Laredo College awarded workforce training grant by TWC

Laredo College's fruitful partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has yielded remarkable results throughout the years and has helped fortify our community's workforce development programs. Recently, the college was awarded $68,034 via a partnership grant funded by the TWC Office of Employer Initiatives.

This grant is a part of the Skills Development Fund, Texas' premier job-training program providing local customized training opportunities for Texas businesses and workers to increase skill levels and wages of the Texas workforce. The Texas Workforce Commission administers funding for the program. Success is achieved through collaboration among businesses, public community and technical colleges, Workforce Development Boards and economic development partners.

“The Laredo College Economic Development Center is a pacesetter for workforce and economic development initiatives across South Texas,” Laredo College President Dr. Ricardo J. Solis said. “We are excited to train our local workforce partners and equip them with new skills that will bolster economic growth in our region.”

Our great business partner in this endeavor is Cargoquin, Inc., a local transportation and logistics company that has been serving the community since 1969. Known as groundbreaking leaders in international trade, Cargoquin has operated in six of the seven continents.

“This grant will be very helpful in assisting us to reach our training goal, which is to continuously improve our staff to be highly-trained, skilled and motivated to perform their responsibilities and duties,” Cargoquin Executive Administrator Juana Cárdenas said. “We are very thankful for this opportunity to continue our growing partnership with the Laredo College Economic Development Center and the Texas Workforce Commission.”

Overall, 2,491 hours of training for 38 Cargoquin employees are covered by the grant. The courses include CPR First Aid, Customer Service, Excel Certification, Forklift Operator Certification, Hazardous Materials, Inventory Management, OSHA 10-Hour General Industry, QuickBooks Pro, Team Building, Transportation & Logistics and Warehouse & Distribution Management.

This project was brought to fruition by a talented team comprised of staff from the LC Economic Development Center, LC Continuing Education Department, Workforce Solutions for South Texas and the Texas Workforce Commission. The training is slated to start later this year.

LC STEM student completes doctorate degree

Laredo College is proud to learn that our students are succeeding and reaching their goals. This year was no different. We are proud to announce that Clarissa Serna, former STEM student, recently obtained her doctoral degree in pharmacy.

The STEM Program at Laredo College is a program geared toward students seeking careers in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Students enrolled in this program at LC receive personalized STEM advising, tools to empower students, development to reach a greater goal, workshop and conference opportunities, necessary supplies to succeed in their education and many other resources to enrich their skills.

Serna shared with us her exciting experience at our institution with her first STEM advisor, which she deemed an amazing employee who helped her through her journey in pursuing a pharmacy degree. She also fondly remembers the great labor Mexican Americans in Engineering and Sciences (MAES) did while she was an officer.

"I held an officer position during my last year I was at LC; which happened to be one of the most successful years for the organization," she said. “Ms. Rosemary Agüero and Mr. Gerardo Rios were the advisors in charge of the organization and did an excellent job in not only running the organization, but also helping students achieve their goals.”

After completing her years in our institution, she continued her educational pursuits. She went through strict prerequisites to obtain an interview with a university with the hopes of being accepted.

"After applying, I was contacted to interview at the University of Texas at Tyler for a seat in their 2020 class. Weeks proceeded. I was then called congratulating me upon my acceptance to their college," Serna expressed with excitement as she recalled that moment.

“UT-Tyler Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy fosters leaders in pharmacy practice, education, scholarship and public service to care for rural and other underserved populations. Their mission is to advance public health and wellness in East Texas and beyond through innovation and collaboration in pharmacy education, scholarship and advocacy.

She is very proud to have been a part of UT-Tyler and grateful for the preparation LC provided her that made it possible to pursue her dream of becoming a Doctor in Pharmacy. In May 2020, she will be graduating, making her family, friends, advisors, mentors and the whole STEM community proud of this amazing achievement.

In June, she will be ready to return to Laredo and continue serving the community just like she has been doing in past years through internships and clinics at Laredo College.

Laredo College prioritizes employees’ health and safety

Laredo College has a long history of going above and beyond the call of duty to protect our Palomino family. In light of the changes and new ordinances implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college decided to purchase specialized protective masks for our employees who still attend campus to complete essential duties. We are proud to have exceptional and visionary leaders whose primary concern is the safety and well-being of our entire community.

Laredo College will continue following all safety precautions and complying with City of Laredo guidelines to mitigate the spread of the virus. We are excited to be able to continue our mission of transforming students’ lives through educational programs and services, to fulfill the dynamic needs of our local, regional, national and global community.