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## **35th Anniversary History Book**

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35<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



COLLIN  
COLLEGE

1985  
2020







# COLLIN COLLEGE

## 35th ANNIVERSARY



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provides educational and employment opportunities  
without discrimination on any basis protected by applicable law.





1985  
2020







## CONTENTS

DEDICATION .....iv

BOARD OF TRUSTEES HISTORY.....v

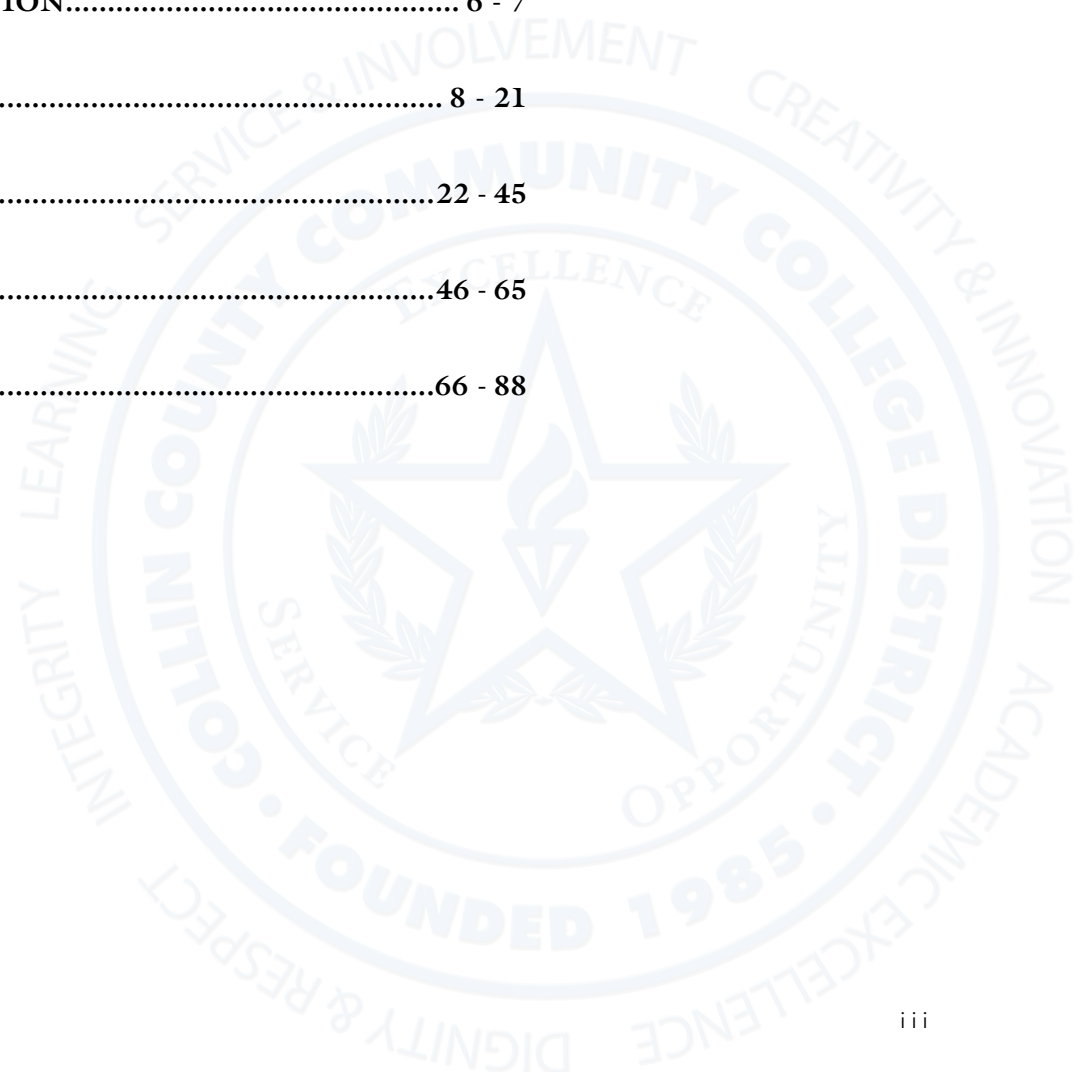
INTRODUCTION..... 6 - 7

1985 - 1989 ..... 8 - 21

1990 - 1999 .....22 - 45

2000 - 2009.....46 - 65

2010 - 2020.....66 - 88







## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to David McCall III, who passed away on March 28, 2020.

A Plano native who was active in the local bar association, McCall practiced law in Collin County for 48 years.

A humble man who did not seek center stage, McCall was instrumental in the formation of the college – from rallying Collin County residents to embrace the concept of a new community college in 1984 to communicating with the county’s judge and recruiting members of the college’s founding Board of Trustees.

A staunch supporter of education, he co-chaired the original Committee of 100 with Carey Cox. He kept his finger on the pulse of the college, and he most recently co-chaired the same committee with Bill Cox, Carey Cox’s son, prior to the \$600 million bond election in 2017.

McCall was known for his generosity, quick wit, and dry sense of humor. Named a Collin College Living Legend in 2009, he served as the chair of the Collin College Foundation

Scholarship Campaign. A favorite emcee at Collin College Foundation events, he was a longtime scholarship donor and a member of the President’s Circle at one of the highest levels. He established the David McCall Endowed Scholarship Fund, creating a legacy of educational opportunities for Collin College students for years to come.

McCall has a rich family history of civic and academic service. His father, David McCall Jr., served as the first principal of Mendenhall Elementary School and, later, as the mayor of Plano, as well as on numerous boards and commissions. His mother, Nellie, was a teacher, and his brother, Brian, served as a Texas state representative and is currently chancellor of the Texas State University System.

Collin College owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to this man whose strong presence and leadership cannot be forgotten.

Simply put, without David McCall III, Collin College might not be here today.



## COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT • BOARD OF TRUSTEES • Election History

<b>Place 1</b>	William Crawford **	Plano	1985 - 1986
	Glenn W. Justice *	Parker	1986 - 2004
	Dr. David Hammel *	Parker	2004 - 2010
	Nancy Wurzman	Plano	2010 - 2017
	Fred Moses	Plano	2017 - 2023
<b>Place 2</b>	Sue W. Olivier ** *	Richardson	1985 - 1998
	Cynthia W. Bauge *	Plano	1998 - 2010
	Jenny McCall	Plano	2010 - 2017
	Nancy Wurzman	Plano	2017 - 2018
	Steve Matthews	Richardson	2018 - 2019
<b>Place 3</b>	Dr. Richard Sewell ** *	Wylie	1985 - 1990
	Dr. E. T. Boon	Allen	1990 - 2010
	Larry Wainwright	Allen	2010 - 2017
	Dr. Stacey Donald	Plano	2017 - 2023
<b>Place 4</b>	Dr. James Dickson**	Farmersville	1985 - 1992
	Sam Roach	Frisco	1992 - 2013
	Adrian Rodriguez	Plano	2013 - 2019
	Greg Gomel	Plano	2019 - 2025
<b>Place 5</b>	Dr. Joy Anderson ** *	Plano	1985 - 1988
	Margaret F. Reynolds *	Plano	1988 - 2000
	Jim Biggerstaff *	Plano	2000 - 2003
	Dr. Douglas B. Cargo	Plano	2003 - 2004
	Stacy Anne Arias	Plano	2004 - 2016
<b>Place 6</b>	Dr. Raj Menon	Plano	2017 - 2025
	Carey Cox ** *	McKinney	1985 - 2002
	Mac Hendricks	McKinney	2003 - 2019
	Stacy Anne Arias	Melissa	2019 - 2025
<b>Place 7</b>	Fortino "Tino" Trujillo ** *	Plano	1985 - 2019
	Steve Cone	Frisco	2014 - 2015
	Jim Orr	Lucas	2015 - 2021
<b>Place 8</b>	Dr. J. Robert Collins **	Farmersville	1985 - 2021
	Jim Nelson **	Plano	1985 - 1990
	Dr. Gary Z. Harris	Celina	1990 - 2000
	Brenda Willard Goodell *	Celina	2001 - 2011
	Andrew Hardin	Frisco	2012 - 2021

\*\* Founding, \* Deceased

## COLLIN COLLEGE BOARD CHAIRS

Carey Cox	1985 - 2000	Dr. J. Robert Collins	2006 - 2010	Mac Hendricks	2012 - 2015
Sam Roach	2000 - 2006	Brenda Willard Goodell	2010 - 2011	Dr. J. Robert Collins	2015 - Present

## CURRENT COLLIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Robert J. Collins, Chair	Dr. Raj Menon, Treasurer	Greg Gomel
Andy Hardin, Vice Chair	Stacy Anne Arias	Fred Moses
Jim Orr, Secretary	Dr. Stacey Donald	Jay Saad





## INTRODUCTION

**Dr. Neil Matkin**

**Collin College District President**

Our journey began in 1984 with a group of community members discussing Collin County higher education needs over coffee. That initial discussion led to a determined effort that ultimately brought dozens of volunteers together across the community and helped pass a referendum to welcome a new community college into the area.

What started out as 45 faculty and staff working in leased office space and teaching out of local high schools has now increased to more than 2,800 faculty and staff with almost 60,000 students across three campuses and five centers with four new campuses opening in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021. In its 35 years of existence, Collin College has remained a vibrant source of educational possibilities for the ever-growing Collin County population and beyond. This incredible transformation could not have happened without an outstanding and supportive community, which embraced the vision of an exemplary college and was committed to sustained growth in students, locations, and programming.

My first day at Collin College was April 6, 2015, the 30th anniversary of the college. On that afternoon, people lined up to form the number 30 on the lawn of the McKinney Campus (Central Park) for a commemorative photograph. Shortly after, I would go to Austin to meet our legislators and begin advocating for Collin College, but as I stood among people I would soon be working with, I felt a strong sense of community. I knew that I was surrounded by people who cared deeply about the importance of education, and I realized in an instant there was no other place I'd rather be than at Collin College.

Collin College's mission is to provide students a community-centered institution committed to developing skills, strengthening character, and challenging the intellect. With a diverse student body and faculty, we provide a learning environment for students


to succeed with innovative teaching, workforce development, community service, and regional partnerships. During our accelerated growth, we have embraced change and have worked to bring more possibilities to the residents of Collin County.

In 2016, the Board of Trustees approved a master plan to expand Collin College's facilities and program offerings. The Collin County voters then approved a \$600 million bond in 2017 that would make this unparalleled expansion a reality. Soon the college began opening new innovative facilities, such as the Public Safety Training Center in McKinney in September 2018 and breaking ground on others, such as the Technical Campus in Allen and the Wylie Campus, both set to open in Fall 2020. New campuses in Celina and Farmersville, along with the IT Center located on the Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge), quickly followed with plans to open in Fall 2021.

As the college has expanded, it has continued to offer excellence in education by offering new programs and expanding existing programming to new audiences. The college received legislative approval in 2017 to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity. After gaining approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the first students for the new baccalaureate degrees started in Spring 2020. In the next year, in addition to the new physical campuses, we will fully launch the college's virtual campus, iCollin, and break new ground in online programming.

We have been named a "Great College to Work For" by Modern Think (formerly partnering with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*) and ranked as an institution "Best for Vets" by the Military Times over multiple years.

Collin College shows no sign of slowing down and, in fact, we're moving faster than ever before. I am so proud to be a part of this institution and to see the steady march of this outstanding team effort continue to bear fruit.



# Dr. Neil Matkin

“One of the things that people often don’t see about Collin College is that we’re truly a team effort. If I were to talk about our single greatest accomplishment, over our entire 35-year history, it’s creating a team of people who are passionate, who care about our students and our community, who believe in the vision and mission of the college, and who possess a deep desire to see the college thrive long beyond the current successes. Our leadership team is incredible, and we have truly dedicated folks throughout the organization, whether they’re deans, professors, or others in support roles, these are people who are committed to this college moving forward. It is my sincere pleasure to work with such an amazing team of professionals, who are putting in tremendous hours, effort, and expertise to grow Collin to its highest height in service to our students and communities.”





1985  
1989

## COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY: UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

A thriving, student-focused, community-based college today, Collin College has a dynamic history of determination, growth, and people who cared enough to carry it forward. Here's a look back.

In the 1980s, Collin County was the largest county in the United States without a community college, and it was experiencing a boom. The county's population grew by 116 percent from 1970 to 1980, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and during the 1980s it experienced an additional 82.6 percent of continued growth. Southern Collin County was the top relocation area in the United States. Major corporations such as Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Frito-Lay started purchasing land, constructing new offices, and moving their corporate headquarters to Collin County.

### The Power of a Great Idea, Some Heart, and a Cup of Joe

"In 1984, the county commissioners took the first official action, after Commissioner Howard Thornton came into an executive session and told the other commissioners that 'some of the guys at the coffee shop in Frisco thought we needed a community college,'" said former Collin County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland in an interview with founding President Dr. John Anthony.

Hoagland said he and former County Judge Bill Roberts invited 15 to 20 people from various parts of the county to lunch at the McKinney Country Club and simply posed the need for a community college to the group.

Without reservation, the group agreed to move forward with the idea. The county commissioners hired consultant Ed Simonsen of Bakersfield, Calif., to outline the steps and organize everything needed for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

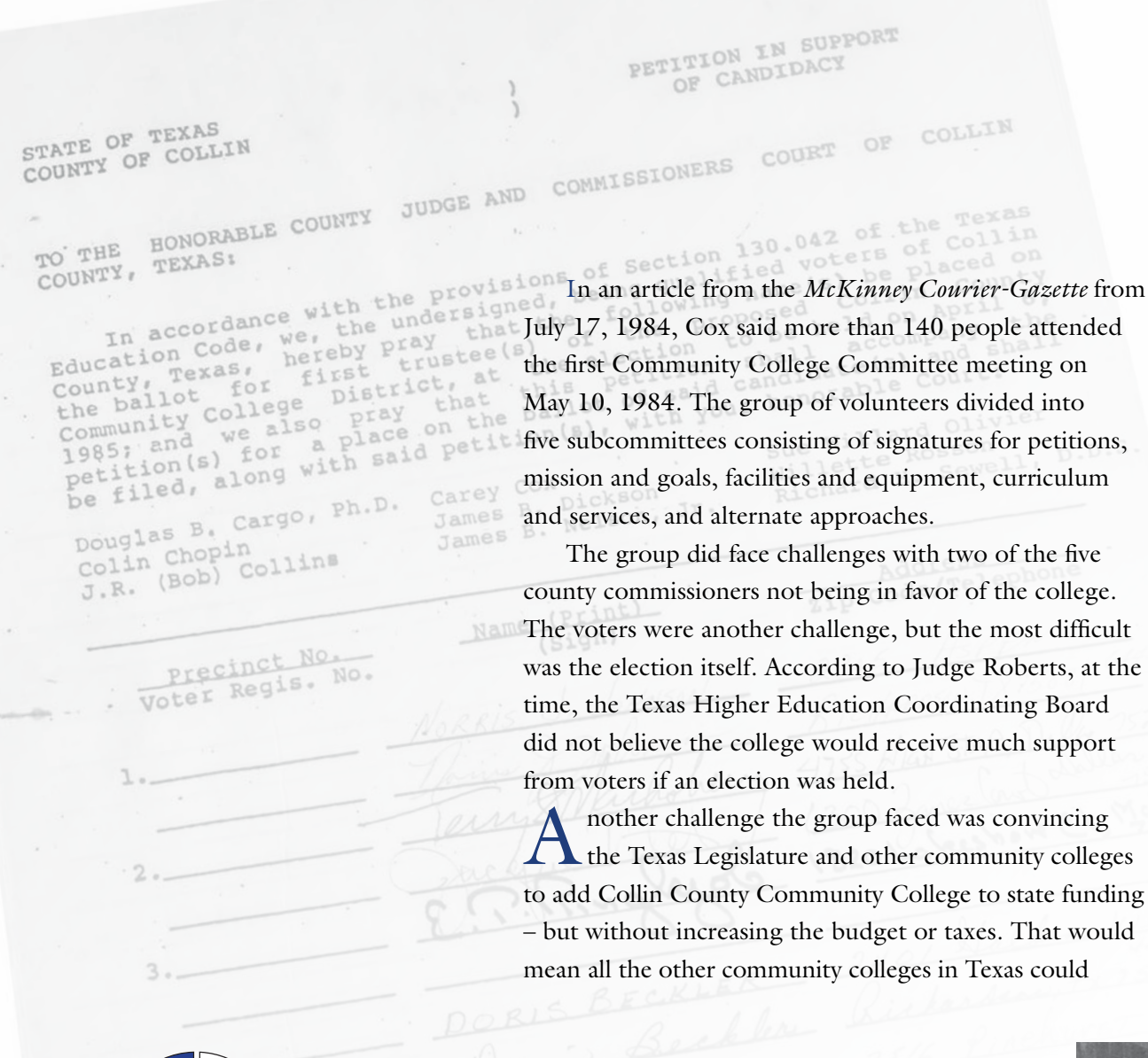
Next, Judge Roberts and Commissioners Thornton and Hoagland approached community leaders to help sell the idea of a community college in Collin County. It was decided to divide the county into two sections: north and south. Carey Cox of McKinney was asked to take the north section and David McCall III of Plano the south section to speak to residents about forming a community college in the county. This was the beginning of the Committee of 100, originally called the Collin County Community College Committee.











receive less funding. With the help of an Austin professional lobbyist firm, Judge Roberts traveled to Austin every week for the five-month legislative session. He spent part of the time knocking on doors and part of the time working with the legislative analysts for the state.

“I worked with them for hours and hours – many times at night – trying to calculate what we would need for state funding and figure out how to work it into the budget,” Judge Roberts said in an interview with Dr. Anthony.

On the last day in the last hour of the legislative session, Judge Roberts received a call from the lobbyist with news that the college’s funding was voted into the state budget. “So it was that close of a call,” said Judge Roberts.

At least 10 percent of Collin County registered voters’ signatures, a total of 10,000, were required to be collected and presented to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to have an election. Committee members Sue Willard Olivier of Richardson and John Akin of Wylie headed up the petition drive.



Community  
College  
District

# 1984

**April 2** - The Collin County Commissioners Court approved a study to evaluate the need for and feasibility of a community college.

**May 10** - More than 140 community members attended the first Collin County Community College Committee meeting.



**Sept. 18** - The Collin County Community College Committee voted unanimously to establish a community college.

**Sept. 28 - Nov. 15** - More than 25,000 residents’ signatures were collected on a petition to vote on establishing a community college district in Collin County.

“Sue Olivier was a workhorse, and we had people at grocery stores, we had people signing people up at other elections,” McCall said in an interview with Dr. Anthony. “So it was not an easy effort. It took 10,000 signatures to get us on the ballot, which was no small feat in 1984.”

Olivier and Akin led the charge with more than 297 volunteers, some wearing yellow roses, to gain signatures on the petition from Oct. 1 to Nov. 15, 1984. In the end, more than 25,000 signatures were tallied on the petition to hold a general election to establish a community college in Collin County.

Beyond the petition, Collin County had to meet additional criteria set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The county had to have a property tax base (assessed valuation) of \$30 million. Collin County’s tax base surpassed that with a 1982-1983 assessed valuation of more than \$7.5 billion.

Another criterion the county surpassed was the number of students residing in the county. The requirement was a minimum of 3,000 students in grades K-12 and there were more than 39,000 students who attended public schools in the county.



## 1985

**April 6** – A general election to create and fund the Collin County Community College District passed with 60 percent approval, along with passing a bond and tax rate, and electing the first Board of Trustees.

**May 14** – Collin County Community College District became the official name of the college.



**July 15** – Dr. John H. Anthony was appointed the college’s first president.

**Sept. 3 - 4** – The college’s first classes were held at five area high schools.

**Sept. 19** – The college purchased Osmond Plaza, the first building of the McKinney Campus.

**Dec. 17** – The college purchased 92.5 acres near the corner of Jupiter Road and Spring Creek Parkway in Plano.



“I was just excited, quite frankly, to be able to participate in something that could result in the creation of a college. You don’t do that very many times in your lifetime ... it just seemed the right thing to do for the county,” said County Judge Ron Harris.

