



*For more information, contact:*

Anne-Marie Crampton  
Director of Institutional Advancement  
anne-marie.crampton@lamarcc.edu  
719.336.1520

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***ROMANOFF TO BE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER***

(Lamar, Colorado, March 24, 2010) Lamar Community College President John Marrin has confirmed that former Colorado House Speaker Andrew Romanoff will be LCC's speaker at the college's 71<sup>st</sup> annual commencement on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Commencement is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the LCC Wellness Center. Seating is available on a first come basis, and the event is open to the public.

"We are honored to have Mr. Romanoff as our commencement speaker," commented LCC President John Marrin, "he has shown himself to be a man of integrity, and we look forward to what he has to say."

Elected to four terms in the Colorado State Legislature, Andrew Romanoff became the speaker of the House in 2005. During his terms, he received numerous awards including 2008 Public Official of from Governing magazine and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Economic Development Council of Colorado. In 2006, he was honored as one of the most outstanding lawmakers in America. The Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the State Legislative Leaders Foundation presented the William Bulger Award, honoring a "legislative leader whose career embodies the highest principles of leadership - integrity, compassion, vision and courage" to Romanoff. He is the award's youngest recipient.

Romanoff was first elected to the State House in 2000 and reelected in 2002, 2004 and 2006. He swiftly assumed command of the Democratic team, winning election as his party's leader in his second term. Romanoff's colleagues twice elected him to the speakership, a post he held until he was term-limited out of the House in 2009.

After earning a bachelor's degree with honors from Yale in 1989, Romanoff lived in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, where he taught English, honed his Spanish, and lived with local families. The experience confirmed both his love of teaching and his dedication to fighting poverty. After returning to the United States, Romanoff enrolled in Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government; he earned a master's degree in public policy in 1993. He completed a juris doctorate at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law in 2008.

Romanoff spent four years in the private sector - as a senior associate at the Colorado consulting firm of Greenberg Baron Simon & Miller - before accepting a job with Governor Roy Romer. He worked in the Office of Policy and Initiatives, analyzing state and national proposals for education reform.

Since leaving the legislature, Romanoff has taught graduate students at the University of Colorado at Denver's School of Public Affairs. He has also taught political science at the Community College of Aurora, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and Red Rocks Community College.

Romanoff announced his candidacy in September of 2009 for Colorado's US Senate seat.

For more information about commencement activities, please contact Amy Thompson at 719.336.1626.

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