

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE ORANGE

# EXCELLENCE IN ACTION



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023-2024





# EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023-2024



Lamar State College  
— Orange —

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

VISION:

Where Hope Meets Opportunity

Lamar State College Orange will prepare individuals for a changing world by creating a place where hope meets opportunity. Our students will arrive with the hope of a productive future and leave with the knowledge and opportunities for success that a Lamar State College Orange education provides.

MISSION:

Transforming Lives

Lamar State College Orange transforms lives and communities through the continual pursuit of academic, professional, and personal excellence. We provide new and unique opportunities for growth and success. We are the bridge connecting those we serve to a bright, Orange future.

CORE VALUES



QUALITY

Providing access to educational excellence



GROWTH

Building a shared vision of opportunity and advancement



SERVICE

Meeting the needs of the community we serve



INNOVATION

Creating an array of unique educational opportunities



SUCCESS

Achieving personal and professional goals

The Texas State University System Board of Regents

Alan L. Tinsley, Chairman • Madisonville  
Dionicio (Don) Flores, Vice Chairman • El Paso  
Charlie Amato • San Antonio  
Duke Austin • Houston  
Sheila Faske • Rose City  
Russell Gordy • Houston  
Stephen Lee • Bastrop  
Tom Long • Frisco  
William F. Scott • Nederland  
Olivia Discon, Student Regent • Huntsville

Lamar State College Orange Foundation Board of Directors

Gisela Houseman, Chairman  
Brandon Fisher, Vice Chairman  
Shane Johns, Treasurer  
Courtney Arkeen  
Jennifer Burtfield  
Brown Claybar  
Dr. Rickie Harris  
Dr. Nina Leifeste  
Amy Peevey  
Dr. Michael Shahan

Lamar State College Orange (LSCO) is an equal opportunity, educational institution and does not discriminate against any person regardless of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status, in admissions, educational programs, student activities or employment. For further information about this policy, contact the Accessibility Coordinator at (409) 882-3393.



LAMAR STATE COLLEGE ORANGE

President  
Dr. Thomas Johnson

Provost & Executive Vice President  
Dr. Wendy Elmore

Vice President for Finance & Operations  
Mary Wickland

President's Report Staff

Editors  
Dr. Wendy Elmore  
Daniel McLemore

Writers  
Daniel McLemore  
Elaina Forester  
Cindy Wyles

Design  
Jurnee Dennis

Photography  
Daniel McLemore  
Robert Dominguez

Print  
Cindy Wyles  
Geneva Adams

Table of Contents:

