Title III Update

By Christa DiMaio
LCC Title III Project Director

It has been a great month. It is a pleasure to join such a professional group of people here at Lamar Community College. This past month, I have had the privilege of working with the Title III staff to finish the annual report and begin the planning process for the coming year.

Although the STEM program funded through Title III has concluded, the project is still piloting courses in historical preservation as well as renewable energy. There are some exciting new advancements in historic preservation study at LCC. In the future, students who are pursuing studies in historic preservation will have the opportunity to apply their skills at Bent’s Fort through a project developed with National Park Service grant funds. The Title III team expects the next new program in renewable energy to start soon. We are currently examining ways to improve the learning experience for potential students in the renewable energy program.

We will have more details next month in the newsletter. It is an exciting period of time for the Title III grant. As the project progresses, we will keep you informed!

Retiring employee honored by LCC

Lamar Community College recently honored Ed Crawford for his ten years of service as a custodian as he retired from the college. During that time he served in the Trustees and Bowman Buildings, taking the time to give an encouraging word to students and faculty who crossed his way. As a lifelong learner, Crawford also took evening classes while employed at LCC. His last day at the college was Tuesday, January 31. Like many people, Crawford had multiple occupations during his ‘work life,’ including 20 years of service in the United States Air Force, where he was an aircraft maintenance mechanic. Crawford served in England, Korea and several months in Thailand during the Vietnam Conflict when he worked predominately with F-4 fighter jets. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Crawford worked in the private sector for various companies as an aircraft maintenance mechanic. Fifteen years later, Crawford once again retired. It was family that brought Crawford to Lamar and employment at the college.
By John Marrin  
LCC President

We have been working for the last four years on our reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission. I have included this in my column three or four times over the last couple of years, so you know it is important to us. The following letter is what we received last Friday confirming our hard work. I want to thank everyone involved for their dedication to LCC, and especially Dr. Deborah Loper for her leadership in our achieving this high goal. As the letter states our next phase ends in 2018/19, yet we need to continue to improve and work on our processes to better serve our students, district and state. Thank you all for your support of Lamar Community College.

The letter:

February 21, 2012

President John T. Marrin  
Lamar Community College  
2401 S. Main  
Lamar, CO 81052

Dear President Marrin:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken concerning Lamar Community College by the Higher Learning Commission. At its meeting on February 20, 2011 the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) voted on the items below. This letter serves as the official record of this action, and the date of this letter constitutes the effective date of your new status with the Commission.

Action. The IAC voted to continue the accreditation of Lamar Community College through the AQIP process with the next reaffirmation in 2018-19.

If the current Commission action includes changes to your institution’s Statement of Affiliation Status (SAS) or Organizational Profile (OP), the changes will appear in these documents on the Commission’s Web site by March 5. The SAS is a summary of your institution’s ongoing relationship with the Commission. The OP is generated from data you provided in your most recent Institutional Update. No other institutional information was changed.

If you have questions about these documents after viewing them, please contact Stephen D. Spangehl, your staff liaison. Information about notifying the public of this action is found in Chapter 8.3-3 and 8.3-4 of the Handbook of Accreditation, Third Edition.

Please be aware of Commission policy on planned or proposed institutional changes that require Commission action before their initiation. You will find the Commission’s change policy at ncahlc.org/information-for-institutions/institutional-change.html. If you have questions about how planned institutional changes might affect your relationship with the Commission, please write or call Stephen D. Spangehl.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I thank you and your associates for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Manning
President
Welcome to LCC

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

LCC President John Marrin with new employee Reta Barrow, a custodian in Todd-Burch Residence Hall.

President Marrin welcomes Greg Andrade, LCC’s new Health IT Coordinator. Greg began at LCC as an adjunct IT instructor.

