

*Business partnerships spur economic growth*

## Collin College: Responding to the challenges of the regional job market

**R**esidents of Collin County and the surrounding area know the North Texas economy is booming, with job growth, low unemployment and rising wages heralding the rapid changes taking place in the region. Even so, 2018 is expected to present some challenges for businesses searching for qualified workers.

According to a recent article in the Dallas Business Journal, a shortage of talent in certain fields threatens to slow the North Texas economic machine. Low unemployment means fewer candidates are available. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of Baby Boomers are reaching retirement age, resulting in more open positions. “Employers will find it difficult to find workers,” the article cited.

Collin College is working with business and industry to address the challenge and provide solutions to the region’s workforce needs.

### Workforce advisory committees offer expertise to college programs

Building a new educational program means learning the subject in as much detail as possible from the people who know it best. As Collin College designs the curricula for programs in the high-demand construction and automotive fields, the programs’ designers are going to the people who know those career fields’ demands and potential areas for growth first-hand by convening workforce advisory committees made up of industry leaders from across Collin County.

This approach has been effective for the continued review and development of all workforce programs at Collin College, including nursing, hospitality management, culinary arts, applied graphic design, biotechnology, child development, commercial music, engineering, information technology, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), health sciences programs, paralegal and others.

“Having advisory committees comprised of industry representatives ensure the college curriculum remains responsive to the changing workforce needs,” said Dr. Brenda Kihl, Collin College executive vice president. “Employers can have confidence that the college will teach industry-identified skills, and the students will be ready for hire upon graduation.”

Likewise, the college continues to improve its programs as new technologies and tactics emerge in a given industry. Students can be sure they are learning the most useful skills for the careers they have chosen.

### IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

- ▶ Workforce Advisory Committees
- ▶ Collin Small Business Center
- ▶ Center for Workforce & Economic Development
- ▶ Collin Corporate College

Phil Crone, executive officer for the Dallas Builder’s Association, serves on the construction management advisory committee. He believes the perspective that he and the other committee members bring to the college will make a difference in students’ lives.

“Students are going to benefit by having a program that was designed for and by their future employers,” Crone said. “They are going to get the practical knowledge and the education that Collin College can provide for them. That is going to lead them to be better equipped and marketable when they get out in the workforce.”

Having industry leaders visiting campuses also offers them the chance to see students

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## Possibilities for Collin Technical Campus, new programs excite business leaders



**L**ong before any concrete is poured at the future site of the Collin College Technical Campus in Allen, another foundation is being laid – one designed to ensure the success and employability of its future students.

The 360,000-square-foot campus, scheduled to open in the fall of 2020 on State Highway 121 east of Exchange Parkway, will host new and expanded technical education programs designed to prepare students for

*Bob Tomes (L.), owner of Tomes Auto Group of McKinney, with technician Kody Spies in the service department of Bob Tomes Ford.*

some of the most in-demand fields in Collin County. From new pharmacy tech and physical therapy assistant programs to automotive service technician, collision repair and a wide range of construction trade and management programs – plumbing, electrical, HVAC, welding/metals fabrication and more – the curriculum is being designed with an eye toward employability for future graduates.

According to area business leaders, the job market is already primed for many of those trades and will be ready and waiting for students when they begin graduating from the technical campus.

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# Tradition of financial excellence holds strong

✓ **Highest Marks from Two Largest Credit-Rating Agencies**

✓ **Lead to Favorable Prices on AAA Rated Bonds**

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service have both assigned the highest quality ratings, AAA Stable and Aaa Stable respectively, to Collin College's Series 2018 Limited Tax Bonds. This top rating led to the college finding a favorable market for the competitive sale of its \$234.25 million par 2018 Limited Tax Bonds, marking the first bond issuance from the 2017 bond authorization.



## Bid price saves taxpayers money

The college attracted bids from some of the largest Wall Street firms and syndicates, attesting to the institutional investment quality of the bonds. The winning bid price, submitted by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, was 3.29% including costs of issuance for the serial bonds with a maximum maturity of 20 years. The bid price also includes a premium over par of \$16.3 million which allows the college to issue par debt of \$234.25 million, generate \$250 million for construction, and pay the costs of issuance from the proceeds of the transaction.

The 2018 Limited Tax Bonds will provide funds for expenses incurred in constructing the college's Public Safety Training Center as well as beginning construction on two new campuses—the Technical Campus and the Wylie Campus.