4 PRESIDENT’S LETTER

6 STUDENT SUCCESS

14 GATOR TRADITIONS

20 JOE BEN WELCH STUDENT CENTER

22 LSCO BY THE NUMBERS

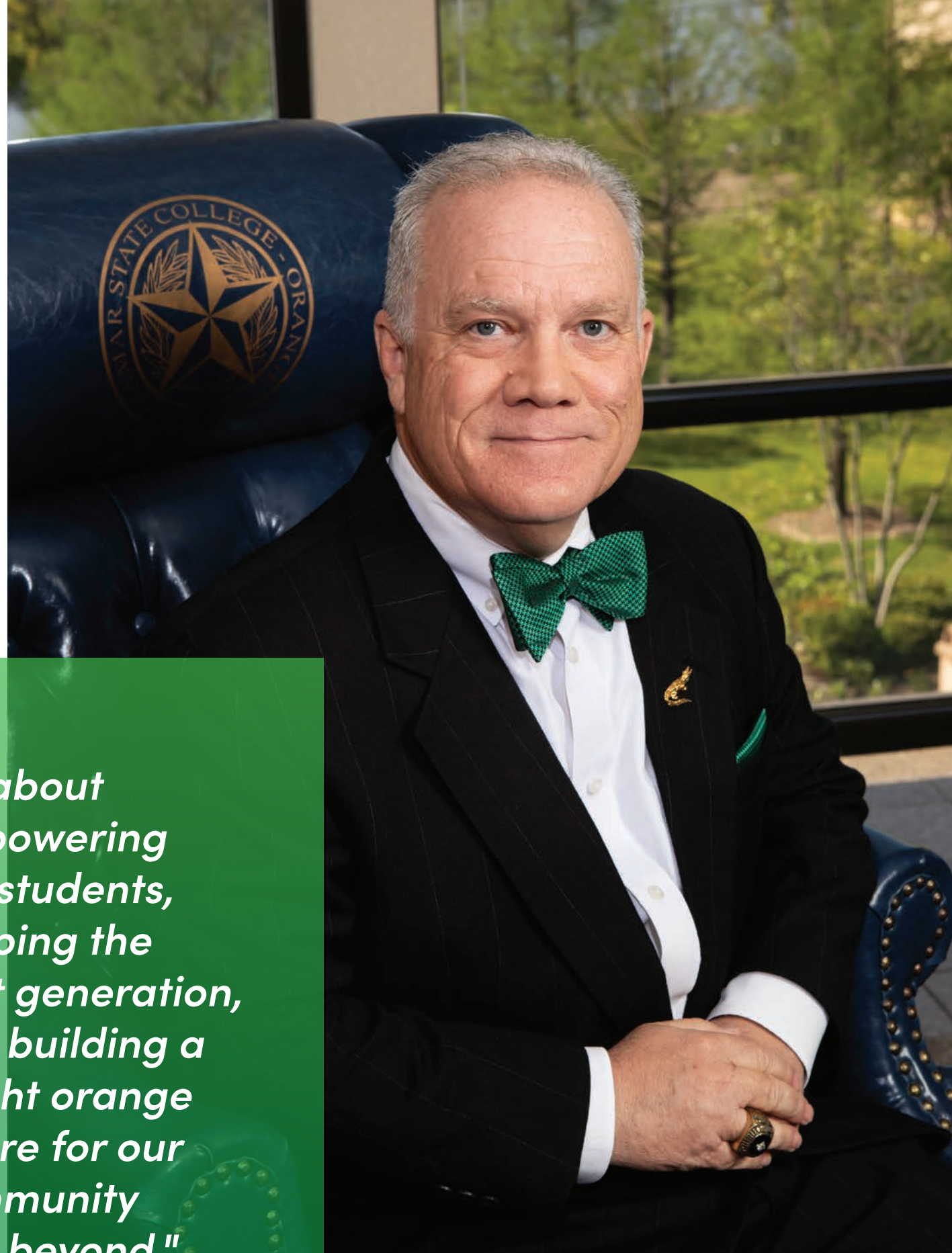
24 FEATURE STORIES

28 BUILDING OUR FUTURE

38 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

42 ACCREDITATION/STRATEGIC PLAN





***“It's about empowering our students, shaping the next generation, and building a bright orange future for our community and beyond.”***

*— Dr. Thomas A. Johnson*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Benjamin Franklin once said, “without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” As I begin my 7th year as president at Lamar State College Orange, I am honored to lead this incredible group of staff, faculty and students during the College’s unprecedented time of growth. We are continuing to see significant growth, achieving a record enrollment of more than 3,100 students in the Fall 2023 semester. In addition, LSCO awarded more than 900 certificates and degrees in academic year 23-24 setting the record for the most degrees and certificates awarded in our 55-year history.

A number of impressive projects including the grand opening of our Electromechanical Technology buildings, the launch of our satellite location in Lumberton and the partnership with our sister institutions to open an education center in Livingston came to fruition this past year. With the continued construction of our brand new 55,000 square foot academic center and the renovation and conversion of the historic First Baptist Church into the Student Success Center, LSCO is primed for sustained success for many years to come.

Lamar State College Orange continues to serve as a cornerstone of our community, fostering an educated workforce that drives our region's economic strength and civic responsibility. I am thrilled to see LSCO pursue excellence, create opportunity, build partnerships, remain adaptable, and develop students, faculty, staff and community members. Lamar State College Orange has truly become a place where hope meets opportunity.

Dr. Thomas A. Johnson  
President, Lamar State College Orange





# Taking up the Helm

**Josh Taylor, SGA President,  
elected as Student  
Advisory Board Chair**

*“I am preparing myself to become as understanding as possible so I can advocate for our students to the best of my ability.”*

Current LSCO student, Josh Taylor, was recently elected to the position of TSUS Student Advisory Board chair. Taylor currently serves as president for LSCO’s Student Government Association (SGA) and was elected by SGA representatives from other TSUS schools to serve as board chair. Taylor is the first two-year college student to hold the position of TSUS Student Advisory Board Chair.

“Being the first two-year college in TSUS to hold the SAB chair position is quite an honor,” said SGA Advisor, Amy Moore. “I wish I could take any credit for Josh’s success, but what this really means is that in the semester he has served as LSCO SGA President, he has shown himself to be a leader who listens, can work with others, and is willing to take on difficult tasks to make things better for others.”

Being part of the Student Advisory Board is an incredible gateway to making a difference. It allows students to impact not only their own school, but others in the same system. It cultivates a space for advocacy and direct action. There are many opportunities to work closely with peers attending other institutions in the TSUS.

Josh made a name for himself around campus early in his collegiate career. When he started at LSCO, he immediately got involved in campus life. In addition to his involvement in SGA, he is also a student worker and secretary of a student-led Bible study. Faculty, staff, and his peers quickly took notice of his good character and desire to lead and serve others.



## Student Ambassadors

In May 2024, Student Ambassadors held a reception in the Shahan Events Center to thank the outgoing Student Ambassadors for their service and celebrate the incoming Student Ambassadors. Cristian Salinas received the award for Highest Service Hours for her dedication to service throughout the school year.

The LSCO Student Ambassador Scholarship Program is awarded to graduating high school seniors in the top 25% of their class and pays for one year of tuition at LSCO. This year marks the fifth year of the Student Ambassador Program at Lamar State College Orange.

### 2024 - 2025 STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Natalie Chavez | Bridge City High School  
Valentin Chavez | Bridge City High School  
Raygen Dunwoody | Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School  
Abigayle Ernst | Bridge City High School  
Dylan Loga | Orangefield High School  
Zane Lopez | Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School  
Kyle Michael | Orangefield High School  
Lily Powell | Evadale High School  
Judah Samuel | Community Christian High School  
Roman Spears | Deweyville High School





# Award Ceremonies

We congratulate the amazing students awarded pins and graduation stoles across thirteen pinning and stole ceremonies from twelve programs of study.

Congratulations on this wonderful achievement!



Licensed Vocational Nursing Pinning Ceremony



IT & Computer Science Stole Ceremony



Pharmacy Technology Pinning Ceremony



Registered Nursing Pinning Ceremony



Teaching & Criminal Justice Stole Ceremony



Registered Nursing Pinning Ceremony



Industrial Systems & Electromechanical Technology Stole Ceremony



Teaching & Criminal Justice Stole Ceremony



Registered Nursing Pinning Ceremony



## Commencement

Lamar State College Orange hosted three commencement ceremonies during the 2023–2024 academic year, two of which were record-breaking ceremonies. The graduation record was first broken with 327 degrees and certificates awarded to 244 graduates at Fall commencement on Friday, December 15, 2023. This represents more than a 12% increase in the number of graduates from last year's Fall commencement in December 2022.

On Friday, May 10 at Spring commencement, another graduation record was broken with 438 certificates and degrees awarded to 349 graduates. This represents an impressive 46% increase in the number of graduates over last year's Spring commencement in May 2023.

"The remarkable commitment and perseverance demonstrated by each student who crossed the stage is truly inspiring," said Dr. Wendy Elmore, Provost and Executive Vice President.

