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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***LCC SEEKING ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS***

(Lamar, Colorado, April 19, 2010) Lamar Community College is currently seeking additional members to serve on its Advisory Council. Advisory Council members fulfill a crucial strategic role, providing input to the college for long-term planning and initiatives and being advocates of the college to their constituencies.

The LCC Advisory Council serves as the 'voice of the community' in advising the President of the college. The role of a member on the College Advisory Council is an important one. To that end, members must be committed to:

- serving the functions outlined in State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) Policy BP 2-25, specifically:
  - advise the college president of the long-term educational needs of the area;
  - serve as liaison between the college and area employers;
  - serve as liaison between the college and local government and schools, as well as other public agencies;
  - promote the college's programs and services;
  - attend College Advisory Council meetings on a regular basis.
  
- preserving the health and vitality of the college.

"The LCC Advisory Council is of upmost importance to the College. Members are the eyes and ears for the College in regards to the needs of our region," explained LCC President John Marrin, "their advice is sought for not only course and program development, but also for marketing and budget. They are that important link between our public and the College.

In nominating members for the LCC Advisory Council, Marrin will consider the following:

- a member may not be a current student or full-time employee;
- the LCC Advisory Council will, when possible, represent the racial, age, gender, occupational, and geographical profile of the communities the college serves; and
- the nominee's enthusiasm and commitment to fulfilling the Lamar Community College Advisory Council's functions.

Current LCC Advisory Council members include Jay Brooke (chair), Regina Jo Dorenkamp, Linda Fairbairn, Nikki Johnson, Marsha Willhite, and Gib Sprout. Each represents their occupational area and/or business on the board and is committed to the long term sustainability of the college. Whether they see LCC as the primary source for higher education in Prowers, Baca, Cheyenne, and Kiowa Counties, a critical economic development driver in our communities, a workforce development provider, or a combination there of, they choose to guide LCC as Advisory Council members.

Jay Brooke serves as the chair of the council and has been on the board since 2002. He represents the healthcare industry on the board with his current role as executive director of High Plains Community Health Center. Brooke began his education at Allen County Community College in Iola, KS and completed his Bachelor's in Psychology at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS. After serving in the Army for four years, he obtained his Masters in Social Work at the University of Oklahoma. Since then he has spent his career in social work and healthcare administration.

Also a member since 2002, Linda Fairbairn was born in Pueblo and attended State College of Southern Colorado (now known as CSU-Pueblo). She graduated with a BS degree in Sociology and minors in English and Anthropology in 1966. Fairbairn began her career as a Child Protection Caseworker in Kit Carson County, becoming Director of Lincoln County Social Services in 1974. While there, she obtained her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Denver in 1982. Fairbairn has been Director of Social Services in Prowers County since 1995, and served as Director of Baca and Prowers County Social Services until 2006. She also served as County Administrator for Prowers County for 5 years. She is passionate about

her role as a bridge between Social Services clients and opportunities available to them through education. "Life built the door. Education taught me how to open it," stated Fairbairn.

Education has always been important to Gib Sprout. While growing up in Lamar, his mother and father regularly housed LCC students due to a lack of dorm space. After graduating from the University of Nebraska for both his bachelor's degree and DDS, he practiced dentistry for 42 years, 40 of them in Lamar. He believes that some higher education is essential if one wants to be successful. "LCC is so important to Southeast Colorado, Prowers County and Lamar for many reasons, including the obvious ones of providing educational opportunities and helping stabilize our economy," commented Sprout, "I want to be a part of its success, and thereby help insure the success of our area." His father, George Sprout, was on the LCC Board of Trustees when the present campus was built. Sprout has served on the Council since 2005.

Marsha Willhite joined the LCC Advisory Council in 2005. Her history with LCC can be traced to the early 1950's when, a few years after returning from WWII, her father attended LCC on the old "G-I Bill" and received a GED. Many years later, her mother achieved a lifelong dream by completing an AA Degree at the school at age 60. Marsha's formal education through LCC includes a three-year Farm and Ranch Management certificate and 60+ hours of lower level coursework required for transfer to a bachelor's program. From LCC, Willhite completed a BS in Business Management from National American University-Denver, and graduate studies in Political Science, emphasis in Public Policy Administration, at CU-Denver. She has served as the Administrator for the Town of Holly since November, 2001. Her son was a LCC Presidential Scholarship recipient who went on to earn a BS in Political Science at CSU-Pueblo. One of her daughters attended LCC through the dual credit program at Holly High School, and earned a BSN at CSU-Pueblo.

An alumna of LCC and a graduate of Holly High School, Jo Dorenkamp also joined the LCC Advisory Council in 2005. After graduating from Holly High School, Dorenkamp went directly into the workforce before returning to college in the evenings. She then completed her Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication with courses from Regis University and finally Colorado State-Pueblo. "Although education was not in 'my brain' when I graduated from

high school, I've come to understand that education affords choices; it opens doors," explained Dorenkamp. As the Prowers County Administrator, Jo now serves a pivotal role on the LCC Advisory Council as the lead liaison between the County and LCC.

Nikki Johnson is superintendent of the Campo School District (RE-6). She has been with the district for 23 years, having started as a teacher's aide, then first and second grade teacher, then moving to special education teacher. She has been Superintendent for the past 4 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Regis University and a Master's degree from Adams State College. She is an active member of the Campo Baptist Church and also serves as Service Learning Coordinator where she assists students in partnering with local community based organizations including the City Council, Recreation Board, and economic development. She has served on the LCC Advisory Council since 2006 and is the Council's primary liaison for K12 education as well as representing Baca County.

Each council member brings an individual perspective and varied background to the Council.

Although community members must be nominated to serve and approved by the State Board for Community College and Occupational Education (SBCCOE), the application process is simple. To learn more about the LCC Advisory Council or to request an application form, please contact Paula Dieterle at 719.336.1511 or [paula.dieterle@lamarcc.edu](mailto:paula.dieterle@lamarcc.edu).

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