

Press Release

LAMAR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIENDLY FAMILIES OFFER FUN FOR EVERYONE

(Lamar, Colorado; August 18, 2010) Lamar Community College welcomes several international students to campus each year. This year there are a dozen or more international students who are arriving at LCC to study business, nursing, and horse training & management as well as participate in rodeo, basketball, volleyball, and baseball. Students are arriving on campus from India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Australia, and Canada. The Office of International Programs & Services seeks to assist these students to find a sense of family life so far from their own families. The community is invited to interact with LCC international students by participating in a variety of ways, including the Friendly Family Program.

The Friendly Family Program provides a cultural link between international students and American families in Lamar and surrounding communities. This style of interaction can be fun and rewarding to all participants - students *and* families. For international students, it is a chance to experience more than “American college life.” For families, it is a chance to meet and better understand a different culture. And for both, it is the opportunity to reach out and make new friendships that can last a lifetime.

Not every international student desires this type of a relationship, but many do. You are invited to apply to be a Friendly Family by contacting Amy Thompson, coordinator of International Programs and Services, at 336.1626 or international@lamarcc.edu. Once your application is received, Thompson will follow-up with a short interview with your family before matching you with a student. After a match has been determined, the family and the student will each receive information on the other, as well as contact information.

Some common activities for Friendly Family matches include making and eating meals together, attending local sporting events, or celebrating a holiday or birthday. Both families and students are asked to commit to *at least* one interaction per month, but some families or students may wish to do more which is fine as long as it suits both family and student. If there is a span of time where a once a month interaction would be difficult or impossible, please let Amy know. It may be that another family in a similar situation can be matched with the international student as well.

“We have been involved with the program for the past three years, and it has been a great experience to meet these young people from other countries,” commented Deb Maggart. “I just heard from one of the boys we were paired with last year. He may be able to come visit us in September.”

The only other expectation for all program participants is that they follow the Golden Rule and treat the other participants with the same respect they wish to be afforded. While this may seem a bit simplistic, it is a concept that everyone understands and can utilize when there is any sort of questionable situation. For example, a Christian family may be matched with a student who is of a different faith. While the student should be respectful of the family's traditions, like praying at meals, the family should also respect the student's beliefs and not insist that the student join the prayer and might offer them the opportunity to say his or her own prayer. This is likely what each would wish the other to do if his or her places were reversed.

Lamar Community College strives to be a college that is enriching lives through learning. It desires that families will enjoy learning alongside our international students. For more information, contact Amy Thompson at 336.1626 or international@lamarcc.edu.

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We Enrich Lives Through Learning

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