

## *Frisco programs mirror countywide opportunities*

# Partnerships with ISDs give high school students a head start on college careers

**L**abeled the fastest growing city in America, Frisco is booming in virtually every sector—including the opportunities available to Frisco Independent School District students thanks to its partnership with Collin College.

The addition of a 10th high school may, rightly, grab headlines. Look at the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, though, and you will see another sign of fast-paced growth. The Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) program is adding seven lecture sections, 13 lab sections, and 13 clinical sections as part

of its dual credit program with Collin College. For comparison, most school districts offer one or two sections of CNA lectures with the accompanying labs and clinicals. Frisco ISD's new classes will serve 130 students who will be career-ready by the time they graduate.

The addition of CNA dual credit courses mirrors the overall growth of dual credit in Frisco ISD. Dual credit, which allows students to earn college and high school credits simultaneously, grew in Frisco ISD by almost 80 percent from fall 2015 to fall 2017. Students can earn an

associate degree while still in high school thanks to a recent expansion of dual credit offerings implemented in the 2017-18 school year.

Frisco ISD administrators note that building college credit in high school opens future opportunities for students, including double majoring, engaging in internships, studying abroad, or entering the workforce early with highly marketable skills. Programs like CNA, electrocardiographic technician, emergency medical technician, and courses in the culinary arts are all taught at the CTE by Collin College faculty, offering students pathways to state or industry certification in fast-growing fields.

"Frisco ISD is committed to providing a wide variety of academic and extracurricular programs that help students realize their individual college and career goals," said Dr. Mike Waldrip, Frisco ISD superintendent. "Our partnership with Collin College allows the district to offer even more opportunities for students to become future ready."

*continued on page 6*



Dr. Mike Waldrip, Frisco ISD superintendent, with students Haniah Bashir of Liberty High School (left) and Kristin Huang of Independence High School. Both Haniah and Kristin are enrolled in dual credit classes offered by Collin College.



## Diverse districts making big moves in dual credit

School districts and high schools throughout Collin College's service area are making a big impact when it comes to offering dual credit opportunities to their students.

Dual credit classes allow students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Not only are the larger districts expanding their offerings in this area, but smaller partners like Princeton, Anna and The Colony high schools are participating, as well.

Princeton ISD's College Jump Start program allows students to begin taking dual credit courses in 10th grade and encourages students to take part by reimbursing them the cost of tuition if they earn a C or better in their dual credit courses. Tuition is free for Princeton students who qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program.

Even without tuition reimbursement, students in Collin College dual credit classes are reaping the financial benefits of the college's cost per credit hour, which

*continued on page 6*

## New degrees, programs highlighted for the 2018-19 academic year

**A**long with the growth of Collin College's facilities, including plans for new campuses in Allen and Wylie (see page 2), the college will be introducing several new degrees and certificates in the 2018-19 academic year. Here is information about a few of those programs.

### Google IT Support Professional Certificate

Over the summer, Google announced that Collin College was one of about 25 community colleges nationwide selected to offer its new IT Support Professional Certificate.

With no experience necessary, students can prepare for entry-level jobs in information technology (IT) support. Google cited the statistic that there are 150,000 open jobs in the field in the

U.S., with an average starting salary of \$52,000. More details about the program will be announced this fall.

### Web and Mobile Development Degree

The Web and Mobile Development program is a combination of two previously separate degrees that teaches students to create responsive websites and web and mobile applications.

This degree program offers front-end web development, back-end web development, and hybrid mobile development.

Three certificates are also offered, which can be applied toward the AAS degree.

"We're proud Collin College shares our vision to provide students' higher education opportunities

*continued on page 6*



# IT'S *GROW* TIME!

## Ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies



### COLLIN COLLEGE TECHNICAL CAMPUS

The **Collin College Technical Campus** groundbreaking is scheduled for Sept. 7. The 340,000-plus square-foot campus will be located south of State Highway 121 and east of Exchange Parkway in Allen.

The new facility will support technical and workforce education for the automotive, construction, healthcare, information technology, and manufacturing industries. The Technical Campus will serve adult students and will have technical dual credit opportunities for students from area ISDs. In addition, Allen ISD partnered with the college to expand academic dual credit opportunities for Allen ISD students at the Technical Campus. The Allen Economic Development Corporation is also a partner on the project.



### PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

The **Public Safety Training Center (PSTC)** ribbon-cutting event is scheduled for Sept. 28. The PSTC houses the college's fire science and law enforcement academies and is also a professional development site for emergency personnel. Built in cooperation with the cities of McKinney and Allen, the new center is located at 3600 Redbud Boulevard in McKinney, just a few blocks east of U.S. Hwy. 75 south of Bloomdale Road.

Classes will begin this fall in the PSTC, which boasts more than 120,000 square feet and includes three gun ranges with 37 lanes, an outdoor classroom, a defensive tactics room, a multi-story fire training tower, an indoor reality-based training center, classrooms, and a confined-space and trench-rescue facility. Students will have access to specialized simulators for training in hazardous-materials fires and spills, civil aircraft fires, and below-grade rescue in earth collapse extrications.

Collin County is experiencing explosive residential and commercial growth, and Collin College is expanding right along with it. New campuses are in planning stages and new industry-driven programs are being developed. As the Collin College Master Plan continues to unfold, this column will provide information about new campuses, programs and certificates coming soon to a neighborhood near you.



*Pictured: Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin*

The **Wylie Campus** groundbreaking is slated for Oct. 19. The 300,000-plus square-foot campus will be west of Wylie City Hall and north of FM 544, at 391 Country Club Road. The campus is projected to serve 7,000 students. Three multi-story buildings will provide a comprehensive campus experience for students. The Wylie Campus will have a suite of academic and student services, including academic advising, career center, library, center for academic assistance, student life, and fitness. The campus will also have specialized facilities for science, engineering, information technology, fine arts, and healthcare programs.

## Phase 2 architects, GMP contract approved by board

The Collin College Board of Trustees recently approved the selection of architecture firms for four major projects.

The college will engage the services of Beck Architecture LLC for design of the Celina Campus and the Farmersville Campus. Perkins+Will Inc. has been selected to design an IT Center of Excellence at the Frisco Campus. PGAL Inc. will design a new college public safety headquarters building at the McKinney Campus. "The college takes its role as steward of taxpayer dollars very seriously," Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said. "Each of the firms approved by the Board is well-regarded in the industry for its quality of work and ability to meet client needs."

The projects mark the beginning of the second phase of construction approved by voters in the May 2017 bond election. Design and construction of the

Celina and Farmersville campuses and the IT Center of Excellence will be funded by the 2017 Capital Improvement Program. Design and construction of the public safety headquarters will be paid for out of operating funds approved by the Board as a part of the college's safety plan.

The board also approved a contract awarding a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract to McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. for the construction of the new Collin College Technical Campus using the construction-manager-at-risk delivery method.

McCarthy issued a GMP proposal for construction and related purposes of \$138,874,801. The college is providing an owner's contingency amount of \$3,125,000, for a total GMP of \$141,999,801 for construction of the Technical Campus. Construction is scheduled to be completed by June 2020.



# Program planning paves the way for construction of new campuses, facilities

Unveiled in 2016 after more than a year of planning and research about the future education needs of the region, the Collin College Master Plan included architectural concepts for four new campuses, a public safety training center, and an information technology building on the Frisco Campus.

“It was an ambitious plan, and our Board of Trustees had the foresight to understand that the college would have to grow to accommodate the population explosion that

was ahead for Collin County,” said Dr. Neil Matkin, district president.

In May of the following year, voters approved a \$600 million bond issue, after which work began on turning the plan into reality,

including intensive planning from academic and student services teams and budget and facilities personnel.

“One of the challenges from a budget planning perspective was identifying as early as 2015 what the economic and cost factors would be for buildings that would be completed in 2020 or 2021,” said Chief Financial Officer Ken Lynn. “This is especially true in a dynamic market like Collin County, where there are about \$5 billion of construction projects and improvements completed each year and a corresponding demand on all the construction professions.”

Construction costs in the region are rising by .75 to 1.5 percent a month, he said, which can result in a 9 to 12 percent cost escalation over a 12-month period. “Our challenge is to handle these rising costs within our allocated budgets while maintaining the ability to properly serve the public.”

## Making the vision a reality



Dr. Brenda Kihl

According to Executive Vice President Dr. Brenda Kihl, who also serves as chief academic officer for the college, a labor market analysis completed as part of the master plan helped identify the programs most needed

by residents and employers in Collin County. That information served as a starting point for planning future campuses and facilities.

