impaired and inattentive driving through real-life scenarios, statistics, and expert guidance from law enforcement officers. By collaborating with the Colorado State Patrol, LCC continues to foster trust and credibility with public safety professionals while equipping students with essential knowledge to make informed, responsible decisions.

Power of 13

Colorado Launches \$20 Million Partnership to Expand Educational and Economic Opportunities

Denver, CO (March 17, 2025) – Governor Jared Polis and Arnold Ventures have announced the launch of The Colorado Partnership for Proven Initiatives, a multi-year \$20 million philanthropic collaboration aimed at expanding educational access and workforce opportunities for Coloradans. This initiative will focus on evidence-based programs that support student success and economic mobility, ensuring more individuals can build brighter futures.

Over the next four years, Arnold Ventures will match state investments dollar-for-dollar, providing up to \$10 million in funding for proven initiatives that enhance economic mobility. The first phase will focus on higher education and workforce training, with Lamar Community College and Colorado Mountain College selected as pilot institutions. These colleges will implement the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) model, developed by the City University of New York (CUNY), which provides comprehensive academic, financial, and personal support to low-income students pursuing associate degrees.

Dr. Angie Paccione, Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Higher Education, emphasized the impact of this initiative, stating, “These institutions are committed to enhancing student success and economic mobility, which are at the core of this project. By focusing on in-demand careers and addressing attainment gaps, we’ll meet workforce needs and provide opportunities for all learners to achieve their goals.”

The State of Colorado and Arnold Ventures will collaborate with the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy to identify and scale promising initiatives. By leveraging research-backed programs like ASAP, the partnership aims to deliver lasting economic benefits to students, taxpayers, and communities across the state.

