LCC employees Kelli Gaines and Mike Bowen recently attended the Title III and Title V Directors' Meeting in Washington, D.C. Pictured is the U.S. Capitol Building.

Title III Conference held in Washington, D.C.

Lamar Community College Title III employees, Kelli Gaines, activity director, and Mike Bowen, admin assistant recently attended the Title III and Title V Program Directors' Meeting in Washington, D.C. The conference was held April 19 – 21, 2011 in Washington, D.C. at the Marriott Wardman Park. The annual conference brings grant project directors together from around the country to be better prepared to administer grants on their campuses. The conference provides an opportunity for grantees to share best practices with each other and also provides an opportunity for project directors to meet with their program officers.

LCC received a five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant in 2008. Since then it has begun STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Construction Tech offerings, with a Renewable Energy Tech program to begin this fall.

Gaines and Bowen attended meetings at the conference that were specific to the grant life cycle and responsibilities. Such workshops included covered enhancing student performance in STEM, promising practices for student success, and strengthening institutional effectiveness through strategic quality assurance, among others.
LCC President John Marrin

For college administrators the months of March, April and May are brutal in terms of high activity level. Usually there is a major accreditation program to attend, graduation, and other celebrations are happening, five or six compliance reports seem to be due and usually this is the time to formalize the next year’s budget. Along with these significant yearly projects, we are finishing the spring semester of classes and preparing for the upcoming semesters. We must like it because we keep coming back for more year after year. This year though seems especially hard because of necessary budget decisions. I know my executive team wishes we just had more money, but we are in a new environment in regards to state support for higher education. The poor economic times are real, and our friends and neighbors are feeling the pinch. The current situation we are in isn’t changing what we should do as far as our mission, but we have to make financial decisions without any room for error. Our budget for 2011/2012 will be 5.6% less in state general funds as compared to this current year. Over the past two years, we have seen a net reduction in state funding of almost 15%. To offset this reduction we are able to raise in-state tuition 9% this year and 10% next year. The net effect to LCC, if we have stable enrollments, will almost be a wash. With growth we would have additional revenues, but with additional costs.

The new paradigm I was talking about is where students and their families will pay for a larger share of their college education. The grants and scholarships available have become more important to students and I think will continue to be important to help fund a part of tuition for a college degree. For a college this means we have to continue to add value for our students, region, and state. Fulfilling our vision and mission is a good start, but we also know we need to produce a goodly number of students each year. The term production isn’t something commonly thought of in higher education but is becoming more relevant each year. Because of this new environment we initiated a program level strategic planning process this year. We are no longer asking for budget numbers alone, but we are including marketing efforts, staffing needs, and the potential production in numbers of students for the money requested. In addition, each program is considering how additional funds through grants, projects, or other sources may be utilized. Even though this process is in its infancy it will become the core of our college strategic planning process, which in turn will drive our budget decisions.

Our marketing and recruitment efforts will have to become very efficient, and we will need to better understand our customer’s wants and needs. The coordination of effort between instruction and enrollment management will need to improve exponentially, with each having a full understanding of each other’s role in the process. Not only will we do the general college advertising we have done in the past, but we need to research ways to improve marketing each of our programs on an individual basis. In doing so the quality of the programs and the education the students earn must be communicated to the appropriate markets in a very succinct manner.

The changes we make because of this new environment aren’t all bad. To gain efficiencies and add value at the same time seems to align with our continuous improvement concepts.

OH! The places we will explore...

By Cheryl Sanchez

This month I would like to encourage you to explore the following website http://www.secoloradoheritage.com/about-our-heritage/. This is a great place to develop your own exploration of southeast Colorado. The website provides a wealth of information on the history of southeast Colorado. You will find maps, suggested trips, calendar of events, and pictures of heritage attractions in southeast Colorado.

Enjoy learning about historic events that took place in our region. Summer is a great time for you to develop an outing that fits your schedule. Using the wonderful website resources allows you to concentrate on your special heritage interests. The website has a special attraction on it for me. I would like to encourage you to go to the section “Our Stories” and click on the podcast titled “They were called Rollers.” The podcast is an interview with James and Mary May Gourley (my family friends from Two Buttes) and Mildred Stolebarger (my mom). This webcast story is just one of the many stories about the dirty 30s I have had the privilege of listening to during my life. I hope you enjoy browsing through the website to plan your summer adventure. Your adventure will provide you with something to do and a wonderful experience close to home. As you explore, reflect on how our heritage has influenced shaping this nation. Enjoy exploring our heritage! Don’t forget your camera, a picnic, and a clear mind.

Mid April snow?

A rare April snow on the 14th lightly covered the ground and the antelope in front of the campus.
How to Fry a Couch Potato

By Deborah Loper

Are you holding true to your exercise New Year’s resolutions? The following may provide motivation to help keep you on track.