Finally, the college was required to provide evidence that would indicate a minimum enrollment of 500 full-time equivalent (FTE) students within three years. That would prove to be an easy target to reach. By August 1986, at the close of the first academic year, the college achieved 952 FTE students and the total student headcount was an impressive 5,095.

On April 6, 1985, the countywide election was held. The ballot contained three propositions as well as candidates running for nine open Trustee positions.

- **Proposition One:** the creation of the Collin County Community College District.
- **Proposition Two:** the issuance of \$70 million of Collin County Community College District bonds and the levy of taxes for the payment thereof.
- **Proposition Three:** the levy and collection of a maintenance tax for the Collin County Community College District.

A majority 60.64 percent of voters approved the creation of a community college, 56.26 percent approved a \$70 million bond funding, and 53.89 percent approved the levy and collection of a maintenance tax, and elected the first Board of Trustees.

### On the Express Track to Cougar Country

The county commissioners called the newly elected Board together, Judge Roberts swore them in, determined length of terms, and decided on the official name for the college.

“Once we decided we were going to have one chief executive officer reporting to the Board, that chief executive officer, the president, would be responsible for everything that we did,” said founding Trustee Dr. J. Robert “Bob” Collins. “We were going to have a very simple structure from the top down. We were not going to waste the taxpayers’ money.”

## 1986

**Jan. 13** – The McKinney Campus opened.

**Jan. 20** – The first classes were held at the McKinney Campus.

**Fiscal Year 1986 Total Enrollment:**  
**5,095 students**



## 1987

**May 16** – The first commencement was held at the McKinney Campus with 13 graduates earning associate degrees.

**September** – The first Continuing Education classes were offered.

**Sept. 23** – The Collin County Community College Foundation was established.

The Board of Trustees then engaged consultant Ed Simonsen to conduct a presidential search.

“Ed called me in Portland, Ore., where I was serving as president of the Portland Community College District,” Dr. Anthony said. “He asked, ‘John, is there anyone you can recommend? I’m doing a presidential search,’ and he described the county, the propositions, and the resources, and told me about the Board. I replied, ‘Yes, I think I could recommend somebody. I recommend myself.’”

Dr. Anthony was selected out of 40 applicants and appointed as the college’s founding president in July 1985.

During July and August, the newly formed college and a few staff produced a fall schedule of classes, recruited, and registered students.

When Dr. Anthony visited the county that July for a planning session, he said the Board told him they would like to have classes start in September and a permanent facility by January.



## 1988

**August** - Collin College Women's Volleyball served up its first game.

**Aug. 19** - The nursing program began as part of the Grayson College extension.



**Aug. 29** - The Plano Campus (Spring Creek) opened, making the college the fastest-growing community college in the nation.

**October** - Collin College Men's Basketball tipped off.





Ten Postulates For Our College  
As Espoused by John H. Anthony  
(1987)

1. We will become the standard for which other institutions are judged. Quality will be our reputation.
2. We will build a college that not only performs well, but also treats people well. Every person with whom we come in contact will be treated with respect and dignity and each will be valued as an individual.
3. We will be honest at all times, we will express ourselves, we will disagree without fear – we will let others know how we feel, what we want, and where we stand. Talk straight, agree and disagree, like and dislike, say “yes” and say “no.”
4. We will minimize policies, rules and regulations, and commit to “egoless” management. For the welfare of our college and its people transcend individual goals and concerns.
5. Our goal will be to employ individuals who are willing to take the risk of a new venture and to create a culture that values initiative, absolute honesty, and achievement. To accomplish this every person must share in the responsibility of selecting co-workers.
6. We will choose greatness over maintenance, courage over caution, independence over dependence, moving forward over standing still.
7. We will develop a willingness to share and the freedom to fail.
8. We will use language that describes reality and will avoid repositioning ourselves on issues just for the sake of acceptance.
9. We will promise that which we can deliver.
10. We will choose the path of high resistance and live with the anxiety that it creates. For there is really no safe path.

Dr. Anthony said he knew this was going to be a challenge, but did not expect such a fast turnaround. Yet, he was up for the challenge.

He and the Board were able to contract with Grayson College to continue offering evening classes at five high schools in Collin County while they searched for a permanent location. They had previously been doing that and already had about 800 students enrolled.

Dr. Anthony and the Board had three options for the first permanent campus: a mall at U.S. 75 and SH 121 that was difficult to get in and out of, a spec office building once owned by Osmond Brothers Enterprises Inc., and a tilt-up building. The spec office building, Osmond Plaza, proved to be the best choice and is currently the McKinney Campus, located west of U.S. 75 on West University Drive. Construction crews worked nearly around the clock to transform the office building into a college campus. The first classes were held on the campus Jan. 20, 1986.



1989

**May 14** - Commencement was held at the Plano Campus.

**July** - The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) granted the college full accreditation retroactive to Jan. 1, 1986.

According to Dr. Anthony, between July 15, 1985, and Jan. 15, 1986, the college sold bonds, received approval for state funding, hired 45 faculty and staff, developed a catalog, developed two class schedules, worked with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on the preliminaries for accreditation, purchased two pieces of land, hired several architectural firms to remodel the first campus, McKinney Campus, and started the design of the second campus, Plano Campus.

In the late 1980s, the Board of Trustees felt the pressure from Plano supporters to locate the third campus on the south side of SH 121. At that time SH 121 was a two-lane highway with a four-way stop sign at Preston Road (SH 289). Ultimately, the Board determined that the best property for the third campus was in Frisco.



*The original college schedule pencil written by Dr. Toni Jenkins.*







### **Dr. John Anthony**

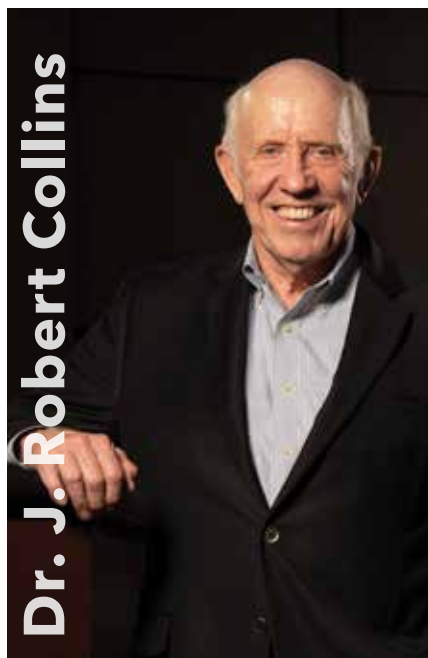
#### **Collin College Founding President, 1985-1999**

Dr. John H. Anthony served as the founding president from 1985 through 1999. Prior to his tenure at Collin College, Dr. Anthony served as president of the Portland Community College District, a nationally renowned community college. Under his leadership at Collin College, he established a list of 22 postulates. They communicated a philosophy that would guide the college for years to come. He attracted and retained outstanding faculty and staff, created an environment in which faculty and staff could succeed, helped the college gain national recognition, and was responsible for the construction of the college's three main campuses in McKinney, Plano, and Frisco.

"I've been in this business for over 50 years, and it was by far the best faculty and staff that I've ever worked with, and I've worked with some outstanding people. We checked the references; we thoroughly vetted them. With faculty candidates, we actually had them teach a class. We treated all of our employees with dignity; we treated them with respect. We listened. We treated them with positive regard. We valued them as individuals, not just as employees. I used to say that I worked for them. And the Board, too.

Over the years, we had very few changes on the Board, and the changes were always positive. And the Board chairman, Carey Cox, was superior. He was the best chairman I've ever worked with. When you put all that together, you can't help but succeed," said Dr. Anthony.

"I started out with  
Dr. Walter Pike and  
Dr. Toni Jenkins, both  
key people and good people.  
They understood what a  
community college was all  
about and were very  
committed to the county  
and the community,  
and, most importantly,  
to the student body,"  
said Dr. John Anthony.  
"We built a good foundation.  
We hired good people."  
[Once Dr. Anthony had his  
core staff, they hired 45 more,  
and then that group helped  
hire an additional 200.]



**Dr. J. Robert Collins**  
Collin College Founding Trustee  
and current Board Chair

“I’ll never forget, we told Dr. John Anthony when he first came in – and we’ve told this to every president, by the way – that we’re not interested in becoming the best college in Texas. We want to be the best college in the United States. And that’s still our objective.”

**Leigh Ann Pike**  
1987 Collin College Graduate  
and former Adjunct Faculty

“I graduated Magna Cum Laude at The University of Texas, but I may not have graduated at all if I had not attended Collin College. The classes were small, and the professors were enthusiastic. The main focus is geared toward the success of the students and providing them with a quality education, so they can go on and have great lives. The professors and students take a lot of pride in the school; not all colleges are like that,” Pike said. “People came from places I had never heard of before, like Celina and Frisco.”



**Kim Davison**  
Collin College Chief of Staff;  
hired September 1985

“In January or February of 1986, we had our first bad weather day and we hadn’t thought about how we would handle those types of situations, and we had no protocols in place. It was icy and a few of us braved the storm and made it to the office. I worked the switchboard for that morning to tell everybody we were closed. So that was a good opportunity to start developing some key procedures.”

**Dr. Toni Jenkins**  
Collin College Senior Vice President  
of Campus Operations; hired  
August 1985

“We would go on the first night of class and sell textbooks. We had a textbook company we were working with, but they had a little storefront in Plano and didn’t have staff to get to all the places. One night I took an inventory of about \$14,000 worth of textbooks to McKinney High School, and as I opened the trunk to start loading them up to take them inside, students started coming up to me asking to buy the book. Well, that was just one less book I had to carry in. I sold all of them from the trunk of my car that night.”



## moments in history . . .



**Tino Trujillo**

### **Tino Trujillo's Strategy for Getting Petition Signatures**

Fortino "Tino" Trujillo was elected to Place 7 on the college's first Board of Trustees in 1985. To be eligible to run for trustee, interested candidates were required to obtain no less than 2,500 signatures on a petition. Trujillo often joked that he leveraged the popularity of his restaurants to get signatures for the petition to establish the college. He explained that he would say to restaurant patrons, "Do you want this enchilada? Then sign this petition." Trujillo continued to win elections and served through July 2014, nearly 30 years. [No one knows if the tale is true or just an urban legend.]

### **Community College Unveils Master Plan**

Collin College unveiled its first districtwide master plan in October 1985 addressing population trends and projections, and future campus locations within three zones strategically located to serve both existing and projected future concentrations of development and population.

### **Community College Opens First Campus in McKinney**



Originally built as a spec office building, Osmond Plaza was purchased by Collin College in September 1985. The three-story structure was then renovated in four months. The office space was transformed into classrooms, labs, and a library, and opened its doors to students Jan. 20, 1986.

### **First Community College Commencement Held**

The first graduation ceremony was held outside the McKinney Campus under Stately Pecan trees. Thirteen students received their associate degrees on May 16, 1987. A few years later commencement



was moved indoors to the Plano Campus. As success and growth would dictate, the number of graduates eventually outgrew that location and the ceremony moved to larger and larger venues.

### **New College Foundation Established**

The Collin College Foundation was established as a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization on Sept. 23, 1987 with a mission to "support and enhance Collin College through philanthropic support for student scholarships, critical capacity needs and programs of excellence."

Drawing from the talent in the community, the Foundation formed a board of directors united in a commitment to remove barriers between students and success in college. The founding members of the board of directors were Carey Cox, James Dickson, Fortino "Tino" Trujillo, Elizabeth Henry, and Dr. John Anthony. Today the Foundation's board of directors has 28 members from throughout Collin County.

The Foundation awarded its first scholarship in 1988 and has helped more than 9,000 students go to college thanks to scholarships from patrons who believe in the power of higher education. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised more than \$23 million, and it has more than 80 endowed scholarship funds.

Each spring the Foundation hosts a signature fundraiser that is the single-largest source of scholarships awarded each fall. Past events have included a 5K, golf tournament, Monopoly Madness, the Plain and Fancy Ball, and Collin Cabaret. Today, the Foundation's "Stetson & Stiletto Standoff" is the signature fundraiser in which patrons square off in a trivia competition battling for the championship. The Foundation also proudly partners with the Plano Balloon Festival and the Big Star Half Marathon and 5K to support scholarships.

The "President's Circle" debuted in 2005 as the Foundation's premier giving society, and donors become eligible when their lifetime donations reach \$20,000 or more. The President's Circle has eight levels ranging from Legacy Patron at \$20,000-\$49,999 to the Million Dollar Club. As of Spring 2020, the President's Circle included 119 members.



**“One characteristic of our college that I think really stands out is that we’ve been able to attract outstanding faculty. We have the most motivated faculty in higher education I’ve ever been around. And we attract really top-notch faculty onto our team of educators here,” said Dr. J. Robert Collins, founding Trustee.**

### **New Plano Campus Opens**

The second campus in the college district opened Aug. 29, 1988, making the college the fastest-growing community college in the nation. The campus housed a physical education complex, conference center, theatre, student lounge, Learning Resources Center, and food service area, as well as classrooms, laboratories, and office space.



### **Martin Luther King III Speaks to College Students**

History came alive for students taking Professor Joe Jaynes’ history courses. Martin Luther King III, son of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was invited to speak to students in 1988 at the Plano Campus John Anthony Theatre.

### **NJCAA Division 1 Athletics Introduced to Collin College**

Citing the need for programs that increased student involvement, Collin College introduced intercollegiate athletics at the Plano Campus in 1988. The mascot at the time was The Express.

Susan Evans was hired as women’s volleyball coach and Jim Sigona was hired as men’s basketball coach. The programs needed to be built from the ground up, starting with recruitment. Sigona said a 22-game schedule had been approved before he came to the college, but he did not have a team. “We put posters up and told people, ‘Hey we’re going to have tryouts,’” Sigona remembered. “It was fun. They were a great group of guys, and I still stay in touch with some of them.”

Evans, who recruited from volleyball classes and local high schools unfamiliar with Collin County Community College at the time, remembers not having uniforms ready for the first game. “For our first game, (Athletic Director) Rex Parcels printed numbers onto T-shirts so we could participate, since our uniforms had not arrived,” she chuckled.



**Susan Evans**



**Jim Sigona**



## **1989**

**Oct. 1** – The Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) became part of the college through a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, Collin College, and the State of Texas.

**October** – Collin College Tennis swung into being.



Other programs were added in the next few years. Tennis started in Fall 1989 and went on to win a national championship in the spring of that year.

### **Early Partnerships Benefit Students and the Community**

By 1988, the college's advisory committee read like a Fortune 500 list in Collin County, and included Electronic Data Systems (EDS), Frito-Lay, JC Penney, Texas Instruments, ARCO Oil and Gas Co., Rockwell International, DSC Communications Corp., Lennox Industries Inc., Color Dynamics, Electrospace Systems Inc., and Near Space Communications, among many others.

With a growing Collin County business population, the Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) became part of Collin College Oct. 1, 1989, through a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, Collin College, and the State of Texas. Through this collaboration, one-on-one confidential business consulting is provided at no charge. Low- or no-cost workshops and seminars are scheduled on topics essential to business success. The SBDC also assists

businesses in creating jobs and economic growth by utilizing the elements of quality consulting and training, community involvement, and leveraging resources.

"We were doing a lot of economic development work, so we developed a partnership with Dallas County Community College District's Small Business Development Center. Initially they had an office in our facility in Collin County. Eventually, it became our office. But the initial impetus came from the Dallas County Community College District," said Dr. Anthony.

### **Travel Abroad Partnership**

"We developed outstanding partnerships with cities, with school districts, with other colleges and universities, locally and nationally, and even internationally," said Dr. Anthony. "We had a program in Colima, Mexico, where we'd send 20 students there for a semester to study Spanish and the culture, and they would send 20 students up here – all facilitated primarily by Tino Trujillo, one of the Board members. We had partnerships with business and industry. We had all kinds of work training and economic development programs."

**"I think it's important that people know that the college was founded by people who really truly believe in the value of education, and what that brings to the community and to the people who give back to the community after they've graduated," said Leigh Ann Pike, who began taking classes at the college in the summer of 1986.**

**December** – The Board of Trustees voted for the college's third campus to be located in Frisco.

**Fiscal Year 1989 Total Enrollment: 17,857 students**



### Technology Partnership

“When we first opened the McKinney Campus, we had no computers,” said Dr. Anthony. “Many of us never worked with a computer. Texas Instruments (TI) had an office in McKinney, so we asked them if they would give us some computers. Eventually we went to their office in Richardson and met with Jerry Junkins, then-president of TI, one of the largest, most successful corporations in the world.”

Through a partnership with Collin College, TI provided and set-up the much-needed computers.



### Faculty Senate is Created

Faculty from different disciplines officed together, which built a strong collaborative bond. “It began an iterative process of pedagogical discourse, trial and error, success and failure, and sometimes coauthoring articles about observations along the way,” said Dr. Billie M. Cunningham, former accounting professor. “We learned ‘what was being done’ in other disciplines and figured out how these strategies might work in our own classrooms.”



During the 1987-1988 academic year, a group of faculty met to discuss improving pathways for communication between



faculty and administration.

“After much discussion, we decided to run the idea past District President Anthony, who responded, ‘I was wondering how long it would take you all to suggest this. I fully support the idea,’” Cunningham recalled. “We presented the idea to the other teaching faculty, held a meeting to approve the new Faculty Senate, and elected Dr. Martha Ewing (now Ellis) to be its first president. She was excellent!”

Later, the Faculty Senate transitioned under District President Cary A. Israel to become the Faculty Council.

### **Promoting Academic Excellence**

Approximately two years after the Faculty Senate was established, Dr. Anthony wanted to establish a faculty peer review process. Ewing (now Ellis) was selected as the first Chair of the Council on Excellence. This significant group, unique to Collin College, has truly helped shape the quality of the college’s full-time faculty within the college throughout its history.

### **The Child Development Lab School Opens**

Recognizing that students in the child development program could use practical education along with classroom time, and that parents needed a place to care for their little ones while they were in class, the college opened the Child Development Lab School in 1988 as part of the Plano Campus.

“The promise was that with more mothers going back to work, there was a need for quality childcare,” said Dr. Elaine Zweig, discipline lead and professor of education and child development. “The hope was to assist students in finding childcare so that they could go to school.”

The college’s faculty and staff were also able to use the Lab School as a day care resource. And the children being cared for provided child development students with the opportunity to put the techniques they had learned in class into practice. “My daughter, Megan, was among the first group of 3-year-old children admitted to the Lab School. The toddlers dressed in costume for Halloween and paraded through the Plano Campus to ‘trick-or-treat’ in the 1980s,” recalls Dr. Toni Jenkins.

For the first seven years, only toddlers and preschoolers were accepted into the program. When Dr. Zweig arrived in 1995, she realized there was also a need to care for infants. The educational program had taught infant development, so it made sense to open the Lab School up to them. The school was renovated to provide space for three infants, and the Plano Campus held a “shower” to celebrate the new space for “the youngest students of the college.” The Lab School was first accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) on April 30, 1996.

The child development program was accredited in 2012. Up until that time, two-year colleges were unable to receive accreditation.





## FROM DREAM TO DISTRICT

By the beginning of the 1990s, Collin County Community College District had grown from the dream of a core group of residents to a full college district with campuses in two of Collin County's largest cities. Over the next 10 years, the college would continue to expand its physical footprint and gain a national reputation as a community college with a grand vision for the future.

"When I think back on the early days of the college, essentially it was a collection of risk-takers because there was not a college," said Fire Academy Director Pat McAuliff, who was hired in 1986. "We started with nothing. The people who came to the college were there on a hope, I think, a lot of them on a vision, and a lot of them just on a simple dream that they could make something happen."

The founders knew from the early days that to truly be a college district for all of Collin County, it would need a campus on the western side of its service area. The campus was so integral to the college district's plan that the administration moved forward after losing a bond election that would have funded it, working out other funding mechanisms to make a Frisco campus a reality.