“You begin with a wish list for a campus or building and then have to whittle it down

to what you can actually accommodate within your budget and the physical space that’s available,” she said. “We also engaged subject matter experts, both internal and external, to help identify what skill sets needed to be included in our curriculum.”

Over the past year, the college conducted think tanks with leaders from such industries as construction, automotive, advanced manufacturing, and information technology. “They told us where they are experiencing labor shortages and helped us identify the training needed to prepare new employees for the local job market,” Dr. Kihl said.

Internally, teams from various college departments and academic disciplines participated in meetings to provide input on the types of classrooms, labs, and office spaces that would accommodate their needs.

Another important consideration is what students do when they’re not in class.

“From that standpoint, you’re looking at the overall functionality of a building as much as you are looking at how many classrooms or offices there are,” said Dr. Sherry Schumann, senior vice president for Academic, Workforce and Enrollment Services.

“Where are the areas for advising, counseling, testing, fitness, intramurals, career counseling, dining, and other services going to be? When you’re building a new campus, you have the ideal opportunity to get it right and develop a kind of one-stop shop that will remain constant even as future growth occurs,” she said.

## Creating a legacy

Collin College is also working with area ISDs in the planning and construction of the Collin College Technical Campus in Allen, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020. “We met with representatives of the four largest school districts – Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Plano – to determine what they needed as part of that facility,” Dr. Kihl said.

The technical campus will

*Architectural rendering of Wylie Campus.*

accommodate dual credit students from all four districts, as well as students from surrounding ISDs in the county. “Ultimately, the instructional programs help dictate the form and function of that kind of facility. The college will continue to offer selected technical programs at its existing campuses, as well,” she said.

According to Dr. William King, executive director of facilities, the master plan is a unique challenge because it involves multiple facilities, not just one—including campuses in Allen, Celina, Farmersville and Wylie, along with the Public Safety Training Center in McKinney and the IT Center of Excellence on the Frisco Campus.

“These are legacy projects that will shape the face of Collin College for decades to come,” he said. “We wanted to partner with world-class architectural and construction firms on all the facilities, and we feel we’ve done that.”

Dr. King said the college has clearly outlined building standards that ensure consistency throughout the district in areas like mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. “As we move forward, we are making sure that our buildings are energy efficient and sustainable over time,” he said.

The planning process over the past year involved weekly meetings, in some cases lasting a full day, and it is expected to continue that way for the foreseeable future as the master plan takes shape. However, with the planning for the Technical and Wylie campuses complete, a model has been created for designing the Celina and Farmersville campuses that will allow for greater efficiency in the planning process.

“There have been occasional sleepless nights trying to figure out how we’ll get it all done,” Mr. Lynn said with a chuckle. “But it’s also exciting and exhilarating and will be well worth it in the end, for the college and the communities we serve.”



Dr. William King



Dr. Sherry Schumann





# Safety at Collin College: Education is the key

In an emergency, education can be the key to safety and survival. Knowing how to prepare and how to respond may mean the difference between life and death.

While education is not the Collin College Police Department’s primary role, it is one that Police Chief Bill Taylor takes seriously. As the college continues its rollout of a comprehensive safety plan, the department is taking the opportunity to improve its training and outreach efforts with students, staff, and faculty.

“Historically our campuses have been safe,” Taylor said. “However, we feel there are things we can do to make sure we are better prepared in case something bad does happen.”

That preparation includes more and better training opportunities for everyone on campus. The district’s safety plan calls for enhanced training initiatives in areas such as personal safety and awareness, self-defense, and threat assessment.



Officer Scott Knight

the shooter makes it into the room. Knight cited research showing that demonstrating you are willing to fight for your life can be a deterrent to some shooters.

Officer Scott Knight taught eight Citizens Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) classes at the college in the spring of 2018. Built on an “Avoid, Deny, Defend” framework, the training covers techniques that students, staff, and faculty can use if they are ever involved in an active shooter incident. In short, the training teaches how to avoid the situation if possible, how to deny the shooter access to you if you cannot escape immediately, and the philosophy that what you do matters if

“Most criminals are looking for soft targets,” Knight said. “If you make yourself a hard target, they are more likely to move away from you to someone who is easier to take down.”

Although the techniques are different, the same philosophy of making yourself a harder target applies to self-defense courses the police department plans to offer soon.