• My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She’s 97 now and we don’t know where in the world she is.

• I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven’t lost a pound. Apparently you have to show up.

• I have to exercise in the morning before my brain figures what I’m doing.

• I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.

• If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country. I don’t jog. It makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

Renew your commitment to your exercise program. If you’ve slipped, don’t worry; physically and mentally start again. The whole point is to keep moving.

Leave A Legacy

Supporting a cause that is ‘bigger’ than you and that will outlive us all is great way to leave a legacy on this earth. Well after we are gone, your generosity will be here... helping students and our community. Whether it is an endowed scholarship or a named room or building, your legacy - or the passion of a loved one - can live on at Lamar Community College. It is the ultimate gift to the future.

Contact the LCC Foundation Office at 719.336.1511 or foundation@lamarcc.edu for more information regarding naming opportunities and endowed scholarships.

Alumni - keep informed by registering at lamarcc.edu/alumni.
Congratulations Lamar Community College TRiO Graduates

December 2010: Anayancy Molina; Angela Dawn Warren; Carrie A. Schroeder; Christopher J. Allen; Corey M. Bair; Francheska M. Ortiz-Torres; Keirsten R. Hunt; Kyle Mark Dodge; Mike Bate; Nancy J. Owens; Nicolas M. Benedetto; Petra O. Austin; Tanya Rae Adams; and Tyler Giannini.

May 2011: Allen Tate; Amanda Paige Cash; Arden John Dennis; Arturo Maltos-Garcia; Ashley Lynn Gutierrez; Brittani Dawn Richins; Carlos Hector Morales; Casie Marie Hawkins; Catrina Tixier; Christy L. Johnson; Christy M. McEndree; Clarissa Yesenia Garcia; Clint Nathan Baldwin; Corina Quiroz; Courtney Justine Williams; Damon Herron; Duane R. Leroux; Dustin Ray Burton; Haley Choot; Harmony Englert; Hillary Amelia Hunter; Iliana Zavala; Janae Ischael De La Virgen; Joanna Smith; Jose Angel Dominguez; Jose Rueda; Joseph Paintin; Joshua R. Turner; Judith Ann Schneider; Julie Raye Vandiver; Kasey Neal; Krista Watson-Currell; Laura Salgado; Leslie Ann Maggart; Limbert L. Largo, IV; Lindsey M. Cade; Madelyn R. Maestas; Mark J. Weiss; Mary Feliz De La Virgen; Michael Alvarez; Miguel Angel Zavala; Monique Rose Brown; Monty R. Thompson; Nancy J. Owens; Nathan Palmer; Rebecca L. Clark; Ronnie Waller; Shadow Sky Wollert; and Tehra J. Burk.

August 2011: Briana Michelle Claffin.

TRiO takes cultural trip to Denver

Saturday, May 7:
~ LCC’s 72nd annual Commencement at 10:00 AM, in LCC’s Wellness Center.
~ LCC’s Nursing Pinning at 3:00 PM, in LCC’s Wellness Center.
Receptions for graduates and families will immediately follow both events. Each will be webcasted at lamarcc.edu.
Booster Club holds appreciation dinner

The Lamar Community College Runnin’ Lopes Booster Club hosted an appreciation dinner for the college’s athletes on Wednesday, April 20th. With over 200 attendees, the crowd was a mix of student athletes, community members, and LCC staff & faculty. The evening provided an excellent overview of each sport’s seasons with speakers, Michelle Reynolds and Scott Elarton augmenting the program.

Michelle Reynolds played softball for the Runnin’ Lopes in 2005-2007, continuing at Colorado State University. She explained how the ‘Lopes had been a significant step in both her athletic and academic careers, giving the ‘small town girl’ a valuable step between high school and a university. This step allowed for athletic, emotional, and academic growth and allowed her to succeed in a large college.

Hometown favorite Scott Elarton graduated from Lamar High School in 1994. He played professional baseball for approximately fifteen years, retiring last year. Master of Ceremonies Erik Stone guided a question and answer session for community members to ask questions and make comments about his experiences. Although Elarton did not play at LCC, he often practiced with the Lopes in the off-season. The Booster Club presented its first $1,000 sophomore scholarships drawn from freshmen athletes returning next year. Two students’ names were drawn; they were Mario Coté (baseball) and Kelsey Plowman (softball).

For more information regarding the LCC Runnin’ Lopes Booster Club, contact Craig Brooks at 336.1674 or craig.brooks@lamarcc.edu.

RODEO TEAM MEMBERS WIN SADDLES

Tyler Schnaufer and Carter Coble won saddles for their efforts this year. Tyler won the region in Team Roping (header), while Carter received his for Steer Wrestling.

At left is Tyler Schnaufer with Rodeo Coach Fred Sherwood and at right is Carter Coble with Rodeo Coach Sherwood.