"Many of our students balance the demands of full-time employment while pursuing their education. Every one of them should take pride in the profound statement that a certificate or degree from Lamar State College Orange makes about their character and determination."

Lamar State College Orange is thrilled to share these record-breaking graduation numbers with the community. Through its dedication to empowering students and making a lasting impact, LSCO is transforming lives, one Gator at a time.



FALL 2023 - SUMMER 2024 COMMENCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS	
677 Total Unduplicated Graduates	906 Total Degrees Conferred
67% Graduates from Orange County	3.18 GPA Average
16 Age of Youngest Graduate	75% First Generation Graduates





# Student Profiles



## Anthony Barnes

Anthony Barnes wasn't sure what he wanted to do after he received his high school diploma. He contemplated attending a four-year university, going straight into the workforce, or even joining the military. But once he learned more about Lamar State College Orange, he knew it was the perfect fit.

In his first years at LSCO, Barnes became passionate about his pathway after he took an anatomy and physiology course through which he built a relationship with his professor and a sense of community among his peers. He not only built a community within his major but also in his student organizations and job experiences. Barnes participated as a member of the Quiz Bowl team, Student Government Association, and worked as a student mentor in the Gator Success Center.

His involvement on campus allowed Barnes to bond with his fellow Gators and attend events he would not have known about otherwise. Barnes has made plans to become a college professor once he obtained a four-year degree in biology and earned a Ph.D. Barnes has ambitions that he would make a return to LSCO as a professor after a part-time job or internship in the health profession.



## Michael Martin

Martin is an avid writer and published author. He discovered his love for writing in fourth grade when he was assigned to write a poem but submitted a descriptive story instead. His teacher was so impressed with his unique work that she shared it with his mother. This was when his passion to create and share stories with others took root.

Martin, originally from Southeast Idaho, drove a truck for many years to provide for his family while spending several of his off-duty hours writing and furthering his education online. A back injury forced Martin and his family to relocate to Bridge City for work. Years after the move, his back injury worsened requiring surgery, but operation failed, leaving Martin disabled. He viewed this news as positive, an opportunity to dive into his passions, to pursue an education, and write a book. After a couple of semesters, he released his book, *The Curse of the Obsidian Template*.

Martin battled with achieving his standard of perfection when comparing his work to other writers'. However, through applying advice he received from two of his professors to his life, he got the courage to share his book with others. Martin now hopes to encourage others to do the same.

**The Curse of the Obsidian Template**  
View the book online at <https://a.co/d/aMtSp9a>



## Kimberlyn Carter

Kimberlyn is a Lamar State College Orange student with a passion for mental health advocacy. She wrote a poem titled *A Letter to my Mental Health* inspired by her own struggles with mental well-being. Through tragic loss and devastating news, Carter found an outlet in writing.

In February of 2021, Kimberlyn was ecstatic to learn she was pregnant. Sadly, only a month later, she suffered an unexpected and disheartening miscarriage. To make matters worse she was told that if she could not conceive within a year, she would be required to undergo a hysterectomy, leaving her unable to have children. This drove her further down a dark road mentally leaving her feeling isolated and depressed. With seemingly nowhere left to turn, Carter shocked herself by putting pen to paper to convey her story through poetry.

Through her writing, she hopes her work reaches an audience that can resonate with her past mental health struggles to help others feel less alone and find a voice. Carter has since overcome her battle with depression and went on to have a baby girl in December of 2022. Carter now wants to give her past pain a purpose and share her story.

**A Letter To My Mental Health**  
Read the full poem at [lSCO.edu/about/news/student-profile-kimberlyn-carter.php](https://lSCO.edu/about/news/student-profile-kimberlyn-carter.php)

# Student Clubs & Organization News

## FISHING CLUB

Lamar State College Orange Fishing Club had an outstanding season. The team has been recognized nationwide for its success and was even ranked above a number of large universities. They held a strong ranking of 21st out of 111 colleges. Team members Spencer Brister and Roeh Burton earned a spot in the 2024 College Fishing National Championship. Both competed in January at Lake Tahoe in Florida.

The club was started in 2019 with the help of Dr. Johnson. In only a few short years the team has brought a wide range of recognition and immense success to Lamar State College Orange.

## INTRAMURAL SPORTS

LSCO hosted an Intramural Sports Pickleball Tournament in the JBW Student Center Gym. Summer Hackbarth and Lawton Bertrand made up the undefeated winning team. Each of them received a twenty-five-dollar gift card, balloons, and their very own jar of pickles. The first runners up were Anthony Barnes and Carlos Gutierrez.

There was an impressive turnout with a total of eleven teams in attendance. It was undoubtedly a successful event with great competition, good community, and fun had by all who were involved.

## STUDENT LIFE

LSCO Student Life attended the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities (APCA) conference in Houston. Dawson Doiron, Paige Rains, Abbigayle Rice, and Joshua Taylor had the opportunity to expand their leadership skills and grow alongside other student leaders. There were breakout sessions covering topics such as mental health, ways to engage a student body, and much more.

While in attendance, they acquired vast knowledge, shared many laughs, and returned to campus with new experiences to share with others. They were inspired to bring newfound creativity to campus.

## PHI THETA KAPPA

The honor society Alpha Nu Gamma, the Phi Theta Kappa chapter of LSCO, inducted eight students into the organization in February of 2024. An induction ceremony was held at the Brown Estate featuring a presentation of roses and candle lighting marking the inductees' official pledge to the chapter.

We are incredibly proud to honor these deserving students on their selection into the prestigious society.







## CETC Signing Day

Lamar State College Orange hosted its fourth annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day. The event awarded incoming and current students a total of over \$50,000 in technical scholarships on behalf of industry and foundation partners. It is with their continued generosity and support, LSCO has the ability to transform student's lives with this commemorative event.