LCC nursing program nears accreditation

The Lamar Community College Nursing Program has successfully completed another stage on its journey toward accreditation with the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, Inc. (NLNAC). Recently, an external review panel evaluated a site review team’s conclusions as well as LCC’s application materials, and then gave its conclusion. The panel recommended the LCC Nursing program to the NLNAC Commission for accreditation. A majority of colleges that are endorsed by the panel receive accreditation status. A three-part approval process, the NLNAC Commission will meet on March 2 to award accreditation.

Sciaccia joins rodeo

Casey Sciaccia of Canyon, Texas has transferred from Frank Phillips College in Borger, TX and will join the Lamar Community College Rodeo team this spring. A 2010 Canyon High School graduate, Sciaccia will pursue an Ag-Transfer degree while competing in team roping and steer wrestling. LCC Rodeo Coach Fred Sherwood commented, “Casey is a good student and very competitive. He should make an immediate impact on our team.”

LCC Rodeo’s first spring rodeo is March 16 - 18 at Gillette College in Gillette, WY. They will travel to five rodeos in March and April.

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.

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.
LCC honors employees of the year

Each year Lamar Community College and the Colorado Community College System recognize excellence in its full-time faculty, staff, and administrators with system-sponsored events in February and March. LCC chooses to acknowledge an adjunct instructor who has stood out in the classroom as well. Selected on by full-time faculty and staff themselves, the college is proud to announce its choices for full-time and adjunct faculty, classified staff, and administrative employees for the 2011-2012 academic year. They are Brenda Brown, administrator; Linda Freiberger, adjunct faculty; Mike Scobee, classified; and Charlotte Tallman, full-time faculty.

Brenda Brown was selected as Lamar Community College’s 2011 Administrator of the Year because of her exceptional attitude. As LCC’s Coordinator of Recruiting, it is important to illustrate her commitment to students and her passion for the college. She does that every day. Brown joined the college in July of 2010. During that time she has made an impression on her fellow employees, students and their families with her enthusiasm and genuine caring for others. After spending twenty-five years in sales/sales management, she came to work for the college as she was completing her second associate degree. While she considered a transition into teaching at the elementary level, she realized her true place is at LCC. She believes she is assisting prospective students to make the most important decision of their lives. She also graduated with an Associate of Arts in Business from LCC in 2000.

Linda Freiberger is being recognized LCC’s 2011 Adjunct Faculty of the Year for her dual role inside and outside of the classroom. Freiberger teaches College Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, and Pre-Algebra, but she is also a considerable resource in LCC’s Tutoring Center. Since Fall 2008, Linda has tutored students in math, physics, chemistry and other subjects as needed. “I like working one-on-one with students,” commented Freiberger, “but I love that ‘a-aha moment’ when students are struggling to grasp a concept and they finally ‘get’ it.” Linda holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University.

LCC Classified Employee of the Year Mike Scobee joined the Lamar Community College staff in March, 2010 and holds the position of Structural Trades II. His family and he relocated from Eastern Kansas when his wife took a position in Lamar. In Kansas, he was a licensed electrician and mechanical contractor, and he holds an HVAC certification. He learned his trade under the guidance of his father and has been employed professionally since 1987. Scobee sincerely enjoys the people he works with at LCC. Together his wife, Rachel, and he have three sons. They live in Hasty, Colorado where they love to camp and boat. Since he lives one mile from John Martin Reservoir, when he isn’t on duty at LCC, he can be found on the water.

Few instructors are as instantly identifiable with their subject areas as LCC’s Faculty of the Year, Charlotte Tallman. Tallman is Lamar Community College’s Cosmetology & Barber program director. She has worked for the college for more than 10 years and has spent over 20 in the beauty industry as a cosmetologist and barber. Before coming to LCC, Charlotte owned and operated a successful salon, "Main Street Studio" in Pritchett, Colorado. Tallman is also a subject matter expert for the State of Colorado Cosmetology, Barber, Esthetician, Hairstylist, and Nail Technician practical and written exams and is an active member of the CCCS Cosmetology Advisory Committee and has held the offices of chair, vice-chair, and secretary. While most professors do not recognize the credibility they hold with prospective students, Tallman understands the importance of being an advocate for her program on and off campus. When given the challenge of how to grow the LCC Cosmetology program and reach underrepresented populations, she began the Barber option and created an AAS in Cosmetology to give students the opportunity to broaden their educational experience with a general education core. She is continually seeking ways to become a more effective instructor and updating her skills with industry trends.

