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Lamar Community College Presidential Semi-Finalists Named *Community Invited to Public Forums Mar. 5-6*

Lamar – The Lamar Community College (LCC) presidential search committee has named four semi-finalists for the LCC presidency. The appointment of the new president will conclude Jim Rizzuto's dual-presidency of LCC and Otero Junior College (OJC). Rizzuto, who began his post with LCC in January 2006, will continue as president of OJC.

The LCC presidential candidates will visit the campus on March 5 and 6. All community members, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend a series of four public forums where question and answer sessions will help the college's constituents learn about the candidates, their backgrounds and experiences, leadership style and philosophy on a variety of issues

The four semi-finalists include: **Richard Hoffman**, General Director/President of Kaw Area Technical School in Topeka, Kan.; **John Marrin**, Dean of the Timberline Campus of Colorado Mountain College in Leadville, Colo.; **Richard Mestas**, Program Manager with the National Defense Intelligence College in Washington D.C.; and, **Dr. David Smith**, Chief Administrative Officer of Lamar Community College.

Richard Hoffman

As General Director/President of Kaw Area Technical School since August 2003, Hoffman oversees all aspects required in operating a 40-acre campus with 26 accredited programs, GED and ESL classes. He also oversees Business and Industry offerings serving more than 1,500 students each year. From 1997-2003, Hoffman was Vice President of Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland, Kan. He began his career as a teacher at Rocky Ford High School from 1978 to 1985. From 2005 to 2007, Hoffman served as president of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges. He earned a master's degree in education from Colorado State University and is licensed as a vocational administrator in Kansas and Colorado. Hoffman also represents Kansas as the state's delegate for technical education in a partnership with the country of Armenia.

John Marrin

As Dean of Colorado Mountain College's Timberline Campus, serving Lake and Chaffee counties, since 2004, Marrin is responsible for the on-going effectiveness of campus operations, accountability, assessment, community relations and academic quality. Starting in 1977, Marrin began a long tenure at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) in Scottsbluff, Neb. that

culminated with him serving as their Dean of Business and Individual Training from 2001 to 2004. He began his academic career in 1977 as a Marketing/Management Instructor for WNCC. From 2000-2004, Marrin was a board member and co-chair with various Nebraska workforce development initiatives. He earned his master's in business administration from Regis University. Additionally, he chaired the initial sustaining campaign of a Nebraskan YMCA, serving on its board from 1996-2001.

Richard Mestas

As Program Manager with the National Defense Intelligence College (NDIC), Mestas oversees education support functions and all infrastructure-related efforts supporting the institution's students, faculty and staff. He also supports student services to ensure the quality and operational ability of classroom and research environments. Prior to this position, he oversaw all the admissions functions and recruitment efforts of NDIC as their Admissions Officer. He began his academic career as an admission counselor with Lamar Community College in 1990. From 1997 to 2005, Mestas served as the senior civilian responsible for wide-ranging training, management, compliance, public outreach, and administrative duties in a seven-state area for the Department of the Navy. He earned a master's of arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. Additionally, Mestas served as an Ordinance/Logistics officer with the Army for six years and is a veteran of the first Gulf War.

Dr. David Smith

Smith has served as the Chief Administrative Officer of Lamar Community College since 2005. In this role he oversees major functional areas such as business services, student services, instruction and development. His responsibilities also include college budget, planning, hiring, marketing, and personnel activities. Prior to this position, he served two years as LCC's Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer. Smith began his academic career in 1985 as a lecturer in English at California State University-Fresno and held a doctoral teaching fellowship with the University of Denver from 1989 to 1993. Smith has been a steering committee member with South East Colorado Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction (SEBREA). Smith has a doctorate in English literature from the University of Denver. Additionally, Smith helped facilitate a long-term partnership between LCC's Library and the Lamar Public Library.

The public forums will all take place in LCC's Buchanan Events Room and are scheduled as follows:

Candidate	Public Forum Date & Time
Richard Hoffman	Mar. 5, 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.
Richard Mestas	Mar. 5, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
John Marrin	Mar. 6, 10 - 11 a.m.
Dr. David Smith	Mar. 6, 11:15 – 12:15 a.m.

There will also be a community reception for all four candidates held Wednesday, Mar. 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center of the Lamar City Complex at 102 E. Parmenter Street. It is open to all staff, students and the public. There will be an opportunity for those attending the reception to meet and visit with the candidates on an informal basis. All of those who attend the forums or the reception will be asked to complete a feedback form providing their thoughts and input regarding the candidates. Every feedback form submitted is read by the members of the search committee.

Based on interviews with the committee, college constituencies, and the community feedback, the committee will then forward names of finalists to Dr. Nancy McCallin, president of the Colorado Community College System. Dr. McCallin reviews the information, including the feedback forms, conducts one-on-one interviews with the finalists, and in consultation with the State Board for

Community Colleges and Occupational Education, selects the new president for Lamar Community College. The feedback from the college constituents is highly encouraged and regarded.

The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education serving more than 107,000 students annually. CCCS oversees career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges and career and technical programs in more than 160 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions.