



LAMAR STATE COLLEGE PORT ARTHUR

# 2020 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



*Betty Reynard*

**DR. BETTY REYNARD, PRESIDENT**  
Lamar State College Port Arthur

## MEETING EVERY CHALLENGE

If anything holds true about Lamar State College Port Arthur, its students, faculty, and staff, is that we are a resilient and dedicated bunch.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our world in myriad ways, almost exclusively negative.

But even in the face of all the negative consequences, this pandemic has also offered a unique set of opportunities for our employees and students to stand up to be strong together.

LSCPA offered two free three-hour classes during the summer 2020 semesters. The response was immense. Facing adversity, our students chose to look toward a better future.

Among the most popular courses are our technical education offerings. People are pursuing careers that pay better and offer more opportunity for advancement. The list of career opportunities is nearly endless with proper education.

A certificate or degree results in greater earning potential but they also offer other important benefits over a lifetime. You will enjoy a higher quality of life, make better decisions as a consumer, have a higher level of savings, have greater personal and professional mobility, and be able to enjoy more hobbies and leisure time activities.

Above it all, your return on investment is immense. The cost of an associate degree is commonly offset by immediate career opportunity.

In this time of fiscal insecurity, Lamar State College Port Arthur serves as a calming force. Author Mark Twain once said, "The secret of getting ahead is getting started."

We are here and eager to help you get started, or continue, on your path to educational and career enlightenment.



# COVID-19 Changes Our World

It was almost as if it happened overnight. One day, students bustled across campus, meeting instructors face to face in classrooms, sharing knowledge and making memories.

Then COVID-19 reared its head, grinding society to a near-halt with its threat of infection and death. But LSCPA students, faculty and staff adjusted to the new norm, embracing the future with the aplomb found deep within each storm-worn citizen of Southeast Texas.

Inside this year's annual Report to the Community, you'll find stories of our students, faculty and staff and how COVID-19 has impacted their worlds.

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## CARES Grant covers Summer tuition

Lamar State College Port Arthur CARES for all of its students and wanted to assist every student during an historic time of uncertainty and economic unrest. Therefore, during the summer 2020 semester it continued providing LSCPA students with the hope of a productive and secure future by offering the opportunity to pursue their educational goals and enroll in two summer courses for free for all students.

Students who qualified for a Pell Grant and/or other grants had the tuition and fees for the two free Summer 2020 semester courses paid by their financial aid award. Any student who did not qualify for a Pell Grant and/or other grants had the tuition and fees for the two free Summer 2020 semester courses paid by LSCPA institutional or grant funds. Some courses offered free open source textbooks.

The free tuition was provided from the \$1.05 million dedicated to Lamar State College Port Arthur from the U.S. Congress Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The school earlier awarded \$533,000 of that grant to Spring 2020 students to cover expenses related to disruptions to the students' educations during the COVID-19 outbreak.



**CELESTE SALAZAR**  
**SOPHOMORE SOFTBALL PLAYER**

COVID-19 has impacted me in ways I would never have imagined, including ruining my first collegiate softball season. Getting started in my adult life was life-changing up until March 20, 2020 when everything changed for the worse. I headed back home, five hours away, in a rush once again.

The pandemic has taught me how to face adversity when life and my future career were just truly starting.



## COVID-19

# ALLIED HEALTH DONATES SUPPLIES IN EARLY FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC

Lamar State College Port Arthur showed that in the grand scheme of the COVID-19 global pandemic, small gestures truly do make a big difference.

The College donated medical supplies from its Allied Health Program to CHRISTUS Southeast Texas St. Elizabeth Hospital in March 2020, including 200 of the sought-after N95 respiratory masks. The idea for the supply donation was that of Allied Health Director Shirley MacNeill and her program coordinators.

“It’s so difficult to sit here every day with a feeling of not being able to do anything to help,” MacNeill said. “We looked around and realized there were ways we can help our neighbors.

“The region’s medical facilities have been wonderful partners for Lamar State College Port Arthur’s Allied Health programs,” she said. “We were thrilled to be able to give something back as they faced this incredible challenge.”

The supplies, which are used in LSCPA’s nursing and surgical technology programs, included isolation gowns, surgical gowns, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, regular exam masks and N95 respiratory masks.

“We are continuously amazed by the generosity and selflessness of the community we so proudly serve,” said Paul Guidroz, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer for CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System. “We are so humbled by

this tremendous donation of gloves and N95 masks for our providers, and we appreciate the expressions of kindness we continue to receive as we respond to COVID-19.”

Many of LSCPA’s nursing and surgical technology students graduate and go right to work at the region’s various medical institutions, including the CHRISTUS facilities.

“With what we’ve seen so far with COVID-19, medical supplies are going to be more and more in short supply,” MacNeill said. “What we offered was a small gesture but if we all make a small gesture, together it becomes something huge.”

## COVID-19

# Sempra donation bolsters LSCPA Food Pantry

Life for a college student is hard enough, trying to juggle work and school, many with children at home and not enough money to make ends meet. With the coronavirus, the struggle has grown.

Sempra LNG, through its Foundation's COVID Nonprofit Hardship Fund, decided no student should go hungry. The Sempra Energy Foundation donated \$20,000 to the Port Arthur Higher Education Foundation which, in turn, provided \$6,000 to the Lamar State College Port Arthur Food Bank. LSCPA administrators



allocated the additional \$14,000 from the Sempra contribution in other student support initiatives.

The LSCPA Food Bank makes food and other sundries available to the college's students, faculty and staff who are in need and is operated by the Student Activities Office, led by Director Kiet Le.

"We have seen an increase in the

number of people who need help and we do all we can to assist everyone who calls on us," he said. "This donation is a blessing and will provide so many more students and their families with one of life's basic needs."

It is estimated by the College and Food Bank Alliance that more than half of college students in the U.S. deal with food insecurity and that the number of food-insecure community college students exceeds the national average. This can be detrimental to grades, attendance and concentration.

## CARES grants help ease students' burdens

How big was a \$1,000 Lamar State College Port Arthur CARES grant for student Jermyni Bell?

"OMG!" she answered the email announcing her award. "This is truly a blessing! Thanks so much!"

Bell was just one of 533 Lamar State College Port Arthur spring students to be awarded \$1,000 grants from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorized by Congress and dedicated to LSCPA through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

In all, the college awarded \$533,000 in LSCPA CARES grants to students. The grants can be used for expenses related to disruptions to the students' educations during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Bell said her spring 2020 semester at Lamar State College Port Arthur "was very weird" because of the changes.

Then Bell's job shut down "for a minute," and after it restarted, her car



**JERMYNI  
BELL**

broke down on Mother's Day.

So finding out earlier this year she had been awarded a \$1,000 LSCPA CARES emergency funding grant helped the single mother stay on track to graduate in December with an associate degree in Process Technology.

"I'm very thankful for that," Bell said of the funds. "It'll definitely help."

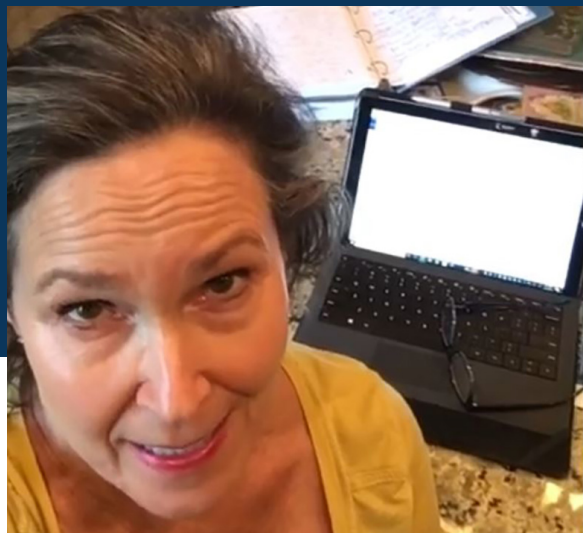
A second round of CARES grant funding took place at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester.



**DR. TESSIE BRADFORD  
DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES**

I am fortunate to be the new Dean of Student Services but it's been a challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of my first week, the entire Student Services team was exposed to COVID-19 and had to complete a 14-day self-quarantine. I was tested for COVID-19 for the very first time and anxiously awaited the test results. Starting a new role can be challenging but this presented a very different test of leading, inspiring and engaging a new team from a distance. It was necessary to make changes to protect the team, students and guests as well as engage them all.

## COVID-19



1

English professor Dr. Michelle Judice takes a selfie from home as Spring 2020 classes shifted quickly from face-to-face classroom situations to virtual classrooms. Zoom and Teams apps became the go-to interaction tools between instructors and students as everyone learned an entirely new way of life.



2

Evan Kelly, a Spring 2020 graduate of LSCPA, poses with his mother for a photo submitted to the college for inclusion in the first-ever Virtual Graduation video. When COVID-19 shut down face-to-face classes in March 2020, it also forced graduates to celebrate their diplomas and certificates in a new way.



3

On March 6, 2020 the LSCPA Seahawks softball team played Angelina College in the final non-conference game. No one knew that this would be the team's final game of the year. COVID-19 shut down everything as the National Junior College Athletics Association canceled all activity for 2020.

## As pandemic worked to tear us apart, we came together as one to battle COVID

The note to the community on March 12 was a portend of the unthinkable. Nearly six months without any face-to-face classroom teaching followed.

“In light of recent developments regarding COVID-19, Lamar State College Port Arthur has opted to take a proactive effort to safeguard its students by canceling face-to-face classes scheduled for March 16-20,” read the announcement, issued during Spring Break 2020.

Hopefully, it said, “classes are expected to resume March 23, unless circumstances dictate further cancellation of classes.”

Did they ever dictate.

But college leadership was evident, even in the early days of the shutdown. Faculty and staff were instructed to continue to work during the week of March 16-20 to make the transition “for the possibility of a shift to online instruction.”

“Our goal is to continue providing an education to our students and to mitigate as much of the disruption COVID-19 has presented,” LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard said. “This is a unique situation and one we are all working together to overcome. It’s important to stress that this is a time for all of us to demonstrate compassion, civility, and personal responsibility as we make the best decisions for our college.”

## COVID-19

### Students, faculty take on challenge of remote classes

1

“Show your work” has taken on a whole new meaning at Lamar State College Port Arthur.

For LSCPA cosmetology students, they demonstrate 90-degree haircuts on family members who are self-quarantining from the COVID-19 virus while another family member videotapes the process. Finally, they upload the video to their instructors who watch it in their homes and grade the work.

A nursing student goes online to show how to change a bandage and start an IV, using a teddy bear.

Faced with the challenges of an almost entirely online teaching experience, students and instructors at LSCPA are becoming creative and adaptive in order to finish the Spring 2020 semester.

English professor Dr. Michelle Judice said the rapid mid-March transition from classroom teaching to online instruction caught everyone by surprise.

“Some of my students were scared and skeptical in the beginning,” Judice said. “But, as I bluntly told them, so was I, and I reassured them that we would figure it out together. I promised I would try my hardest but they had to do their part also.

“I’m pretty proud of how well this has come together for my classes.”

### Spring 2020 graduates honored in video ceremony

2

**Spring 2020 Virtual Graduation video:**  
[https://youtu.be/AS7GXTJ\\_vpU](https://youtu.be/AS7GXTJ_vpU)

Social distancing rules and the scary realities of the coronavirus pandemic frustrated hopes for a face-to-face Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony at the Carl Parker Center, so Lamar State College Port Arthur made the best of a less-than-perfect situation.

It offered grads the opportunity to submit graduation photos or have them taken by the school to include in what became a 13-minute Virtual Graduation Ceremony Video uploaded to YouTube on July 30. More than a third of the 200-plus graduates accepted the offer to have their photos appear in the video.

Congratulations and best wishes for the future were offered by LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard, Vice President Dr. Pamela Millsap, Dean of Students Dr. Tessie Bradford, Student Activities Director Kiet Le and Student Government President Brianna Montijo.

The names of all who received Associate of Arts and Associate of Applied Science degrees and Certificates of Completion “marched” onscreen as “Pomp and Circumstances” played out the list of graduates.

### NJCAA delays Seahawks softball, all JUCO sports

3

Lamar State College Port Arthur’s softball season ended Monday, March 16, after the National Junior College Athletics Association decided to cancel the remainder of the 2020 spring competition schedule due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

“In light of the progressive evolution of the COVID-19 situation, the NJCAA has decided to end all competition for the remainder of the academic year,” stated Dr. Christopher Parker, NJCAA President & CEO. “As an association, the NJCAA exhausted all possible avenues to potentially postpone competition for both upcoming basketball championships and spring sport competition. We believe following the recommendations of the CDC is in the best interest of our member colleges and our student-athletes.”

The LSCPA Seahawks softball team had concluded its non-conference schedule and was ready to start NJCAA Region 14 play against Blinn College on Friday, March 13, when the coronavirus postponements began. A doubleheader scheduled against San Jacinto College on March 14 was also postponed.

“This is a heartbreaking situation for our team and for all the teams out there who are impacted by this decision,” said Seahawks softball head coach Vance Edwards. “We’ve been discussing this with our players for the past week or so and although they are certainly disappointed that their season is over, they are a mature group of young adults and they understand why it has to be this way.”



## RUBY FULLER RENOVATIONS

Hurricanes have been rough on LSCPA's Ruby Fuller Building but none more than Harvey in 2017. The flooding resulting from Harvey made the building unusable for classrooms and staff facilities.

The 86th Texas legislative session through Senate Bill 500 provided special appropriations of \$6.32 million to LSCPA for property damage related to Hurricane Harvey. The funding will provide for a modern interior space and major repairs to the exterior of the building. The current classroom addition will be removed, allowing for a grand secondary entrance to the building. Once the renovations are completed, plans include locating classes, faculty, and student support services into the building.



## \$2.8M Title V grant targets underserved students

Many LSCPA students come from low-income households and are often the first in the family to attend college.

Lamar State College Port Arthur received a grant for nearly \$3 million to support those students who are entering the world of higher education.

The U.S. Department of Education Title V grant addresses the need for additional support for those students with the creation of the Excelencia Center on campus.

The more than \$2.87 million grant, distributed over five years, will fund the Excelencia Center and its efforts to provide success coaches and tutors as well as additional computer equipment and upgraded facilities to attract and retain students considered to be at-risk.

More than 250 applications were received for this grant with LSCPA rated among the top 30 in the country. Only 43 grants were funded nationally.

“We will have a more deliberate outreach to Hispanic students as well as first generation students, providing them with the necessary information about accessibility and the importance of education,” Dr. Pamela Millsap, Vice President



for Academic Affairs, said. “Nearly half of Hispanic college students report that their parents had not earned a high school diploma. This grant and the Excelencia Center will create momentum for the Hispanic community to embrace education as a necessity rather than an option for the future.”

Especially important, Millsap explained, is the need for a bridge from high school to college for at-risk students.

“Hispanic and traditionally underserved students are disproportionately unprepared for college-level courses,” she said. “Student support services need to be consolidated and tailored to meet student needs in order to be effective. They need help transitioning from high school to college and this program will help them establish themselves as bona fide, dedicated students who are successful more quickly and consistently.”



**BRADY RAGGIO**  
DRAMA MAJOR

When we all had to stay at home, I read up on a lot more plays and shows to bring to my professor. I had a lot more free time for that. It's a lot more challenging wearing a mask in a theater as we rehearse for this semester's play, which will be by invitation only – not open to the full public. It's hard to act and show emotion with a mask. Learning to fill the room with your voice while wearing a mask was definitely a struggle for all of us, but we've learned to overcome it. In the show, we don't interact on the stage, we stay more than six feet apart.

## New leadership brings plethora of experience

Dr. Tessie Bradford's eyes light up when she speaks of her new position as Dean of Student Services at LSCPA.

"My passion is student services," she says. "I strive to have an impact on the life of every student I come into contact with."

Before starting at LSCPA in June, Dr. Bradford was Vice President for Student Services at Jarvis Christian College near Tyler.

She brings to the job degrees in computer science, human resources management and her doctorate is in sports management.

"I'm an example of how education can make all the difference in your life," she said.

• • •

As Title V Project Director at LSCPA, **Dr. Lona Alexander-Mitchell** brings back to her hometown a lengthy record of success leading federally funded educational enhancement efforts.

Title V is the part of the Higher Education Act called the Developing



**DR. LONA  
ALEXANDER-MITCHELL**

*"I'm back home. Port Arthur is home for me. My family still lives in Port Arthur."*

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program. Hispanics are the largest ethnic group at LSCPA and the Lincoln High grad oversees Camino a la Excelencia (Pathway to Success). It's an initiative funded by a Title V grant that will feature additional teaching resources and upgraded facilities to attract and retain students.

Dr. Alexander-Mitchell has served as director of special programs for the Port



**DR. TESSIE  
BRADFORD**

*"I'm an example of how education can make all the difference in your life."*

Arthur, Beaumont and Aldine school districts.

• • •

**Dr. Roszella Offord** has a BIG job at LSCPA, made many times larger by the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 in the early months of 2020.

As Director of Online Learning, she helped lead the school in its transition from classrooms to home computers, a process that included finding the



**DR. ROSZELLA  
OFFORD**

*"Sometimes the best example is to be the example."*

right platforms to use and helping both teachers and students learn how to use them most effectively.

And she did it all as she completed her doctoral degree.

The first-generation college student from Orange is a wife, mother of two small children, owner of a small business and adjunct instructor. She also illustrates children's books.

# Grant brings Armory back to life again

The cavernous three-story building on Lakeshore Drive alongside the LSCPA softball field has stood mostly vacant for a decade. The occasional welding class and dressing rooms for the Seahawks softball team have made the building home.

But that is all changing after Lamar State College Port Arthur received a \$4.8 million grant that, with additional local matching funds will reach \$6 million, to help renovate the existing Armory building, located along Lakeshore Drive. The grant is part of the U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration efforts to help the State of Texas prepare for natural disasters and promote economic resiliency and business growth.

The Armory, so named because it was once used by the U.S. military prior to being donated to the college, will soon become a state-of-the-art craft training facility that will provide education opportunities to help local residents get well-paying jobs quickly. The project is expected to create 167 jobs.

"Craft training differs from degree

An artist's rendering shows the exterior of the new state-of-the-art craft training center.



programs in that it focuses on short-term training designed to bring a student quickly into the workforce at a profitable wage," Dr. Ben Stafford, Dean of Workforce Training and Continuing Education and author of the grant, said. "This center will train craftsmen for all of the local expansion projects."

Once the 23,000- square-foot building is retrofitted the college will be able to offer training in welding, scaffold building, pipefitting, rigging, structural steel, electrical, instrumentation, carpentry, concrete work and a wide variety of safety training.

