Laredo College is home to the top community college in Texas for a second consecutive year

Laredo College is off to a great start to the 2021-2022 academic year, proudly announcing that it has been ranked as the top community college in the state by BestColleges.com. The college garnered this same accolade in 2020.

BestColleges.com is an online resource that aims to help prospective students find the schools that best meet their needs through proprietary research, user-friendly guides and hundreds of independent college rankings. The site provides students with direct connections to schools and programs that will best meet their academic needs through their degree resources and program rankings. Their website states that rankings are intended to inform and guide prospective students toward institutions that provide quality education and meaningful learning experiences at affordable costs.

According to their website, the methodology for these rankings is grounded in statistical data and a few consistently applied guiding principles, including academic quality, affordability and online competency.

The 2021 rankings reflect the most recent data available from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and College Navigator, both of which are hosted by the National Center for Education Statistics. Academics-full-time and part-time retention rate, graduation rate and transfer rate-and affordability-average net price and percentage of enrolled students taking federal loans-were the two main ranking factors.

Laredo College Board President Lupita Zepeda praised the remarkable team effort of LC administrators, faculty and staff in always putting students’ needs first and quickly adapting and innovating in the face of changes and challenges impacting higher education.

Laredo College’s mission remains learner-centered as we strive to transform lives through educational programs and services,” Zepeda said. “This stellar designation could not be timelier, as we are on the eve of celebrating 75 years of history and legacy that our college has cemented in our community. This accomplishment, like all other Laredo College achievements, is a reflection of the rigorous academic standards and institutional effectiveness our college community has always prioritized.”

Laredo College offers not only certified, award-winning programs, degrees and certifications but also vibrant student life activities, visual and performing art shows, Lamar Bruni Vergara Environmental Science Center, extensive veteran services, adult and continuing education courses and networking opportunities through our multiple partnerships with local, state and federal public and private sector entities as well as through our very own Laredo College Economic Development Center.

“This recognition would not be possible without the myriad contributions of all our LC community which includes employees, students and the Laredo community,” Laredo College Interim President Dr. Marielsa Rodriguez Tijerina said. “It is truly an honor to be ranked as the #1 Texas Community College for the second year in a row. The ranking also demonstrates the positive impacts we do for Laredo College students and for our community.”

Laredo College reaches historic milestone with approval of second bachelor’s degree

Laredo College has reached a historic milestone as our institution has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to offer its second baccalaureate degree, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (BASORGL). This program is currently pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. LC joins an elite group of only three community colleges in Texas to be granted THECB approval to offer this degree.

This high-quality, affordable program will allow students to complete an online degree in four years or less while also incurring no student loan debt. Students will also benefit from being able to transfer all undergraduate credits from academic or workforce programs into this program, which will aid in the elimination of lost credits, time and money.

The program’s mission is to develop leaders for Laredo and the surrounding regions. The degree focuses on practical workplace skills. Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce with careers in various industries, including executive leadership, operations management and human resource careers, such as corporate recruiting and talent management. This program will also prepare students for careers in a wide range of fields, including health, homeland security, early childhood and business.

This program is delivered utilizing Competency-Based Education (CBE), which is online instruction that allows students to work at their own pace to complete courses. This method can make a significant, positive impact for students who may shorten their completion of each course to just a few weeks, depending on a student’s previous knowledge and skills. Courses are offered in flex semesters, including two seven-week terms in each traditional fall and spring semester and two five-week terms in the summer.

Past, current and prospective LC students will find this program to be a seamless pathway from their current courses at LC, including dual enrollment courses, to earning their Bachelor’s Degree in Organizational Leadership. Laredo College is excited to provide this opportunity for students to earn an affordable, four-year degree that trains them for rewarding careers locally, regionally and nationally.

“The program will open doors to employment in leadership positions in a diverse group of industries which will benefit our students in their careers and provide our local business community with a well-prepared workforce.”

Laredo College kicks off fall semester encouraging adherence to health and safety measures

Students, faculty and staff at both Laredo College campuses enjoyed the first day of classes on Monday, Aug. 23. The college increased its face-to-face, online and hybrid course offerings this fall semester, allowing students to choose their preferred learning method.

As this new semester begins, college leaders are keen on reminding students and employees to continue adhering to the recommendations of national, state and local health authorities and support the ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

“We are excited to welcome back our students,” LC Board President Lupita Zepeda said. “Our college family has remained strong and united throughout the past year and a half and providing the same level of academic excellence and outstanding student support services we have fostered and upheld for over seven decades. We continue to implement strict health and safety protocols to keep our college community protected. We look forward to a productive semester as we all continue to work together and do our part in maintaining a safe learning environment that is conducive to student success.”