The S&P Global Rating also included an upgrade in the financial management assessment of the college from "good" to "strong" based, among other factors, on the Collin College Board of Trustees' adoption of a formal debt management policy; sound financial management

practices which include monthly monitoring of financial position, results of operations, investment earnings, and investment holdings by the Board. While assigning the AAA Stable rating to the Series 2018 Limited Tax Bonds, S&P Global Ratings also affirmed the AAA Stable rating on the college's previously issued debt.

According to Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin, the exemplary long-term credit ratings illustrate that the college is an exceptionally stable institution.

"We continually work toward improving our transparency, and I applaud our Board of Trustees for their stewardship, innovation, and support," Matkin said. "Collin College is one of only three community colleges in the state of Texas that has a AAA rating for bonds. The top rating opened the door for favorable market bids, and we are pleased to pass down the interest savings to our taxpayers."

## Repayment terms structured to lower borrowing costs

According to Kenneth D. Lynn, Collin College chief financial officer, in addition to obtaining an extremely favorable interest rate, the college also created unique structured repayment terms. Special call features on bonds maturing in 2035-2038 will give the college an opportunity to pay off long-term debt that carries the highest interest rates as early as 2022 and save significant interest costs for taxpayers.

"The bonds maturing in 2027-2034 have a nine-year call feature and are callable after August 15, 2027, should the college find a favorable economic opportunity," Lynn said. "The college is positioned to repay the debt in a manner that will lower our borrowing costs and responsibly exercise our stewardship of taxpayer resources in providing quality academic and workforce training to Collin County."

# Basketball teams continue winning traditions

Collin College Athletics' winning tradition continued this season with the men's and women's basketball teams returning to the regional tournament in March. The tournament appearance capped off stellar seasons for both teams.

The Lady Cougars finished the season with an impressive 11-3 conference, 26-5 overall record, capturing a co-championship of the North Texas Junior College Academic Conference (NTJACAC). This co-championship, shared with Weatherford College, makes the fourth year in a row that Collin has won or shared the conference title.

The Lady Cougars ranked 11th in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I basketball poll by mid-February, suffering only two losses in their first 25 games before experiencing an unfortunate series of injuries. The team played the last five games of the regular season without a post player.

"Our team stepped up and showed what a great group they are," Coach Jeff Allen said. "I'm very proud of them."

The Collin men's team closed out the season with an 8-4 conference record, going 21-10 overall and capturing the No. 2 spot in the conference behind McLennan. The Cougars split games with McLennan, a nationally-ranked team, earlier in the season.

"We've had a good year, finishing second in a very tough conference," Coach Jim Sigona



Collin's men's and women's basketball teams recently wrapped up successful seasons, with both teams making it to the NJCAA Region V tournament. Left photo: Jackson Nobles (30) finishes strong at the rim for the Cougars as teammate Seth White (22) looks on. Right photo: Mya Johnson (24) drives to the hoop for the Lady Cougars; Ashtyn Beal (15) is in the background.

said. "This group of young men has worked hard all season long."

The Cougars battled their way into the semi-final round of the NJCAA Region V Tournament before losing to Odessa College, which ranked No. 7 nationally at the regular season's end.



Collin College had 15 All-Conference and All-Region honorees, including Co-Coach of the Year awards going to both Allen and Sigona. The college also had eight All-Academic Team honorees, including members of the men's and women's tennis teams. For details, visit [www.collin.edu/athletics](http://www.collin.edu/athletics).



# Pre-admission partnerships, college centers make four-year degrees more accessible, affordable



While many students come to Collin College seeking a certificate or two-year degree to enter the workforce quickly, about 40 percent of the college's student body plans to move on to a four-year college or university. Collin College makes seeking a bachelor's or other degree easier by providing guaranteed admission to 10 Texas universities for qualified students and offering university programming at the Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) and other sites.

Collin College has pre-admission agreements with Austin College, Baylor University, Dallas Baptist University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Tech University, Texas Woman's University, Texas Wesleyan University, The University of Texas at Dallas and University of North Texas. The agreements allow students to complete the first two years of their bachelor's degree at Collin College at Collin's tuition rates – the lowest in Texas – and are guaranteed admissions to the partner university when its admission requirements are met.

Each program has its own admissions procedure, but Collin College's pre-admission partners work with students during their time at Collin to prepare them for the transfer process, ensuring that transfer requirements

are met. In most cases, the home university provides advising and other benefits like campus visits, university facility access and scholarship availability for students in their pre-admission programs. You can learn more about the district's pre-admission partnerships at [www.collin.edu/transferu/Pre-admnProg.html](http://www.collin.edu/transferu/Pre-admnProg.html).

