Laredo College commemorated International Women's Day

Hundreds of Laredoans gathered at the Laredo College South Campus to commemorate International Women’s Day with a march and rally.

Organized through the combined efforts of members of the Laredo College Chapter of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE), the march and rally capped off International Women’s Day and promoted awareness for the current issues faced by women.

Participants donned their caps, tennis shoes and purple tee shirts before converging in front of the bell tower, near the college’s Palominos statue. From there, individuals walked along the college’s sidewalk perimeter before ending their march in the campus’ free speech area.

In addition to the march and rally, the event included poetry readings, an artistic display, dance and music. “An equal world is an enabled world” was this year’s campaign theme. This day aims to help nations worldwide to eliminate discrimination against women. It also strives to contribute to the equality and full participation of women in global development such as technology, sports, health, creativity, entrepreneurship and much more.

Gender equality needs to be reinforced and amplified all year long to truly make a positive difference in our thriving community. That is why our institution hosts this event annually to empower our students and raise awareness about the importance of seeking a gender-balanced community.

Laredo College makes a difference with St. Jude Trike-A-Thon

The children at the LC Camilo Prada Child Development Center had been collecting donations since the beginning of the year to support a great cause. Our Little Palomino’s and their families participated in the 14th Annual St. Jude Trike-A-Thon where they pledged to raise and continue supporting the mission of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The hospital’s research aims to find cures for children suffering from catastrophic diseases and support families by providing free medical services for children with cancer and other diseases.

Camilo Prada students prepared their bikes and exercised in their own way to finish the race and understand the importance of making a difference. Family members, friends, instructors and honored guests had a fun morning with all the children who participated this year. Among other activities at this field day were ball toss, dancing, sports and many more.

Each year, families come together to raise funds and have a fun day with their children as they learn about the importance of helping others. As part of this learning adventure, the center had guest speakers from the Department of Public Safety. The speakers explained the importance of being safe on the road while riding your bike, using protective gear and having fun.

Our center is proud to announce that parents went out of their way this year to raise more than $2,000. South Campus Dean Carolyn Schmies and Laredo College Trustees Dr. Henry Carranza and Lupita Zepeda were in attendance to thank the children for their support.

LC and TDEM convened train derailment safety exercise

Laredo College and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) hosted a train derailment roundtable exercise at the LC Ft. McIntosh Campus in downtown Laredo on Wednesday, March 4.

Our institution takes to heart the obligation we have to keep our students, employees and visitors safe at all times while they are on our premises. Their safety and well-being are top priorities for our Board of Trustees and college administrators.

“At Laredo College, we understand that safety is paramount,” Senior Director of Strategic and External Initiatives Michael Gonzalez said. “We also understand that true public safety requires collaboration, which is why we felt that hosting this event on our campus was so important.”

Our steadfast commitment to keeping our campuses safe is also reflected in our multiple active partnerships with local, regional and federal law enforcement and emergency response entities. We always strive to ensure our staff is prepared and properly trained to respond to an emergency or disaster.

Due to the close proximity of the train infrastructure to our downtown campus, we are keenly aware of possible train-related emergencies.

TDEM coordinates the state emergency management program, which is intended to ensure the state and its local governments respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters, and implement plans and programs to help prevent or lessen the impact of emergencies and disasters.

Local, state and federal organizations that participated in the tabletop exercise along with the LC Police Department and college safety and security staff included the Laredo Fire Department, Laredo Health Department, American Red Cross, Laredo Independent School District, Union-Pacific Railroad, National Weather Service, Transportation Security Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Webb County Medical Examiner’s Office and others.

The group was presented with a scenario of a collision involving a commercial truck carrying butane. This caused a set of explosions that released hazardous materials into the atmosphere. The explosion also triggered the derailment of several rail cars.

The exercise touched on how first responders contained the incident, how the information was disseminated to inform the public, the evacuation of nearby homes, the response of multiple local, state and federal law enforcement and emergency response entities. We always strive to ensure our staff is prepared and properly trained to respond to an emergency or disaster.

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The exercise touched on how first responders contained the incident, how the information was disseminated to inform the public, the evacuation of nearby neighborhoods and how the whole community worked together to manage the incident.

Laredo College will continue to work tirelessly with the help of our community to expand our emergency preparedness resources and increase awareness of these incidents in our community.