LCC realizes that its employees’ individual efforts make the difference in serving its students and realizing its vision of ‘providing the highest quality education in an environment of service excellence.’ Employees are nominated and selected by their peers, which makes the awards true honors. The college congratulates each for their contributions to LCC.
The new catch phrase in academics today, “Financial Literacy,” has little to do specifically with education or academics but has everything to do with money and how we spend it.

What is Financial Literacy? The Federal government defines Financial Literacy as skillsets and knowledge that allow a person to make informed and effective decisions concerning their total finances (not just financial aid packages). The overall goal of the Financial Literacy program knowledge is to allow a student to improve their overall financial health. Quite simply….it’s a way for them to take charge of their life.

Why would Financial Literacy be so important in education today? Shockingly, student loan debt in America now surpasses credit card debt of over a trillion dollars. Think about this for a minute; a first-year independent student may get rejected by a credit card company when they apply for a credit card, but they can walk into a college financial aid office and receive up to $9,500.00 in subsidized and unsubsidized loans for just one academic year. That debt load can add up to huge amounts in a short period of time! The Federal government is recognizing this massive student loan debt load and is now taking proactive steps to ensure that American college students become better informed and conscientious consumers of student loan debt.

LCC’s Office of Financial Aid and Learning Support Services have developed a Financial Literacy Seminar that furnishes students with the basic personal and financial knowledge to begin the journey of financial independence that a college education may offer.

The next Financial Literacy seminar will be offered March 2 from 1:00—3:00 p.m. in the Large Lecture Hall (#139) in the Bowman Building. All Lamar Community College students are encouraged to attend.

**Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines**

Need aid to make college achievable? Find awards from the college, the LCC Foundation, and area organizations that recognize your achievements and ease your mind. Deadlines are listed below:

- 3/1 - LCCF Presidential Scholarships
- 3/15 - Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation Scholarships
- 3/30 - Kane Family Foundation LCC/UCCS University Connection Scholarships
- 4/15 - $1,000 Service Area Scholarships for graduating area seniors
- 4/16 - LCC Ag/Equine/Rodeo Scholarships
- 4/30 - Prowers County Zonta Scholarships
- 5/8 - Voces Unidas Scholarships
- 8/1 - $1,000 Service Area Scholarships for GED recipients

Find apps and information at www.lamarcc.edu/scholarships

And complete the FAFSA (fafsa.gov) for additional financial aid options.

✔ For an opportunity to win a free lunch with Lamar Community College President John Marrin, answer who is Sylvia Manning?

Please submit your response to pronk@lamarcc.edu
The Runnin’ Lopes are back from the holidays and in full swing. Both men’s and women’s basketball teams got back to campus and hit the court running. The baseball and softball teams are now in season. Golf is faced with weather problems and the fact the snow won’t melt, but members are doing what they can to get ready for their spring start. Rodeo is gearing up for its spring rodeos. Volleyball is sizing up their options for spring while hitting the recruiting trail hard. Soccer is locked inside and will be working on recruiting our local players to fill in the roster holes for last year’s club.

The LCC women’s basketball team won their first game back from break, while our men’s team had chances but fell short, dropping into the losing column. Our new men’s JV basketball team posted its first victory of the new year on the road.

All sports are on the hunt for talent to staff next year’s teams!

Sports schedules are on the college website at lamarcc.edu; please check them out. LCC is looking forward to seeing all our fans back in the gym, baseball/softball fields, golf course, and in the rodeo bleachers.