While it is common to see advanced simulation in degree

programs," Stafford said, "this craft training center will be one-of-a-kind in bringing realistic industry conditions into the college training environment."

The facility will include classrooms, labs, office space and will continue to be home to the school's softball program. Construction on the upgrades is expected to begin in early 2021. The City of Port Arthur's Economic Development Corporation is contributing \$1 million toward the matching fund requirement, while industrial partners are donating equipment to cover the additional matching amount.



**KURISMA JONES**  
COSMETOLOGY MAJOR

I was working in the refinery as a fire guard. They laid us off due to COVID.

With no job, I was pretty much trying to stretch unemployment as much as I could.

I registered for school so I could earn a steady income.





## WILSON EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

On Saturday, June 6, 2020, 37 Port Arthur ISD students who applied and were accepted to the Woodrow Wilson Early College High School back in 2016 earned more than their high school diplomas at Port Arthur's Graduation Ceremony and Parade of Graduates. They each were presented an Associate of Arts degree in Academic Studies from Lamar State College Port Arthur. The 62 hours of college credit transfers to any Texas university, meaning these students are halfway to four-year college degrees. And the Early College High School program put together by LSCPA and Port Arthur ISD is free to qualifying PAISD students.



**BRANDON BUCKNER**  
**DIRECTOR OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY**

In Surgery Technology, we're used to wearing a mask, so we know they're safe, effective, and we know we can wear them all day long. That was easier because we're accustomed to them. As a small group, we were still allowed to come on campus, because we're spaced out already. We did go over the Coronavirus, how it's spread and precautions. We have protocols to test everything. Students and instructors do temperature checks every day and fill out forms tracking where they've been and who they've been around, just as they do in the hospitals where the students train.



Texas Sen. Brandon Creighton delivered proclamations to members of the Port Arthur Education Foundation board during the annual State of Education luncheon in Port Arthur on Tuesday, February 11, 2020. Sen. Creighton was the keynote speaker for the event that also featured presentations from Lamar State College Port Arthur President Dr. Betty Reynard and Port Arthur ISD Superintendent Dr. Mark Porterie. A commemorative flag was also presented to Port Arthur Education Foundation Board President Barbara Phillips. Pictured, from left, are Reynard, Phillips, Creighton and Porterie.

## Guillot recognized with Rogers Community Service Award

Sheila Guillot, a member of the Lamar State College Port Arthur leadership team for 33 years and now the school's Chair of Business and Industrial Technology, was awarded the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award.

The honor recognizes annually a member of the faculty or staff who

has made a significant contribution to public service in SE Texas.

A mother of twins who is in charge of 14 programs at LSCPA, Guillot is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Jefferson County, working to raise scholarship funds for high school Key Club members, and as chairperson of the Children's

Christmas Party for underserved elementary school children.

She is a leader at her church, First Baptist Nederland, and works with the Medical Center Volunteers in Port Arthur and chairs the Career and Technical Advisory Committees at both Nederland and Port Neches-Groves High Schools.



**MAKAELA SATTLER**  
NURSING MAJOR

I was in the middle of my nursing program and we had to go from learning everything in person to going online. Direct patient care became virtual. We had to pretend to do patient care. They posted videos of how to do things and we sent back videos of us doing them. I learned time management because of coronavirus. Instead of going and sitting in class at a certain time, with everything online you have to put in twice as much study time and ask 10 times more questions when you conference with your instructors. You have to do it on your own if you want to succeed.

## Tuition cuts equal enrollment surge

Lamar State College Port Arthur reported a dramatic year-to-year enrollment increase, spurred by a tuition cut. LSCPA's tuition fell 29% as a result of that cut.

LSCPA has seen continued growth in its student body over the past several years. The college reported an enrollment of 1,755 students in Spring 2016. The Spring 2020 enrollment figures reached 2,460, an increase of more than 40%. The Spring 2020 enrollment is the highest in the history of the college.

"With the impact of Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda on the residents of Port Arthur and its surrounding communities, the tuition drop could not have come at a better time," said Dr. Betty Reynard, President of LSCPA. "This additional funding has allowed more of our residents to pursue an education without having to sacrifice the necessities of life to do so. It has been a godsend for our region."

Last year, the Texas Legislature approved \$17.3 million in new funding to narrow the tuition gap between the Lamar State Colleges and Texas community colleges.

### LSCPA JUST KEEPS GROWING

#### Five-Year Increase of 40.2% in Spring Enrollment

Spring 2016	1,755 students	-
Spring 2017	2,089 students	+19.03%
Spring 2018	1,980 students	-5.22%*
Spring 2019	2,375 students	+19.95%
Spring 2020	2,460 students	+3.58%

\*Hurricane Harvey impact.