Representatives from Chevron Phillips Chemical, Cloeren Incorporated, Donald T. Boumans Foundation, Entergy Texas, Golden Triangle Polymers, Lamar State College Orange Foundation, and The Stark Foundation

met with 27 students and their families to award each recipient their scholarship. The lives of these students have forever been transformed with the opportunity to create a Bright, Orange Future.

Lamar State College Orange is beyond grateful to share the exceptional experience with our industry and foundation partners to celebrate the deserving students along with their families for another incredible year.



## FAME Signing Day

The Shahan Events Center was the site for the 2024 Golden Triangle Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) Program's Signing Day. Seven students were sponsored by industry partners to acknowledge their commitment to attain an Associates degree in Electromechanical Technology. In addition to earning their degree, each student will complete an internship with one of the five industry partners.

Graduates of FAME are easily transitioned into a diverse career path in multiple areas of the manufacturing industry with the critical support of industry partners.



The Golden Triangle FAME chapter's industry partners include Cloeren Incorporated, Chevron Phillips Chemical, United Rentals, KSB Standard Alloys, and Buna Industrial Service Solutions. The seven students will begin a work/study program consisting of two class days at LSCO and three days of paid internship with an industry partner in August of 2024. Each student will engage in hands-on training while simultaneously completing their education.



# Student Activities

## STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY

LSCO honored students for their dedication to education on Student Appreciation Day. There were many pop-up tents with activities, merch, and snacks on campus for attendees to enjoy. There were many local businesses and gators who contributed to the success of this annual event.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPEAKER EVENT

Public speaker and mental health advocate, Wes Woodson, spoke at the yearly Black History Month speaker event. He educated listeners on mental health issues among diverse populations and presented ways to reach out for help. President of the Orange Branch of the NAACP, John Jefferson, also made an appearance. He talked about the organization’s purpose and informed attendees on ways to get involved.

## FIRST GENERATION STUDENT DAY

We are grateful for any opportunity to celebrate our very own first-generation students. We recognized this exceptional group with a series of giveaways from Student Activities. First-Gen College Celebration will always be a special day for first generation students at LSCO.



## SOLAR ECLIPSE WATCH PARTY

Our Gators enjoyed a rare event together on campus. LSCO Student Activities hosted a Solar Eclipse Watch Party with themed snacks, drinks, and eclipse glasses. It was a unique experience shared among faculty and students.



## GATOR WINTER JAM

LSCO Student Activities hosted its third annual Winter Jam. Attendees were able to enjoy pictures with Santa, free food, karaoke, Christmas themed crafts, games, and prizes. It was a fun event to end to the fall semester and an exciting way to kick off the holiday season before the end of finals.



## SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH EVENT

LSCO partnered with Garth House, Crisis Center of SETX, Samaritan Counseling, Family Services of SETX, Spindletop Center and CASA for a Sexual Assault Awareness Month event. Marissa Cohen taught those in attendance about relationship red flags, toxic behaviors, and how to keep ourselves safe. Our Gators learned the importance of awareness.





# Octoberfest

Our annual Octoberfest was a fun Halloween celebration with many in attendance. There were extravagant costumes, games, snacks, face painting, prizes, a haunted house, and more. Many organizations across LSCO came together to make this an exciting night for the community. It was an incredible night that made for long lasting memories.







# Gatorama

Our Student Activities and Recruiting teams worked together to combine the beloved Spring Day event and Spring Open House into a campus-wide event known as: Gatorama! The event was the perfect end to a successful Career Week. Many people came together to make this event happen, including sponsors Quanta Services, Inc., Wellspring Credit Union, and DuGood Federal Credit Union. It would not have been possible without our hard-working volunteers. The event was accompanied by activities, food, open house, giveaways, and the student center dedication. It was a beautiful Spring day with sunny skies!







**“  
The very  
creation of this  
institution is  
a direct  
consequence  
of this  
community’s  
efforts.”**

— Dr. Joe Ben Welch



# Joe Ben Welch Student Center

## *Student Center Gets a New Name*

Lamar State College Orange hosted a dedication ceremony on Thursday, April 4, 2024 for the newly named, Joe Ben Welch Student Center in honor of the first president of Lamar State College Orange who served from 1969 to 1989.

Dr. Joe Ben Welch was a member of the faculty when Lamar University’s extension center opened in 1969 and was appointed director of the Orange Center serving as president until his departure in 1989. Dr. Welch guided the college from its infancy to independent status as a separately accredited, degree-granting institution, leaving behind a legacy that continues to this day.

The college began in the former Tilley Elementary School in the fall of 1969 with 345 students. After Tilley Elementary burned down in 1971, Dr. Welch was instrumental in leading the community to raise funds to rebuild the campus where it is today. “The Student Center is one of those buildings he worked to establish so it is only fitting that it be named in his honor,” said Dr. Thomas Johnson, President of LSCO.



Dr. Welch received his bachelor’s degree from Louisiana Tech University, master’s degree from Lamar University, and doctorate from McNeese State University. After leaving Orange, he served as president of Middle Georgia College from 1989 to 1998. He then became the founding president of River Parishes Community College in 1999.

The student center name was unveiled during Gatorama 2024, LSCO’s Spring Day & Open House. Friends and family were in attendance to witness his legacy enshrined.



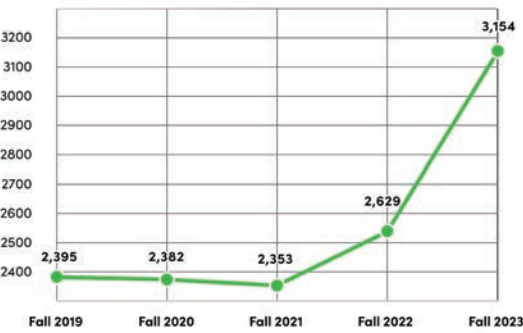
# LSCO

## By The Numbers

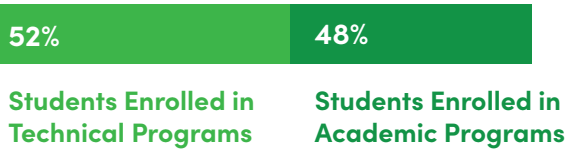
### FALL ENROLLMENT

#### By Year

2019 — 2,395	2022 — 2,629
2020 — 2,382	2023 — 3,154
2021 — 2,353	



#### By Program of Study



#### By County

Orange — 57%	Louisiana
Hardin — 16%	Parishes — 6%
Jefferson — 7%	Newton — 1%
Jasper — 7%	Polk — 1%
	Other — 5%

### ENROLLMENT GROWTH

**32%**

Overall increase in Fall enrollment from Fall 2019 to Fall 2023

**64%**

Overall increase in Technical student enrollment from Fall 2019 (1,014) to Fall 2023 (1,659)

**75%**  
FIRST GENERATION GRADUATES

**16**  
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

**27**  
AVERAGE GRADUATE AGE

**3.18**  
AVERAGE GRADUATE GPA

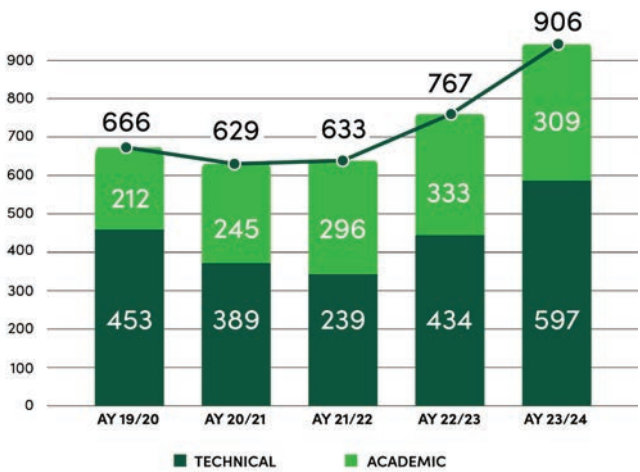


**17**  
NEW PROGRAMS OF STUDY ADDED SINCE 2019

**350**  
SPRING 2024 GRADUATES

**2,164**  
TOTAL GRADUATES FROM 2019-2024

### CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES AWARDED



**3,601**  
Total degrees and certificates awarded from 2019-2024

**906**  
Largest number of degrees and certificates awarded in LSCO History (2023-2024)





# Faculty & Staff Awards

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Cristy Smith

## PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Audrey Ewer

## FACULTY MERIT AWARD

Hank Ramsey

## STAFF CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Stephanie Jones

## STAFF CAMPUS & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Misty Dominguez

## DISTANCE EDUCATION AWARD

George Scarborough

## FAVORITE FACULTY AWARD

Jacqueline Singleton

## FAVORITE STAFF AWARD

Kendra De La Fuente

## NISOD AWARD RECIPIENTS

Brian Hull

Aubrey L. Kapranos

Amy R. Moore

Jamie Oltz

Roseanne Jungen

Suzanne Baker

Matt McClure

Cristy Smith

Carol Gaspard

Karen Stelly



# Retirements

## Cheryl January

### Industrial Systems Program Director

Cheryl January, Industrial Systems Program Director, served 17 years with Lamar State College Orange. Mrs. January came to LSCO in 2006 from Goodyear Chemical, where she worked for ten years. At Goodyear Chemical she was a Process Operator and also worked in Organizational Development. An Orange native, January worked as an Adjunct Instructor in Process Technology and Safety and Environmental classes and as an Academic Advisor for fifteen years prior to her appointment as full-time instructor & program director in 2021.

## Lynn Scales

### Financial Aid Coordinator

Lynn Scales served a remarkable 22 years at Lamar State College Orange. Scales concludes her 22-year journey in her role as a Financial Aid Coordinator. Her dedication and impact on students will forever be remembered.

## Victoria Norville

### Testing Administrator

Victoria "Vicky" Norville completed 23 years of service at Lamar State College Orange serving as a Testing Administrator. While at LSCO, Norville was awarded the President's Staff Award for Customer Service in 2022.

## Andrew Preslar

### Instructor - English

Andrew "Andy" Preslar served a total of 40 years at Lamar State College Orange. Preslar worked as an Adjunct Instructor in English, Director of SACSCOC Reporting, and Institutional Accreditation Liaison before announcing his retirement serving as an Instructor in English.

## Dr. Jongchul Kim

### Assistant Professor - Mathematics

Dr. Jongchul Kim began teaching at Lamar State College Orange in September of 2007 and retired after 17 years of service. He received his Bachelor of Science from Sungkyunkwan University, Master of Science from Seoul National University and his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of North Texas.

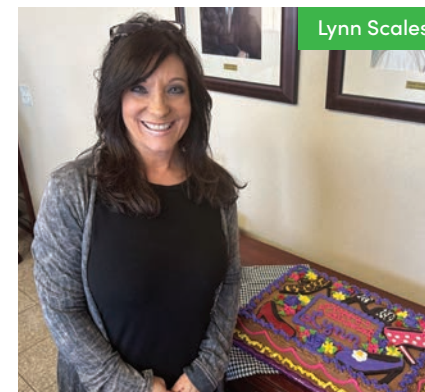
Cheryl January



Victoria Norville



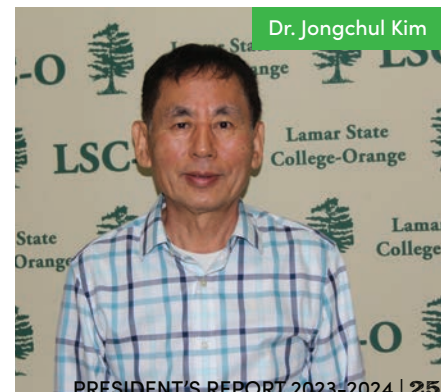
Lynn Scales



Andrew Preslar



Dr. Jongchul Kim







The Southeast Texas Young Professionals Organization announced their honorees for the annual 40 Under 40 list. Robyn Burdette, Associate Dean of Student Services, was nominated and received the prestigious designation. The 40 Under 40 List honors the best and brightest young professionals under the age of 40 for their academic achievements, professional success, and community involvement.