If a student plans to pursue a bachelor's or higher degree, but prefers to stay closer to home, the district offers other partnership options at its Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) facility. The CHEC hosts classes from A&M-Commerce, Texas Tech, TWU, UTD and UNT, with more than two dozen degree plans ranging from bachelor's to doctorates. Classes are taught by the home university's faculty and are as rigorous as any taught at the home university's campus. You can learn more about the Collin Higher Education Center at [www.collin.edu/chec](http://www.collin.edu/chec) or by calling 972.599.3100.

The district's partnership with A&M-Commerce also extends to other bachelor's degree coursework at the college's Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco, where students can prepare for careers in marketing, business, environmental science and agribusiness. Learn more at [www.tamuc.edu/academics/locations/Frisco](http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/locations/Frisco).

## Collin College Board of Trustees names new member

Collin College's Board of Trustees appointed **Steve Matthews** to fill Place 2, formerly occupied by Nancy Wurzman, who recently moved out of the district. Matthews was sworn into office at the regular Feb. 27 Collin College Board of Trustees meeting.

Matthews, a Richardson resident, has a long history of public service including roles on the Collin College Foundation Board and on the Committee of 100, the college's advising and advocacy committee. He is the director of governmental and public affairs for Atmos Energy, where he has been employed since 1990. He is a past chairman of the Allen, Frisco and Plano chambers of commerce and a graduate of Leadership Allen, Leadership Plano, Leadership Richardson and Leadership North Texas.

"I have a long-held passion for the success of Collin College," Matthews said. "I am deeply honored by the board's decision and for the opportunity to serve our students and communities in this role."

His appointment runs until the May 2019 general election.

Matthews' fellow board members expressed admiration for the candidate's



Steve Matthews (left) of Richardson was sworn in as the newest member of the Collin College Board of Trustees on Feb. 27. Here his son Jack looks on as he takes the oath of office from Board Secretary Shirley Harmon.

commitment to public service and anticipate a good working relationship.

"Steve's dedication to public service and his advocacy for Collin County make him an excellent addition to the board," said Dr.

Robert Collins, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "We are pleased to welcome him and look forward to working alongside him for the betterment of Collin College."



# Collin College: A partner in business

*continued from page 1*

in action and many have become more involved according to Associate Dean Karen Musa.

“Our advisory committee members are very active in hiring our students, giving tours of their properties for classes and coming to campus for guest speaker activities,” she said.

Want to share your expertise with Collin College as a member of a Workforce Advisory Committee? Learn more about the program you are interested in at [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu) and reach out to the academic contact on its webpage to volunteer.

## Calling all small business owners

Are you hoping to start a small business? Did you know the Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is housed at Collin



College's Courtyard Center in Plano? The SBDC offers free consultations and a host of free classes on various topics including how to start a small business, government contracting, accounting and tax issues, funding and legal information.

The creator of more than 60 different types of bratwurst, Joshua Degenhardt knows a lot about sausage. After all, he and his family have been making them from scratch for years. However, moving to Texas and starting Degenhardt's Brat Haus in Plano's Legacy Food Hall in December 2017 was a large undertaking. He had many questions ranging from business leads to his parents' immigration from Canada.

“We wanted to find a trusted source to give us answers. The SBDC is very resourceful. They will point you in the right direction. If you are starting a business, I would approach them first. It is a great service, and it is a free service. I would go back for future advice without reservation,” he said.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Collin SBDC partners with Collin Corporate College to offer area businesses the assistance they need to succeed.

“Since 1989, the Collin SBDC has assisted local companies in creating jobs and economic growth by utilizing the elements of quality advising, community involvement and leveraging resources,” said Marta Frey, director of the Collin SBDC. “Our strengths in business valuations and expansion funding make the Collin SBDC an important partner in a company's ability to grow.”

Carrie K. Stein, owner of Coffee House Café in North Dallas couldn't agree more.

“My first recommendation to small business owners in transition, new entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs is always, always first and foremost to reach out to the Small Business Development Center at Collin College, immediately,” said Stein.

“The advice, encouragement, expertise and funding information has been a critical part of my success for the last seven years. The team at the SBDC is uniquely qualified to help entrepreneurs navigate launching a dream into reality. The importance of the SBDC to our business community and our small business culture in Collin County and North

Dallas cannot be understated,” she said.