When the Frisco Campus opened in 1995, that was one of the defining moments for the college district, but it was not the only one the decade would see.

The 1990s began with the introduction of programs that have thrived in the decades that followed. Nursing and Respiratory Care programs were established at the McKinney Campus. Police and firefighter academies grew

out of existing educational programs and partnerships with first responder agencies.

The college district continued its relationship with the educational institutions that had assisted it in the early years and developed even greater opportunities for students with transfer agreements.

By 1995, the college had grown from a single campus in McKinney to the 10th largest community college district in the state.

The growth in student populations meant the need for ever more space and professors to educate them.

"I think that everybody will talk about the growth being extraordinary. But I think it's more the response to the growth that is the unique part," said Dr. Toni Jenkins, one of the first employees hired at the college. "Bringing on the number of faculty and staff that we've had to hire in the last 30 years – no other college in the country was doing that. And it's not an easy thing to accomplish,

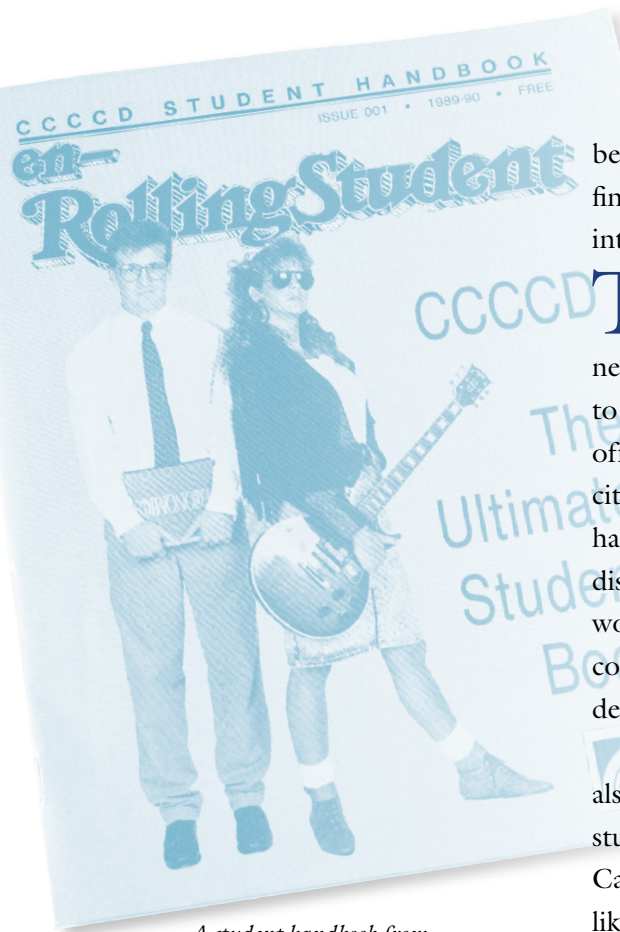


1990  
1999









*A student handbook from the 1989-1990 academic year.*

because not only are you doing all of the work necessary to find qualified people, but you're also having to bring them into the culture and maintain what makes Collin special."

The 1990s would see the addition of several new educational centers. The Allen Center opened in the new Allen High School, offering culinary classes in addition to other needed educational resources. The college's offerings in Rockwall grew along with a new wing in that city's high school, providing greater access for students who had faced a long commute before that time. The college district bought and renovated a building in Plano that would become the Courtyard Center, home to the college's continuing education, corporate college, and small business development center.

The introduction of new facilities at existing campuses also provided new learning opportunities for the growing student base. Some, like the apartments at the Plano Campus, have become notable college facilities. Others, like the natatorium at the Frisco Campus and the baseball

field on the Plano Campus, served for a time before other needs took precedence.

Programs such as Learning Communities and Seniors Active in Learning (SAIL) opened new educational opportunities to traditional and nontraditional students. The staff and faculty created an environment where the best was expected, and people started to take notice. Professors earned statewide recognition, and the nation looked to the college as an innovator in the community college world.

"After just four or five years, going into the 1990s, we started to see Collin's name mentioned prominently and nationally for the programs that we had and for the quality that was here," said longtime professor and administrator Gary Hodge. "Those were real highlights of that decade for me."

One of those national recognitions included the college's first national tennis championship, which Coach Marty Berryman called a "Cinderella story."

## 1990

**February** - The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to create the Collin County Community College Police Department.

**May** - Men's Tennis won its first national title.

**Aug. 12** - Residents voted down the college's bond election program marketed as "A Penny to Grow On."



**October** - Collin College Women's Basketball took to the court.





## moments in history . . .

### The College Asks for 'A Penny to Grow On'

The 1990s and the history of the Frisco Campus began with a disappointment. The college's 1990 bond campaign, "A Penny to Grow On," failed with only 42 percent of the vote.

The bond was supposed to fund \$19.5 million in construction projects, including the Frisco Campus Phase I, remodeling work and an addition at the McKinney Campus, a fire science training academy with lab and dormitory space in Princeton, districtwide upgrades to the mainframe, microcomputer and laboratory spaces, and a natatorium built at the Plano Campus in conjunction with the City of Plano.

Frisco overwhelmingly voted in favor of the bond, with 514 people casting a ballot in favor, while 38 voted no. Frisco ISD Superintendent Justin Wakeland noted, "We turned out nearly one-third of the positive votes," in a *McKinney Courier-Gazette* article.

Plano was opposed, with only 523 votes for, and 1,153 votes against. "Plano killed us," Dr. John Anthony was quoted saying in the *Plano Star-Courier*. "I thought we'd do better."

Dr. J. Robert Collins called the loss a "setback" and considered it one of the few that the college had faced up to that point. Many at the time cited anti-tax sentiment along with a sluggish economy and voter apathy. Many city, school and county referendums also failed during that time.

"We were swimming upstream against (fears of increased) taxes even though ours was a small amount," Dr. Anthony said in the same article.

Projects including the natatorium and the fire science training center in Princeton were shelved in favor of expansions at the McKinney Campus and Plano Campus, which went forward to meet the needs of the growing student population. That fall, the college district would host its first nursing students in the recently established program.

### Frisco Campus is Built

The college's Board of Trustees would not be deterred from building the "western campus" the founders had envisioned in early planning sessions to form the college district. So the Board decided to fund construction using revenue bonds previously earmarked for expansion at the McKinney Campus, private donations, and the college's general fund. The college purchased 125 acres of land in Frisco in 1990 with funds from a 1985 bond after considering other property south of SH 121.

"We decided we had to have the Frisco Campus," Dr. Collins said, recalling the time shortly after the 1990 bond vote failed. "It was going to be the center for the future; we had this whole area developing up the tollway to

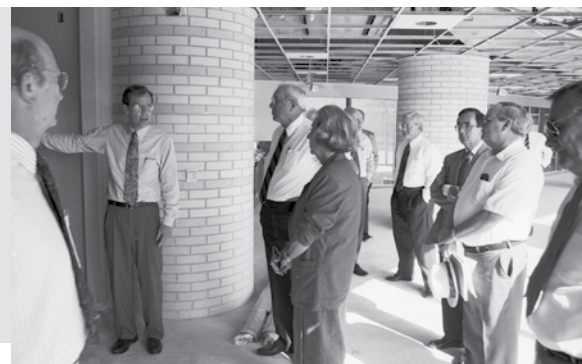
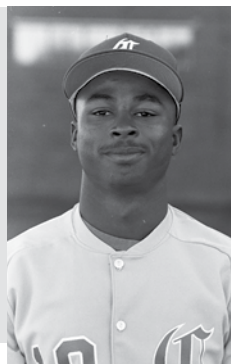


## 1991

**Jan. 22** - The college partnered with the City of Frisco in the joint development of park and recreation facilities.

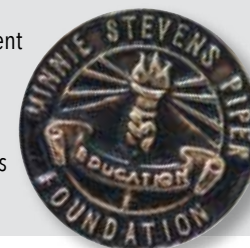
**February** - Baseball swung into its first season at Collin College.

**May 19** - The McKinney Campus addition groundbreaking ceremonies were held.



**Sept. 22** - The college's revised mission and philosophy statement were approved.

**Fall** - Gary Hodge was named the college's first Minnie Stevens Piper Professor.



Legacy Park and the potential for major industrial facilities and corporate headquarters, so we felt like we had to be close to that or part of that.”

Underscoring that the campus was designed to be a “campus of the future,” a 1994 article in *Frisco Life* noted plans for an “adaptable facility that won’t need to play catch-up when technology changes.” From the start, the campus was seen as a place where computer technology and engineering could thrive, and the college sought guidance from high-tech neighbors, including EDS, DSC Communications Corp., Texas Instruments, and others to ensure that those needs were met.

The college also reached out to residents of the western part of the county to ask what courses they would like offered and which days they would be most likely to attend.

The groundbreaking for the campus took place March 12, 1994, amid “howling wind and bitter cold,” according to Frisco Economic Development Director Thomas Palmer, who attended the festivities. He said that from the middle of the field where the groundbreaking was held, attendees could see in the distance two neighborhoods but little else.

Gary Hodge recalled it similarly.

“We had to cut through a fence and drive on dirt roads into a pasture,” Hodge said. “At that time, people couldn’t really envision that there was going to be a campus there. That was when Preston Road was one lane each way, before the mall, before the growth in Frisco.”

By the time the Frisco Campus held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 18, 1995, the community, whose voters had supported the campus from the start, welcomed the new facility with hundreds in attendance. “It’s been an exciting 10 years,” Board of Trustees Chair Carey Cox told the crowd. “As far as what is most exciting, in 1985 we had a master plan, and we’ve filled in the blanks. Now we’re looking ahead.”

Palmer noted in a newspaper article that came out shortly before the ribbon cutting that the campus was “the largest construction project of its kind ever in Frisco.” The first phase included Founders Hall and Heritage Hall.

The Frisco Campus had an official headcount of 1,367 for its first semester in the fall of 1995, contributing to the first time the college district topped 10,000 in enrollment for a single semester.

## 1992

**March 7** – Gov. Ann Richards visited the college to promote infant mental health.

**Nov. 17** – The first five police officers were sworn in to the Collin County Community College Police Department.



## 1993

**Jan. 26** – The resolution to purchase Courtyard Center was approved.

**January** – A new college logo was created by Advertising Arts student Rajesh Nidwannaya and approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Spring** – The Celebration of Cultures held its first-ever event in what would become a weeklong annual festival featuring cultural displays including singing, dancing, traditional dress, a film festival, and information booths about other cultures.





The printing of this book coincides with the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Frisco Campus.

### **Nursing and Respiratory Care Programs Begin**

The college's Nursing and Respiratory Care programs officially began together in the summer of 1990, when associate degrees in both programs were approved by the state. Nursing had been taught at the college since 1988 as an extension for Grayson County College. Both the degree and approval by the Texas Board of Nurse Examiners were achieved in 1990. The nursing program was accredited by the National League for Nursing in 1994. It would later be named a National League for Nursing Center of Excellence (COE) in 2011 and 2015. [Read more about the nursing program and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree approved in 2019 on pages 75 and 77.]

The college's Respiratory Care program hit the ground running with its first nine graduates, achieving a 100 percent passing rate for the national certifying exam. At the time, about 60 percent of graduates from across the country passed

the exam the first time. The graduates also had 100 percent job placement. The program has been recognized repeatedly in the years since its founding. In recent years, the program was the recipient of the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award every year from 2013 to 2020.

It has also produced a national championship in the Sputum Bowl respiratory care knowledge competition in 2017 and took first place in the state-level competition for eight years starting in 2011.

### **College Police Department Forms**

In February 1990, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution to support the commissioning and appointing of police officers for the college.

An announcement in the *Caleidoscope* employee and student newsletter stated, "The officers will be working various schedules and assignments of foot patrol, bicycle patrol, and plain clothes duty. Those selected for the program must have a genuine interest in the welfare of the college while supplementing the services already provided by the private



**May 13** - Staff and faculty contributed to cleanup efforts after a devastating tornado struck Wylie.

**Aug. 10** - A resolution naming the new lecture hall at McKinney Campus Walter L. Pike Lecture Hall was approved. A ribbon cutting and dedication of the hall was held on Aug. 21.

**Fall** - The McKinney Campus D/E wing addition opened.



**Oct. 4** - Courtyard Center opened, housing College and Community Development, including Business and Community Relations, Continuing Education, the Small Business Development Center, and the real estate program.

**November** - College faculty and staff began a new tradition with the annual Chili Cook-Off at the McKinney Campus.

security guards and off-duty officers of the Plano and McKinney police departments.”

The first five officers were sworn in Nov. 17, 1992.

### **The College Formalizes Transfer Agreements**

Articulation agreements smooth the way for students who want to transfer from the college to partner universities by ensuring that the credits earned toward a bachelor's degree are accepted.

At the time of this publication, the college has such agreements in place with 29 partner universities. The earliest verifiable transfer agreement happened in December 1990, when Collin College and Texas Woman's University agreed to partner on an Associate of Arts-Legal Assistant to Bachelor of Science-Government with a Legal Assistant minor.

In January 1999, the college marked another milestone with an articulation agreement with Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla., the first with an out-of-state institution.

### **The College Wins Its First National Championship**

Coach Marty Berryman called the college's first national championship in tennis a “Cinderella story.”

“Most of these guys were unrecruited, and when we started playing schools, nobody had ever heard of us,” Berryman said of the program's first year.

Collin County Community College District's program had just started that season with Berryman as head coach. It was his first college coaching job after spending some time coaching in high school.

Despite, or because of, the program's anonymity, the team was able to parlay its record into an appearance at the 1990 National Junior College Athletic Association Championship ranked fairly high.

“I think we were probably somewhere between No. 4 and No. 7 coming into the national tournament,” said Danny Rickabus, one of the players. “The team included a guy from Turkey, a guy from Ireland, two Texas kids, and me from Southern California, who really came together.”

Berryman said he remembers the exhilaration of his players during the matches and at their success.

## **1994**

**March 12** - The Frisco Campus groundbreaking ceremony took place.

**April** - The Hoblitzelle Foundation made a donation for the James and Pat Aston Center for Health Studies.



**August** - The college held its first Learning Communities courses, in which subjects were examined through multiple disciplines. The pairings included: Calculus II and College Physics I; and U.S. History II and Introduction to Sociology.

**October** - The National League for Nursing granted the college's nursing program accreditation.



“I remember Danny coming up to me and saying, ‘I’m the college’s first All-American,’” Berryman said.

That year’s team record was 21-10.

“We won it all the first year. How do you follow that up? It ruined me as a coach,” Berryman joked, despite the fact that his college accolades include being 1995 NJCAA Coach of the Year and 2009 Region V Coach of the Year, and induction into the NJCAA Men’s and Women’s Tennis Hall of Fame.

The tennis program would go on to win four more men’s national titles (1992, 1993, 1995, 2010) and four women’s national titles (1991, 1992, 1993, 1994). The tennis program has produced more than 70 NJCAA Division II All-Americans.

#### **Danny Rickabus, All-American in Tennis**

“I was an unusual case. I played at McLennan Community College where tennis coach Marty Berryman’s brother Carmack was coaching. I transferred at Christmastime to play in the second semester at Collin County Community College District.

“The school was brand new. The courts were all brand new and kind of cutting edge at the time. Coach Marty was a great coach and a good friend.

“I remember that I improved a lot, and the team came together. Every guy on the team was fully committed to giving it the best shot we could.

“We were underdogs, and no one expected us to be in contention. Our team decided several months in advance that our goal was to win the nationals. We spent countless hours on and off the court conditioning and training to achieve our goal.

“I was peaking at the time and was in the best shape I’d ever been in. I got hot and ran through the flight three singles and ended up winning in the finals.

“Me and my partner, Ali Colak, a guy from Turkey, were the favorites to win No. 1 doubles, but we ended up losing in the semis. That was the only slight letdown.

“Back then Marty was young. I was young. We really enjoyed the moment, and it was a very special time.

“It was one of those things that you had to persevere and put everything you had into it. To finally have it come through was very special.”

## 1995

**January** - The Child Development Center at the Plano Campus was expanded to offer care for newborns.

**April 6** - The college celebrated its 10th anniversary.

**May** - The college was named a New Media Center and charged with improving multimedia technology use in a multi-state area.



**July** - The Frisco Campus opened with Founders Hall and Heritage Hall.

**July 13 - 20** - The first Texas All-Star Jazz Camp was held at the Plano Campus.

**Fall** - The McKinney Campus renovations and Pat Aston Health Science Center opened.

**Fall** - The college district’s fall enrollment topped 10,000 students with 10,330.

**April** - The college district launched its first website, [www.ccccd.edu](http://www.ccccd.edu).

### More Athletics Programs are Added

After bringing three interscholastic sports to the district in the 1980s, Collin College expanded its athletic offerings in the 1990s.

Women's basketball started in 1990. Baseball was added in 1991. All of the sports were played at the Plano Campus,

until 1997 when women's softball was added. That team played at the Frisco Campus. Softball was joined by a cycling team for a few years beginning in 1997 with the introduction of the Superdrome at the Frisco Campus.

"We had more than 100 athletes who participated in the athletic program and many lived on campus," former Athletics Director Susan Evans said. "I believe that the student athletes added to the college overall and its philosophy. The coaches

made sure that the athletes were involved in college activities and events outside their own programs."



Each program had a measure of success:

Volleyball won the Region V championship in 1992 and 1997. The team lost to Wharton County Junior College in 1992, falling short of the national tournament that year. They made the national tournament in 1997.

Men's basketball earned conference championships in 2001, 2003, 2004, and 2009. The team made it to the regional tournament 18 times. Women's basketball won conference championships in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020 with a trip to the Region V Championship Game in 2017 and 2020. The team has been to the playoffs 11 times.

The Collin College Express softball team made it to post-season play every year from 1997 to 2003 and reached the regional tournament finals in 1999 and 2001. The team was ranked fifth in the nation in 1999.

The college district decided to scale back its interscholastic athletic offerings in 2003 and ended the baseball, volleyball and softball programs. The college's baseball fields at the Plano Campus were turned into parking for the rapidly growing campus a few years after the end of that program.

## 1996

**Jan. 23** - The college's Board of Trustees signed an interlocal agreement with the City of Frisco to build a fitness complex, including a natatorium, at the Frisco Campus.

**March 2** - The groundbreaking for the Natatorium/Physical Education Building at the Frisco Campus was held.



**March** - The college launched its own cable station.

**October** - SAIL (Seniors Active in Learning) began offering new educational opportunities for people age 55 (originally 50) and older.





Collin College currently has men's and women's basketball and tennis, with both sports being played at the Plano Campus.

### **Collin County Law Enforcement Academy Opens**

Law enforcement training joined the fire sciences program at the college in 1990, when the Collin County Sheriff's Academy moved its Texas Commission on Law Enforcement courses established in 1987 to the McKinney Campus. The move was beneficial to both entities, according to Jackie Carter, longtime police training officer and the first rangemaster at the college. Carter noted that before the move, the Sheriff's Office did not have dedicated classrooms for training.

The Collin County Law Enforcement Academy (CCLEA) had 15 cadet graduates from its first class. Local law enforcement played a large role in shaping the program, and many instructors donated their time to train future officers.

Initially, the resources the college could offer, including classrooms and computers, improved the academy, but the program lacked some of the needed training components. For instance, the academy had to practice shooting at an outdoor range, making training difficult in hot or foul weather.

That changed with an expansion on the McKinney Campus in 1999 that provided new training options for law enforcement and fire science, including a 10-lane and 25-yard shooting range.

The next major building project for the CCLEA was the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC), which opened in 2018. [See page 76 for more information about the PSTC and the Collin College Law Enforcement Academy training facilities.]

### **Fire Academy Opens**

The basic firefighter certification program, better known as the Fire Academy, started in 1990. The college had offered college credit classes, but the opening of the academy marked the point at which the college district began offering a full array of firefighter training as it is today ... sort of.

