

Record enrollment reflects population, dual credit growth

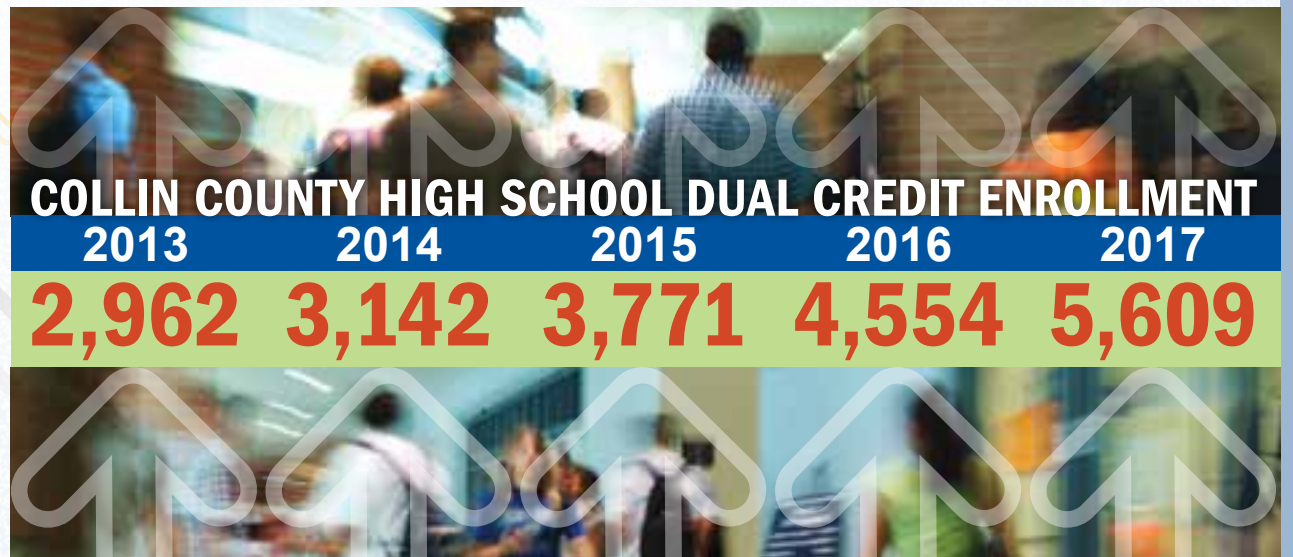
Collin College broke enrollment records in fall 2017, continuing a recent trend by the college district. While many factors play into the college's enrollment growth, outreach at the high school level and county-wide population growth are considered to play significant roles in the increase.

The college enrolled 31,666 students in credit classes this past fall semester reflecting a 1,934-student increase over fall 2016. The growth set a total enrollment record for the district, which has seen increases in each semester of the past year. The college had a 5.3 percent increase in its spring 2017 headcount and a 2.5 percent jump in the number of summer 2017 students.

Much of the increase came from dual credit enrollment, through which high school students enroll in college classes and receive high school and college credit simultaneously. A record high number of 5,609 high school students are enrolled in dual credit offerings, an increase of 1,055 students (18 percent) over fall 2016.

Dr. Sherry Schumann, senior vice president for Academic, Workforce, and Enrollment Services, believes there are many reasons for the growth in dual credit enrollment, but, in large part, it comes down to more awareness of the programs and more opportunities to participate. Collin College has made a concerted effort of outreach to the independent school districts (ISDs) in its service area and the ISDs have responded.

Local high schools have opened up dual credit enrollment options to more of their students, lowering the grade level at which



students can take the classes. Frisco, for instance, has opened the college's dual credit offerings to juniors and sophomores. In cases like The Colony, some ISDs have created academy programs which allow students to earn an associate degree through dual credit classes while still in high school.

"More schools are recognizing the value of dual credit classes and therefore increasing the opportunities for their students," Dr. Schumann said.

More than two thirds of the college district's service area high schools now offer 30 or more dual credit hours. The college's goal is to make that many hours available at every school in the college district, while also broadening its dual credit offerings in the career and technical fields so all students have options, no matter their academic or career objectives.