For more information about the Collin SBDC, visit [www.collinsbdc.com](http://www.collinsbdc.com) or call 972.985.3770.

## Workforce skills training does not have to break your budget

Having a well-skilled workforce is essential for companies that demand to stay on the competitive edge. Successful businesses have long known that maintaining a well-skilled workforce requires investing in the latest training for their employees, but training does not have to mean high cost.

Collin College provides affordable skills training to companies from various industries including finance, manufacturing, information technology, food processing and more. Hundreds of employees have received training in topics ranging from technology and team-building to leadership and organizational effectiveness, all flexibly scheduled to meet the needs of the employer. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/corporatecollege](http://www.collin.edu/corporatecollege).

For companies needing more budget for their more technical/occupation-specific training, a workforce training grant may be the preferred option. Collin College's Center for Workforce & Economic

## Center for Workforce & Economic Development

Development garnered \$748,472 in awarded grants last year, assisting 11 local companies with needed skills training. In January 2018, Collin College received a \$294,190 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to train 224 employees from two local businesses.

“Having training offered through Texas Workforce Commission grant dollars brings up the overall skill level of these companies and makes them more competitive in the market,” said Guy Boucher, training specialist at Unicom Engineering, Inc., one of the companies participating in a current grant.

Natalie Greenwell, director of the Center for Workforce and Economic Development at Collin College, said, “We work closely with our companies to identify specific needs and skills gaps and develop the training grant proposal. If a company needs advanced classes in Excel or Basic Aluminum Welding or Hyper V Server Virtualization – all current classes, that is what we will deliver.” By examining the gaps in current employee training, a company not only lays the groundwork for a grant application, but also gains a better understanding of itself.

“Our training is specialized and directed toward the employer's needs,” Greenwell said, talking about the variety of training types available. “We measure our success by meeting client's needs.”

Learn more about the program by calling 972-985-3768 or visiting [www.collin.edu/cwed/](http://www.collin.edu/cwed/).

## Corporate College: Your local training think tank

Collin Corporate College is a veritable training think tank, continually offering the up-to-date training area companies need to reach their peak performance.

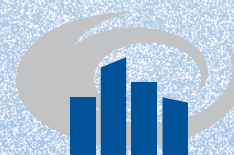
From executive and leadership *continued on page 5*



*Degenhardt's Brat Haus in Plano received startup advice from the SBDC*



*Carrie K. Stein, owner of Coffee House Café in North Dallas*



COLLIN  
CORPORATE  
COLLEGE



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development to technical instruction to workshops on successfully managing millennials, Corporate College has the information your company needs to succeed.

Wouldn't it be great to have a trusted source that would work alongside you to explore your specific business needs and develop training to meet those needs? Area companies are taking advantage of this partnership every day with Corporate College.

"Collin Corporate College put together a terrific series of classes for our organization that benefited multiple departments," said Matthew Howe, director of recruiting at Huffines Auto Dealerships. "The instructors don't use a boilerplate syllabus but rather tailor the class to your group's specific needs. We liked that the instructors scheduled calls prior to the training to discuss expectations for success and areas of emphasis to ensure we are maximizing our time."

Corporate College knows training site options are important for businesses and employees.

"Corporate College delivers new, targeted, customized training directly to Collin County businesses, saving precious commute

time," said Dr. Sherry Schumann, senior vice president of Academic Workforce and Enrollment Services.

"We're here to provide solutions. Whether we are working with small businesses or large corporations, our broad range of experts are prepared to meet clients' needs and exceed their expectations."

At Collin Corporate College, client success is a priority.

"With low unemployment rates, a competitive workforce, and new businesses making Collin County their home daily, training and professional development for your staff is more important than ever," added Adam Pitluk, executive director of Corporate College. "We proudly offer affordable, accessible solutions to help optimize your organizational performance."

For more information about Corporate College, visit [www.collin.edu/corporatecollege](http://www.collin.edu/corporatecollege), email [corporatecollege@collin.edu](mailto:corporatecollege@collin.edu) or call 972.599.3110.



## New HVAC program heats up

### First HVAC students earn Level 1 certification

This summer, close to 30 Collin College dual credit and night students will earn their Level 1 certifications. For student Steve Pierce certifications translate to a new career and a larger salary—two things he is excited about.

