

Press Release

LAMAR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



For more information, contact:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONVERSATION DAY BRINGS OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH

(Lamar, Colorado; February 3, 2010) With spring semester courses in progress, Lamar Community College staff and faculty met for the college's third "Conversation Day" on Friday, January 29. Originally designed to be an introductory step of reaccreditation, LCC's Conversation Day has become an extraordinary opportunity to extend continuous improvement efforts, communicate across departments, and introduce new initiatives.

LCC President John Marrin began the meeting by doing a quick review of the college's budget and projections for the upcoming fiscal years. Although LCC now has a healthy reserve, it is clear that it will need to grow enrollment to comfortably accommodate expected budget cuts from state funding. He introduced "*33 x 3*," the college's plan to grow enrollment by at least 33 FTE (full-time equivalent students) per year for the next three years. It is an important initiative for the college as a whole, and critical that each staff and faculty ask themselves "how can I be a part of our goal?"

Teams of LCC staff and faculty members are in the midst of affecting change on campus through "Strategic Growth on a Solid Foundation" and "Integrated Marketing/Enrollment Management" coalitions. Both groups gave reports on their progress during Conversation Day. They will directly and indirectly enable the college to reach its 33 x 3 goal.

"Simultaneously growing college enrollment and building the area's educational and technical skills could be great for the region," explained Marrin, "we are creating new programs and improving how we recruit and retain our students. It's a win-win situation for everyone." Although most growth should occur from increases in current offerings, the college has added programs in Sports & Fitness Management (pre-athletic training/physical therapy); Entrepreneurship; and Secondary Math & Science Education. It plans to implement new programs, including Construction Technology,

Certified Nursing Assistant, and Barbering (an additional offering from LCC's Cosmetology program) this fall.

As part of the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) re-accreditation process guided by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the college spent a large portion of last year completing a self-study. This "Systems Portfolio" was submitted in November and is available on the LCC website at <http://www.lamarcc.edu/aqip/index.asp>. Although the college is awaiting feedback from an evaluation team in February, employee groups have begun meeting to discuss the 'next step' in continuous improvement, including continued efforts in assessment of student learning, improving internal and external communication, and strategic planning.

For more information regarding LCC's AQIP efforts or continuous improvement on campus, contact Dr. Deborah Loper, vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Continuous Improvement, at Deborah.Loper@lamarcc.edu or 719.336.1518.

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