Presented in cooperation with the college’s Student and Enrollment Services Office, the classes will teach participants how to avoid becoming the victim of a crime, abduction, or assault. Participants will be taught how to recognize potential dangerous situations as well as techniques for getting out of those situations if they occur.

Chief Taylor said he knows personally that classes like these make a difference. A similar class offered at Rice University when he was chief there received feedback from students who said they had evaded abductions and assaults because of what they learned.

The department also takes every opportunity it can to improve general crime prevention awareness. Taylor said Collin College police have taken part in safety fairs and other informational events throughout the district. Officers also regularly engage with students, staff, and faculty, providing advice to make campus environments more secure.

All of these education initiatives work in conjunction with the college’s safety plan, which identifies ways to improve district safety and security. Other measures include new communication tools to reach the college police, signs inside classrooms for easier location reporting, and a broad slate of other changes to ensure a welcoming and safe atmosphere at the college. The college is implementing the safety plan at current campuses and will build these safety strategies into the new campuses in Wylie and Allen.

## Preparing for the worst in the best of times

Fire Academy and Law Enforcement Academy cadets are now taking classes at the Public Safety Training Center, the first major project of Collin College’s Master Plan funded by voters’ approval of the 2017 bond. A state-of-the-art facility with reality-based training scenarios as a central component of its design, the center is a one-of-a-kind educational and training space for cadets and active-duty firefighters and police officers from around North Texas. Here are some things local officials and first responders are saying about the Public Safety Training Center.



Stephen Terrell  
Allen Mayor

“Having the new Public Safety Training Center so close to Allen is a huge benefit to our police force. I had an opportunity to see the facility before it was fully finished. As I walked through, I kept thinking about the amazing advantage it will give our officers as they train to protect our community. It’s truly a state-of-the-art space.”



George Fuller  
McKinney Mayor

“McKinney remains one of the fastest growing cities in the country and has been for more than a decade. Additions like the Public Safety Training Center will provide critical life-saving training to help meet the needs of our growing community. The value of additional training will ultimately save lives and enhance the safety of our community.”



Brian Harvey  
Allen Police Chief

“The Public Safety Training Center will provide a valuable training resource to area agencies. The city of Allen has located the Allen Police Firearms Facility within the PSTC and is proud to be a partner with Collin College. The Allen Police Department is looking forward to having a full-time firearms facility, especially coupled with such a versatile training complex.”



Gregory Conley  
McKinney Police Chief

“As a partner with the college, and as a Collin County resident, I am very proud of the facility. It shows Collin College’s commitment to providing the best facilities and training for our first responders. The new reality-based training village and excellent classroom facilities allow us to partner with the college in providing first-class training opportunities to the North Texas police officers.”



Greg Grimes  
Allen Fire Department Battalion Chief

“The new facility provides numerous training opportunities, including high rise, apartment fire and light commercial fire operations. The tactics and strategies are different for each, and we rarely see these types of fires in the city of Allen. The new facility provides us the ability to practice on what works and what doesn’t work for a structure of that type.”



Daniel Kistner,  
McKinney Fire Chief

“Previously, we had to travel to locations outside the city limits for certain training evolutions. We were limited in availability and time. Now, we have access to a facility with a field that can accommodate multiple scenarios and multiple agencies. We have a long and successful relationship with Collin College, and this center takes that relationship to the next level.”



# Trained to save: Collin College graduate responds in airline crisis

**I**t could have been a scene from a suspenseful movie. On April 17, Southwest Airlines flight 1380 was at cruising altitude and passengers were receiving drinks when Andrew Needum heard the loud boom. He looked over his shoulder to see flight attendants in a squatting position. When he turned his head to the front of the aircraft, oxygen masks deployed. He grabbed his mask and checked to make sure his family members' masks were in place.

"There was a horrendous noise from the left side of the aircraft," Needum said. "I looked immediately behind my wife, and a mother with a baby was trying to hold onto her mask and keep a mask on the baby. The plane was shaking, and we had a steep and rapid descent."

Needum unbuckled his seat belt and helped secure the masks of the young mother and her baby.

"There was a continuous loud noise behind us," he said. "I knew something had to be done in the back. My wife looked over her right shoulder. We made eye contact – she was giving me approval to go back there. We didn't know the state of the plane, and I realized it could have been my last look into her eyes. I reached over my dad, grabbed my son's hands, told him it was going to be okay, and I unbuckled for the last time and went back to row 14."