Overall enrollment gains

While it is unclear how many dual credit students will move on to Collin College after

high school, traditional enrollment shows no signs of slowing. Due in part to the continued population growth in Collin County, each of the district's major campuses drew more students this fall, and the number of first time freshman increased by 9.4 percent over last year to 5,557 students – another record.

Enrollment at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco grew by 422, while the Spring Creek Campus in Plano enrolled 283 more students than a year ago. Collin's Central Park Campus in McKinney had the most growth for a single site, with 588 more students this year than last. McKinney Chamber of Commerce President Lisa Hermes isn't surprised at the enrollment growth, given what is happening in her city.

"We are experiencing an accelerated growth rate in McKinney that is definitely reflected in the growth of Collin's student population," she said.

For information about dual credit, visit <http://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/dualcredit/>.



Let your studies fit your schedule with Collin Weekend College

Have you wanted to pursue a college degree but didn't think you had time, perhaps due to your work schedule or other obligations? If so, consider the convenience and flexibility of Collin Weekend College.

Collin Weekend College offers courses on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays that lead to the completion of an associate degree in as little as two years. Weekend College offers several options:

- Attend full time, and earn an associate of arts or associate of science degree in two years;
- Attend part time, and earn a degree in as little as three years;
- Select from several options depending on your schedule or preferred pace of study, from express courses offered in three-week or five-week sequences, all the way up to longer, 10-week or 16-week sections;

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Collin College's value proposition:

Making higher education affordable for all

In November 2017 the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee released a report titled "The College Affordability Crisis in America," which detailed the skyrocketing cost of higher education and the challenge it presents to students wishing to pursue a college degree.

According to the report, the average cost for tuition and fees at a public four-year college in Texas is almost \$10,000 a year, while the average cost of tuition, fees, and room and board at a public four-year university nationwide now exceeds \$20,000 a year. Community colleges are more affordable, but costs vary widely based on tuition and fees established by individual districts.

Collin College offers the lowest tuition in the state of Texas: \$46 per credit hour for students living in-district. A 15-hour semester costs only \$692, which is anywhere from 10 to 20 percent of what it costs to attend a typical

four-year university in North Texas. Tuition for a 60-hour associate degree at Collin College costs less than \$2,800.

"The value of a Collin College education cannot be overstated," said District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "Our academics are not only rigorous, but they also transfer seamlessly to four-year institutions, which means a student can earn a university degree for almost half the cost by attending Collin College for their first two years."

'FREE' COLLEGE? Pell Grants help those in need

Even with such affordable tuition rates at Collin College, the idea of "free college" has been in the news again recently, particularly in community college districts serving large numbers of economically disadvantaged students. So the question arises: Can students attend college for free?

Some already do because they have been awarded scholarships from foundations, corporations, community organizations or the colleges or universities they attend. But what about other students, particularly those with demonstrated financial need, who want to pursue a college education but cannot afford the cost?

Those students can apply for assistance through the federal Pell Grant program. Pell Grants provide a subsidy for students who need help paying for college and do not need to be repaid. They are administered by the U.S. Department of Education and cover such costs as tuition and

fees. In some cases, there may be sufficient funds to pay additional expenses such as the cost of books, off-campus housing, and transportation.

In Collin County, 21 percent of students are considered economically disadvantaged, according to the Texas Education Agency. Alan Pixley, director of financial aid, said 16 percent of Collin College students receive Pell Grants, and about half of those (seven percent) attend tuition-free.

For students who are planning to enroll in summer or fall classes at Collin College and need financial assistance, now is the time to apply for Pell Grants. "We currently have about 6,000 students at Collin who would be eligible for Pell Grants in the summer if they attend at least half-time," Pixley said. "We encourage them to take advantage of this federal program and will be happy to assist with any questions they may have."

For more information on Pell Grants or financial aid at Collin College, visit www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid.

Weekend College

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- Enroll at convenient intervals during the fall, spring and summer semesters.

"Collin Weekend College is the ideal option for individuals who cannot attend traditional classes because of professional or family obligations," said Dr. Brenda Kihl, executive vice president and chief academic officer. "Our goal is to help everyone who wants to pursue a college degree to have that opportunity."