"My boss gave me the opportunity to move up," said Pierce, whose title will change from fleet manager to HVAC apprentice at Air Conditioning Innovative Solutions, Inc. (ACIS). "I am very grateful. I like being challenged. I want to thank the leaders of Collin College for allowing this program to exist. It is so convenient for me. I live in Farmersville, and I am able to go to school straight from work in McKinney."

Kenneth Hetzel, ACIS vice president of service, says he hears about the many new things Steve is learning almost every day.

"I am real proud of him," Hetzel said. "We threw it out there, and he took the bull by the horns. We have more than 150 employees, but we have a family feel. I told Steve with these skills and certifications he can go anywhere in the world and get a job."

Kevin Self, vice president and co-owner/cofounder of ACIS, couldn't agree more.

"This program is an opportunity for someone who has topped out at his salary to be able to go out in the field and earn more for his family," Self said. "Nationally, on average we are 57,000 HVAC technicians short, and our average technician is more than 50 years old. There is a high demand for talent, and with a high demand for talent you can demand high pay. If anyone is thinking about taking HVAC classes at the college, they should definitely do it. It is a small investment with the potential for great reward."



Above: HVAC equipment donated by Century A/C Supply. Left to right, Todd Shadden and Brian Sanders

HVAC is in growing demand, and Collin College is answering the call. Right photo: Kenneth Hetzel, Steve Pierce and Kevin Self of Air Conditioning Innovative Solutions, Inc. (ACIS).



### Century A/C Supply donates HVAC equipment

Collin College recently received an HVAC equipment donation valued at more than \$30,000 from Century A/C Supply. Housed at the Princeton ISD HVAC lab, the new residential HVAC equipment includes outdoor condensing units, 18 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) heat pumps, modulating gas furnaces and the controls to operate them.

"It is about community," said Todd Shadden, vice president and general manager for Century A/C Supply. "We are donating enough equipment to stock four labs. Our technician pool has gotten really lean. Now, colleges are pushing people back to the trades."

You can go to college for a year and a half and get a job making \$50,000-\$60,000 annually. We are really trying to help bring good people into our industry."

According to Brian Sanders, Collin College HVAC lead professor, Collin College has 30 dual credit students and 18 night students currently taking HVAC classes at Princeton ISD.

"With this generous donation, the Princeton ISD lab is competitive to any lab or training facility in the area. We have the hands-on training equipment right here for Collin College dual credit and night students."

For more information about Collin College HVAC classes, contact Brian Sanders at [bsanders@collin.edu](mailto:bsanders@collin.edu).





## Possibilities for Technical Campus continued from page 1

“I think the auto dealerships in McKinney could put 60, 70, or 80 technicians to work today,” said **Bob Tomes**, owner of Tomes Auto Group. “With the growth of our community, with the growth of our county, we are still hard-pressed to find qualified people.”

Specialized training in aluminum work through Collin’s welding/metals fabrication courses will prepare students for the changing needs of the automotive business. Likewise, newer-model vehicles require an understanding of diagnostic equipment and repair processes that are constantly changing.

“We’re not all busting our knuckles with dirt under our fingernails,” Tomes said. “This is a technical world world that is continuing to evolve with more modules, sensors, electronic navigation and safety features. The future will develop with even more drivability and autonomous features that will call for an even more educated and knowledgeable workforce.”

Tomes, who has taken part in Collin College’s workforce advisory committees, which are helping shape the automotive programs and facilities that will be offered at the new campus (read more about these committees on page 1), is excited about the prospect of having more technical training programs in Collin County at an affordable price.

“We need something local, and we need tuition to be at a rate that doesn’t cause someone to graduate owing \$25,000-\$45,000,” Tomes said, noting with approval Collin College’s tuition rate – \$46 per credit hour for in-county students – which is the lowest in the state of Texas.

The need for qualified trade skill workers is also a priority for **Richard Bush**, owner of Trinity Stairs in Frisco, who volunteered to be part of the construction workforce advisory committee.

“As a business owner, I need professionals who deal with the construction industry – solid works designers, fabricators, welders, and all other types of trades out there that offer high paying jobs,” Bush said. “There is a need for those people, but there is no place locally for them to be trained.”

That will change when the technical campus opens. At full capacity, the campus will host up to 5,000 students, including students from Allen Independent School District, who will attend classes in a 40,000 square-foot expansion funded by the ISD. The addition will exclusively house dual credit programs for Allen High School students from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. during the school year. Collin College will use the space when Allen High School classes are not in session, providing night and weekend educational opportunities for other students.