The college district had to build the program from the ground up, which required the cooperation of area fire departments. Fire Academy Director Pat McAuliff said that in the early years, the academy had to borrow a lot of equipment from different providers, including the Lewisville,

## 1997

**Feb. 1997** - Women's Softball slides home at Collin College.

**Aug. 16** - The groundbreaking for the Superdome bicycle racing track was held at the Frisco Campus.

**Fall** - The college district offered two English courses online, taking its first steps toward online education.



**Oct. 29** - Opening ceremonies were held for the Dental Hygiene Center at the McKinney Campus.

**December** - The Lady Express volleyball team competed in the National Tournament.





McKinney, Plano, and Sherman fire departments. Because those departments needed to remain ready for emergencies, the equipment was often backup equipment.

“We kind of got the leftovers,” McAuliff said. “Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn’t work. And I guess generally that built character in some of our early students, who learned how to work with things that failed.”

Because of limited equipment availability and limited space for teaching, the Fire Academy learned to improvise. Sometimes that meant pretending to break down a door instead of actually doing it. Other times it meant driving long distances to practice in burn towers. Academy students traveled to Sherman, Lewisville, and Plano to practice their training.

“There were times that we would have to drive as far as Waxahachie to find a burn facility,” said Matt Uppole, a battalion chief in Coppell who served as a student assistant in 1991 and later became an instructor. “It was truly the road show during the early days.”

The road show ended for more than a decade in 1999 with the construction of a burn tower at the McKinney

Campus. The facility provided the Fire Academy and local fire departments with greater access to training facilities in Collin County.

The road show resumed in 2014 when the college retired that facility to make room for the McKinney Campus Conference Center. By that time, however, the college district had invested in the fire science program and the Fire Academy, and the equipment was far superior to the borrowed equipment it had at startup.

The academy’s reputation had grown in that time as well. McAuliff said the academy’s reputation in the state is “outstanding.”

“We typically are the first or second program that state officials will refer to when they are asked about good programs,” McAuliff said.

What’s more, McAuliff noted, the program has provided firefighters for every municipal fire department in Collin County.

The academy would get another boost in 2018 with the opening of the Public Safety Training Center, a 25-acre

## 1998

**November** – Gov. George W. Bush visited the college on a campaign swing prior to being re-elected to the state’s highest office.

**December** – College Place, student housing at Plano Campus, was approved for construction.

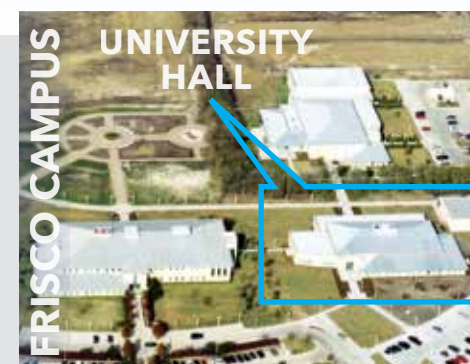


## 1999

**Jan. 8** – Dr. John Anthony announced his retirement during All Staff Day.

**May** – The college’s Learning Communities Program was showcased at a national conference.

**June** – University Hall and Cougar Den opened at the Frisco Campus.



firefighter and police officer facility in McKinney. [See page 76 for more information about the PSTC and the Collin College Fire Academy.]

### **Collin College Professors Earn Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Recognitions**

In 1991, Gary Hodge became the first at the college to earn the honor of being named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor.

The honor recognizes outstanding professors from two- and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private. Hodge was recognized in part for his commitment to student involvement in discussions.

“Students learn best when they are actively involved,” Hodge said. “Learning is not a passive activity. This is especially true in sociology. Sociology must be experienced to be learned.”

### **Collin College Begins Hosting the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast**

The Plano Community Forum moved its annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy to the Plano Campus in 1992 after outgrowing the Douglass Community Center,

beginning a partnership that has lasted ever since. The organization had previously worked with Collin College to present art shows, but moving the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast has benefited both the Plano Community Forum and the students of Collin College in the form of scholarships.



### **PROFESSORS HONORED BY THE MINNIE STEVENS PIPER FOUNDATION**

- 1991** Gary Bruce Hodge, M.A., Professor of Sociology
- 1996** Shelley Denise Lane, Ph.D., Professor of Speech Communication
- 2001** Randal Scott Yarbrough, M.A., Professor of English
- 2008** Rosemary M. Karr, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics
- 2009** Peggy Chittenden Brown, Ph.D., Professor of English and Humanities
- 2014** Kyle Grant Wilkison, Ph.D., Professor of History
- 2015** Amina Khalifa El-Ashmawy, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry



**August** - Allen Center, originally named CCCCD@Allen, opened in Allen High School.

**Fall** - The Plano Campus Fine Arts gallery and classrooms opened.



**Fall** - The College Center at Rockwall opened, providing daytime classes in that city for the first time.





The event has grown from meager numbers in its early years to about 500 annual breakfast-goers, who are treated to student performances, a topical keynote address, and the awarding of scholarships. Attendees honor Dr. King by supporting education at the event, which also serves as a fundraiser.

“It has been a wonderful experience for our guests, especially for some of our young adults – some of whom have never been to a higher education institution,” said Evelyn McKnight, a longtime co-chair of the event along with former Collin College Trustee and co-chair Adrian Rodriguez. “Education is paramount to the Plano Community Forum and Collin College. That is why we try so hard to give scholarships to as many students as we can.”

#### **The College District Launches Its Own Cable TV Channel**

In April 1992, the college district launched a cable TV channel. Produced by the college’s audiovisual department and Plano Telecable, the channel was available in Plano and Richardson. The airtime was the same as the Plano Campus library hours.

It later expanded to a 24-hour cable station that could also be viewed in Wylie, Frisco, and McKinney, thanks to a deal with Time Warner Cable. Verizon also expanded the service. Programming included announcements, educational material, public domain movies, music videos at night, and distance learning classes, as well as student news and event programs produced by the college.

“We made sure that anything that needed to be publicized on campus got some airtime,” said Vernon Hadnot, TV programming associate at the time.

The cable station’s programming slowed down in the early 2010s and stopped broadcasting in 2013.

#### **The College Helps Wylie Recover from 1993 Tornado**

On May 13, 1993, Collin County Community College District employees and students came together in a show of unity and community in the City of Wylie, helping to clean up debris after a tornado passed through the town May 10.

Dressed in college T-shirts and ball caps, the group concentrated its efforts near Paul Wilson Road at the home of the Clark family. More than 20 employees volunteered to assist,



## 1999

**September** - Dr. Cary A. Israel assumed his role as the second president of the college district.

**September** - The Fire Academy's burn building and gun range opened at the McKinney Campus.

**Fiscal Year 1999 Total Enrollment: 30,459**



with a *Caleidoscope* employee and student newsletter article giving special thanks to employees Martha Ellis and Mary Wright for helping to organize the effort.

“I never will forget when I saw the devastation,” Donna Okaro, one of the college’s volunteers, remembered. “It was really bad. I thought, ‘How can we make any kind of difference?’ The day that we worked and moved some of the debris paled in comparison to so much loss. But I remember how people were so grateful to see us do what we did. Everybody did a few hours, and a few hours turned into a few days, which turned into a few weeks, and Wylie got back up.”

### **The Courtyard Center Becomes the College’s Home for Continuing Education**

“The Courtyard Center for Professional and Economic Development (CYC) is a one-stop source to meet the education and training needs of Collin County business and industry. Established by Collin County Community College, CYC represents a partnership that centralizes a variety of programs and services designed to strengthen the county’s economy while enhancing its ability to maintain a competitive edge in today’s rapidly changing business climate.”

*– notes from the Courtyard Center grand opening celebration program, Oct. 4, 1993*

The Collin County Community College District Board of Trustees purchased the property at 4800 Preston Park Boulevard for \$2.9 million in 1993. It was envisioned as a central home for economic development and workforce training programs, which were then spread across the college district at six sites.

“This would consolidate those, and it gives real breathing room for our other campuses,” President Anthony said after the Trustees voted to purchase the property. In addition to the Continuing Education Division of the college, when it opened the facility housed the Collin County Small Business Development Center, the Collin County Employment and Training Center, the Collin County Employment Resource Center, and the Plano Economic Development Board.

Beginning in the late 1990s, the building would host the district’s administration, including the president’s office, business office, and human resources, moving them from the McKinney Campus. The Courtyard Center would be home to those offices until the Collin Higher Education Center opened in 2010.

### **The Chili Cook-Off Heats Up**

In November 1993, the college held the first Chili Cook-Off at the McKinney Campus in what would become a decades-long tradition of colleagues facing off in friendly, yet spicy, competition. Over the years, the Golden Spoon Award was given for the tastiest chili, while other winners were named for “wimpiest,” “faux chili,” “roadkill,” and “hottest.”

In 1999, the *Caleidoscope* employee and student newsletter printed a poem by Dr. Gordon O’Neal that tried to capture the glee of the event. “Ode to Chili” read in part:

“Chili, the food of kings, queens, scouts, and cowboys, too,  
Is best washed down with an icy brew.  
But we’re at work, so iced tea will do,  
To quench the burn of our spicy stew.”





### **The College Participates in International Initiatives**

The college district reached well beyond its borders by assisting institutions in other countries, providing students with international educational opportunities, and creating an exchange of cultures in the 1990s.

The college established a multimedia distance learning project with Ivanovo State Energy University in Russia in 1993. Professor Russell Kunz taught five Russian students Principles of Management via email. Russia's Ministry of Education subsequently designated Ivanovo as a training center for 11 Russian regions. Kunz was joined by professors Stephanie Meinhardt and Lillie Palmer on a trip to Russia in November 1995.

That same year, Board of Trustees member Tino Trujillo helped establish a student exchange program with the University of Colima in Mexico. The program encouraged cross-cultural education by finding host homes in Plano and the Colima area of Mexico. Students explored their host countries, learned about their cultures, and practiced the native language. Trujillo was honored with the prestigious Ohtli recognition by the Mexican government in 1999, in part because of the student exchange program.

The college reached out to the former Soviet Republic in 1997, when English professor Dr. Kay Mizell traveled to Kazakhstan to offer seminars for teachers and work with

English Clubs, where students practiced their conversational English and wrote essays. The international mission was sparked by an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, in which Kazakhstan's president expressed interest in American methodology. His hope was that a more robust educational program would help trigger an economic rebirth after years of stagnation.

In 1999, in a slightly sunnier part of the world, the college offered a marine biology course in the Caribbean. A group of students spent Maymester at Belize Tropical Research and Education Center on Ambergris Caye, studying the marine life along a Belizian reef, SCUBA diving, snorkeling, bird watching, and beachcombing.

### **Learning Communities Draw National Attention**

Students experienced a new kind of classroom with Learning Communities, beginning in the fall of 1994. At the time, Learning Communities, which study a single subject or theme through the lens of multiple disciplines, was a relatively new concept in academia. Professors taught the extended classes as a team, providing students with a unique perspective by approaching a central question from different angles.

"The Learning Communities concept helps students establish a social context for learning," said Harriet Schwartz, dean of Social Sciences and Public Services, in a *Caleidoscope* employee and student newsletter article. "Once they form

relationships with their peers and instructors, students are less likely to drop out of college ... and new skills developed from the program are retained for a lifetime.”

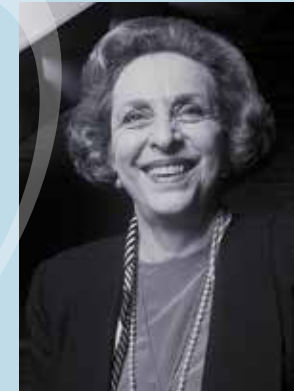
Learning Communities classes included unlikely pairings like Political Science and Physical Education for “Political Fitness,” and complementary subjects like Fine Arts and Psychology for “This is Your Brain on Art.”

In 1997, college faculty participated in a three-year, nationwide study of Learning Communities by the Washington Center for Undergraduate Education at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. A group of 21 colleges across the country contributed to the study.

In 1999, the college was asked to present the results from its foray into the educational technique at the National Conference on Learning Communities in Seattle. The college was selected to produce a video showcasing its program, focusing on the educational value, as well as the role that technology, field trips, and community service play. “It really is a big honor,” said Gary Hodge, dean of Social Sciences and Public Services at the time. “No other college was asked to do this. It’s great for the college.”

#### **Sue Olivier’s Speech at the College’s 10th Anniversary Founders’ Day Celebration**

“What was accomplished in creating this college district bears witness to the work and dedication of each of the founders, young and old, men and women, who unselfishly gave to this community what I believe is the most significant gift you can bestow — your time, your talent, your hopes for people young and old — and most of all your love and support for your fellow human beings,” said Sue Willard Olivier, founding Board of Trustees member.



#### **Technology Companies Come to Collin College**

Technology played a major part in the college’s outreach in the 1990s. From being named an Apple Regional Multimedia Center and a New Media Center to the internet technology and networking programs at the Frisco Campus, the college works to stay on the leading edge of educational technology and programming.



**1990 APPLE LAB**



The college was named an Apple Regional Multimedia Center in 1992, with a \$90,000 grant to the advertising art department to help promote and produce Apple-based multimedia projects in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Offering seminars, workshops, and traditional classes in multimedia subjects, the center's Mac Lab provided visitors and students with a chance to see the future.

"This is the next technology wave," predicted Michael McGar, professor of advertising art. "It's going to completely change the world. Movies, books, presentations, coloring books – they're all going to be multimedia on disk."

In 1995, the college was one of 30 colleges and universities named a New Media Center as part of an industry partnership. The college was asked to be a resource for other higher education institutions developing or strengthening their multimedia programs.

#### **Seniors Active in Learning Sets SAIL**

The college launched SAIL (Seniors Active in Learning) in October 1996 with 90 lifelong learners, age 50 and older, enrolled in classes. By the end of the first year, SAIL had 120 members.

Proposed by Margo Vargas (now Ford) in 1995 after attending an information session on Institutes for Learning in Retirement and affiliated with the Elderhostel Institute Network, the program allows its members to choose which courses to offer, with many taught by SAIL members themselves. The first year of SAIL included courses on Roman culture, creative problem solving, genealogy, "The Natural Wonders of North Texas," art appreciation, ancient literature, and the U.S. Constitution.

"This is more rewarding than teaching the young," SAIL instructor Charles Lenhard said in a 1996 interview with *Richardson News*. "The students are all seasoned by life. Whenever you throw something at them, you get back their experiences."

SAIL members credit the program with keeping them mentally active in a relaxed, non-threatening environment, as well as providing new friendship and social opportunities.

Joan Stoler, a SAIL member in 1997 studying art and creative writing, told the *Plano Profile*, "The mind must continue to grow and do things."

The program has grown since its inception to between 500 and 600 students per semester, including more than 20 from the initial classes in the fall of 1996. Members must now be 55 or older to attend, but the spirit of the program has stayed true to its initial mission of offering interesting educational opportunities to retired seniors.

#### **Classes are Offered Online**

In 1997, the college offered online courses for the first time. An article in the college's *Caleidoscope* employee and student newsletter read, "While it's difficult to juggle a work and school schedule, the college district will make it easier this fall with courses conducted on the World Wide Web.

"Courses available via the web this fall will include Composition and Rhetoric I (ENGL-1301.WW5) and World Literature II (ENGL-2333.WW5). Students who enroll in these courses must possess keyboard skills, Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer, and 28.8 modem access." The article went on to say that students enrolling in the courses would receive additional information through the mail after

they registered. Email had not yet become the prevalent form of communication.

Today, online classes are offered through iCollin.

### **The College and the City of Frisco Partner on Natatorium**

Collin County Community College District and the City of Frisco partnered to build a swimming pool as a part of the Frisco Campus Phase II, which opened in 1997. The pool was part of a physical education and recreation facility being built behind Founders Hall.

The complex was owned and operated by the college, and was open to the public for a modest fee.

The natatorium was used for water aerobics and swim classes by the college. The city used it for swim meets, parks and recreation classes, and general public enjoyment.

Eventually, the college district decided that the space was needed for other uses. The pool was filled in and the space was used to house the Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Education in 2009.



### **The Dental Hygiene Center Opens at the McKinney Campus**

A 6,000-square-foot dental facility opened at the McKinney Campus in the fall of 1997, providing training facilities for one of the college district's newest programs along with a community outreach for patients needing dental exams. Equipped with eight dental operatory stations, four radiography units for conventional and digital radiography, a panoramic X-ray unit, 12 lab stations, and sterilization equipment, the facility was state of the art in dental hygiene education.

Trustee Dr. E.T. Boon praised the facility and the fledgling program at the facility's opening ceremony, saying, "As a dentist, I'm so proud we have the facility to train these hygienists to serve the people of Collin County."

Sixteen students were chosen for the inaugural class after 700 people made inquiries about the program.

"The Dental Hygiene Center at McKinney Campus exemplifies the commitment of the college to be responsive to the needs of our community," Dr. John Anthony said at the time. "The program was developed from the ground up with active participation of one of the college's most enthusiastic and hardworking advisory committees."

Beginning in 1998, the center began offering low-cost dental exams to patients in the community, cleaning and checking their teeth and gums for signs of possible decay or gum disease. Patients needing follow-up care were referred to a dentist.





### **Hospitality and Culinary Programs are Introduced**

As the hotel and tourism industry grew in Dallas-Fort Worth, the college saw the need for a hospitality program to prepare students for those jobs.

A hospitality degree was introduced at the college in 1997 with classes at the Frisco Campus after years of student requests. Lillie Palmer, the dean of business and computer science who helped plan the program, said it would rival Cornell University and the University of Houston, two of the nation's top programs.

Although a degree was approved in 1997, the culinary program began in earnest in 1999 with a 1,400-square-foot production kitchen at the Allen Center in the newly opened Allen High School. The Allen Center provided classroom space and gave students an eager market for their food.

"The idea was that we would use it during the day around the high school schedule," recalled Karen Musa, who was brought on to start the culinary program and currently serves as executive dean at the Courtyard Center. "We took full advantage of that kitchen for about 10 years and proved the need for our own space." That new space was 9,200 square feet of classroom and kitchen lab space at the Frisco Campus, built over the natatorium that the college district had partnered with the City of Frisco on years earlier. The Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Education, as the programs were rebranded, opened in 2009. The college started a full pastry program at that time as well. Up until that point, the college district had a certificate in pastry, but not a full degree.

### **Service Learning Introduces Students to a Wider Community**

In 1998, Collin College developed an academic engagement program that would have wide-ranging community impact for decades to come. Service Learning matched academic course goals and learning objectives with community needs to create positive community engagement. Guided by faculty, students chose a community partner to work with, giving the students a chance to help others, develop interests and leadership skills, and apply knowledge, skills, and abilities learned in the classroom.

The program has encouraged Collin College students to participate in hurricane recovery efforts, veterans' history projects, mentoring at-risk youth, social service outreach and response, and hundreds of other projects. From community-based projects to homebuilding charities and animal shelters to educational organizations, students have dozens of community partners to choose from. Some programs, including nursing and dental hygiene, even require their students to engage in a certain number of service learning hours every semester as part of their education. After completing their service, students critically reflect on their experience and present their learning outcomes to their classmates, encouraging others to get involved.

Collin College's program was so successful that it garnered state and national attention, earning several honors: the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Community Engagement Classification (2010, 2015, 2020); the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll (2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016; honor roll program ended in 2016); and the Campus Compact National Center for Community

Colleges Collaboration Award. The program was also a founding member of the Campus to Community Coalition of Texas (formally known as Texas Campus Compact).

### **The College Prepares for Y2K**

The college district took the task of Year 2000, or Y2K, compliance seriously, forming a committee and training 25 team leaders to survey the college's computers by October 1998.

The concern arose from a programming assumption that "00," the two-digit year designation for 2000, might be read as 1900 when the clock struck Jan. 1, 2000. The United States and the world feared that the error could cause glitches in computer systems worldwide, possibly leading to disastrous consequences.

David Hoyt, the college's chief information officer, recalled that the college checked all of its code, contacted vendors to make sure their systems were compliant, and even had staff on call for New Year's Eve "just in case." The checks did not reveal any weaknesses in the college's computers, so its staff was fairly confident the changeover would go smoothly.