Needum's job has led him into burning buildings, a tornado, and countless crisis situations. A Collin College Fire Academy graduate, he earned his EMT certification and was recently awarded the spirit award in Paramedic class 23.

## Calm in Crisis

When Needum stood at row 14, he saw a person hanging out of the airplane window. He and fellow passenger Tim McGinty finally managed to pull Jennifer Riordan back into the plane and laid her across the three seats.

"My training allowed me to see a bigger picture and not remain in the tunnel vision that consumes most people," Needum said. "You slow down and control yourself, and that allows you to perform at your highest abilities. It took all we had to get her back in. The force of air and our speed made it difficult. I had just finished paramedic school, so I knew the steps we needed to take. We did everything we could."

Passenger Peggy Phillips, a retired nurse, alternated compressions with Needum.

"On our final descent they said, 'Brace, brace heads down,'" Needum said. "Peggy's head was down, and I continued chest compressions. I remember looking up and not seeing any faces. We didn't know if we were going to belly land. Finally, the plane came to a stop, and the Philadelphia medical crew boarded the plane."

Needum was completely unprepared for the large-scale media flurry that followed the harrowing plane ride. He even had the opportunity to shake hands with the president in the Oval Office. At one point he asked a firefighter mentor a question that was plaguing him.

"I asked Chief Garrett Rice, 'What if I had stayed in my seat?' He said, 'You would not have been able to live with yourself,' and I said, 'You are absolutely right.' He brought it full circle. I didn't want the attention and accolades, but I think it is good for the fire service to know what I experienced in case there is a similar situation."

Just days before his New York trip, Needum learned he passed the national paramedic exam.

"People in the DFW Metroplex view Collin College as a renowned college," he said. "The fire science and paramedic programs are among the best in the state. The national, computer-based paramedic certification test is so difficult that they give you several chances to retake it. I was able to pass it on the first attempt, and I know that was because of the education I received at Collin College."



Andrew Needum

*"People in the DFW Metroplex view Collin College as a renowned college. The fire science and paramedic programs are among the best in the state."*

## Perspectives: directors and graduates



**Pat McAuliff**  
Collin College Fire Science/  
EMS Director  
Chief Training Officer

"Collin College combines state-of-the-art facilities with faculty currently serving as firefighters and paramedics. Our simulation equipment and props, coupled with the real-world experience of instructors, give Collin an edge in bringing an exceptional level of instruction to our students. The Fire Science and EMS programs go beyond the mandated certification curriculum, offering opportunities which heighten students' interest in progressing through the ranks and help them understand the responsibilities of coworkers at the scene of an emergency."



**Charles Oster**  
Fire Academy Class 67  
Paramedic Class 25

"Becoming a first responder is the perfect career choice for me because every day is different. I have to think creatively to solve problems as they arise, and I will have the opportunity to serve my community. It really is great to have so many professors with so much experience teaching you different things every day. My professors are invested in my success and are available if I have difficulty with any subject matter."



**Scott Donaldson**  
Collin College  
Law Enforcement  
Academy Director

"Our Law Enforcement Academy provides cadets the opportunity to train and become certified peace officers in a state-of-the-art training facility at an affordable tuition. Graduates receive a level of training that far exceeds the state requirements. Cadets experience a rigorous training program that emphasizes applying classroom lecture to real-world, dynamic scenarios, ensuring cadets have the ability to apply classroom knowledge to situations they will encounter in the field."



**Gabrielle Williams**  
Wylie Police Officer  
Collin College Police  
Academy Class 101

"Although we all have different backgrounds and personalities, during the course of the academy, we formed a camaraderie to succeed in passing tests academically and physically. Through my internship, I observed officers interacting with the community in a positive way and found great joy being the first one on the scene in the midst of chaos. In my eight years in this career, I still feel the same way."



# Diverse districts making big moves to provide dual credit options

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is the lowest in the state. Spread over three or four years, the cost is manageable for most families.

