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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ENRICHES COMMUNITY

(Lamar, Colorado; February 2, 2010) Lamar Community College's Taste of Traditions sponsored by LCC's Multicultural Club and International Office is scheduled for April 1 in the college's Wellness Center. This annual event is an opportunity to not only sample exotic foods and learn about cultures from around the world, but also to share what you know about your own culture. "We live in a very small world where everyone and everything is far closer connected than we can imagine. The Taste of Traditions is a tremendous opportunity to see some connections come alive without purchasing a plane ticket," commented Amy Thompson, coordinator of International Programs and Services. There are many returning and new event features.

This international festival will present a collection of displays from around the world, including Mongolia, Ukraine, Japan, Pakistan and Kenya. If you have items that you would like to loan to the event to create a display, this would be a time to share what you have gained from your own international travels or visits from worldly friends. Other LCC students, such as those in our Geography and nursing classes, will also be involved in this way.

The World Fashions Show remains as a popular event. Students and community members model ethnic fashions, mostly traditional, as they strut down the catwalk. We invite your participation by modeling your own outfits obtained on international travels or by loaning those items to be modeled by our students.

Many people dream of seeing the world. The LCC's Taste of Traditions is an avenue to do this without having to get a passport and immunization shots. Another way to see the world is through the eyes of numerous organizations that work around the world. For the first time this year, there will be a designated area where local community members and groups can display how and where they serve others around the world. Some of those organizations will have representatives available to speak with you about how you, too, can be involved.

Students will soon be soliciting items with an international flavor from community members. These items will be given as door prizes throughout the Taste of Traditions event.

The International Office and Multicultural Club are active across campus and invite your participation in not only the Taste of Traditions but also through the Friendly Family Program where the college matches international students with local families. This experience is enriching for both the host family and student in that they can support and learn from one another.

The Office also maintains a list of students and staff available to present on various countries, cultures and international topics, in example, Alex Trotsenko, a Ukrainian student can speak about his homeland, while Thompson is available to give insight into East and West Africa and related topics, from her past experiences.

If you can assist with door prizes, cultural displays, fashion show, and/or organizational displays, or have any questions regarding international programs and services, please contact Amy Thompson at 719.336.1626 or international@lamarcc.edu.

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