"After all the conversations, we didn't expect anything to happen, and it didn't," he said with a chuckle. "But we did prepare a lot, and it didn't hurt to check those things out and do a little due diligence."

### **The Velodrome Opens**

Cyclists across North Texas cheered the introduction of an Olympic-level velodrome on the Frisco Campus in 1998. A partnership between the college, which donated the land, the City of Frisco, and Electronic Data Systems, the "Superdrome," as it would be known, was a racing track built at a 44-degree

angle to allow for maximum speed taking corners. The track was built with permanent seating for 2,000 and the option for temporary seating.

"Curriculum programs will be developed in cycling biomechanics, exercise physiology, sports psychology, and other topics," Dr. John Anthony said at the time. "In addition, this will be an opportunity to create recreation programs for the community and area youth."

Within two years of opening, the Superdrome was known worldwide. In 1998, the U.S. Cycling Federation gave the Superdrome its highest rating, 96.5 points out of 100. The track was home to the 1999 World Cup and the 2000 Olympic trials, in addition to National Collegiate Athletic Association nationals in 2000. The track was well-known as a training facility for the U.S. national team and several international teams.

However, the good times did not last. By 2002, the track closed because of problems with upkeep. It reopened in 2003 and underwent major renovations in 2009. When the Superdrome's management contract expired in 2018, the college and the city declined to renew it. A group of cyclists raised money to buy, dismantle, and store the track for future reassembly at a site yet to be named. Other facility features were sold at auction.



### **The College Center at Rockwall Opens**

Although Collin County Community College District had offered dual credit classes in Rockwall since 1993, its first major investment in the community was the opening of the College Center at Rockwall in the fall of 1999.

Housed in a new wing of Rockwall High School, the 4,920-square-foot facility improved access to college credit and continuing education course opportunities for all. A

calculation at the time projected that Rockwall students saved \$28,262 in travel expenses in the first year alone, since they no longer had to drive to a campus in Plano or McKinney.

Featuring two general purpose classrooms, a computer lab, and a small seminar room, the facility was built in cooperation with Rockwall ISD, which provided for a three-year renewable lease. More than 1,000 people took advantage of courses at the College Center at Rockwall within that three-year span.

In 2002, Rockwall ISD decided not to extend the lease because it needed the space for its growing high school population.

While daytime classes ended for the time being, the dual credit classes continued, and all students were still able to take night classes at Rockwall High School.

The college's daytime classes returned to Rockwall in 2004 with the opening of the Higher Education Center at Rockwall in partnership with Rockwall ISD and Texas A&M University-Commerce. The classes were offered in the Rockwall ISD Administration/Education Center. That continued until 2017, when it was moved to the Rockwall ISD Administration Building, and then to Rockwall's Dr. Gene Burton College and Career Academy in 2018.

### **CCCCD@ALLEN Opens in Allen High School**

A 10,000-square-foot portion of Allen High School opened to dual credit students and the public as CCCC@ALLEN in the summer of 1999. Featuring classrooms, career services, financial aid, a testing center, distance learning, and an "information commons, stocked with audio and video tapes, periodicals, electronic databases, and computers with internet connections," the facility was considered one of the college district's most ambitious partnerships with a school district up to that time.

"This facility presents the college with an excellent opportunity to develop a model high school/community outreach program," Dr. Anthony said at the time.





Collin College Allen Center, as it was later renamed, served the college district through the Spring of 2020, when Allen ISD helped fund construction of a dual credit space in the Collin College Technical Campus. The Allen Center property was reclaimed by Allen ISD for needed Allen High School expansions.

### **The Century Court Apartments are Built**

In December 1998, the college district approved Century Development to build a 128-unit student apartment complex on acres of the Plano Campus. College Place, as it would be named at opening, comprised six three-story buildings with residences for students taking at least nine credit hours of classes at the college. The developer had constructed 15 other campus residence properties throughout Texas and five other states. Century Management, the company's management arm, managed the property.

"This is another example of a unique partnership involving the college district, the college's Foundation, and a private developer," said Dr. Anthony at the time the project was announced.

The project was a boon for students who wanted to live closer to campus and for student athletes who moved from another area of the country, ensuring that they had a place to stay in Plano. The project was also a revenue generator for the

college's Foundation, with more than \$745,250 going toward student scholarships since 2010.

The apartment complex later changed its name to Century Court. The college purchased the property and began a major renovation project in 2019. The apartments are now known as Collin College Student Housing.

### **College Business Office is Recognized for Its Work**

Noting its strong financial reporting and governmental accounting, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) recognized the Collin County Community College District Business Office with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the first time in 1999.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition offered in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The honor is based on an organization's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), which is judged by an impartial panel to determine if it meets the industry's highest standards, including clear communication of the organization's financial story.

The college has earned that distinction every year since – 22 times as of 2020.

### **Dr. John Anthony Retires**

By the time Dr. John Anthony announced during an All Staff Day address on Jan. 8, 1999, that he would retire at the end of that year, the college had grown into the ninth-largest community college district in the state. Throughout his 14-year tenure in the leadership post, he provided a steady hand for the college district.

“His contribution and leadership have brought us from zero to where we are today – the finest community college system in the country, bar none,” said former Trustee and Board Chair Carey Cox. “Every student, every parent of a student, and every citizen of Collin County should be grateful and stand up and acknowledge Dr. Anthony’s commitment to excellence in education, which has become a Collin County passion.”

Other founding Board members called Dr. Anthony a “visionary” whose “tireless efforts are sincerely appreciated.”

For his part, Dr. Anthony said he thought the college district was in a good position to move forward, and he was thankful for his time with the college. He had been in education for 40 years, 25 of which were in college district leadership positions.

“This decision was obviously the most difficult decision I have ever had to make in my long professional career, for this is the best job I have ever had, and you are the best faculty and staff I have ever worked with,” Dr. Anthony said in his retirement announcement.

He also laid out the plan for a search to find the next president, which he hoped would happen by September 1999. He volunteered to stay on through a transition period ending Dec. 31, 1999.

The Board of Trustees approved Dr. Cary A. Israel as the college’s second president in its May 1999 meeting, with Dr. Israel taking the reins on Sept. 1. Dr. Israel had been president of Raritan Valley Community College in New Jersey for five years at that time. Before coming to Raritan Valley, he was president of the Illinois Community College System and president of Front Range Community College in Westminster, Colo.

“It’s really an honor to be here and to follow a great person like Dr. Anthony,” Dr. Israel said. “I’m looking forward to exciting times and sustaining what Dr. Anthony is doing.”



**Gary Hodge**  
Collin College Professor and Dean  
of Academic Affairs, 1985-2019

“What makes the college unique is the people. I am constantly impressed by the quality of the faculty and the leadership here. When I was the dean, I got to visit classroom faculty and see them teaching. The innovation, creativity, just the excellence that exists in the classroom, stands out first to me. Everywhere you go in this district, there are good people – not only good people to work with, but good in terms of the excellence and dedication they bring. I see people who really care about the college and want to excel, and that’s outstanding.”

**Dr. Peggy Brown**  
Collin College Professor  
Hired 1985

“The thing that was so good for all of us was that we could try new things and were encouraged to do new things. We were allowed to be innovative. We started a lot of programs. It was a new college, so we had to.

“Everybody felt this camaraderie. Everybody knew everybody. There was a familial sense to it. That was a very strong sense in the ‘90s and in the latter part of the ‘80s.”



**Pat McAuliff**  
Fire Academy Director  
Hired 1986

“I think we’ve made great strides over the years in bringing forth recognition of the college. Obviously that’s been accomplished through the number of campuses, the number of facilities that the college has built. But I think more importantly it’s happened because of our graduates. Our graduates are out in the workforce, they’re doing the jobs, they’re being a part of the community, and they’re reflecting back on their days at Collin College.”

**Tony Howard**  
Collin College Professor  
Hired 1986

“It’s been sort of a crescendo, a slow building of good faculty, good students, good staff, we all kind of work together. In the beginning, Dr. Anthony had this idea that everyone is faculty, and it was kind of a unique way to look at things. We didn’t call staff faculty, but anyone that essentially had a role in teaching – they were representing higher education and the college. I think that’s still true. I think there’s a sense in which everyone is involved in the greater good of education.”



**Alumnus Dr. Guillermo Ameer**  
Director and founder of the Center for Advanced Regenerative Engineering at Northwestern University and a professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Surgery.

“Collin College gave me the foundation for my bachelor’s degree. Without my bachelor’s degree, I could not get my Ph.D. I was able to get an education for a very reasonable price. The return on that investment is probably immeasurable. I work now with the community college systems here in Chicago to see if we can do similar programs to expose students to the research we do at Northwestern.”





2000  
2009

## FROM Y2K TO 2009; IDEAS BECOME ACTIONS

From 2000 to 2009, Collin County and Collin County Community College District were growing. During this stellar decade, the college celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2005 and received a new name, a new logo, and a new mascot. Civic engagement flourished, and partnerships with universities were forged, foreshadowing the college's future university center, the Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC).



By 1999, Collin County's population had doubled from the college's inception in 1985. In fiscal year 2000, the college's enrollment was 33,336, and by fiscal year 2009 it had jumped to 47,412. The community supported the college's growth by passing a \$57 million bond in 2001.

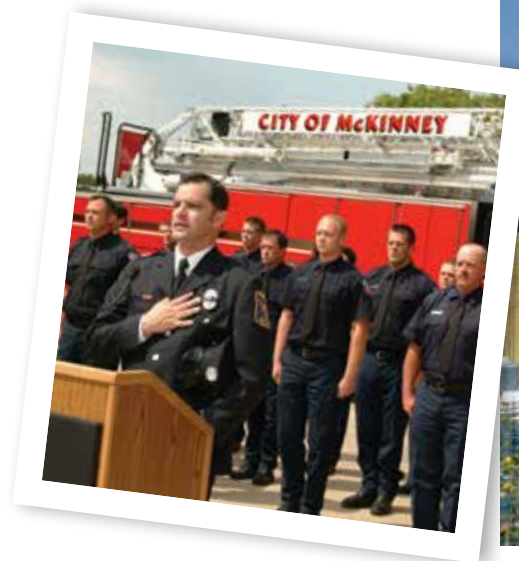
Responding to the community's critical need for teachers, the college developed the nation's first alternative teacher certification program at a community college. This program was one of ten in the nation to receive the American Association of Community Colleges' Teaching by Choice Award. Serving as an example for other educational institutions, the college offered its first national teleconference, "Making Mentoring Accessible: Innovation and Technology in Teacher Induction." More than 125 organizations from 39 states and Puerto Rico registered for the teleconference.

This decade ushered in the college's facelift. Students voted to change the mascot from Express (a train) to Collin Cougar. Beginning with the postulates established

under Dr. Anthony's leadership, the college staff and faculty created Core Values, and the college began transitioning to its new, shorter name – Collin College. In addition, the college's website changed from ccccd.edu to collin.edu.

Symbolizing the heart of learning, comprehensive libraries were built at the McKinney Campus, Frisco Campus, and later at the Plano Campus to serve as scholarly centers of the college. Flanked by classrooms and professors' offices, the new libraries served as learning communities within learning communities.

The college received numerous awards for the design of its new libraries. The McKinney Chamber of Commerce and City of McKinney honored the McKinney Campus library with the "Institutional Building Design Award." The Jeffersonian-style architectural design was also featured on SchoolDesigns.com.









In March 2010, the library was featured as the cover of the national *Choice* magazine, and it also received national exposure in a four-page spread in *College Planning and Management* magazine. In 2015, the Plano Campus library was featured in *Architect*, the journal of the American Institute of Architects.

The CASE Foundation selected the college as one of six colleges and universities and one of 16 civically engaged organizations to watch across the nation. The only community college, Collin College was listed in company with Colgate University, DePaul University, and Tufts University. The college launched the Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement, which was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The college created Debate Watch, which offered students the opportunity to view presidential debates on the college's campuses. The college community embraced the Rock the Vote! initiative. In an effort to eliminate voting obstacles, the college's three main campuses in Frisco, McKinney, and

Plano became official polling sites where students, members of the community, and employees could vote. To prepare for legislative years, Collin College developed economic summits, which brought community leaders and economic experts together to address issues affecting businesses in Collin County.

As gasoline prices rose, the college unveiled Weekend College, which offered classes on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, allowing students to make fewer trips to campus and putting existing facilities, that previously sat empty on the weekends, to work.

Community has always been at the core of this institution. Partnering with area hospitals, the college offered an annual Health and Safety Fair, and the Consumer Health Information Center at the McKinney Campus opened so individuals could research the latest medical information on topics ranging from HIV to swine flu. Community members gleaned information regarding the benefits of higher education at Destination College events, and they joined students from a variety of disciplines

## 2000

**Spring** - The Cultivating Scholars program was founded. An initiative in which students pioneer research and/or subject-mastery, this program also provides students with an opportunity to work with a faculty scholar and present findings at a conference-type summit at the end of the year.



**August** - The McKinney Campus C-wing, bookstore expansion, and maintenance and records building were opened.

**August** - The college signed its first pre-admission agreement with the University of North Texas.

**Sept. 1** - The college established the first community college-based, post-baccalaureate, alternative teacher certification program in the country and acquired more than \$3 million in grants from the Department of Education, Department of Labor, and Carl Perkins to support students seeking an alternative route to teaching in high-need content areas.



for a collegewide book club known as Book-In-Common. Meanwhile, the Knowledge is Power lecture series continued to draw a full house of community members and students.

Several of the college's professors were named U.S. and Texas professors of the year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and Piper Professors by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation. Successful in their own right, Collin College students experienced zero gravity with NASA and were named to the All-USA Academic Team by the international honorary society Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges, and *USA Today*.

**T**echnology was on the rise, and the college was on the cutting edge, creating a 54-mile Wide Area Network (WAN), connecting all campuses with needed technology, and offering free wireless internet on campus and an electronic schedule. Since 1998-1999, the college has been a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) regional academy, teaching Cisco's semester one through four courses

to high school teachers who, in turn, teach the courses to their junior and senior students. In 2000, Collin College was chosen to become one of six Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) Training Centers in the U.S.

Collin was the only college teaching courses required for CCNP certification to Cisco-certified networking associates in the eight-state Southwest Region. CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associates) certified teachers came to the college for this training from Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado.

As the decade waned, the path was paved for the future. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board formally approved the partnership between Collin College and five universities to form the core of the college's university center, the Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC). A signing ceremony was held with officials from Collin College and partner universities, including Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Dallas, and the University of North Texas.

**September** - The Collin Service Learning program won the Service Learning 2000 Collaboration Award from the Campus Compact National Center for Community Colleges.



## 2001

**February** - Collin College receives national Bellwether award in innovation for the Learning Communities program.

**April** - Collin College student Thomas Doan was named to the All-USA Academic Team by the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa along with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and *USA Today*.

## moments in history . . .

### Collin College Hosts Economic Summits

The college held economic summits in nonlegislative years to boost momentum throughout the county in preparation for legislative years. Co-led by Ron Harris, now former Collin County judge, and Dr. Toni Jenkins, the college's executive vice president at the time and current senior vice president of campus operations, these half-day events brought community leaders and economic experts together to discuss issues affecting Collin County. Biennial events, the Collin County Economic Summits served as a precursor for determining which issues were important to businesses and residents countywide. Many of the economic summit representatives met with legislators to discuss key issues and represented Collin County in Austin, Texas.

**2002** – “Forging New Strategies”

**2004** – “The Future Is Now”

**2006** – “Orchestrating Our Future”

### College Honors Living Legends

The Living Legends program recognized local individuals whose actions profoundly shaped the progress of the Collin County community. The tribute served as a catalyst for countywide unity and participation. In addition, by honoring pillars of the community, the program paved the way for the future by establishing the Living Legends Scholarship Fund.

Living Legends debuted in 2003, and the first recipient was the late Gladys Harrington, who was credited with starting the City of Plano's first library.

Additional honorees included:

**2004** – Professor John Freeman Hightower and Dr. Myrtle Nash Hightower of Plano, Dr. Erwin Pink and Elisabeth Pink of Frisco, and Mrs. Gerry Ruschhaupt of McKinney

**2005** – Richard and Diane Dill of McKinney, Jan Miller of Anna/Celina, Rita G. Smith of Wylie, and Bob Warren of Frisco

**May 1** – R. Scott Yarbrough, professor of English, was named a 2001 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor.

**May 22** – The college formally adopted Core Values: “We have a passion for Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity.”

**Nov. 6** – Collin County voters approved a \$57 million bond referendum for Collin College.

## 2002

**April** – Collin College student John Payton was named to the All-USA Academic Team by the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa along with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and *USA Today*.

**July** – The 54-mile Wide Area Network (WAN) at 1 GB was constructed.

**August** – The first electronic version of the college's class schedule was released.

**Nov. 12** – The college opened Texas' first academic Convergence Lab at the Frisco Campus funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

**2006** – Raymond B. Cooper of Wylie, Helen Hall of McKinney, Fred and Mazzie Moses of Plano, and Jean and Mike Newman of Plano

**2007** – Nancy Boyd of Plano, Mary Alice Skaggs of Celina, and Lynn and Neil Sperry of McKinney

**2008** – Margaret Brooks of Plano, Mary Nelle Cummins of McKinney, Don Dillard of Richardson and McKinney, and Rutledge Haggard of Plano

**2009** – Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Plano, The Citizens of McKinney, David McCall III of Plano and Dr. Rick Reedy, superintendent of Frisco ISD

The Living Legends program concluded in 2009 with the naming of the 25th honoree in conjunction with the college's 25th anniversary. To ensure a lasting legacy of the Living Legends honorees, a naming opportunity was established, and the college's Plano Campus Conference Center was renamed the Living Legends Conference Center.

#### College Partners with Dental Care Professionals: Give Kids a Smile Day

Going to the dentist for the first time can be frightening for young children. That is why the college joined with area dentists to create the Give Kids a Smile day. Founded in 2003, this annual event brought dental hygiene students, the college's dental hygiene alumni, local dentists, and other dental care professionals together to treat economically disadvantaged children. The annual event was held at the college's McKinney Campus in its state-of-the-art dental hygiene clinic. Dental hygiene students, professors, and graduates took X-rays, placed sealants, performed blood pressure screenings, cleaned teeth, and provided oral hygiene instruction. They partnered with community leaders such as general dentists, pediatric dentists, and orthodontists, who placed



## 2003

**May 29** – Gladys Harrington was named the college's first Living Legend.

**Aug. 30** – The college held a public Mars observing session.

**October** – The first Rockin' the Ridge event was held at the Frisco Campus.

Living  
Legends



**October** – The college broke ground on a new library wing at the Frisco Campus. The 103,000-square-foot expansion housed art studios, music labs, a large lecture hall, general classrooms, faculty offices and a 50,000-square-foot library.

**November** – Women's Tennis won first place at the NCTC Fall Invitational in Gainesville, Texas.





fillings and crowns, and performed root canals and extractions in their offices. Hundreds of area children have received oral care through this volunteer effort. In 2018, Collin College dental hygiene professors and students participated in “Plano Families First,” providing screenings, fluoride treatments, and oral health education. In 2019, they served 300 children.

#### **College Creates Passport to the World Program**

The Passport to the World program was founded in 2009 by Collin College employees Dr. Terry Hockenbrough, Juanita Austin, Dr. Don Weasenforth, and Deborah Hall. This program allows community members, students, staff, and faculty to travel the world without ever leaving Collin County. The first Passport to the World presentation, “The Seven Continents,” was held Sept. 18, 2009. The popular event series is led by Collin College faculty and staff members who have traveled to a variety of global locations and who share their newly acquired knowledge about local history, cultures, art forms, architecture, religions, political systems, and more. The free series offers presentations each semester. Presenters share photographs, narrative, music, and dance.

#### **Collin College Remembers 9/11 with Firefighter Memorial Service**

Sept. 13, 2001, marked a somber occasion at Collin College. More than 200 Collin College students, professors, and staff members joined area firefighters at the college’s McKinney Campus to honor firefighters, police officers, and rescue workers who were killed in the line of duty during the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Pat McAuliff, Fire Science director, addressed the crowd, and in the tradition of the fire service, a fire engine bell was rung in honor of those who, in an effort to save others, died or were still missing.