The facility can be a game-changer for Collin County, according to **Denward Freeman**, president of MEDCO Construction in Dallas, who has consulted with Collin College administrators about construction education requirements in the county.

“There is a tremendous need in our industry for education and training, both on

the management side and the trade side,” Freeman said. “What you are planning at the technical campus has tremendous potential and is an absolute necessity for our businesses and our community.”

## Collin grad finds success as senior network engineer

**Chelsea Bray** was an art major at Collin College with plans to be a K-12 art teacher when a computer networking class changed her life.

“My dad wanted me to be able to financially support myself when I grew up, and he asked me to take a Cisco (CCNA) class,” Bray said. “I fell in love with it. It was definitely different from what I thought IT was going to be.”

Bray flourished in the program, thanks in part to the professors (“They were pretty much always available and they had no problem working with people one-on-one”), in part to a “fearless” mentor who helped her navigate in an industry dominated by men and, of course, her hard work spending extra time learning as much as possible.

By the time she earned her associate degree from Collin College, she had already landed a junior IT project coordinator position earning \$56,000 annually. Now, four years after taking her first IT class, she clears \$93,000 as a senior network engineer while also attending advanced classes at the University of North Texas.

Success stories like Bray’s are not common in the workplace, but they are also not rare when it comes to workforce programs at Collin College. Ask any professor in health care, the culinary arts, engineering or the creative arts and they can relate a similar story.

Dr. Ann Beheler, the executive director of emerging technology grants at Collin College and Bray’s mentor, said the mission is simple.

“The whole reason that you do a workforce program is so that the students have the right skills to get the right jobs,” she said.



Denward Freeman,  
MEDCO Construction

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Senior network engineer Chelsea Bray is a Collin College workforce success story



# Collin College Foundation expects to give \$1 MILLION in scholarships next year

The Collin College Foundation expects to award \$1 million in scholarships to students in the coming year, a milestone the foundation announced at its annual Stetson and Stiletto Standoff fundraiser on Feb. 17.

According to Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president, the record-breaking total means more scholarships will be available to help the growing number of students who need them.

“Scholarships are a lifeline for our students on their way to potentially more lucrative careers through higher education,” said Dr. Matkin. “Access to education not only impacts the students but also our economy, and scholarships help students who need it the most.” Dr. Matkin said the scholarship total crossed the \$1 million mark through a combination of increased fundraising and good returns on endowment investments.

Tammy McSwain, who chairs the Collin College Foundation board of directors, said, “Last year, we gave away about 650 scholarships, but this year we expect to give away up to 800. Our hope is to get the message out that we have more money available this year so students should apply now for scholarships.”

Graduating high school students as well as current or prospective Collin College students are encouraged to apply for scholarships at [www.collin.edu/foundation/students](http://www.collin.edu/foundation/students). To qualify for a scholarship, the student must first apply for admission to Collin College, a free process that can be done at <https://apply.collin.edu>.

Dr. Matkin added that scholarships also boost student success. A recent study showed that students on scholarships through the foundation earn more credit hours, have

higher rates of course completion, are more likely to return for the next semester, and have higher grade point averages compared to students without scholarships. The average grade point average for a student on a Collin College Foundation scholarship is 3.4.

Visit [www.collin.edu/foundation](http://www.collin.edu/foundation) to learn more about the Collin College Foundation.