Collin resident Haley Fleishman works during the week at an area law firm. "I took classes on Saturdays," said Fleishman, who plans to become a professor. "It helped to have condensed information on one day. I had time to really focus, process, and prepare for future homework."

"Because the classes are more condensed, students are more willing to form study groups and work as a team," she said. "I learned academic discipline and became a better note-taker in Weekend College. Overall, it was a wonderful experience."

Naomi Fletcher agreed. She is a manager at an area McDonald's restaurant who has taken both weekend and traditional classes, and enjoys the fast pace of the express blocks offered by Collin Weekend College.

"I want to own a camp one day, and I need a child development degree," she said. "Weekend College allows me to take more classes in less time. To give up three weekends to finish a class isn't very hard for me. You can easily earn a degree on the weekend."

For more information about Collin Weekend College, visit www.collin.edu/academics/weekendcollege.



Corporate College launched

Collin Corporate College, which formally launched in Aug. 2017, offers customized training in several business areas, such as technology, technical skills, leadership, organizational effectiveness, team building, employee engagement, and performance management. Using the Kirkpatrick Model to assess training needs and skills gaps, as well as measuring impact, Collin Corporate College prides itself on flexible delivery models, including classes on any of its three campuses, Courtyard Center, or on site at the company.

To learn more about ways the Collin Corporate College can empower your company's success or to schedule a free training needs assessment and consultation, email corporatecollege@collin.edu or call 972.599.3110.

For more information, visit: www.collin.edu/corporatecollege.



On-site counselors help area high schoolers plan for the future

College and Career Counselors are making a difference in the futures of local high school students. A cooperative program between Collin College and schools throughout its service area provides students with additional guidance as they prepare for college and beyond.

Starting in fall 2017, Collin College offered the services of 16 College and Career Counselors to the district's service area high schools. The program is the result of research and communication with local school districts about how to best serve high school students preparing for college or a post-secondary career, according to Raul Martinez, associate vice president for P-12 partnerships at Collin.

"Most high school counselors are working with 500 to 800 students each," Martinez said. "Providing trained college and career counselors to work directly with high school students was a way we knew we could help. It frees up high school counselors to focus on other areas."

Depending on the high school's needs, college and career planning can begin as early as ninth grade. Students are taught the timelines, processes and skills needed to navigate dual credit and/or post-secondary education. The counselors discuss the student's interests and administer career assessments and strengths and weaknesses assessments to help the student determine a potential career path. From there, the College and Career Counselor helps map out the college classes that will best prepare the student for that career path.

Depending on the student's needs, the counselor may also have a role in identifying available learning resources. In some cases, the counselor may review a student's admission essay. In others, the counselor may walk through a targeted college's admission requirements to be sure the student is on track to attend his or her dream school.

"They help the student do research and determine how to get from point A to point B," Martinez said. "They give students options and help them with college and career planning."

The College and Career Counselors work alongside the guidance counselors currently in place at each school. From career assessments and academic planning to financial aid advice and admissions strategies, College and Career Counselors like Traci Howard Moore offer focused post-secondary counseling and career planning services to students.

"I see my work as a partnership with the high school counselors," Howard Moore said. "Because my work is more specialized, I get to



Traci Howard Moore, one of 16 College and Career Counselors assisting at ISDs, helps students with college and career planning.

spend a little more time with students, delving into career exploration, college application strategies, problem solving and helping them explore their full range of options."

Howard Moore said she works with between 25-40 students per week. That relieves some of the workload placed on the high school's guidance counselors who do similar work in addition to registering students and helping students who have academic, disciplinary or personal issues.

Howard Moore said that although her role is to focus on college preparation and helping students plan for post-secondary life, a good working relationship with the high school's guidance counselors allows both roles to identify student needs and coordinate assistance.

The benefits of having College and Career Counselors on campus do not stop with one-on-one counseling, though. The counselors also provide workshops on topics including financial aid, testing strategies, admissions essay writing and others. The hope is to provide students and parents alike with the tools to make a transition into college easier.