“Robyn is a key leader in the LSCO community and the Student Services team,” said Brian Hull, Dean of Student Services. “She is focused on helping students in their educational journey from admission to graduation and truly has a student-centered approach to her work. Helping students is her number one priority. This is a great accomplishment, and I am proud of Robyn for earning this prestigious award.”

Burdette started with LSCO in 2018 as an advisor and recruiter before she was quickly promoted to Director of Advising, Recruiting and Testing in 2020. She was promoted to Associate Dean of Student Services in September of 2023 before being promoted to her current position as Dean of Transfer and Public Service Programs in July of 2024.

“I’m incredibly proud of Robyn for receiving this award,” President Johnson said. “She exemplifies what it means to be an LSCO Gator and her hard work and dedication to our students is astonishing.”

Southeast Texas Young Professionals (SETX YPO) is a dynamic group of young professionals ranging in the ages of 21–40 in Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties. SETX YPO hosts regular events focused on community impact and connecting like-minded peers. More than 400 young professionals have been named to the annual 40 Under 40 list.



Dr. Wendy Elmore and Dr. Thomas Johnson with Robyn Burdette.



## New Program On Campus

### Addressing Southeast Texas Nursing Needs

The Texas Board of Nursing recently approved the Standalone Generic Associate Degree Nursing Program to be introduced to LSCO in January 2025. This will allow students the opportunity to complete a full two-year RN program.

This program will educate future nurses in the classroom and provide them with hands-on experience to apply course knowledge through simulation and clinicals. These classes cover material in medical-surgical, geriatric, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health nursing. It provides intensive preparation to best equip students to step into the medical field.

The hope in introducing this new two-year degree track is to fulfill the needs of the community and nursing students. It will present a new opportunity to receive an associate's degree in nursing in Orange County.

It will benefit the surrounding communities to have registered nurses stepping up to fill the current surplus of vacancies in RN positions.

“This program is important to help reduce the nursing shortage here in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana,” Dean of Nursing and Health Professions, Mandee Tucker, said. “The standalone ADN program aims to decrease these shortages and provide qualified, highly-trained nurses to our communities.”

Applications for the ADN Program will open in Fall of 2024. Classes will begin the following January for the 2025 Spring semester. The Nursing Department is excited to see the growth this program will bring to LSCO and the communities.





# Innovation Takes Center Stage

## *A Grand Debut for Electromechanical Technology Buildings*

Lamar State College Orange celebrated the grand opening of the Electromechanical Technology Buildings with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

The two buildings combined provide more than 12,000 square feet of space for instruction in areas such as hydraulics, pneumatics, electrical, machining and equipment installation to name a few. The buildings are also home to an innovative makerspace, laser engraver, and 3d printing equipment for students.

Located on the corner of Green and 1st Street, the property was previously home to the headquarters of the Procell Brothers

Performance Center and Procell Machine Shop, known for building high-quality racecar engines responsible for earning 23 National Hot Rod Association world records. With the standard set high for developing champions, LSCO purchased the property in 2021 with the intent to carry on the tradition of excellence set by the Procell brothers.

"We're excited to continue offering high-quality education in these high-demand industries" said Dr. Keith Jones, Associate Dean of Technical Studies. "These newly renovated buildings offer the space and tools necessary to train the next generation of industry leaders."



# Maritime Mobile Training Unit

## *Providing Access to Quality Hands-On Training*

LSCO received a \$500,000 Maritime Mobile Training Unit. This new unit will be useful for many different programs offered at Lamar State College Orange. This purchase was made possible with funds from Texas Reskilling and Upskilling Through Education (TRUE). The production of this customized simulation unit was a five-month long process. It was designed intentionally in accordance with industry recommendations, and will be certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Students in the Electromechanical, Maritime, Instrumentation, and Logistics programs will gain direct experience in their fields thanks to the Maritime Mobile Training Unit. This will improve the quality of training and expertise for each of these career paths. The allocation of this training unit will provide a vital contribution to the success of students. It will improve the skills and safety of those stepping into our local industries.







# LSCO In Lumberton

## Unveiling Satellite Location in Lumberton, Texas

Lamar State College Orange unveiled its first satellite location in Lumberton with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. The newly renovated, 3,000 square foot site located at 344 S. Main Street houses two multi-purpose classrooms, a reception area, a conference area, and office space for support staff.

LSCO has seen record growth recently with an impressive 11.73% enrollment increase from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022, making the college the second fastest growing institution out of the 53 two-year colleges in Texas. Currently, LSCO is home to more than 550 students from Hardin County accounting for nearly 20% of total enrollment.

"Lumberton and Hardin County have seen some incredible expansion over the past decade," said Dr. Tom Johnson, President of Lamar State College Orange. "We believe that this building represents just the beginning of a growing relationship between LSCO and the Lumberton and Hardin County communities."

LSCO's dual credit partnership with Lumberton ISD is vibrant and expanding with more than 450 students currently enrolled in dual credit courses. Students have the opportunity as early as their 10th grade year to earn college credit in programs like nursing, criminal justice, welding, business and more.