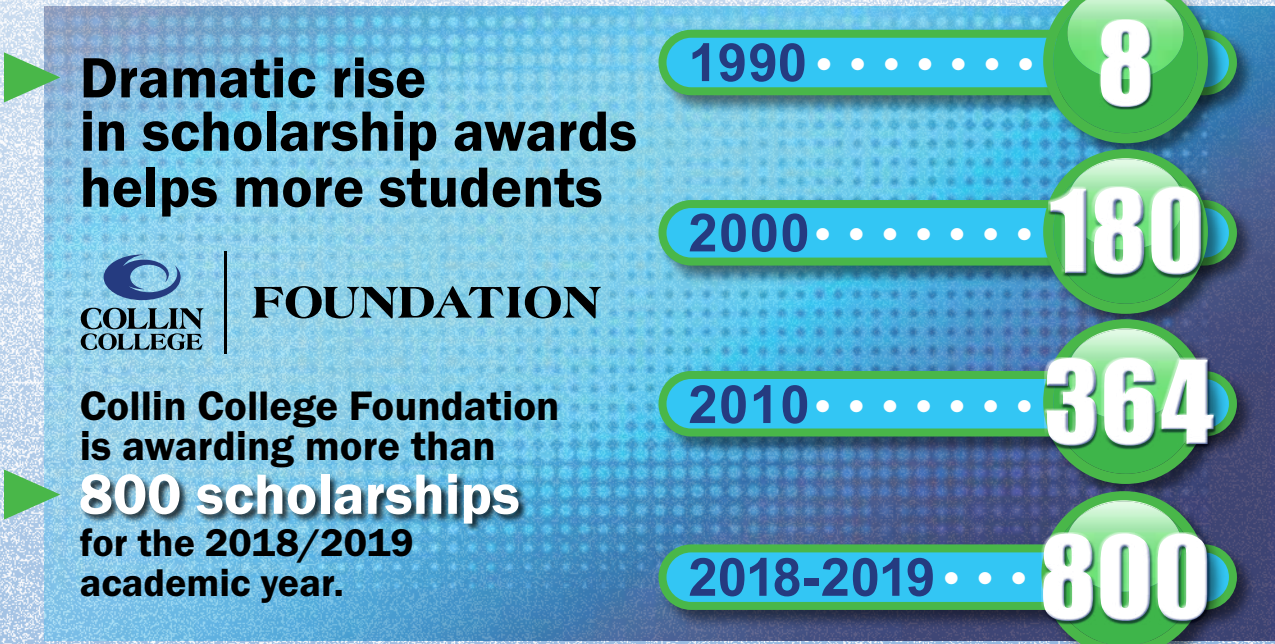
The Stetson and Stiletto Standoff is the foundation’s signature fundraiser, and this year’s event beat its goal by raising more than \$210,000. Donors, guests, and community members tested their knowledge in a cowboy- and cowgirl-themed trivia competition while supporting scholarships. The event was held at the college’s Spring Creek Campus Library in Plano, and FOX4 sports anchor Mike Doocy hosted the trivia match.

“We are so thankful to all of our donors and sponsors for a wonderful Stetson and Stiletto Standoff and a wonderful year,” said Tammy McSwain, Foundation board chair. “With the help of our partners and patrons, we know the sky is the limit.”

This year’s Stetson and Stiletto Standoff sponsors were: **TITLE SPONSOR:** PBK. **ALAMO PARTNERS:** AECOM, Milton and Mary Kate Buschbom and Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano. **RIO GRANDE PARTNER:** Collin College Student Housing Foundation (CCSHF) and CORE Construction. **YELLOW ROSE PARTNERS:** Collin College Leadership Team, CCSHF, Farmersville EDC, Independent Bank, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., Page Southerland Page and Skanska. **SILVER SPUR PARTNERS:** Abernathy, Roeder, Boyd and Hullett, P.C., American National Bank of Texas, ARTA Travel, Atmos Energy, City of Celina/ Celina EDC, Steve and Kim Davison, David and Christine Downs, Wendy Gartenberg Memorial Scholarship, The Gomel Group, Lee Martin and Irene Joyce Tevis Memorial Scholarships, Maso Family, David McCall, McCall Parkhurst & Horton, McKinney CDC/EDC, Medical City McKinney, Medical City Plano, Jim and Rebecca Orr, Perkins + Will, Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, The Shops at Willow Bend, Shep and JoeAnn Stahel/IBM, State Farm, Strasburger and Price, LLP, and the City of Wylie/Wylie EDC.



Collin College Trustees and Foundation Board members celebrate the announcement of \$1 million in scholarships to be given away. Pictured from left are (front row) Craig Overstreet, Robert Scott, Adrian Rodriguez, Kim Moore, Fred Moses, Tammy McSwain, Dr. Neil Matkin, Maher Maso and Keith Wright and (back row) Shep Stahel, Dr. Bob Collins, Milton Buschbom, Andy Hardin and Jim Orr.





## IN THEIR OWN WORDS: CHAMBERS LAUD COLLEGE'S IMPACT



**Jamee Jolly**  
Plano  
Chamber of Commerce  
President/CEO

"The Plano Chamber has enjoyed a partnership with Collin College for more than 30 years. This partnership includes joint programming for business professionals, assessing workforce needs of the local business community to provide more beneficial training, and advocating in Austin for good policy that will help the college provide a more cost-effective and relevant educational experience for students."