Both Anna ISD and the Collegiate Academy at The Colony High School offer dual credit classes beginning in students' freshman year, putting

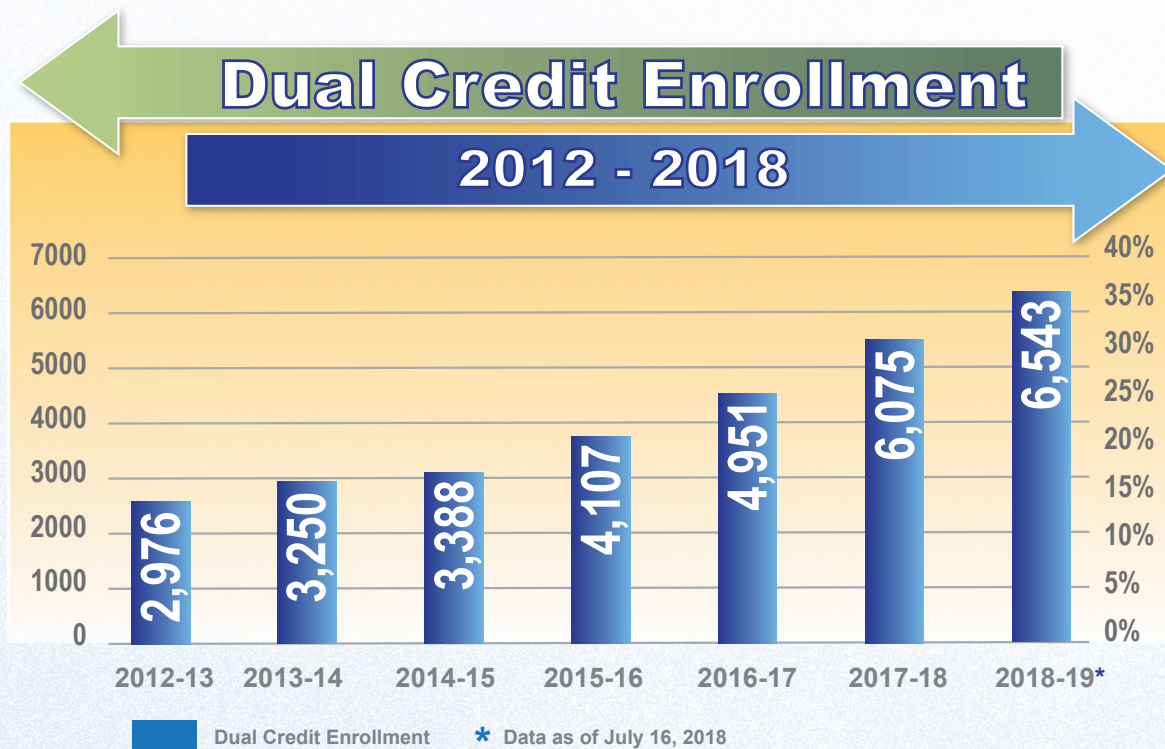
their students in an excellent position to earn an associate degree by the time they graduate high school. The early start gives the students time to work the dual credit classes into their schedules organically with a support system built in that

can be crucial.

"I think that support is a big component of college success," said Raul Martinez, associate vice president of P-12 Partnerships at Collin College. "Many students drop out in the first year because of the other responsibilities they might not have encountered before."

"By completing two years of college while in high school, they have the support systems of family and school counselors, allowing them to focus on school and making them more apt to complete a four-year degree."

Learn more about dual credit at <http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit.html>.



## Partnerships with ISDs give high school students a head start on college careers

*continued from page 1*

Frisco ISD is not the only school district where that spirit of collaborative planning can be seen, however. Collin College provides college and career counselors to most area high schools. These professionals work with students to determine aptitudes and interests, planning potential career paths and college admission strategies no matter what college the student chooses to attend.

"This is a unique opportunity for our high school students and the community," said Dr. Scott Niven, Allen ISD superintendent of schools. "It brings our dual credit program under one roof and allows us to expand courses for our college-bound students. This opens many more opportunities for our students to earn college credit and certifications while in high school."

"Allen High School has a long history of working with Collin College and dual credit programs. This takes that partnership to a new level."

Students who choose Collin College can apply in style thanks to the district's Mobile Go Center, a 42-foot-long technology showcase on wheels that makes its rounds to events all over Collin County. Filled with computer stations ready for student use, the Mobile Go Center is designed to support workshops for students and parents and offers a one-of-a-kind application experience.

"Local school districts are molding the future leaders of Collin County," Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said. "We look for every opportunity to partner with our school district colleagues to ensure this area's students have a strong college- or career-ready foundation to build on."