**DR. MICHELLE DAVIS**  
CHAIR OF GENERAL EDUCATION  
AND DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

As a department chair, COVID-19 has impacted how we normally prepare for a semester. We found large spaces to create socially distanced classrooms, adjusted the schedule to mostly virtual learning, and became comfortable with virtual meetings in Teams, Zoom, and Collaborate to get work done.

LSCPA is a strong and resilient campus of students, faculty, and staff. We will continue to work together to provide a safe educational experience for our students.







# Motiva Training Unit comes to life

To serve the world class petrochemical companies that call Southeast Texas home, Lamar State College Port Arthur is now offering a world class education never before seen in the state.

The college celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, November 7, 2019 as part of the grand opening of the Motiva Petrochemical Training Facility. The two units that make up the facility offer hands-on training with equipment that makes up what one official referred to as “a complete refinery operation right here at the college.”

“We possess the unique opportunity to offer an education no other institution can offer in this area, even in this state,” said Dr. Melissa Armentor, Dean of Technical Programs at LSCPA.

The units are indeed rare in the world of higher education, especially at the two-year college level.

The Hands-On Training (HOT) No. 3 Glycol Distillation Trainer is one of just four in the United States and the only one in Texas. The HOT 1 Process Trainer is one of only 23 in the country. LSCPA is the only two-year college to possess both training units.

“We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to see

this project come to fruition,” said Dr. Betty Reynard, President of LSCPA. “This was a dream project and today, our dream is coming true.”

The two units, which are located just outside the

recently-completed Umphrey Industrial Technology Center, are designed to teach the fundamentals of process operations in a safe but realistic manner. Engineered and manufactured in the United States, each unit is constructed using industrial components and to industry standards.

The naming rights were presented to Motiva after the company donated \$250,000 toward the project in its earliest stages in January 2019.

“Education and workforce development are important issues to Motiva and we are honored to contribute in meaningful ways to this institution,” said Ed Haloulos, Executive Vice President of Human Resources.

Motiva’s relationship with Lamar State College Port Arthur extends many years, in which time the organizations have partnered to provide mentoring and learning experiences for students and professors alike. Lamar State College Port Arthur will generously dedicate their new processing unit to Motiva.

“This community is important to us,” said Greg Lucchesi, Port Arthur General Manager. “It’s not just a place we work – it’s home to many employees who work at Motiva. We’re honored to help provide a safe and engaging learning environment for students with these donations.”

The Motiva Petrochemical Training Facility bolsters already first-class Process Technology and Instrumentation programs at LSCPA. Among the guests for the ribbon cutting ceremony were former students, many wearing Motiva uniforms.

“I recognize many of your faces and it’s exciting to know that the education you are receiving here is benefitting you and our company in such a positive way,” Lucchesi said.



**KERITZA FLATTS**  
NURSING MAJOR

The day before I had my third baby, they started shutting down the hospitals to visitors because of COVID-19. They allowed my husband in with me but then he couldn't leave until we all did. At school, we have to wear a facemask and a faceshield and only 10 people in each class. Everybody has to do a temperature check and fill out a COVID survey every day to enter the building. We are constantly washing our hands. I signed up for an anatomy class because I heard the instructor was really good. But he isn't able to teach face-to-face. Fortunately, his class is available online.

## WORKFORCE TRAINING

# One-stop training, testing for CDL

Supply chains stretched thin during the COVID-19 outbreak reinforce the importance of truck drivers to Americans' health and well-being.

The truck driving school at Lamar State College Port Arthur has become an even bigger link in that chain, thanks to a recent move by the federal government.

"We are now fully a one-stop shop for truck driving students," Dr. Ben Stafford, LSCPA's Dean of Workforce Programs, said of his school's Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program. "And we're the only ones in our area who can do this."

In September 2020, Jefferson County Commissioners Court dedicated nearly 24 acres of land to LSCPA for future use as a CDL training facility. That land is located on U.S. 69 near the Dream Center of Southeast Texas.

"When the pandemic hit, the governor called for a focus on transportation to keep the economy and pandemic response on track," Dr. Stafford said. "We've been running transportation classes during the pandemic without a single transmission."

LSCPA is the only Texas site between



Louisiana and Houston where students can receive classroom and on-the-road instruction, plus the "knowledge" and "skills" testing needed to become licensed drivers.

The school previously offered three of those four components, but the written "knowledge" tests, required for truck driving students to obtain a "learner's permit," had to be taken at a Texas Department of Safety (DPS) Driver's License Office.

Until recently. The state shut down local driver's license offices in order to stop the community spread of Covid-19. On April 9, 2020 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration granted LSCPA authority to administer

the CDL knowledge testing.

The truck driving program at LSCPA has remained open despite the closing of most state instructional programs in March 2020. This is because the classes are small in size (fewer than 10) and essential, Stafford said.