**Joseph Helmberger**  
Farmersville  
Chamber of Commerce  
Board President

"Collin College's expansion into Farmersville will have an incredible impact on not only every chamber member but on every business in east Collin County and the community as a whole. It has been proven time and time again that community colleges have positive impacts on communities."



**Mike Agnew**  
Wylie  
Chamber of Commerce  
President/CEO

"We could not be more excited about Collin College coming to Wylie, Texas. From a Chamber standpoint, the economic impact will be immeasurable and the partnership opportunities between business, education and the college will be plentiful. The Wylie Chamber of Commerce staff and Board of Directors are very excited about the future with Collin College in Wylie."



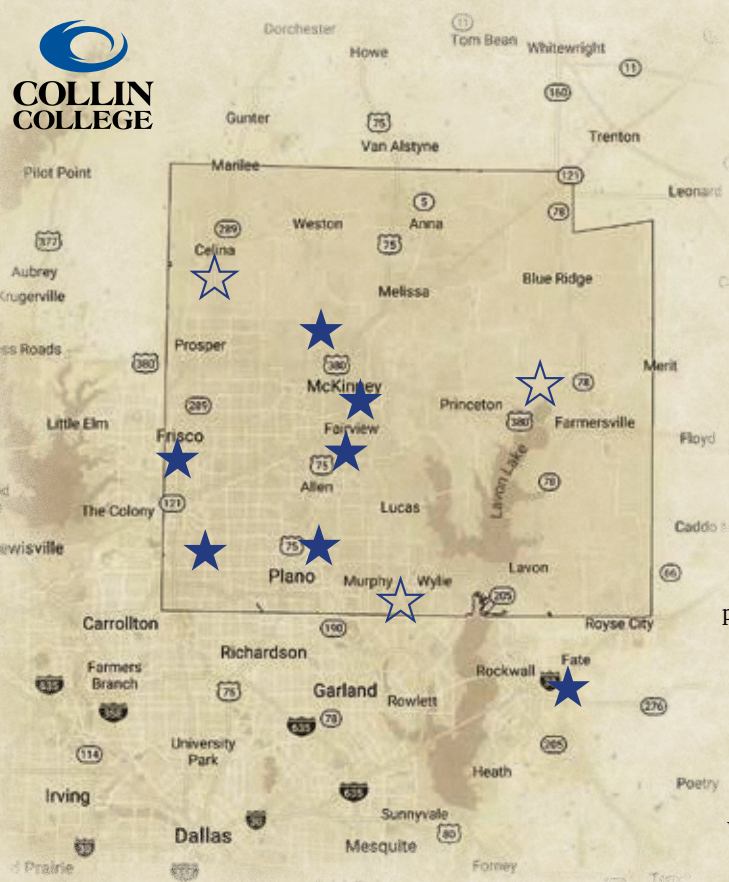
**Sharon Mayer**  
Allen Fairview  
Chamber of Commerce  
CEO

"Our partnership with Collin College has been extremely beneficial to our chamber. Working with the Corporate College and Workforce Development departments has provided us with insight and information to share with our members in an attempt to help them with training opportunities for their employees."



**Tony Felker**  
Frisco  
Chamber of Commerce  
President/CEO

"A major focus of the Frisco Chamber of Commerce and the local business community is a well-trained and 'ready' workforce. As such, Collin College is a natural and critical partner for all of business in the area given their educational programming, training opportunities and resources available for students and business professionals."



**Lisa Hermes**  
McKinney  
Chamber of Commerce  
President

"An economically thriving community has to have a world-class, post-secondary education partner, no exception. We value our partnership with Collin College. Collin has done an excellent job of reaching out to the business community, conducting industry-specific focus groups in order to determine programming that will meet the needs of businesses, which in turn provides quality jobs for our citizens."



**Horace Satisfield**  
Collin County  
Black Chamber of Commerce  
Board Chairman

"The Collin College community involvement and outreach has been noticeable throughout the years. It was especially evident upon the announcement of the \$600 million bond initiative. Sponsoring a community outreach program last winter was one example of the college's sincere commitment to include community suppliers of goods/services for upcoming construction and professional services projects."



**Melissa Cromwell**  
Greater Celina  
Chamber of Commerce  
President

"The Celina Chamber of Commerce is excited for our local business community, knowing that a Collin College Campus is soon to break ground in Celina. The positive impact it will have on local business because of the steady flow of qualified, trained workers into our community is so needed with our growing workforce."

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