To bring awareness to the hazards of the job and the importance of training, fire academy instructors gather the students for a brief ceremony any time a firefighter in the United States is killed in the line of duty.

Stuart Grant, a battalion chief of Dallas Fire Rescue and an academy instructor at the college, noted that Andy Fredricks was among the many fallen firefighters on that fateful day. Fredricks wrote tips in national fire service journals, and the college’s faculty taught his lessons to students.

**November** - The Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement was launched.

**Nov. 23** - ABC News anchor Peter Jennings visited the Plano Campus to moderate a dialogue between students and a panel of local journalists.



## **2004**

**April** - The college was named one of the nation’s Top 10 Digital Community Colleges by the Center for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in the second annual Digital Community Colleges Survey.

As a show of support for the families of the fallen firefighters, students in the college's Fire Academy Class 21 established the FDNY 9/11 Fund to assist the families of the fallen New York firefighters. Academy students Mike Hoff (Frisco) and Chad Husbands (Whitesboro resident and McKinney firefighter) led the organization of the fund.

#### College Hosts Inaugural Book-In-Common Program

What happens when nearly 2,000 students, studying eight different disciplines, read the same book simultaneously? A study group of mythic proportions that lasts for more than a decade is born. On Oct. 17, 2006, when Collin College students from cities throughout Collin County read *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions*, papers were written, projects were created, perspectives were shared, a commonality amidst diversity was found, and a new group of scholars emerged.

The group reading of *Big Fish* marked the beginning of the Book-In-Common program at the college. Regina Hughes, director of the Center for Scholarly and Civic Engagement at the time and current associate dean of academic affairs, proposed the idea of developing a new community of learners who have the opportunity to collaborate with students from

different disciplines. Participating students study the same book and share their findings and interdisciplinary connections. Collin College professors Betty Bettacchi, Lauryn Angel, and Delores Zumwalt worked with close to 60 professors from various college campuses to found the program and bring Daniel Wallace, the author of *Big Fish*, to the college.

The Book-In-Common program features books with broad curricular connectivity that are written by contemporary authors. Books are selected by a faculty committee, and participants have the opportunity to meet the authors when they visit the college at the culmination of the annual event. More than 10 years later, the 2020 Spring Book-In-Common selection is *The Leavers* by Lisa Ko.

#### Knowledge is Power Lecture Series Open to the Public

Nearly 200 people attended the first Knowledge is Power (KIP) lecture, "At the Root of It: Stem Cells & Society," held Nov. 16, 2005, at the Frisco Campus. Open to the public, the inaugural lecture was presented by KIP founders Dr. Sukanya Subramanian, professor of biology, and Brett Adams, professor of history.



**May** - The college announced its new mascot, Collin Cougar. The college's previous mascot was The Express.

**May** - Men's Basketball finished No. 2 nationally.

**July** - Texas Instruments made a \$1 million gift, the largest endowed gift in the college's 20-year history at that time.



**Fall** - The new Higher Education Center at Rockwall opened.

**September** - The faculty and staff leadership program Academy for Collegiate Excellence (ACE) was launched.

**September** - The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) designated two college programs, Nursing and Real Estate, as "exemplary."

The series was generated from casual conversation. Professors Subramanian and Adams realized that the college had a wealth of resources in the form of professors who are experts in their fields and possess research and speaking skills. The KIP series is intended to provide a forum where individuals can expand their knowledge of current issues and make informed decisions on America's public policies.

Today, the popular lecture series is offered twice a year, and the fall of 2019 marked the 27th KIP lecture. This lecture series typically features two professors from different disciplines who share knowledge from their fields on a particular topic. Topics range from immigration and gene editing to HIV and global warming.

#### **College Hosts Media Matters with ABC News Anchor Peter Jennings**

In 2003, the college's students posed questions to a panel of journalists as they explored the relationship between college students and the media. ABC News anchor Peter Jennings facilitated a panel of journalists, including then WFAA anchor

Gloria Campos, WFAA senior reporter Gary Reaves, WBAP radio talk show host Mark Davis, Tom Huang, editor of the Texas Living section of *The Dallas Morning News*, and *The Dallas Morning News* reporter Colleen McCain Nelson.

#### **College Offers Inaugural Health and Safety Fair**

In the spring of 2006, the college partnered with area hospitals to host the college's first Health and Safety Fair at its McKinney Campus. Attendees participated in proactive health screenings, watched informative health presentations, learned about fire safety and dental hygiene, and donated blood. According to founding member Dr. Linda Muysson, kinesiology professor, the Health and Safety Fair offered people the opportunity to receive diagnostic tests and listen to medical experts speak on a variety of topics, including breast cancer awareness, smoking cessation, stroke awareness, women's health, cardiac health, sports injuries, and medical ethics. Free glucose screenings, hearing screenings, and body fat testing were available. The year 2020 marks the college's 15th anniversary of the Health and Safety Fair, which continues



**Sept. 30** - The presidential debate watch drew a record crowd of nearly 1,000 at the college's Plano Campus. Intended to encourage students to get involved in the political process and exercise their rights to vote, the event featured pre-debate activities such as on-site voter registration, campaign materials from the Democrat and Republican parties, and pre-debate polls.

**December** - The Plano Campus AA/BB wings and conference center opened.

## **2005**

**January** - The college opened a new library and classrooms at the Frisco Campus.

**February** - The college hosted a new workshop for parents, Destination College.

**February** - The college opened the Consumer Health Information Center at the McKinney Campus library.





to offer attendees the opportunity to explore a world of healthy choices with a variety of free health screenings, informative safety demonstrations, and wellness facts.

### College Responds to Hurricane Katrina

After Category 5 Hurricane Katrina hit land in August 2005, impacting residents of several states including Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, the college came to the rescue. It offered an out-of-state tuition waiver for college students displaced by the hurricane, and emergency enrollment was extended to cater to these students. The college enrolled transfer students from Tulane, Xavier, the University of New Orleans, and Loyola.

Students, faculty, and staff also came to the rescue. The college's chapter of the international honor society for community colleges, Phi Theta Kappa, jumped on board by collecting wash cloths, towels, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, and deodorant. The Theatre Department collected everything from clothes and food to toiletries and cribs in a drive started by student Amber Rhodes. They delivered goods to food

pantries, churches, Reunion Arena, and distribution centers in Collin and Dallas counties. Theatre students also volunteered at distribution centers and shelters. The college opened the Ham Radio communications facility at the Frisco Campus to relief workers for use as needed. In addition, a special edition of *Forces*, titled "Katrina," was produced.

In the fall of 2005, a number of sociology students thrust themselves into service learning during a time when giving was of the utmost importance. Professor Debbie White's sociology class was involved in volunteer projects around the community that helped those displaced and affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The students volunteered with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a local nonprofit agency, which stockpiled goods for dispersal to hurricane evacuees. As part of a service learning course, the students prepared and distributed goods such as furniture sets, clothing, diapers, toys, and toiletries to those in need.



**Spring** - The college began admitting nursing students twice per year.

**March 5** - The college Foundation held its first of two Plain and Fancy Ball scholarship fundraisers.

**March 24** - The college Foundation received its second \$1 million gift from the estate of Royden L. Lebrecht.

**April** - Collin College student Adele Bailey was named to the All-USA Academic Team by the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa along with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and *USA Today*. This marked the third Collin student in five years named to the elite All-USA Academic Team.



**April 6** - The college celebrated its 20th anniversary.

**April** - Two workforce programs, Child Development and Dental Hygiene, received "exemplary" designations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**April 20** - The college dedicated Carey Cox Plaza at the McKinney Campus in honor of the founding Board of Trustees Chair.

## moments in history . . .



### College Brings Voting on Campus

“I voted” stickers are visible symbols of civic engagement on the college’s campuses. In the early 2000s, students embraced the Rock the Vote! initiative and took advantage of the polling sites on the college’s main campuses, where they could vote with ease. Collin College continues its active civic engagement serving as polling locations.

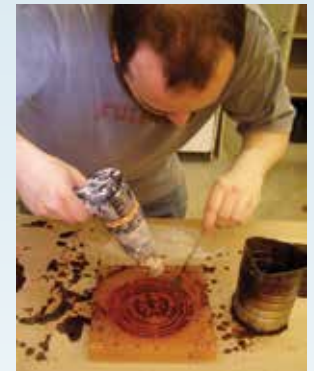
CAMPUS		BEGAN IN
McKinney Campus	voting location	Nov. 6, 2001
Frisco Campus	voting location	March 12, 2002
Plano Campus	voting location	Nov. 5, 2002
Collin Higher Education Center	voting location	May, 2015

### Carving Out a Tradition:

#### The Story Behind the Collin College Mace

To celebrate the college’s silver anniversary, history was brought to the forefront of tradition with the creation of a ceremonial mace, a staff carried by the marshal of the graduation procession.

Many years ago, a native seed made its home in fertile soil near U.S. 380 in McKinney. The sapling grew roots and thrived along a winding creek. Thirty-five years ago, Collin County residents started a petition, sowing a seed about the formation of a new college. Like the seedling, the college made its first home in the rich heritage of McKinney.



**Luke Sides,**  
professor of art

In May 2006, a storm split the majestic tree and sent its limbs crashing to the ground. After the tree was dried for a year, Luke Sides, professor of art, and art student Jimmie Arledge took a fallen limb and converted it into the base of

**June 24** – The Collin College Foundation announced the first President’s Circle members.

**July** – The Teacher Certification Program received the American Association of Community Colleges’ Teaching by Choice Award, one of only 10 community colleges chosen nationwide.

**Aug. 29** – CougarMail, the collegewide email system for students was launched.



**October** – Students, faculty, and staff responded to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

**Nov. 16** – The first Knowledge is Power lecture was delivered. This lecture series provides a forum where individuals can expand their knowledge of current issues and make informed decisions on America’s public policies.

## 2006

**January** – The college’s Lab School was accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

**Feb. 1** – The Economic Summit with the theme “Orchestrating Our Future,” was held.

**Spring** – The inaugural Health and Safety Fair was held at the college’s McKinney Campus.

the academic mace. Sides created the bronze seal, which is a replica of the college's district seal.

The seal, which sits atop the mace, includes the college's core values of Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity. All construction for the 43-inch, 15-pound mace was completed in the art department at the Plano Campus.

The mace was used for the first time during the 2007 Spring commencement ceremony. Each May and December, this symbol of tradition and excellence heralds the beginning of transformed lives each year as it leads new graduates into their commencement ceremonies.

#### **Resolution Marks the College's 20th Anniversary**

State Rep. Brian McCall delivered a state resolution commemorating the college's 20th anniversary. The resolution ended with "RESOLVED, That the administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Collin County Community College be heartily congratulated on the occasion of that institution's 20th anniversary and that CCCC be honored for making possible a brighter future for countless Texans."



**August** - Wireless internet, CougarLAND, became available on the college's campuses.

**Oct. 10** - The James and Pat Aston Center for Health Studies was expanded.

**Oct. 11** - The first Book-In-Common, *Big Fish: A Novel of Mythic Proportions* was announced.



**November** - Collin College Professor Jennifer O'Loughlin Brooks named Texas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

**December** - Dr. Lisa Roy-Davis was named Collin College's first Lebrecht Endowed Chair for Scholarly and Civic Engagement, and Dr. Joyce Swegle was named its first Dickinson Endowed Chair in Nursing.



### The Secret Behind Creating a Larger Pool of Culinary Students is in the Design

Founded in 1999, the college's culinary program was initially housed in Allen High School's kitchen, which allowed space for only one culinary class at a time. In the fall of 2009, the college created a new venue, the Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Education (IHCE), which provided more than 9,000 square feet, three kitchens, and an opportunity for the program to grow.

What many people may not remember is that this new facility, housed at the college's Frisco Campus, is built over a natatorium. The Olympic-size pool was used primarily by Frisco residents, but the City of Frisco was building a new natatorium for residents and no longer needed the pool on the college's campus. After filling the pool with concrete, the college transformed the space into the IHCE. The new, spacious location also allowed the college to offer new classes such as garde manger (which includes garnishing), saucier (preparing sauces), and à la carte cooking. In addition, the college also offered a Pastry Arts Associate of Applied Science degree that same fall with a host of new classes.

### Collin College Offers the Nation's First Teacher Certification Program at a Community College

In response to the teacher shortage, the college offered an alternative teacher certification program designed to fast-track individuals with bachelor's degrees in math, science, and technology into teaching careers. This continuing education program helped prepare individuals for the State Board for Educator Certification.

In 2006, the Teacher Certification Program received the rating of "accredited" from the Texas Education Agency. Accreditation is based on annual student performance on state teacher certification exams. The program has consistently maintained high accountability ratings since its inception. The 2005 examination pass rate was 99 percent. When the teacher shortage was not as significant and more alternatives for certification existed, the college closed the program.

In the spring of 2005, the college also offered a new degree for prospective teachers. The college ushered in three Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees. The three degrees cover elementary, middle school, and secondary education. The AAT is fully transferable to any Texas public



## 2007

**February** - Collin College holds first Salsa Stand-Off at the Plano Campus.

**March** - The college began using the name Collin College and created a new logo.



**March 29** - Collin College celebrated International Day at the Plano Campus with booths featuring photos, literature, art, cultural items, a flag parade, food, drink and a cultural fashion show.

**Spring Graduation** - Collin College's ceremonial mace was used for the first time. The bronze mace was created from a fallen tree at the McKinney Campus.

university so students can earn bachelor's degrees and teaching certifications. The AAT replaced the Associate of Arts in Education, which was phased out by the fall of 2005. The AAT was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in July 2004 and was available only at Texas public community colleges.

### College Creates Convergence Technology Center

Known today as the National Science Foundation (NSF) National Convergence Technology Center of Excellence (CTC), this center began with a \$600,000 NSF project grant in 2002.

Housed at the Frisco Campus, the CTC was created to meet the growing need for employees skilled at integrating technologies. It partners with colleges and universities across the nation to train faculty in emerging technologies and assist in the implementation of high-demand convergence technology degrees and certificate programs.

In 2004, the center was awarded a \$2.45 million NSF grant and became a regional Convergence Technology Center. The regional center received a renewal NSF grant of \$1.56 million in 2009. The center became known as the National CTC and

received a \$5.32 million NSF grant in 2012. In 2017, the national center received a renewal NSF grant of \$3.99 million.

The CTC is founded on a high level of business engagement using the Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) model that puts businesses in a co-leadership role for information technology (IT)/communications/cybersecurity curriculum, faculty professional development, recruitment and retention of underserved populations, and dissemination of best practices and resources to high schools, colleges, and universities across the nation. The CTC's overarching goal is to support students in their journey to become highly sought-after IT workers. Since its inception, the CTC has trained thousands of faculty members who have trained hundreds of thousands of students.

The CTC helps colleges meet the fast-growing demand from business and industry seeking IT specialists (mobile networks, edge computing, private/public cloud computing, cybersecurity, Internet of Things, mobile device integration, storage and network virtualization, video and voice integration, all over a secure network).

**Spring** - The college opened the D Building at the Frisco Campus. The building included 74,000 square feet of classroom and office space.

**September** - The college's first transfer scholarship, the Lebrecht-Hites transfer scholarship, was made available to Collin College student Melinda Archacki.

**November** - Collin College Professor Dr. Rosemary Karr named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



## 2008

**May** - Dr. Rosemary Karr was named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor.

**Aug. 14** - Collin College signed a pre-admission agreement with its 10th university, Dallas Baptist University.

**October** - Collin College's chapter of Sigma Chi Eta, the national communications honor society, was named as one of two Raymie E. McKerrow Chapters of the Year by the National Communication Association (NCA).

### Students Can Earn Degrees on the Weekends

In the fall of 2005, the college's Weekend College offered core express blocks. Students had the opportunity to complete the entire core curriculum of Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees by attending classes on weekends.

### Collin College Adopts a New Color: Green

With the rising gas prices in 2008, the concept of going green was ubiquitous. However, long before it became popular Collin College was incorporating green initiatives.

In 2003, the college created Weekend College, now known as Collin Weekend College, a program which offers students the opportunity to take a full load of classes on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This program provides simultaneous efficiency for students and the college. Students have the opportunity to make fewer trips to the college's campuses, and the college is able to take full advantage of existing facilities.

In an effort to reduce commute time, the college builds campuses for student convenience. In 2021 the college will

have 11 sites throughout Collin County. The Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC), which opened in 2010, allows students to take classes from area universities without ever leaving Collin County.

The college's Board of Trustees is a staunch supporter of affordable education and that means more green bills for students' savings accounts. Of course, if students want to discover how to help the world go green, they can take environmental science classes.

Today, the college's campuses and centers offer a myriad of energy-saving initiatives such as efficient lights with motion sensors, recycling, and low-water landscaping. The college also launched a TRANE Energy Project, which addresses existing facility and infrastructure systems in need of upgrade or replacement. In addition, this project will help the college improve efficiency and maintain technical compatibility with planned new construction, improve learning environments, maintain student and faculty satisfaction, reduce the risk of unplanned outages, and reduce utility and routine maintenance costs.

## 2009

**Spring** - Jim Sigona (basketball) and Marty Berryman (tennis) were named Coaches of the Year. Sigona was named Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. Berryman was named National Junior College Athletic Association Region V Coach of the Year.

**April 30** - The college's first Undergraduate Student Research Conference provided a venue for undergraduate college students to obtain academic research and presentation experience.



**May** - Dr. Peggy Brown was named a Minnie Stevens Piper Professor.

**May 22** - Collin College's pre-admission program netted two state Successful Transfer Enhancement Programs (STEP) awards.

**June 8** - The new library opened at the McKinney Campus.



From online classes and the new virtual college to energy audits, e-checks, and paperless payroll, the college's official color may be blue, but this institution also embraces green.

#### **Collin College Announces a New Mascot**

In May 2004, the college announced a new mascot. Options included a cougar, a tiger, a colt, and continuing with Express, the mascot at the time. Students, staff, and faculty overwhelmingly voted to select the cougar as the new mascot.

#### **Collin College Students Take Flight on a Quest for Perfection**

Collin College student Chris Alley experienced zero gravity in a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plane. Alley's NASA excursion was the climax of six months of teamwork on a physics quest for a perfectly shaped metal ball.

The project originated in 2000 when Dr. Mike Broyles, professor of physics, received an announcement about the reduced gravity program at NASA. Within days, Collin students Eric Wooton, 2000-2002 team leader; Jesse Bennett, 2002 team

flight leader; Steven Lawless; Cindi Warnstaff; and Florence Yee formed the team that developed the idea to make spherical balls in a weightless environment, one of ten NASA higher education projects selected from around the U.S. that year. In 2001, Alley joined the team along with new team member Justin McGee.

"The way you feel when you crest the top of a roller coaster is how you feel just before you are weightless. Once you are floating, it is fabulous. You are grabbing things, and you are moving around, and your legs are dangling, and you like it. I did a 'superman,'" said Alley.

In order to experience zero gravity, the students traveled to the Johnson Space Center at Ellington Field in Houston and flew in the KC-135, affectionately named both the "Weightless Wonder V" and the "Vomit Comet." To create a zero-gravity environment, the NASA plane flies in a parabola. Astronaut Bonnie Dunbar, who has been on five shuttle flights, flew with the students along with a number of NASA staff and other project teams from universities and colleges around the U.S.



**Fall** - Collin College's nursing program began offering the LVN/Paramedic Bridge Program.

**Sept. 18** - First Passport to the World lecture series began with "The Seven Continents."

**Oct. 15** - The National Science Foundation awarded Collin College a \$1.56 million grant to enhance the work of the Convergence Technology Center and address the region's growing need for convergence technology specialists.

**Oct. 29** - The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board formally approved a partnership between Collin College and five universities to form the Collin Higher Education Center: Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, The University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Woman's University, and the University of North Texas.