"Truck driving is a governmentally declared essential occupation, to keep the supply chain open under the pandemic," the Dean said.

"We have small classes and we are careful to socially distance. The cleaning crews follow all guidelines for sterilization and cleanliness of the classroom, and our instructors clean the trucks after every class."

## Rice University's OpenStax program selects LSCPA for free textbook use

The cost of a degree or certificate at Lamar State College Port Arthur will soon get much, much less expensive.

Port Arthur's college is one of 12 schools chosen by Rice University to participate in the 2020-2021 OpenStax Institutional Partnership Network. As a participant in the network's first-year program, LSCPA will work actively to build and execute a strategy that will encourage greater use of free, flexible textbooks among its faculty and students.

What that means, in short, is that students and faculty will enjoy the free use of textbooks starting with the Fall 2021 semester.

"Free is never bad, right?" quipped LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard.

"Thanks to an injection of funds in the fall of 2019 by the Texas Legislature, the cost of tuition dropped by nearly 30 percent at Lamar State College Port Arthur."

LSCPA was chosen by Rice University to participate in this strategic partnership with OpenStax by demonstrating an eagerness to drive adoption of open educational resources (OER). Free to access and fully modifiable, OER provides students and educators with fair and flexible teaching and learning materials.

More than a dozen faculty members at Lamar State College Port Arthur



have eagerly volunteered to participate in the program. Once the conversion process is completed with a target start date of Fall 2021, a student would be able to complete nearly the entire core curriculum, needing only to purchase one book that costs about \$100. Ultimately, even that one remaining course is being targeted to be converted to the OpenStax partnership, meaning the entire core curriculum textbook requirement would cost nothing.

"We look for every opportunity to help our students succeed and that includes assisting them financially," said Dr. Pamela Millsap, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lamar State College Port Arthur. "The cost of textbooks is a substantial part of the cost of going to college. Working with OpenStax will allow more people to afford a degree or certificate. Perhaps even more important, it will help students reach their educational goals with fewer or no student loans being incurred."



DR. MICHELLE JUDICE AND DR. YUMI SHIN

## Teaming up for student success

A couple of Doctors of Education have come up with the right prescription for interdepartmental cooperation at Lamar State College Port Arthur.

Dr. Yumi Shin, Coordinator of References and Access Services at Gates Memorial Library, and Associate English Professor Dr. Michelle Judice collected data on the positive impact of library instruction on student writing at the two-year college level.

The Texas Library Association selected their paper for presentation at their March 2020 convention and publication in an issue of the Texas Library Journal.

The two educators discovered an 85

percent improvement in grades for English papers written by Judice's Fall 2019 students after Shin offered the students instruction in how to find books and scholarly articles in the campus' Gates Memorial Library. The librarian's instruction also included tips on how to follow the Modern Language Association (MLA) format for academic papers.

"The caliber of the papers I received after she did her presentation was just dramatically different," said Judice, who has taught English to dual-credit high schoolers and two-year college students at LSCPA for 16 years.



# Culinary Arts degree, certificate available Fall 21

Never satisfied to sit still, administrators at LSCPA have already established additional programs that have helped bring new students to the college's front doors in droves.

Most recently, the college added degrees and certificates in Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning and Drafting Technology.

But, starting with the Fall 2021 semester, things will get even tastier.

LSCPA will offer a Culinary Arts and Hospitality associate of applied science degree as well as certificates in Culinary Arts Foundation and Culinary Arts Specialist.

New state-of-the-art facilities are being constructed in downtown Port Arthur to provide the best possible educational opportunities with the curriculum providing students the knowledge and skills to work in culinary and hospitality worksites.

With a strong curriculum designed by professional chefs and hospitality experts, the Culinary Arts and Hospitality programs will create a pathway to beginning or continuing a wide range of culinary and hospitality careers.

Thanks to a large federal grant, the Port Arthur Economic Development Corporation is leading a \$7,249,999.83 revival of the old Port Arthur News building, located in downtown on Lakeshore Drive.

To learn more about the Culinary Arts and Hospitality program or any of the other 50 degrees and certificates offered by Lamar State College Port Arthur, contact David Morales, Director of Enrollment Services, at [enrollmentservices@lamarpa.edu](mailto:enrollmentservices@lamarpa.edu), 409-984-6467 or 800-477-5872. Financial Aid information is available by emailing [financialaid@lamarpa.edu](mailto:financialaid@lamarpa.edu) or online at [www.lamarpa.edu/FA](http://www.lamarpa.edu/FA)

LSCPA's Culinary Center will take up a good portion of the renovated space with additional community and business development spaces, including small businesses, EDC offices, and a city emergency operations center.

Originally, the Culinary Arts program was set to debut with the Fall 2020 semester but COVID-19 and various weather incidences have pushed that start date back a full year to Fall 2021.

