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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE and SEBREA TO RECEIVE \$86,000 WAL-MART FOUNDATION GRANT TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY College one of only 20 chosen nationwide to develop model program

Lamar, Colorado, October 17, 2008 - Lamar Community College is one of only 20 colleges and technical schools nationwide selected by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to participate in the Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative. Each college will receive an \$86,000 grant to partner with its local workforce development community to improve the community's economic prosperity and help people live better.

The award recipients were announced this week in Washington, D.C., following completion of a highly competitive application and evaluation process.

"We are pleased to be one of twenty colleges and technical schools in the country to be honored as a recipient of this initiative," commented Lamar Community College President John T. Marrin. "The funds will allow us to develop and implement a program of study concerned with entrepreneurship and designed to enhance our area economy. The program will support educationally those currently in business or those thinking about starting a business."

Marrin added, "AACC and Wal-Mart are to be commended for their efforts to improve economic opportunities in rural America. And SEBREA has been a true partner with Lamar Community College in the design of this program and will help in determining future needs for economic development."

Lamar Community College will partner with SEBREA (Southeast Colorado Business Retention, Expansion, and Attraction) to implement an Entrepreneurship program on the LCC campus. The program will include options for certificates or a degree, and will be a proactive approach to creating businesses in Southeast Colorado. In addition, the program will include classes that can serve the existing business community in today's changing economy.

AACC President George R. Boggs expressed particular appreciation for Wal-Mart's vision in launching an initiative that targets many isolated, rural communities. When operational, programs will serve as models for the more than 800 rural institutions comprising two-thirds of AACC's close to 1,200 college memberships.

“We congratulate these colleges and look forward to the initiative’s impact to revitalize communities and regions,” Boggs said. “With Wal-Mart’s support, this network of pilot projects will provide innovative and sustainable partnerships that expand the capacity of community colleges to spur economic growth.”

“Wal-Mart is proud to support programs that strengthen communities and provide opportunities so that people can live better,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. “Wal-Mart’s partnership with AACC identifies institutions committed to enhancing the economic development of local communities by encouraging local businesses, higher education and community organizations to work together to improve their community’s level of competition; especially in the current economy.”

The 19 additional winners are: Yavapai College (Ariz.), Arkansas Northeastern Community College (Ark.), College of the Siskiyous (Calif.), San Diego Community College District (Calif.), Lamar Community College (Colo.), Brevard Community College (Fla.), Miami Dade College (Fla.), Kankakee Community College (Ill.), Henderson Community College (Ky.), Cape Cod Community College (Mass.), Mesabi Range Community and Technical College (Minn.), Northeast Community College (Neb.), Cumberland County College (N.J.), Umpqua Community College (Ore.), Technical College of the Lowcountry (S.C.), Western Texas College (Texas), Northern Virginia Community College (Va.), Clover Park Technical College (Wash.), Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (Wis.) and Casper College (Wyo.).

The Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative is administered by AACC’s Center for Workforce and Economic Development. The Center will provide technical assistance and support through a partnership with the National Center on Education and the Economy www.ncee.edu.

For more information about the Wal-Mart Workforce and Economic Opportunity Initiative and the programs of the 20 winners, visit the AACC Web site at www.aacc.edu/.

About Lamar Community College

Established in 1937, Lamar Community College has a long history of serving approximately 1,400 students a year. Located in Southeast Colorado on a residential campus, it attracts students from its local service area, Colorado and neighboring states, as well as internationally. In addition to offering transferable associate degrees for those interested in completing their baccalaureates, LCC is known for its occupational programs in Nursing (LPN and RN), Horse Training & Management, Equine Business Management, Beef Feedlot Management, and Cosmetology. Its athletic programs compete in National Junior College Athletic Association Division I (Region IX) and National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association - Central Rocky Mountain Region.

About the American Association of Community Colleges

Located in Washington, D.C., the American Association of Community Colleges is a national organization representing the nation’s close to 1,200 community, junior and technical colleges. Community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education and enroll almost half (46 percent) of all U.S. undergraduates. For more information, visit www.aacc.nche.edu

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About Philanthropy at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) and the Wal-Mart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports initiatives focused on enhancing opportunities in education, job skills training, sustainability and health. In 2007, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and the Wal-Mart Foundation gave \$296 million to communities across the United States. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

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