**“Brenda was the first woman to chair the Collin College Board of Trustees and did an outstanding job. She had a strong business background and knew how to make things happen. Collin College was blessed to have Brenda’s involvement because she was passionate about the education of all students and insisted that every student receive a great education at the least possible cost.”**

*Sam Roach,  
Former Board of Trustees Chair*

### **Brenda Willard Goodell**

A champion for education, Brenda Kay Willard Goodell was born in Sherman, Texas, received a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University, served two terms as board secretary for the Celina Independent School District (CISD) board of trustees, and served on the advisory committee of the CISD’s teacher certification program. Former chief financial officer of her family’s grain and fertilizer company, she later became a real estate broker.

A Celina resident, Goodell was appointed to the Collin College Board of Trustees in 2001 and was elected to Place 9 in 2002 and 2008. She served as vice chair from 2006-2008. The first woman to hold the gavel as chair of the Collin College Board of Trustees, she led the Board of Trustees from May 2010 until her death in December 2011. She was survived by her husband, Stan, daughters Sara Jones and Haley Goodell, mother Jane Cashon Willard, sister Kathy Miller, and three grandchildren, Luci, Kaylyn, and GradyNell Jones.

A visionary leader, Goodell was instrumental in helping the college acquire the land for the Celina Campus which is planned to open in Fall 2021. The campus will open with the new Brenda Willard Goodell Library made possible by a gift from Jane Willard.

Generations of students have benefited from Goodell’s service to the college as well as through memorial and endowed scholarships in her name. Soon students in Celina and the surrounding area will share in that legacy.



**Fall** - Built on top of what had been a natatorium, the Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Education opened at the Frisco Campus. The 9,200-square-foot building included three teaching kitchens, a classroom and restaurant lab, a central dish room, and offices.

**November** - Collin College Professor Dr. Tracey McKenzie named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



**Nov. 9** - University leaders signed the Collin Higher Education Center agreement with Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Dallas, and the University of North Texas.

**Fiscal Year 2009 Total Enrollment: 47,412**



“Collin College is an exceptional college. You get an excellent education for the money. Of course, the college has many national awards. It is known as one of the outstanding colleges in the area, and students attend for that reason.”

*Dr. Myrtle Hightower*



**Dr. Myrtle Hightower**  
Collin College Developmental Education Associate Professor, 1986-2010; community member

“I believe I started working at Collin College in September of 1986. My role at Collin College was teaching developmental reading and writing. Teaching at the college was very interesting the first year. It was the first college in this area. We were excited to be there and teach the students. The students were so wonderful, too, and they wanted to learn. My job was to keep inspiring them, and I tried to do that.”

#### **Denise Brown**

**Collin College Professor of Mathematics; hired December 1985, began teaching January 1986**

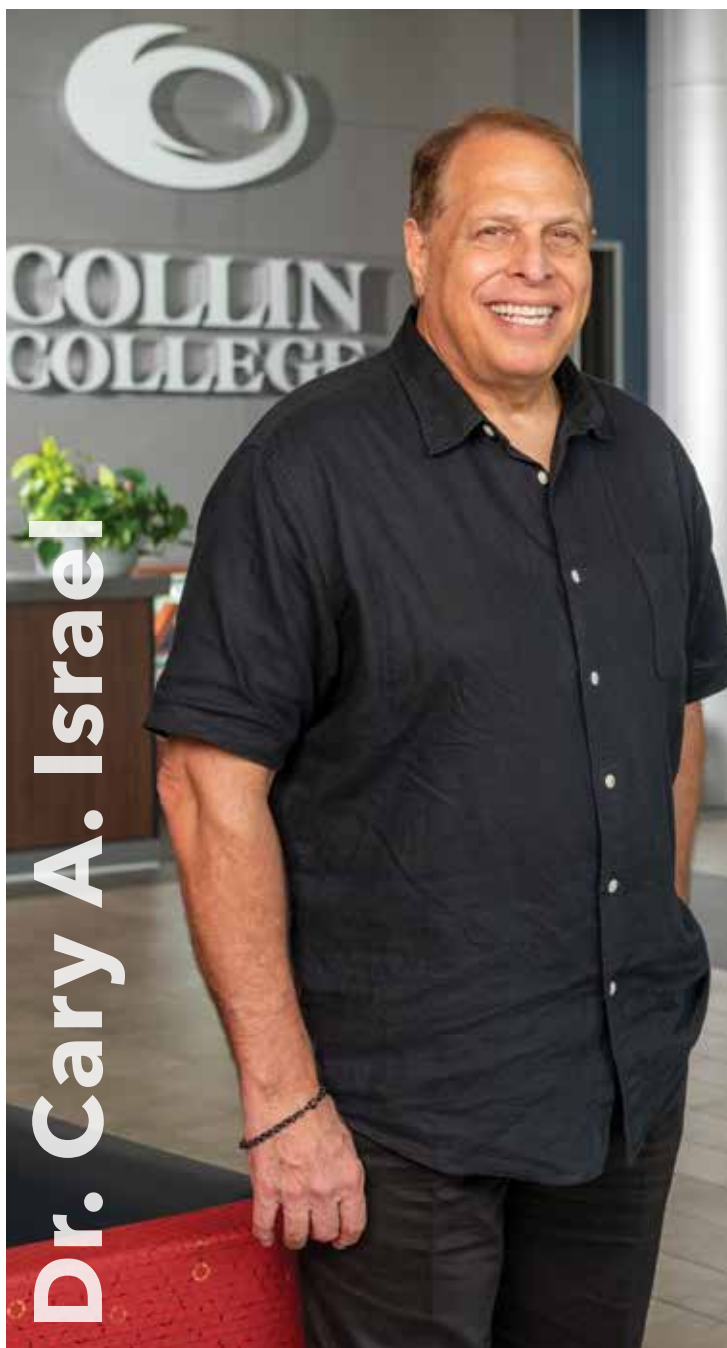
“We’re for everyone. We’re an economical way for you to get started on your degree, and we have programs for every age level, every kind of student. It is an advantage because you get a lot more attention from your professors, and the classes are smaller than if you start out at a university.

“I love the atmosphere and my students. If I get an idea, I’m not afraid to try it, and I have support from my dean and other faculty.”



**Alumnus Dr. Roderick Hunter**  
New York College of Podiatric Medicine, D.P.M., 2009;  
The University of Texas at Dallas, Bachelor of Arts, Biology, 2004;  
The University of Texas at Dallas Redman Scholar  
Collin College, Associate of Science, 2001; and  
Inaugural December Commencement (2018) speaker

“What amazed me about Collin College was that I wasn’t just a number. I was an individual, and you don’t find that at a lot of places. The professors took an active interest in my success. I felt like they really cared and had a vested interest in me being successful.”



**Dr. Cary A. Israel**  
**Collin College President Emeritus,**  
**1999-2015**

Dr. Cary A. Israel served for 16 years as the college district's second president, from 1999-2015. Passionate about providing students with scholarly opportunities and a rigorous education, Dr. Israel spearheaded the creation of the college's majestic libraries and iconic campus structures, such as the light tower at the Frisco Campus, the armillary at the Plano Campus, and the clock tower at the McKinney Campus.

Dr. Israel believed that libraries are enduring structures of knowledge and the heart of learning on the college's campuses. Initially, the college's libraries, classrooms, and faculty were isolated from one another, but with the new architectural design the libraries house classrooms and professors' offices, providing a natural venue for enhanced scholarly discussions and communication.

**The Key to Collin College's Success**

"Success is working together. Collin College is a partnership between the students, taxpayers, business and industry, ISDs, faculty, staff, chambers, nonprofits, and the community. The key is, and always will be, the people."

**Vision**

"My vision, and the vision of the Board of Trustees, was to make the college a nationally recognized, exemplary institution of higher education with the lowest tuition and tax possible, and we achieved that. I'm grateful and thankful for the magnificent opportunity that I had here."

**Changes**

"We were doing things that no one was doing. We created new initiatives like the college's university center, the Collin Higher Education Center; the Honors Institute, and Weekend College. We partnered with area ISDs and developed a health science academy and dual credit partnerships. We developed a partnership for free doctoral programs for our faculty and reestablished sabbaticals. We transformed the image of the college with a new name, 'Collin College,' created core values, and made libraries the focal points of our campuses. We focused on civic engagement and made our campuses voting precincts. Faculty, students, and staff were winning awards left and right. Eight Collin College faculty were named Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. We also grew the college to serve 53,000 students annually and awarded over 500 scholarships annually."



2010  
2020

## BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

When the Collin Higher Education Center opened in 2010 on the corner of SH 121 and U.S. 75 (North Central Expressway) in McKinney, it represented new change and growth for Collin College. The 125,000-square-foot facility was and continues to be a major effort to give residents of Collin County an opportunity to earn four-year and graduate degrees. Two years later the college opened a new 19,000-square-foot conference center at the Frisco Campus along with a new classroom building (J Building).

Throughout its 35 years, Collin College has not shied away from innovation and has welcomed new ideas and new approaches as it continues to grow. The college's enrollment has rapidly increased since 2010, from 51,000 to reaching more than 59,000 students in Fall 2019, the largest student population to date.

In Fall 2014, Collin College District President Dr. Cary A. Israel announced that after 16 years of service to the college, he would be retiring. In Spring 2015, Dr. Neil Matkin became the college's third district president and outlined a bold strategic plan that continues to push Collin College to meet the needs of a burgeoning county and community.

In response to this growth, Dr. Matkin and the Collin College Board of Trustees designed a master plan that would create meaningful educational pathways to serve all of Collin County both now and in the future.

The plan outlined new programs and additional campuses and centers. The Public Safety Training Center in McKinney opened in September 2018. This state-of-the-art facility provides reality-based training not only for Collin College's Law Enforcement Academy, but also for all public safety agencies throughout the county and the United States.

Collin College broke ground on the new Technical Campus in Allen, as well as the Wylie Campus, in 2018. The campuses are opening Fall 2020 along with a wide variety of new programs. Most recently, the college broke ground on new campuses in Farmersville and Celina as well as a state-of-the-art Information Technology building located at the Frisco Campus. These facilities are expected to open in Fall 2021.

In June 2017, Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill that authorized certain public community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. Soon after, Collin College began the process for obtaining approval to offer baccalaureate degrees. In July 2019, the college received approval to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity. The degrees became available Spring 2020.











## 2010

**January** - The Collin Higher Education Center opened.

**March** - Collin College named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

**April** - Collin College students, Phi Theta Kappa members, and Plano residents Andrew Kohut and Shirin Tavakoli were selected as 2010 Coca-Cola Scholars.

**August** - College celebrated its silver anniversary with the release of *In The Words of Alumni, 25th anniversary commemorative anthology*.

**September** - Through a partnership with Career Trucking School Inc., Collin College began Truck Driving courses in Farmersville.



## moments in history . . .

### Collin Higher Education Center Opens Offering New Degree Opportunities

The Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) opened in January 2010 and represented a major effort by the college to give residents of Collin County an opportunity to pursue four-year and graduate degrees.

“We’re hoping that we can at least keep people close to home and have them spend less time on the highways,” said Dr. Cary A. Israel in a *Dallas Morning News* article about the opening of CHEC.

The center is a 125,000-square-foot-building built on land provided by the McKinney Economic Development Corporation. The four-story building is unique in its architecture and features Texas red granite framed by blue-tinted windows and a soaring glass atrium.

The center houses Collin College administration as well as classes from other colleges. Collin College has partnerships with five universities through CHEC to offer a variety of bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. The universities include Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Tech University, Texas Woman’s University, University of North Texas, and The University of Texas at Dallas.



## 2011

**January** - CougarAlert began, an emergency alert system that instantly sends a text message, email and/or phone call to students, faculty, staff, and administrators with warnings, instructions, updates, and the latest news.

**January** - Collin College was one of 12 community colleges nationwide selected by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for its 2010 Community Engagement Classification. The college was honored two more times in 2015 and 2020.



**May** - Collin College Fire Academy's 50th Class graduated.

**July** - Collin College's nursing program is the first program in Texas to be named Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League of Nursing.

**July** - Collin College was awarded a \$133,626 grant to develop a brand-new industry-recognized energy certification from the State Energy Conservation Office.

**September** - Collin College awarded \$20 million federal grant by the U.S. Department of Labor in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education for training and workforce development to help unemployed workers who are changing careers.





**FRISCO CAMPUS CONFERENCE CENTER**

### **Frisco Campus Meets Demand for Growth**

The Frisco Campus is the college's second-largest campus and it was the district's fastest-growing campus in 2012. Higher enrollment numbers spurred change to the lay of the land.

In 2012, the college opened a new 19,000-square-foot conference center at the Frisco Campus along with a new classroom building (J Building) and a parking garage to accommodate the tremendous growth at the campus. In addition, the Event Center was renovated into a 3,000-square-foot dance studio.

The college opened the D Building in Spring 2007, which includes 74,000 square feet of classroom and office space to meet the initial increase of students at the Frisco Campus. Along with the J Building, about 209,000 square feet of classroom, lab and office space has been added to the Frisco Campus since 2005.

A new 92,000-square-foot Information Technology Center will open at the campus in Fall 2021.

## **2012**

**January - August** - Frisco Campus conference center, classroom building (J Building), and remodeled Dance Studio opened.

**March** - College celebrated the 20th annual Jazz Fest.

**August** - Polysomnography Technology and Meetings and Event Management associate degrees offered.



**September** - The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded a \$4.4 million grant to the National Convergence Technology Center at Collin College. The grant, which expanded on the work of the Regional NSF Convergence Technology Center based at Collin College since 2004, extended through July 2016.

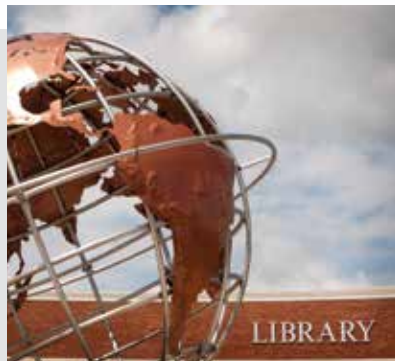
**November** - Collin College Professor Dr. Greg Sherman named Texas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

### New Plano Campus Library Opens

In 2013, the college started the new year with the opening of a new Plano Campus Library on Jan. 22.

Described by Dr. Cary A. Israel as a “comfortable, interactive oasis for learning,” the library is a two-story, 88,000-square-foot building that features a 15-foot armillary sphere at its front entrance.

The library features a new design of classic stone columns and brick accents that lead into a grand reading room capped by a 60-foot dome, overlooking a grassy courtyard. On the second floor are classrooms, study rooms, faculty offices, and an instructional design center overlooking the reading room. The library now houses a makerspace, in which students and faculty can gather to make works, share materials, and learn new skills.



## 2013

**Jan. 22** - The Plano Campus Library opened.

**April 11** - The Plano Campus bi-annual event called Spring Fling began. It was later renamed SpringFest in 2015.

**November** - Collin College Professor Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings named Texas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



## 2014

**April 8** - The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society named Collin College students Michelle Davis of Allen and Alexa Acosta of Plano to the exclusive 2014 All-USA Academic Team.

**Fall** - The Texas Bluebonnet was named Collin College's official flower.

**Sept. 24** - Dr. Cary A. Israel announced his resignation after 16 years as Collin College's president.

### Dr. Cary A. Israel Retires

After nearly 16 years of distinguished service to Collin College as president, Dr. Cary A. Israel announced his retirement in the fall of 2014.

Dr. Israel is the longest-standing president in the history of the college. The announcement came on the heels of a banner year for the college. In the 2013-2014 school year,



Collin College celebrated two Academic All-USA students, a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar, a Carnegie Texas Professor of the Year, a \$2 million gift for scholarships, a Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship, the Tech Titan Award and top honors as a finalist for the Presidential Award on the national Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

“Cary Israel’s presidency has resulted in tremendous enrollment growth, academic excellence, sweeping transformation, historic campus expansion and record philanthropy as well as community involvement,” said former Trustee and Board Chair Mac Hendricks. “Tenure like his is unheard of in higher education, and he will leave a remarkable legacy at Collin College.”

Dr. Israel said he was heartened by the tremendous impact the college has continued to have on the community, state, and nation.

“It has been a marvelous journey and a privilege to serve alongside so many gifted people in this premier academic institution of higher education,” he said.



**Oct. 28** – Dr. Colleen Smith was appointed Collin College’s interim president.

**November** – Collin College Professor Dr. Collin Thomas named Texas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



## 2015

**March** – Dr. Neil Matkin was appointed Collin College’s third president.

**April** – Collin College student Sheena Prindle was named a 2015 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar.

**April 6** – Founders Day at Collin College celebrated 30 years of serving the community. This was also Dr. Neil Matkin’s first day at Collin College.





### **Collin College Board of Trustees Appoints Dr. Neil Matkin as the College's Third District President**

Following the approval of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Neil Matkin's first day was on April 6, 2015, the College's 30th anniversary.

Before coming to Collin College, Dr. Matkin served as president of the San Jacinto College Central Campus in Pasadena, Texas, and has held executive positions with the Louisiana and Virginia community college systems and the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Since he started with the college, he has become a leading advocate for Collin County and for the vital role higher education plays in the growth of the region. Enrollment continued to increase at a rapid rate and in Fall 2019 it reached more than 59,000 students.

Under his leadership the college has built a master plan to expand the college's footprint as well as the number of degree offerings. The college has also continued to maintain a low tax rate, and tuition is still the lowest in the state of Texas.

"Dr. Neil Matkin is a remarkable leader, and we are very excited to welcome him to Collin College," said former Trustee and Board Chair Mac Hendricks at the time of Dr. Matkin's appointment. "We know Dr. Matkin will do the best job for Collin College because he has the background to take the college to the next level."



**Sept. 3** - The McKinney Campus Conference Center opened.

**November** - Collin College Professor Dr. Amina Khalifa El-Ashmawy named U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



## **2016**

**Jan. 20** - The Cary A. Israel Health Sciences Center opened.

**May** - Collin College students Mona Azzo, Anna Cavnar, David Schletewitz, and Rebecca Wyant-Miller were named to the All-Texas Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an international honor society for community college students. Nominees are selected based on academic achievement, school and community involvement.



### McKinney Campus Conference Center Opens

The new conference center at the McKinney Campus opened Sept. 3, 2015, the anniversary date that the college offered its first classes in 1985.

“Collin College creates more than a half-billion dollars in economic impact for our local economy every year, and that begins with student success,” said Dr. Neil Matkin during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “There is no better investment than higher education, and we are committed to serving all students in every corner of our service area. This conference center will be a great asset for this campus community.”

The 23,500-square-foot conference center can seat up to 1,035 theater-style or 640 at round tables. The conference center can be divided into three breakout rooms, and there are two additional classrooms in the building with a capacity of 35. When the conference center is not scheduled with campus activities, it is open for bookings from the community.

**May** - Collin College student Rebecca Wyant-Miller was named a 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar.

**June** - The Board of Trustees approved a master plan to expand Collin College facilities and program offerings.

**August** - Barnes & Noble opened new bookstores at Collin College campuses in Plano, Frisco, and McKinney.

**Oct. 12** - Collin College and Texas A&M University-Commerce signed an agreement bringing university classes to the college's Frisco Campus.



## 2017

**February** - Collin College Board of Trustees called for a \$600 million bond election to help carry out master plan.

**May** - Collin County voters approved the bond referendum with 56.43 percent approval.

### **Cary A. Israel Health Sciences Center Opens, Cementing Collin College as a Leader in Health Care Education**

Three decades of Collin College leadership were present on Jan. 20, 2016, at the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the Cary A. Israel Health Sciences Center, the fourth major building on Collin College's McKinney Campus. The facility provides state-of-the-art learning spaces for the college's quickly growing health sciences programs.

"This health sciences center is just one more step in cementing Collin County's reputation as a leader in health care education in North Texas, a process that began three decades ago on the same plot of land where this center now stands," Collin College Board Chair and founding Trustee Dr. J. Robert Collins said during the ceremony. The historic celebration also involved all three of the college's presidents – Dr. John Anthony, Dr. Cary A. Israel, and the current district president, Dr. Neil Matkin.