## New degrees, programs highlighted for the 2018-19 academic year

*continued from page 1*

where they can prepare for careers in ever-evolving technologies," said Mayor Jeff Cheney, City of Frisco. "The future Preston Ridge Campus Center of Excellence will help train and develop a highly-skilled work force vital to attracting companies and jobs to our community."

For details, visit [https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/EBUS\\_1Overview.html](https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/EBUS_1Overview.html).

### Construction Management Degree

An associate of applied science (AAS) degree will be available beginning this fall, with limited course offerings being introduced in the fall semester. Over time, the full list of course offerings will include topics such as construction methods, blueprint reading, estimating, construction codes, contract documentation, safety regulations, and more.

For complete details, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/programs/CNST\\_1Overview.html](http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/CNST_1Overview.html).

### Diagnostic Medical Sonography Degree

This fall, students can apply for admission to the associate of applied science degree in diagnostic medical sonography. The 65-credit-hour program will be housed at the Central Park Campus in McKinney. Classes begin in January 2019.

Diagnostic imaging is one of the most

commonly used technologies in the medical profession. Graduates with a degree in diagnostic medical sonography can be part of a team that helps identify medical issues early enough to make a real difference in people's lives.

For details, visit [https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/DMSO\\_1Overview.html](https://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/DMSO_1Overview.html).

### Surgical Assisting Certificate

Collin College is the only place in Texas students can earn a certificate in surgical assisting and is only one of 11 surgical assisting certificate programs in the nation.

Surgical technologists who have already earned their Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees and have two years of experience in the field can come to Collin College for this Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) in surgical assisting. Graduates of this program can sit for the Certified Surgical First Assistant (CSFA) examination sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting.

For more information, visit [http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/SRG\\_1Overview.html](http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/SRG_1Overview.html) or call 972-548-6215.



# College announces new leadership appointments

## College announces campus vice president appointments:



**Dr. Mary McRae** has been appointed vice president/provost of the planned campus in Wylie, which is scheduled to open in 2020. Dr. McRae has been with Collin College since 1986. She previously served as vice president/provost at two other campuses: the Central Park Campus in McKinney from 2008-2011 and the Spring Creek Campus in Plano from 2011-2018. Dr. McRae holds a Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of North Texas, an M.S. in student counseling and personnel from Drake University, and a B.A. in public health education from Central Michigan University.



**Dr. Abe Johnson** has been appointed vice president/provost of the Spring Creek Campus in Plano. He has served in the same role at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco since 2015. Dr. Johnson previously served as an associate professor and dean of academic affairs at the college. He holds an Ed.D. in higher education from Texas Tech University, a Th.M. in Bible exposition from Dallas Theological Seminary, a B.A. in family life education from Spring Arbor University, and an A.A.S. in respiratory therapy from Houston Community College.



**Dr. Donald Weasenforth** has been appointed vice president/provost of the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco. He has served as associate provost of instruction at the Collin Higher Education Center in McKinney since August 2017. Before that he was dean of academic affairs for communications and humanities at the college's Spring Creek Campus in Plano. He also served as an assistant professor at The George Washington University Columbian College of Arts & Science from 1995-2003. Dr. Weasenforth holds a Ph.D. in applied linguistics from the University of Southern California and a master's degree in linguistics from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"We are setting the stage for what promises to be a bright future for Collin College," said District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "Dr. McRae's many years of administrative experience, including a decade

of campus leadership in McKinney and Plano, will be invaluable as we lay the groundwork for the new campus in Wylie, and Dr. Johnson and Dr. Weasenforth will continue the tradition of excellence established at our Spring Creek and Preston Ridge campuses."

## Additional administrative appointments:



**Dr. Tom Martin** was promoted to vice president of institutional research. Dr. Martin joined Collin College as director of institutional research in 1994 and has served as associate vice president in the department since 1999. Prior to that he served as director of planning and institutional research at Odessa College and director of institutional research and planning at Utah Valley University. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and master's and bachelor's degrees in communications, all from Brigham Young University.



**Dr. L. Cameron Neal** was appointed associate provost of instruction for the college district. He has served as academic dean at the college's Spring Creek Campus in Plano since 2002. Prior to that he was chair of the mathematics department at Temple College. Dr. Neal holds a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Texas at Austin and bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University.