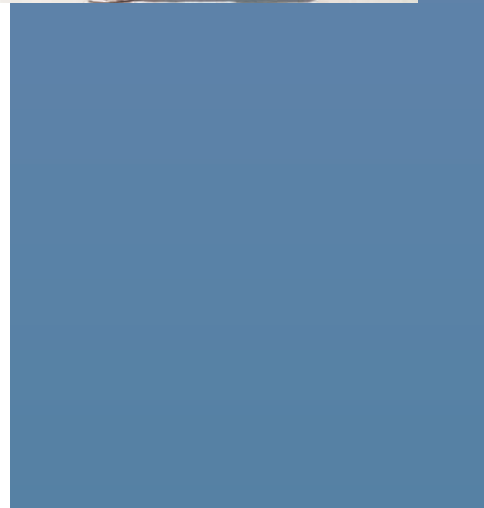
"Our dual credit partnership with Lumberton ISD gives students an amazing opportunity to

earn college credit while still in high school in high-demand programs that are critical to the continued growth of Lumberton and Hardin County," said Dr. Wendy Elmore, Provost and Executive Vice President of LSCO.

The building previously served as a medical clinic for Lumberton area residents before it was purchased by LSCO in 2022. Renovations began in January 2023 and classes began in Spring 2024.

"Our mission at LSCO is simply transforming lives and communities. This new facility is in the right place at the right time for students and the Lumberton community," said President Johnson.





# TSUS

## Polk County Center

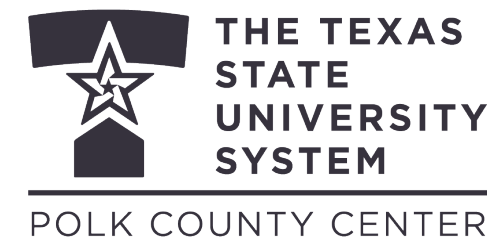
*Collaborating on an Joint Expansion in Livingston, Texas*

The Texas State University System (TSUS) held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony August 14, 2024 to inaugurate the Polk County Center, a joint educational venture in Livingston between Lamar State College Orange, Lamar State College Port Arthur, and Lamar Institute of Technology – known collectively as the Lamar State Colleges.

Starting Fall 2024, the new education center, located in Livingston, will offer a diverse range of courses and training programs offered jointly by the State Colleges, including: Adult Education, Nurse Aide certificate program, Teaching programs, Business programs, Workforce and Continuing Education courses, and CDL/Truck Driving.

“The TSUS Polk County Center looks forward to offering education and technical training for in-demand jobs that lead to high wages and a well-prepared workforce,” said Kristin Walker, Executive Director of the Center. “The Polk County Center will be an agent of change, transforming lives through student-centered resources, small class sizes, and affordable tuition.”

The grand opening of the Polk County Center, located at 1015 US Highway 59, featured a ribbon-cutting event, tours of the facility, and opportunities to meet the team that will be instrumental in providing high-quality education and training.







## Vision of the Future

To commemorate the installation of the final beam, LSCO hosted a Beam Topping Ceremony for the new, state-of-the-art Academic Center. The \$38 million dollar building will become the largest space on the LSCO campus with the 2-story building occupying 54,821 square feet. Once complete, the Academic Center will include classrooms, student lounge, and lab space while housing

faculty offices and the IT department.

The 87th Legislative session approved the funding of \$38 million dollars with Senate Bill 52 in October of 2021. The building will replace the current Academic Center, one of the oldest buildings on campus built in 1908. A Public Art element will be installed in front of the building titled "We Are the Light."

Members of the community, elected and city officials, staff, faculty, students, and Durotech contractors gathered to celebrate and sign their name on the final beam.

With completion of the Academic Center expected in October 2024, the building has undergone an extensive amount of progress during the summer months after the Beam Topping Ceremony. LSCO looks forward to a grand opening and the building of bright orange futures for our community and beyond.

First Beam - November 15, 2023



Last Beam - February 7, 2024



Progress as of April 2024



Progress as of September 2024







# Breaking New Ground

## Beginning Renovation for the Student Success Center

A Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Student Success Center was held on February 13, 2024. The historic former First Baptist Church of Orange is undergoing extensive renovations to become LSCO’s Student Success Center, a comprehensive hub designed to streamline the enrollment process and support students through their educational journeys. The Student Success Center will house members from the departments of Student Services, Financial Aid, Admissions, Recruiting, and Advising.

The First Baptist Church of Orange was built in 1913 and has sustained heavy damages after numerous hurricanes. In 2021, the building was gifted to LSCO by the Stark Foundation. Funds from a Legislative Appropriations Request of over \$6 million to the state’s 88th Legislative Session were granted to restore the facility, shaping the future of the college.

“We’re growing by leaps and bounds,” said Dade Phelan, District 21 Texas State Representative and 76th Speaker of the Texas House. “We love our students here and are looking forward to the next generation to walk through these doors.”

Architects and contractors have approached the project with utmost care to preserve the building’s historical prominence by retaining elements such as the stained-glass windows and the building’s landmark exterior.

“This moment represents a crucial step forward in our shared vision of transforming lives at LSCO,” said Dr. Thomas Johnson, President of Lamar State College Orange. “I’m thrilled to celebrate this exciting development and embrace the opportunities it brings for our college.”



# Empowering Students

## Unveiling the Remarkable Hands-On-Training Unit

Lamar State College Orange (LSCO) was honored to host an unveiling ceremony for the Hands-on-Training (H.O.T.) Unit on May 1, 2024 with esteemed representatives from Golden Triangle Polymers, Chevron Phillips, and Qatar Energy.

In 2023, Golden Triangle Polymers Company presented a check to LSCO in the amount of \$1.325 million for the purchase of a Polaris Hands-on-Training (H.O.T) 3 Glycol Distillation Trainer Unit, from which LSCO Industrial Systems students can train.

This H.O.T Unit is nothing short of impressive. It measures 24 feet in length, 35 feet in height, and 11 feet in width. A customized Emerson control system implemented and supported by Scallon Controls is seamlessly integrated into the unit. The controls will create impressive learning experiences for our students and will provide our students with a hands-on learning environment unlike any other. The extraordinary unit represents the power of collaboration and innovation in education.

