LCC welcomes new Title III Project Director

Christa Richie, Title III Project Director, is joining us at Lamar Community College from New Jersey. Christa began work with LCC in mid December. She was most recently the executive director of a non-profit organization in New Jersey. In addition, she has ten years of experience both as a grant administrator and as a faculty member at community colleges in New Jersey. She has a strong history of developing strategic partnerships in the community and looks forward to utilizing these skills in the implementation of the Title III grant.

“I am excited to be a part of such a great community and I am looking forward to the experience of continuing the mission of Lamar Community College in the development of the Title III grant.”

Christa is located in the bottom level of the LCC Administration Building and may be reached on campus at 719-336-1526 or by email at christa.dimaio-richie@lamarcc.edu.

Title III is a federally-funded grant that has given LCC an opportunity to begin new programs in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), Construction Technology, as well as a Renewable Energy Program.

Lamar Community College President John Marrin with new Title III Project Director Christa Richie
By John Marrin
LCC President

Kelly Emick, our History professor at Lamar Community College has facilitated a bi-annual event called the "LCC Frontier History Encampment". One of our distinctive objectives as a college is to help preserve the culture of our area, and the purpose of the Encampment is to celebrate the value and depth of our history. Because the Encampment is so historically accurate, it meets several of the Colorado Model Content Standards for History including:

1. Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to organize events and people into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships.
2. Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
3. Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
4. Students understand how science, technology, and economic activity have developed, changed, and affected societies throughout history.
5. Students understand political institutions and theories that have developed and changed over time.
6. Students know that religious and philosophical ideas have been powerful forces throughout history.

K-12 educators in Colorado are required to follow these standards, and so the Encampment offers our area students and teachers an opportunity to learn history experientially and to "see" the past.

This year there were 931 registered attendees (a few more slipped by our free registration desk) with 300 of them being elementary students and teachers. This year we had students from Lamar, Branson, Branson online, Pritchett and Campo. Thanks to all those schools for allowing your students to attend.

Sponsors include Wal-Mart, the Huddleston-Butler Foundation, Colorado East Bank and Trust, Valley National Bank, Lamar Rotary Club, Lamar Community College Student Government and Lamar Community College. The total cost of the program is somewhere around $10,000.00, with over $8,000.00 going to the living history actors. If you were one of the 1000 people that attended, let these sponsors know how much you appreciate this major project. Without them this program would not exist.

The actors are not just history buffs but true experts in their particular trade. This year we had around 50 living historians, many bringing their own artifacts including civil war cannons, soldiers' equipment, guns, native American tools and weapons and domestic goods including clothes and food stuffs.

Included in the Encampment were Native Americans of early and late 1800's: Barb Melfi portrays an early 1800's Native American; she has won awards for her portrayal of Comanche captive Cynthia Ann Parker. Dannie White and Ken Weidner portray late 19th century Native Americans. Early fur trappers and traders: R.D. Melfi, Chris Ball and John Carson (Kit Carson's great grandson). Blacksmiths: Romines, award winning authentic chuck wagon.

Always a Part of Us...

Reconnect with LCC as we prepare to celebrate our 75th year of being a part of our students' and communities' lives.

Life Changing...Lamar Community College

If you are a former student or staff member, please register at www.lamarcc.edu/alumni or call 719.336.1511 to be a part of upcoming activities.
Welcome to LCC

For an opportunity to win a free lunch with LCC President John Marrin, what is the name of the living historian that is very involved with producing the Encampment at LCC? Please submit your response to pronk@lamarcc.edu

TOP LEFT: President John Marrin with Kurt Nieschburg
TOP RIGHT: President Marrin with Walt Sifers
MIDDLE LEFT: LCC Admissions Counselor Jenna Reinert with President John Marrin
MIDDLE RIGHT: President Marrin with Assistant Baseball Coach Larry Scully
BOTTOM RIGHT: President John Marrin with Chloe Dorris

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By Kett Winsor, Learning Support Services and TRiO Director

As the young lion king, Simba, runs away from his present and future responsibilities, he meets two likable individuals who may not entirely have his best interests at heart. First Timon, the confident Meerkat and leader, exclaims to Simba, “Hakuna matata [Swahili for ‘No worries’], what a wonderful phrase!” Pumbaa, the flatulent warthog, adds, “Hakuna matata, ain’t no passing craze!” Together they impart their carefree view of life to the lost lion cub as they sing, “It means no worries for the rest of your days!” “It’s our problem-free… philosophy!”