**Gaye Cooksey** was appointed dean of Collin Weekend College. She has been with Collin College since 2001 and most recently served as dean of academic affairs/workforce at the college's Spring Creek Campus in Plano. Ms. Cooksey holds an M.A. in organizational management from the University of Phoenix and a B.A. in painting and drawing from the University of North Texas.

"Dr. Martin has provided outstanding leadership in our Institutional Research office for more than 20 years," said Dr. Brenda Kihl, executive vice president and chief academic officer. "Dr. Neal and Ms. Cooksey are longtime deans who bring diverse academic experiences to their new positions, and their appointments will provide a focused effort on enhancing our university partnerships and our weekend course offerings."

## Visitors can find their future and much more at Collin's redesigned website



With an eye on helping prospective students learn more about the college and its programs, Collin College launched a new website design over the summer. The site, [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu), features a clean, responsive design that adapts to whatever device is being used: smart phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. "The site focuses first on the prospective student," said Chief Public Relations Officer Tom Delamater. "What information are they looking for, and what do they want to know about Collin?" The site also features information for students, faculty, alumni, donors, and community members, including a listing of current job openings at the college. Immediately upon landing on the homepage, the user finds "Four Steps to Registration" and is able to scroll the page to find information about the college's eight locations and a section offering answers to frequently asked questions about admissions, advising, financial aid, and student orientation. The home page also offers a quick glance at the college calendar, recent news, and information. The redesign took a little over a year and involved the college's executive team, campus and department leadership, and more than 250 college employees who have editing responsibilities for their respective pages, according to Manager of Web Communications Rajesh Michael. The college's Information Technology Office provided technical advice and support throughout the process.

"Our website receives more than 13 million pageviews a year, so we wanted to simplify the process of finding important information as quickly as possible," Michael said. Michael noted additional refinements and features will be added in future design phases scheduled for the 2018-19 academic year.



# Alumni describe the value of starting your journey at Collin



**Erik B. Neff**

Took Collin College classes and transferred to The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) where he earned a B.S. in business administration

*"To me, it is a no-brainer. I saved thousands of dollars by coming to Collin. The professors were outstanding, and I took upper-level classes from UTD at the Collin Higher Education Center. Collin College is a smart decision."*



**Sean Cummings**

Earned a Collin College associate degree and transferred to Texas A&M-Commerce

*"Attending Collin College is an excellent way to begin your educational career as a veteran. Taking university classes at the Collin Higher Education Center saves me gas money, wear and tear on my vehicle and the frustration of traffic."*



**Mary Nguyen**

Took Collin College high school dual credit classes, earned a Collin College associate degree, transferred to Texas Tech University and was

recently admitted to the School of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at Abilene

*"The norm should be two years at Collin and two years at a university. The freshman and sophomore classes at Collin are the same as the classes at area universities, but you are paying a lot less and have smaller class sizes."*



**Mara Pitcher**

Earned a Collin College associate degree and transferred to Southern Methodist University (SMU) where she graduated Summa Cum

Laude and was a recipient of the SMU Study Abroad Scholarship, the SMU Henry S. Jacobus Junior Paper Prize in History and the 2018 Herbert Pickens Gambrell Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement

*"All history majors have to write an intensive paper their junior year. It is 25 pages of original primary research. Collin must have prepared me well if I could write the best paper at Southern Methodist University my first semester there."*



Speaking of value...

Two years of tuition\* at a Texas public university\*\*  
\$23,000 approximately

Two years of tuition\* at Collin College  
\$3,000 approximately

What could you afford with the difference?

A Toyota Corolla ... More than 51,200 ramen noodle packets ...  
(Compact)\*\*\*

Invest in your future with a savings or retirement account...

\* includes some fees

\*\* Average tuition for four semesters (15 hours each) at five of the top Texas public universities (Source: 2018 College for All Texans)

\*\*\* MSRP of \$18,600

## inside this issue

Partnerships with ISDs give students a head start .....	1
New degrees, programs highlighted for 2018-19 academic year .....	1
Diverse districts making big moves in dual credit .....	1
It's GROW Time .....	2
Phase 2 architects, GMP contract approved by board .....	2
Program planning paves the way for construction .....	3
Safety at Collin College .....	4
Preparing for the worst in the best of times .....	4
Trained to save .....	5
Perspectives: directors and graduates .....	5
College announces new leadership appointments .....	7
Collin's redesigned website .....	7
Did you know? .....	8

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