“Golden Triangle Polymers Company understands the vital role an educated workforce plays in the success of a global operation. We are incredibly grateful – and proud – to be the recipient of this enormously generous gift to our college and to our current and future students,” said Cheryl January, recently retired LSCO Industrial Systems Program Director.

LSCO expresses our gratitude to all who made it possible: Golden Triangle Polymers Company, Chevron Phillips Chemical, QatarEnergy, Polaris EPC, Scallon Control, Emerson, CMOST, Dearborn and everyone involved. Thank you for your unwavering support and investment in the future of our little college on the Sabine.







In March 2024, Dr. Johnson and the other Lamar presidents met with Congress members Babin and Weber.

In May 2024, Texas State Senator, Robert Nichols, stopped by Lamar State College Orange to meet with President Tom Johnson and Provost & Executive Vice President, Dr. Wendy Elmore.



It has been an amazing year to welcome many esteemed guests to Lamar State College Orange. We are grateful for their visit to our beautiful campus on the Sabine and are proud to celebrate the accomplishments and partnerships that continue to put excellence in action.







# Funding the Regional Workforce

Golden Triangle Polymers Company LLC donated \$100,000 to the Lamar State College Orange Foundation to fund the Golden Triangle Polymers Scholarship for students interested in pursuing degrees in industrial systems or pre-engineering.

The scholarship will fully fund a two-year degree, including tuition, books, and fees for three students per academic year. Students also may be eligible for the scholarship if taking courses during summer sessions.

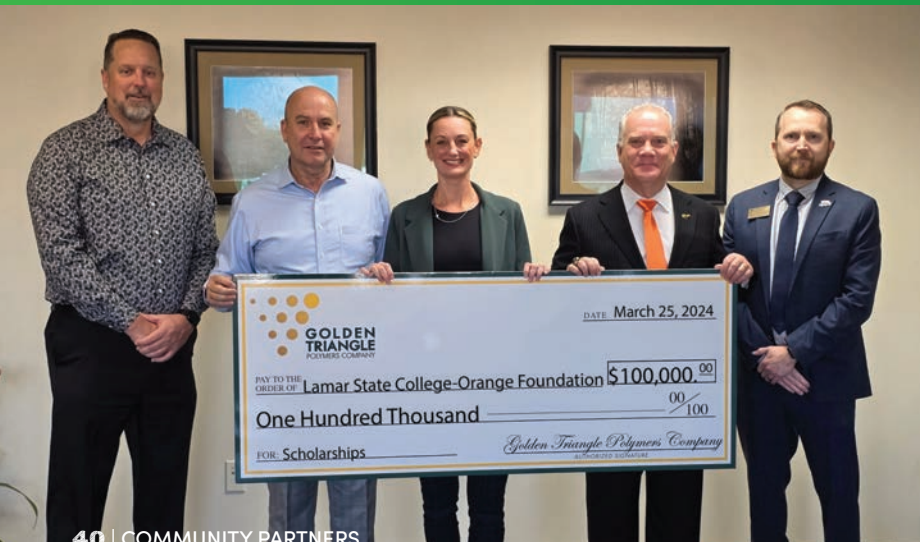
"Investing in the next generation workforce is key to ensuring the long-term success of our

facility," said Chad Jennings, plant manager for Golden Triangle Polymers. "We never want finances to be a barrier to having a skilled local workforce, so we're excited to make this donation and hope it encourages young people to seek out careers in the petrochemical industry."

Eligibility for the scholarship requires recipients to be full-time students studying industrial systems or pre-engineering programs as well as a graduate from a high school within the nine-county Golden Triangle region.



City of Orange & Lamar State College Orange commissioned a mural for the Joe Ben Welch Student Center. The mural features the former Tilley Elementary School, where Lamar University first opened its doors in Orange, and the school's namesake, William "Bill" Tilley. Also featured are oranges representing the community name, LSCO mascot, Tilley the Gator, and the vision statement "Where Hope Meets Opportunity."







# LSCO's Journey to Reaffirmation 2025

LSCO began the process of reaffirmation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in the Spring of 2023. Accreditation is a voluntary process of self-regulation by which institutions conduct self-evaluations according to specified guidelines and then allow themselves to be reviewed by peers to assess the institution's effectiveness in fulfilling its mission, its success in complying with standards set by the accrediting body, and its ongoing efforts toward continuous improvement of the educational programs, services, and quality of student learning.

The resulting awarding or reaffirmation of accreditation serves to assure the public that the institution maintains high standards, operates with integrity, and consistently strives to improve the quality and effectiveness of all its programs and services. LSCO completed a preliminary report in Spring of 2024 and a focused report in early Fall 2024 with the onsite committee scheduled to visit campus on October 27-31, 2024.

# 2025-2029 Strategic Plan

The 2025-2029 Strategic Planning process began in the Fall of 2023 with the formation of a 20-member committee representing a cross section of LSCO faculty & staff to develop a new strategic plan for the college.

The committee reviewed and revised LSCO's mission and vision statements, as well as identified key strategic goals and actions that the college should focus on over the next five years.

The focus of the five key strategic goals and actions include:

- Excellence** — Provide access to programs and services that meet the highest standards of *excellence*.
- Opportunity** — Engage our students and communities to build and foster a shared vision of *opportunity* and advancement.
- Partnerships** — Continually strive to meet the growing and changing needs of our students, faculty, staff, businesses, industries, and high school *partners*.
- Adaptability** — Create and continually *adapt* educational opportunities to help students and communities respond to the challenges posed by a changing world.
- Development** — Guide, support, and *develop* our students, faculty, staff, and community members to achieving their educational and professional goals.











Lamar State College  
— Orange —

MEMBER THE TEXAS  STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

**LSCO.EDU**