On November 17, 2011, fifteen members of the Lamar Community College’s TRiO Program attended the Broadway production of The Lion King at the Buell Theatre in downtown Denver. This cultural excursion to the theatre was designed to give TRiO members an educational and cultural experience that would enhance their classroom curricula and help make them well-rounded college students.

As I was enjoying one of the best Broadway productions I have ever seen, I started to relate The Lion King’s major themes of learning, character and personal responsibility to TRiO’s attempts to do right by our students. I envied my students excitement they must feel at the beginning of their educational journeys. As we watched young Simba learn painful lessons and mature into a handsome prince and majestic king, I thought of the ways that my students will experience both the pain and the satisfaction of personal growth. They also will have numerous opportunities to exercise and expand their minds in ways that they are just beginning to understand.

In my own educational journey, one of the publications that have made the most impact on me was a 1941 article by Mortimer J. Adler, an educational psychologist, entitled “Invitation to the Pain of Learning.” In this article, Adler states, “The practices of educators, even if they are well intentioned, who try to make learning less painful than it is, not only make it less exhilarating, but also weaken the wills and minds of those on whom this fraud is perpetrated.”

As The Lion King continues, Simba meets one of his best educators and mentors, the old but wise baboon, Rafiki. Rafiki can immediately tell that Simba is the lost king, and has to persuade him to recognize his responsibilities to himself, his family, his culture, and his community. Simba’s educational journey leads him to a dream in the clouds in which his father Mufasa commands him, “You are more than what you have become. You must take your place in the circle of life.” Simba now starts to realize what his destiny will be. He cannot take the easy route; life is not just “Hakuna matata.” At one point, Rafiki hits Simba in the head with a staff. When Simba asks him, “What was that for?” Rafiki replies, “It doesn’t matter, it’s in the past.” Rafiki goes on to say, “The past can hurt. You can either run from it or learn from it.” Simba now knows he must return to his forgotten kingdom and face the challenges that lie ahead.

The challenges that TRiO students – and all Lamar Community College students, for that matter – must face are not small ones, and their paths can be just as treacherous as Simba’s path to reclaim his kingdom. But I deeply believe that these students will be nourished by their ‘painful and exhilarating’ experiences at Lamar Community College, and that when they walk across the stage at graduation, their family, friends and community will proclaim, “The King has returned!”

The purpose of Lamar Community College’s Learning Support Services and TRiO Programs are to assist students with basic college requirements, provide opportunities for academic development, financial literacy and encourage students towards successful completion of their postsecondary education.

The goals of TRiO are to increase the college retention and graduation rates, improve academic standing, and to facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next. This is accomplished by providing supportive services such as academic degree plan workshops, limited personal counseling, study skills, mentoring, financial literacy and tutoring.

For more information on the Learning Support Services and TRiO Programs at Lamar Community College please contact Kett Winsor at 719-336-1537.
Averaging 15 points per game, LCC’s leading scorer is Malcolm Brooks, from Brooklyn, New York. Malcolm was a promising player for Benjamin Cardozo High School in Queens and is getting attention already from NCAA Division 1 schools for his assortment of offensive tools.

Standing 6’5” 180 lbs, Brooks is quite an interesting player. A natural lefty, Malcolm actually learned to shoot his jump shot right handed. Brooks is an excellent outside shooter, averaging 47% FG and 37% from the three point arc. However his best skill might be attacking the basket with his efficient low dribble and super quick first step. When he does drive, his ambidexterity gives him options, as he can switch to either hand to put the ball in the basket.

This also allows him to be adept at finishing with contact and getting to the free throw line where Malcolm is shooting an impressive 85%. When Lamar CC was down two points in a recent game against Frank Phillips College, Malcolm was fouled on a three point attempt with 2.3 seconds left in the game. He walked to the FT line and calmly hit all three free throws to win the game.

The coaching staff is very pleased with Malcolm’s ability to score the ball. “He’s a fun player to watch,” Coach Schwartz says of Brooks. “Like any player, there are things he needs to improve on, especially away from the ball, but when the ball is in his hands, Malcolm just has a knack for scoring. It’s very impressive.”