



For more information, contact:
Anne-Marie Crampton
Director of Institutional Advancement
anne-marie.crampton@lamarcc.edu
719.336.1520

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADULT LEARNERS FIND HOPE AT SCHOOL IN UNSTABLE ECONOMY

Lamar Community College Empowering Non-Traditional Students

(September 14, 2010, Lamar, CO) – Lamar Community College is part of a state-wide network of educational institutions celebrating National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week in honor of teachers and programs that are helping Americans gain the basic literacy skills they need to be employable in today's tough economy.

According to ProLiteracy, a network of hundreds of community-based adult education programs across the nation, the literacy crisis in the U.S. costs the nation \$60 billion a year in lost productivity, \$73 billion in unnecessary health care expenses, and contributes to unemployment, crime, drug abuse, and homelessness. Adult education and family literacy programs address these problems at the community level by providing the estimated 30 million adults with low literacy levels with the education they need to participate in the workforce. "Adult education helps communities thrive," said Jolene Goerend, president of the Colorado Adult Education Professionals Association (caepa.org).

"Education remains the most successful tool we have to fight unemployment," said Robb Scott, director of Adult Transition Services at Lamar Community College. "Our GED and ESL programs match trained teachers with adults to help them improve the reading, writing, and language skills they need to take their lives in new directions and to contribute even more to their communities."

"In the U.S., one out of seven adults has below-basic literacy skills," said David Harvey, CEO of ProLiteracy. "Making an investment in people's education goes a long way in creating a skilled workforce. **September 13 through 19 is Adult Education and Family Literacy Week**, and we want to use this awareness week to sound the alarm about the growing American literacy crisis."

In recognition of Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, Lamar Community College is holding an informal **Open House on Tuesday evening, from 7:15 to 8:00 p.m.** at the west end of the second floor of Bowman Building, with teachers, students, and officials from the College as well as from the Adult Education

and Family Literacy Office at the Colorado Department of Education, visiting Lamar from Denver. The public is invited and welcome to attend the festive event.

For more information about the Adult Transition Services program at Lamar Community College, contact AdultsLearn@lamarcc.edu or 719.336.6646.

#

#

#