"There's been a delay but the excitement for this project has not diminished at all," LSCPA President Dr. Betty Reynard said. "We will come out of COVID-19 and hospitality jobs will flourish once again and the interest in the culinary arts and hospitality industry will explode. We want to be on the front end of that explosion, helping our community prepare for those opportunities now."

The two-story, 40,000-square foot building will include 10,000 feet to be used for LSCPA's culinary and hospitality training center. There will be two kitchens available to instructors and students from LSCPA.

"We are constantly looking for ways to enrich the community through new and innovative programs that offer a viable path to great careers and great salaries," Reynard said.

# Mission

Lamar State College Port Arthur provides learning experiences that prepare students to continue their education or enter the workforce.

# Vision

Lamar State College Port Arthur strives to enhance lives by expanding opportunities through quality education.



# Values

We value our students':

- Educational achievements
- Personal enrichment

We value our employees and their:

- Contributions to student success
- Commitment to improve
- Integrity and honesty

We value our community and its:

- Legacy of support
- Diversity



**ANA VALENCIA**  
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT SECRETARY**

I had taken online classes before and they didn't work out for me. When they said they were moving everything online, I was a little worried. I did end up getting all A's in the spring. This year, they gave us a choice and I'm taking the face-to-face, which is different than before, because of the precautions you have to take. We do have to stay away from each other and have to wear a mask all the time, but I'd so much rather do that than online. There were some good points about online, if you're really good at managing your time. It's not for everybody but it can be helpful for people that can't do a fixed schedule.



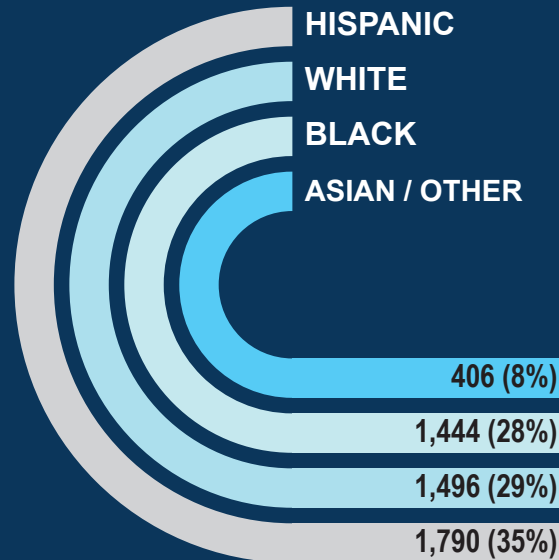
**ROBERT HAWKINS**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

During the pandemic, it has been challenging for myself and other students to adapt to the online course curriculum. I find it has been most difficult adjusting to the workload.

Without face-to-face classes, students must hold themselves accountable on maintaining an efficient workload at home and staying on top of deadlines.

Our professors are continuing to offer assistance with the new course format so that we may succeed, regardless of the adversities faced in all this mess.

## LAMAR STATE COLLEGE PORT ARTHUR BY THE NUMBERS



Source: Fall 2019 / Spring 2020 Enrollment Reports

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Lamar State College Port Arthur offers nearly 150 scholarships for students who attend the college. Some of these scholarships are awarded to students in specific programs but most are general in their scope.

**\$231,144**  
Fall 2019

**\$240,122**  
Spring 2020

CATEGORY	FALL 2019	SPRING 2020
ENROLLMENT	2,710	2,426
ACADEMIC MAJORS	1,511	1,340
TECHNICAL MAJORS	1,199	1,086
FULL-TIME STUDENTS	1,013	924
PART-TIME STUDENTS	1,697	1,502
IN-STATE STUDENTS	2,663	2,391
OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS	45	34
FOREIGN STUDENTS	2	1
AVERAGE AGE	23	23
MALE	1,152	986
FEMALE	1,558	1,440
STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO	18:1	17:1
DEGREES AWARDED	114	158
CERTIFICATES	48	73

2019 Source: Certified CBM001 & In-house reports. Degrees & Certificates awarded are from the Fall 2019 graduation only.

2020 Source: Certified CBM001 & In-house reports. Degrees & Certificates awarded are from the Spring 2020 graduation only.

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### About the College

Founded in 1909 as Port Arthur Business College. Became Port Arthur Collegiate Institute in 1911. Merged with Lamar University in 1975 as part of the Lamar University System. In 1995, the Texas Legislature dissolved the Lamar University System and the college joined the Texas State University System. The school was officially renamed Lamar State College Port Arthur in 1999.

### Accreditation

- Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

### Approving Organizations

- American Bar Association
- Texas Board of Nursing
- Texas Certification Board of Addiction Professionals
- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- Texas Education Agency
- Texas Workforce Investment Council
- Veterans Administration



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