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ANTELOPE NIGHT CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS

(Lamar, Colorado; May 12, 2010) Lamar Community College paused Friday evening at the close of finals and before commencement on Saturday morning to recognize outstanding student achievement. Additionally, it gave the college the opportunity to salute one of its alumni, Mike Callicrate (1971-1973) as LCC's 2010 Alumnus of the Year. Callicrate has distinguished himself as an independent cattle producer, feedyard owner, business entrepreneur, and political activist. He serves as an outspoken leader in addressing the rural, social and cultural impacts of current economic trends.

Third oldest in a family of eight children from Evergreen, Colorado, Callicrate attended Lamar Community College from 1971 to 73 on a rodeo scholarship where he met and married Vicki Calnon. Legendary Lamar professor Red Heath recruited him for his animal science course and later the judging team where he discovered a passion for animal agriculture. He spent nearly 10 years riding bulls on the professional rodeo circuit while working his way through college and beginning his career in agriculture. After earning a degree in animal science from CSU he moved to St. Francis, Kansas in 1975.

He and a small group of investors built a cattle feeding operation there in 1978. In 1986, he left that operation to build his own independent 12,000-head feedyard nearby. Frustrated by the castration equipment he was using there, he invented the Callicrate Bander in 1991. The product is now the leading nonsurgical method of castration and is sold in more than 30 countries. Manufacturing is done in St. Francis where the business contributes more than 30 jobs to the local economy.

In 2000, he formed a value-added meat company called Ranch Foods Direct. The fabrication plant and retail store processes and markets high quality natural meats and other specialty food products in Colorado Springs, the surrounding region, and over the Internet. He markets his cattle through his own premium brand, Callicrate Beef. Ranch Foods Direct also provides the processing, packaging and private labeling for about 40 other cattle and buffalo producers,

enabling them to sell their meat directly to their own customers. The retail store at the processing facility also sells seafood, pork, eggs, milk, produce and other food items from family farmers and local producers. A founding member of the Peak to Plains Alliance, the company is involved in promoting local and regional food production and distribution.

Since the early 1990s, Mike has been a leader in social and political efforts to improve the welfare of family farms, ranches and rural communities. He is a founding member of several farm advocacy groups including the Organization for Competitive Markets, R-CALF USA, the Kansas Cattlemen's Association and the Coalition for a Prosperous America. He has also been a lead plaintiff in two class action lawsuits against the major meatpackers. In 2004 a jury awarded cattlemen \$1.28 billion against the world's largest meatpacker, IBP, now Tyson Foods. In it the jury found unfair and discriminatory marketing practices. However the court overturned the jury's verdict. The case was refused a hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court. A second jury trial was won against the big three packers for manipulating the market by misreporting the prices of boxed beef, but was also later reversed by an appeals court.

In recognition of his efforts, Callicrate has received many awards including the Westerner of the Year award from Western Ranchers Beef Cooperative; the first ever Legacy Award from the Kansas Cattlemen's Association; the John Helmuth Award from the Organization for Competitive Markets; the Carl L. King Distinguished Service Award from the American Corn Growers Association; and the Nebraska Farmers Union President's Award.

It is clear from his proven passion for and advocacy of the family farm, ranches, and rural communities and his pride in his background, that Mike Callicrate is a tremendous example of what LCC students can achieve.

Each department on campus was given the opportunity to recognize graduating and continuing students who have distinguished themselves in the classroom in the past academic year. 2009-2010 student awards were as follows:

- **Adult Transition Services**
 - The ¡Sí, Se Puede! Award: Joe & Noelia Camacho; Oscar Canales; Evely Fernandez; Christina Nandin
 - The Melanney Thompson-Avara Award: Maria Casillas
- **Agriculture**
 - Outstanding Freshman in Agriculture: Lydia Coe
 - Outstanding Sophomore in Agriculture: Dawn Goodrich
 - High Point Livestock Judger: Daniel Howell

- **Arts & Sciences**
 - Outstanding Scholarship in History: Brandon DeVries, Laura Nelson, Vivian Cave, Kyle Dodge, Pedro Enriquez, Josh Kliesen, Oleksandr Trotsenko
 - Outstanding Astronomy Student: Michael Beard
 - Outstanding Chemistry Student: Jorge Delgado
 - Outstanding Geology Student: Joshua Kliesen
- **Business**
 - First Bookkeeping Certificate Graduate- Laura Monson
 - Outstanding Accounting Student- Rebecca Harmon
 - Outstanding Economics Student – Tawnie Buxton
 - Outstanding Management Student - Petra Austin
 - Outstanding IT Student- Jose Dominquez
 - Outstanding Overall Female Business Student: Dawn Goodrich
 - Outstanding Overall Male Business Student: Michael Beard
 - Business Tech Club Recognition of Officers
- **Cosmetology**
 - Top Honor Cosmetology Students: Kimberly Cline & Trella Wollert
 - Outstanding Continuing Student: Wanda Nunley
 - New Student of the Year: Shadow Wollert
 - Cosmetology Student of the Year: Kimberly Cline
- **Equine Business Mgmt./Horse Training & Mgmt**
 - EBM Student of the Year: Bayley Donahue
 - HTM Most Improved: Sarah Sigrist
 - HTM Female All-Around: Kelli Gaylord
 - HTM Male All-Around: Tanner Boyes
 - HTM Student of the Year: Karli Zeniuk
- **Nursing**
 - Academic Excellence in Nursing (3.5 or higher): Nathan “Kris” Birchler, James Idler,
 - Academic Achievement in Nursing (3.0 – 3.49)
 - Associate Degree in Nursing: Tracie Ball, Jacqueline Berry, Sarah Crockett, J’nai Fisher, Steven Givan, Andy Kosec, Abby Pelton, Jeremy Summers, Rachel Walcott, Zoli Williams
 - Practical Nursing: Rebecca Bullock, Amber Burgess, Kristina Fiene, Breanna Hedstrom, Katie Jara, Joshua Niswonger, Saurabh Pawar, Gail Voris
- **Sports & Fitness Management**
 - Student Athletic Trainer Award: Chelsie Willhoite
- **International Programs**
 - Highest International Student GPA : Erdenechimeg Naidansambuu, Mongolia
 - IREX/UGRAD Participant – Oleksandr Trotsenko, Ukraine
 - Outstanding International Student – Batzul Davaakhuu, Mongolia
- **Learning Support Services Awards**
 - Outstanding TRiO Student: Clint Baldwin
- **Phi Theta Kappa**

- Recognition of 2009-2010 PTK officers
- All-Colorado Academic Team: Janae England

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