The three-story, 125,000-square-foot health sciences facility located on the northeast side of the campus features state-of-the-art hospital labs for students in nursing, emergency services, surgical technology, respiratory care, and polysomnographic technology sleep disorder programs, as well as classrooms and faculty offices.



**CARY A. ISRAEL HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER**

"The future of Texas health care starts in buildings just like this one, built around award-winning programs and our established Center of Excellence in Nursing Education. Collin College can deliver quality at a price point that benefits the state, taxpayers, and students helping to fill Texas' critical needs," Dr. Matkin said.

**May** - Gov. Greg Abbott signed the bill allowing community colleges to offer four-year degrees.

**November** - Three Collin College students were named 2017 Coca-Cola Scholars. Brianna Becker and Taylor Vandersmitte were both named 2017 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars, and Mateo Rivera was named a 2017 Coca-Cola Military Leader of Promise Scholar.

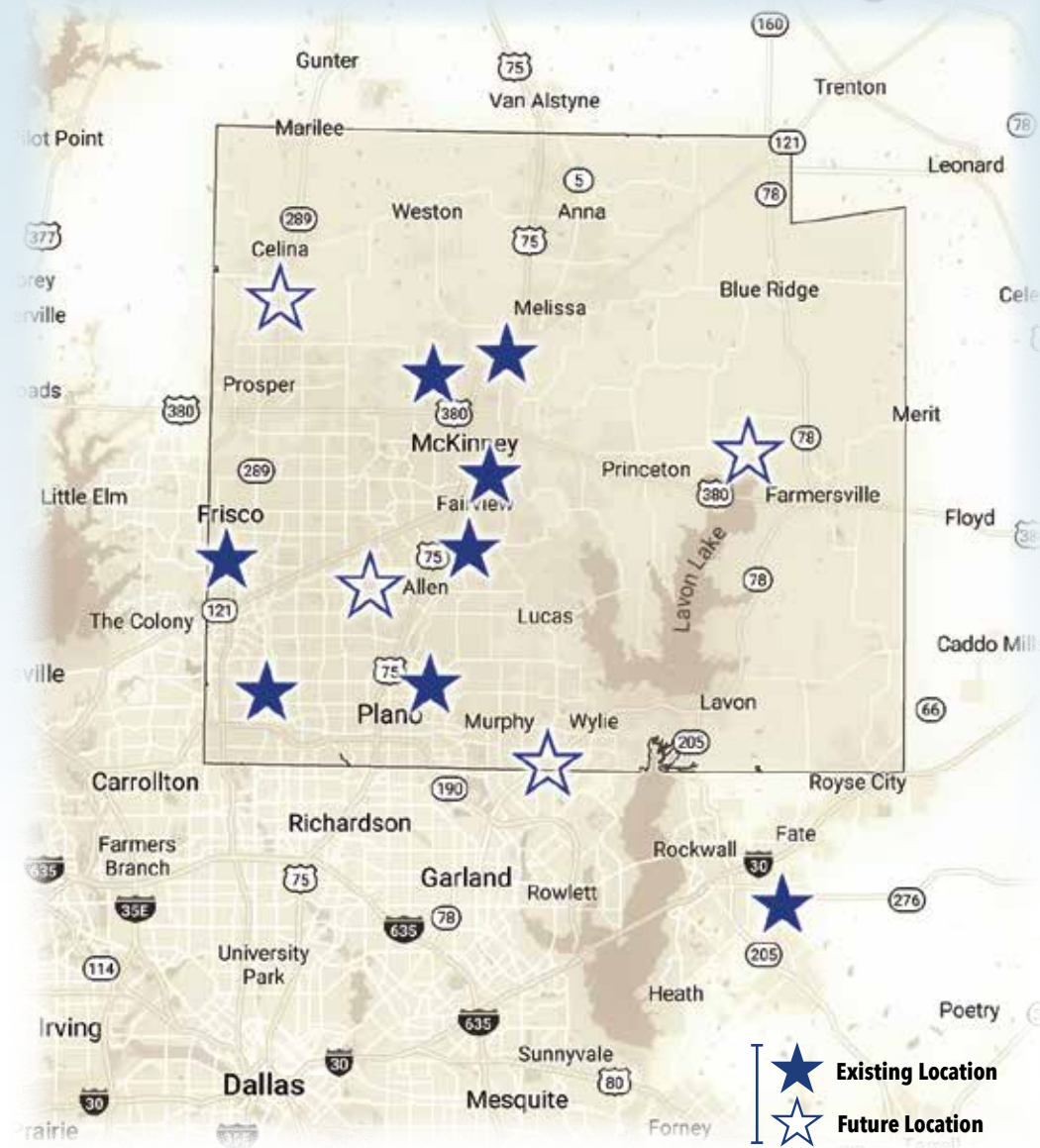


## **2018**

**January** - Collin College began to offer a new Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program at the Princeton ISD HVAC lab.

**February** - Collin College was named one of the Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in the nation by the National Association for Business Resources. The college has won the award at the regional level for four years, 2016-2019; this was the first national designation by the NABR.





### Grant Funding Plays Role in College Project Development

Collin College has received a number of grants in the past couple of years that have helped develop new projects and programs.

Grants received have been awarded by several entities including the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Education, and Texas Talent Connection.

Grants such as these help the college partner with industry consortiums to develop and shape programs to give students the skills and education needed for entering the workforce.

### Collin College Board of Trustees Approves Visionary Master Plan

When Collin College opened its doors in 1985, the population of Collin County was slightly more than 200,000 people. Today, the population exceeds one million – five times the number of residents compared to 35 years ago. What’s more, state projections indicate the county’s population will more than double by 2030 and triple by 2040.

That growth is evident everywhere. Dozens of new corporate headquarters have brought new jobs to Collin County, along with a demand for industry training and higher education. In response to that need, the Board of Trustees approved a master plan in 2016, which was intended to anticipate and accommodate the unprecedented growth that lies ahead for the county.

The master plan would help expand the college’s footprint across the county by adding new campuses in Allen, Celina, Farmersville, and Wylie.

The plan also laid out a priority for the college to add more workforce and academic programs to align with projected Collin County labor market needs.

#### **Voters Approve a \$600 Million Bond Referendum for Collin College**

The Collin College Board of Trustees called for a bond election in February 2017, which voters supported in May with a 56.43 percent approval. Upon approval, intensive planning began immediately for the new campuses and new academic and workforce programs that were laid out in the master plan.

#### **Gov. Greg Abbott Signs SB 2118: Collin College Enters the Bachelor's Degree Business**

After years of diligent planning and tireless legislative effort, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 2118 on June 14, 2017, authorizing Collin College to offer three baccalaureate degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity, and a Bachelor of Applied Science.

This enabled Collin College to begin the process of seeking approval to grant baccalaureate degrees from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“This is a historic moment for Collin College,” said Dr. Neil Matkin at the time. “In this exciting time, the opportunity to serve a rapidly expanding Collin County population and touch the lives of thousands of individuals has never been better.”



#### **Collin College Breaks Dual Credit Enrollment Records**

Collin College began offering dual credit classes to 70 high school students in 1987. The initial classes offered were English, Economics, and Government.

Thirty years later the college surpassed all previous enrollments in Fall 2017 with a record-breaking number of 5,609 high school students enrolled in dual credit offerings, a nearly 20 percent increase from Fall 2016.

In Fall 2019, that number grew to 8,426. The college currently offers any courses that are in the core curriculum. Because of dual credit, high school students can not only graduate with their high school diploma, but also a certificate or an associate degree from Collin College.



### Public Safety Training Center Opens in McKinney

On Sept. 28, 2018, Collin College celebrated the opening of the Public Safety Training Center (PSTC), a 25-acre first responder training facility, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house. The center provides reality-based training for Collin College's Law Enforcement and Fire Science academies, and active public safety personnel. The first classes were held in Fall 2018, training up to 420 students.

Built in cooperation with the cities of McKinney and Allen, the 128,000-square-foot center is one of the most advanced public safety training facilities in North Texas. The Public Safety Training Center is located at 3600 Redbud Blvd. in McKinney, allowing public safety agencies throughout the county and country to train.

Since opening, the PSTC has hosted dozens of local, state, and federal law enforcement and fire service agencies and has developed into one of the premier training facilities in Texas and the surrounding region.

### Collin College Breaks Ground on Technical Campus in Allen

Officials broke ground Sept. 7, 2018, on the Collin College Technical Campus, a 340,000-square-foot career and technical

## 2018

**Sept. 7** - Collin College broke ground on the Technical Campus in Allen.

**Sept. 28** - The Public Safety Training Center opened on the McKinney Campus.

**Oct. 19** - Collin College broke ground on the Wylie Campus.



**October** - The National Science Foundation awarded a \$3.7 million grant to Collin College to support the national project "Information Technology Skill Standards, 2020 and Beyond." This four-year grant addressed the critical need for IT workers and provided up-to-date, future-facing skills standards.

**December** - First December graduation held.



education facility dedicated to instruction in high-demand, high-wage workforce areas.

Built along SH 121 east of Exchange Parkway, the three-story campus offers programs in automotive technology, collision technology, construction, health care, information technology and manufacturing, as well as general academic classes, student support services, green spaces, cooperative project areas and covered parking. Designed with the input of local industry advisory committees in each program's career field, the campus will prepare students to enter the job market with current training on the equipment they will use in their industry.

"Significant growth is coming to Collin County in the next 10 to 20 years and beyond," said Dr. Neil Matkin. "The Collin College Technical Campus is positioned to provide students with a high-quality, low-cost educational option that will prepare them for rewarding careers in the high-demand fields fueling that growth."

Serving up to 7,100 students when fully occupied, the campus will expand learning opportunities for individuals seeking careers in high-growth industries. Programs at the

Technical Campus includes courses to earn industry-recognized credentials and Associate of Applied Science degrees. Collin College is also partnering with area school districts to expand career and technical education offerings, enabling high school students to enroll and earn technical dual credit and industry certifications prior to high school graduation.

"Collin County's workforce of tomorrow will be able to begin their career training at the Technical Campus," Collin College Board Chair Dr. J. Robert Collins said. "Whether you are talking about the nurses who will care for our sick, the mechanics who will keep us moving, or the construction managers who will put roofs over our heads, we're excited that many of those individuals will be Collin College graduates."

Allen ISD funded a portion of the construction with the agreement that the school district can use specified classrooms and labs during the regular school hours to expand dual credit opportunities for its students. Collin College will use the space when Allen High School classes are not in session, providing night and weekend educational opportunities for other students.



## 2019

**July 2** - Collin College received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity.

**Fall** - Number of dual credit students increased to 8,426.

**August** - Construction Management and Insurance Management programs began.

**August** - Collin College awarded a \$158,664 Texas Talent Connection Grant from the state of Texas to create a waterworks training program in partnership with the North Texas Municipal Water District.

**September** - Collin College and Columbus State Community College received a \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create a national model for flexible apprenticeships in IT and IT-related industries.



### Collin College Breaks Ground on Wylie Campus

Officials broke ground Oct. 19, 2018, on the Collin College Wylie Campus, a 339,000-square-foot facility offering a comprehensive educational experience.

Sitting on just under 100 acres, with approximately 44 acres donated by the city of Wylie, the new, modern campus will be located along Country Club Road across from the Wylie Municipal Complex. Phase I of the Wylie Campus development includes three multi-story instructional buildings that function as the library, campus commons, and student center with conference center facilities.

Collin County is experiencing phenomenal growth, and the college's Plano Campus is at capacity," said Dr. Neil Matkin. "The new Wylie Campus will provide an opportunity for Collin College to offer excellent and affordable education close to home for students in southeastern Collin County."

Serving approximately 7,500 students when fully occupied, the Collin College Wylie Campus will provide specialized facilities for science, engineering, information technology, fine arts, education, and health care programs.

**September** - Collin College was named a "2019 Great College to Work For" by ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm in partnership with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Collin College was also named an Honor Roll Institution.

**November** - Collin College named to the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2020" rankings by the Military Times.

**Dec. 6** - Collin College broke ground on the Farmersville Campus.

**Fiscal Year 2019 Total Enrollment: 59,278**



## 2020

**Jan. 16** - Collin College broke ground on the Celina Campus.

**January** - Collin College broke ground on the IT Center at the Frisco Campus.



“Building this new campus is a historic moment for Collin College,” said Dr. J. Robert Collins during the ceremony. “We are finally realizing our dream of offering higher education to everyone in Collin County. We would not be breaking ground for this new campus today without our strong partnership with the leaders in the city of Wylie.”

#### **First December Graduation at Collin College**

As student enrollment continued to increase at Collin College, the number of students graduating began to outgrow the facilities.

The first graduation was held outside the McKinney Campus under a tree in 1986, then graduation was moved to the John Anthony Theatre at the Plano Campus, then UT-Dallas, and eventually it was moved to the Allen Event Center, where it is currently held every year.

The number of students graduating continued to increase so the college decided to have a second graduation held in December. The first December commencement was held in 2018.



**August** - Automotive Technology and Collision Technology are among the new programs that are offered for the first time.

**August** - Collin College opened the Technical Campus in Allen and the Wylie Campus.



## 2021

**Fall** - Collin College plans to open the Farmersville Campus, the Celina Campus, and the IT Center at the Frisco Campus.



### **Collin College Receives Final Approval to Offer Bachelor's Degrees**

Collin College received approval July 2, 2019, from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity. The degrees launched in Spring 2020. A third baccalaureate degree is in the works.

### **Study Shows Collin College Continues to Have Strong Economic Impact on Region**

Emsi, a labor market analysis firm, conducted an economic impact study on Collin College and a capital analysis study of the college's four new campuses. The firm presented the results in Fall 2019.

The study showed that in fiscal year 2018, Collin College's current campuses added \$721.2 million in total income and supported 10,863 jobs in Collin County.

According to the study, after construction and when enrollment stabilizes, the new campuses are projected to add a total of 12,500 students annually.

The results also show that between fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2027, the four new campuses will have an economic impact of \$343.9 million in added income for Collin County beyond the economic impact of the college's current campuses.

### **Collin College Honored as 'Best for Vets'**

Collin College has been named to the "Best for Vets: Colleges 2020" rankings by the *Military Times* from 2012-2020.

With the growing veteran student population, the college has been committed to providing student veterans with the resources and academic services they need to reach their educational goals. The college currently serves more than 1,500 veterans.

The district works to ensure that veterans have the support they need to get the most out of their college experience. Information on financial aid, Veterans Affairs education benefits, personal counseling, and membership in the Student Veterans of America is available through the college's Veterans Resource Center.

Rankings are based on publicly available data and survey results assessing veteran and military services and rates of academic achievement at colleges and universities across the country. Institutions were evaluated in categories including college culture, student support, academic policies, academic outcomes/quality and cost/financial aid.



### Collin College Breaks Ground on Farmersville Campus

Officials broke ground Dec. 6, 2019, on the Collin College Farmersville Campus, which is scheduled to open in Fall 2021.

The 52,000-square-foot campus, located at 2200 County Road 611 near the intersection of Audie Murphy Parkway (U.S. 380) and SH 78 in Farmersville, will provide greater access to higher education for the residents of eastern Collin County.

“Today is not only the ceremonial beginning of construction on a new campus,” Dr. Neil Matkin said during the groundbreaking. “Today also marks another step toward fulfilling the college’s goal of bringing affordable, innovative and effective education to all residents of Collin County. The Farmersville Campus, along with Collin College’s planned campus in Celina, will improve educational opportunities in two underserved areas of the county.”

The Farmersville Campus is designed to support 1,250 students. The campus will offer academic transfer courses, as well as programs, including business management, logistics and supply chain management, computer systems, and other new workforce programs currently under development. Campus amenities include a library, science labs, a workforce lab, and student enrollment services.





### **Collin College Breaks Ground on Celina Campus**

Officials broke ground Jan. 16, 2020, on the Collin College Celina Campus, a 96,000-square-foot facility serving northwestern Collin County. Scheduled to open in Fall 2021, the campus is located at 901 Choate Parkway (County Road 88) in Celina.

Sitting on approximately 75 acres with a picturesque natural water feature, Phase I of the new campus includes classrooms, a library, computer and science labs, and student and enrollment services.

“Celina is one of the fastest growing cities in the area,” said Dr. Neil Matkin. “We are thrilled to bring higher education to northwestern Collin County, and we could not do this without our strong partnerships with Celina leaders.”

Serving approximately 2,500 students when fully occupied, Phase I of the Collin College Celina Campus will provide courses for academic transfer as well as business management, computer-aided drafting and design, information technology, and health professions.





### **Collin College Breaks Ground on the Information Technology Center at the Frisco Campus**

Construction began in January 2020 on the Information Technology Center at the Frisco Campus. The 92,000-square-foot center will serve approximately 2,000 students.

The state-of-the-art facility will expand the college's existing and future IT programs. The center will have specialized labs for forensics, penetration testing, defense operations, video production, and virtual reality/augmented reality.

The center will also be the primary location for the college's Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree, which started in January 2020.

### **Collin College Opens New Campuses in Fall 2020 and Fall 2021**

The next two years will be momentous for Collin College as it plans to officially open four new campuses and a new IT Center at the Frisco Campus.

Collin College will open the Technical Campus in Allen and the Wylie Campus in Fall 2020. The new campuses will offer new programs such as veterinary technology and automotive service and repair.

In Fall 2021, Collin College plans to open the Farmersville Campus, Celina Campus, and the IT Center at the Frisco Campus.



**Mary Nguyen**

**Collin College alumna and Texas Tech University nursing student**

Mary Nguyen is a Collin College alumna who fast-tracked her educational career by starting dual credit classes with Collin College through the Plano ISD Health Sciences Academy. She graduated with honors from both high school and college in 2018. She was officially awarded an Associate of Science degree from Collin College and began as a junior at Texas Tech University soon after.

**“Collin College is extraordinary.**

**I had such great relationships with all of my professors and the quality of education that**

**Collin College provides is comparable to a university.**

**It’s just a really great opportunity for every student to be a part of the Collin experience.**

**And there’s no age limit to when you can start taking classes.**

**I started when I was 14 and it’s helped me be ahead in my college career and it’s all thanks to Collin College.”**

*Mary Nguyen*



Thanks to generous donors, Collin College has a number of facilities that help provide a comprehensive education and individualized services to all students.

#### NAMED FACILITY BENEFACTORS

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##### **Richard & Jill Abernathy**

Richard & Jill Abernathy Mock Trial Room  
Plano Campus  
Abernathy Family Lecture Hall  
McKinney Campus

##### **Allen Economic Development Corporation**

Welcome Center  
Technical Campus  
Kone Conference Room  
Technical Campus

##### **Collin Fannin County Medical Society**

Health Science Lab  
McKinney Campus

##### **Hilti North America**

Hilti Tool Lab  
Technical Campus

##### **Roger Lawler**

Lawler Hall  
Frisco Campus

##### **Living Legends**

Living Legends Conference Center  
Plano Campus

##### **Joe & Sara Lucido**

Mama Lucido's Café  
Wylie Campus

##### **Anthony Peterson**

Anthony Peterson Centers for Academic Assistance  
Plano Campus  
Anthony Peterson Centers for Academic Assistance  
McKinney Campus  
Anthony Peterson Centers for Academic Assistance  
Frisco Campus  
Anthony Peterson Centers for Academic Assistance  
Wylie Campus  
Anthony Peterson Centers for Academic Assistance  
Technical Campus

##### **Pogue Construction**

Pogue Conference Room  
Plano Campus Library  
Pogue Conference Room  
McKinney Campus Library

##### **State Farm**

State Farm Career Center  
Plano Campus

##### **Jane Willard**

Brenda Willard Goodell Library  
Celina Campus



Collin College's roots began with a small group of part-time faculty teaching evening college classes inside area high school classrooms.

Thirty-five years later, Collin College is now a renowned higher education institution with university and industry partners providing students with high-quality education and training.

Collin College continues to ensure that it serves its students from across its entire service area first and foremost.



1985  
2020





Created by the Public Relations department  
of Collin College with sincere appreciation  
to all who contributed to this book.







