

Press Release

LAMAR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LCC, UCCS PARTNER FOR ADVANCED NURSING TRAINING

(Lamar, Colorado; February 8, 2010) Lamar Community College's collaboration with the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs (UCCS) Beth-EI School of Nursing, generously underwritten by the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, is enabling LCC nursing students to pursue advanced Beth-EI coursework - through classroom video or online webcasts - toward Baccalaureate, Master's or Doctorate of Nursing Practice degrees. Students can enroll simultaneously at LCC and Beth-EI, giving them access to advanced nursing education without leaving their communities. This not only helps educate the area's aspiring nurses, but keeps them serving their own hospitals, clinics, and classrooms. "Some area residents who have the opportunity to complete their advanced nursing training outside the region don't come back," Summers noted, "we're creating an environment that is conducive for a student to stay in the area and continue his or her education. There is no reason to limit one's potential."

"This is a very positive relationship where nursing students who have completed the first year of LCC's program can begin taking bachelor's level nursing courses through a dual enrollment agreement with UCCS. Last spring, 26% of our second year students were enrolled in UCCS nursing courses at the time of graduation." The program is making an immediate impact.

Because it can be challenging to recruit health care professionals to Southeast Colorado, area agencies have realized that "growing their own" is often more effective than recruiting from outside the region.

Recruiting and retaining faculty to instruct coursework in Lamar Community College's two-year Associate Degree in Nursing (Registered Nurse) program can be doubly difficult. The challenge, explains LCC's Director of Nursing Sandy Summers, is "nurse educators must have at least a master's degree. Without qualified nurse educators, we cannot offer a nursing program." LCC has also used the "grow its own model" to build its faculty credentials. Three LCC Nursing faculty members (Kathy Henderson, Mary Ann Turner, and Nancy Winsor) have completed their Masters in Nursing degrees in the past year and a half. And Summers completed a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in December of 2009.

Registered nurses in Southeast Colorado can also benefit from the partnership between LCC and UCCS for advancement in their careers. For more information about the collaboration, contact Mary Lou Myers at 336.1594 or nursing@lamarcc.edu.

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