The help does not stop when the high school summer break begins either. College and Career Counselors return to one of Collin College's main campuses during that time, so they are available to their assigned high school's students year-round as they transition to college. The benefit is twofold because the counselors can provide additional resources and support to all students during peak registration periods. Just contact the campus nearest you to make an appointment during summer break.

The hope is to provide students and parents alike with the tools to make a transition into college easier.

Driving education to the community's doorstep

Soon Collin College will be heading to an area near you. A new, 42-foot Mobile

Go Trailer will bring outreach programs to area ISDs and community events. Take advantage of customized student services. Choose from a variety of workshops and presentations, including assistance with admissions applications, registration, orientation, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), study skills seminars, middle school career exploration, and much more. For more information, call 972.985.3791.



Calling all community members: SAVE THE DATE

You don't have to be a student to come to Collin College. The college has numerous events and programs throughout the year that are open to the community. Come visit us soon, and take advantage of amazing resources while you learn from experts in a variety of fields. Save the date for upcoming events and experience lifelong learning.

Film and the arts

Auteur Film Series

The Auteur Film Series provides a communal viewing and discussion experience for movie buffs and the casual viewer alike. Chosen around a new theme each year, the Auteur Film Series challenges its audience to explore these subjects through the cinematic arts. Past subjects have included justice, education, and religion. This year's theme focuses on the working class. All screenings are free and open to the public. Find out more about this year's films at <https://www.collin.edu/academics/auteurfilms/>.

AUTEUR FILM series

Collin Summer Dance Festival 2018

Have a little spring in your step? Students ages 14 to adult can learn the latest in dance improvisation, contemporary, classical ballet, hip hop, musical theatre, swing, and more at this year's dance camp. Classes are designed for all levels unless specified in the class description.

Classes will be held Monday, July 9-Friday, July 13 at the Preston Ridge Campus Dance Studio LC104, located at 9700 Wade Boulevard in Frisco. Classes fill quickly, so check <http://www.collin.edu/departments/dance/summerdance.html> for details.



Collin Theatre Center

A training ground for future Broadway, film, and television talent, the Collin Theatre Center offers theatre-goers an opportunity to see the stars of tomorrow today. The Collin Theatre program has launched the careers of dozens of successful performers. With five full shows a year ranging from comedic musicals to heart-felt dramas, the Collin Theatre Center has something for every theatre fan. Log on to www.collintheatrecenter.com for more information and ticket prices.

THE ARTS gallery

Dedicated to showcasing new and established artists, THE ARTS gallery at Spring Creek Campus hosts exhibitions in a variety of media. This intimate space allows for shows of all kinds. Exhibitions range from student showcases to shows by renowned artists with work in galleries across the globe. There is no charge for admission. Learn more about current and upcoming shows at www.collin.edu/departments/artsgallery.



Concert Series

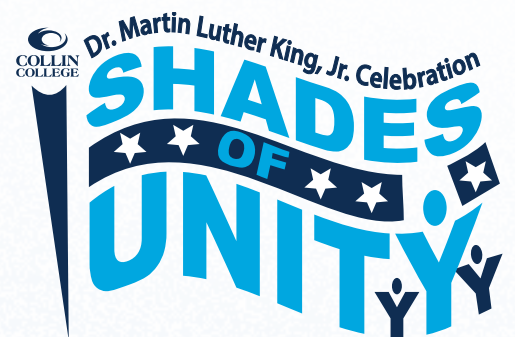
Are you a fan of live music? Collin students and professors perform free concerts open to the public throughout the year. The concerts vary from classical and jazz to acapella and pop/rock, with instrumentation and vocals to suit every taste. Students who have spent their lives perfecting their crafts perform the music you love. What more could you ask for? Check out <http://www.collin.edu/finearts/musicconcerts.html> for more information.

Speakers and events

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

More than 500 people attended the 2018 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Breakfast. Sponsored by the college, the annual event includes inspiring speeches, student presentations and performances, scholarship presentations, and a free breakfast. This year, the theme was "Shades of Unity."

The keynote address was delivered by Rev. Dr. Zan Holmes, pastor emeritus of St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, where he served as senior pastor for 28 years.



Health and Safety Fair

Each spring, volunteers organize a public health fair with screenings and information tables dedicated to creating a healthier you. Screenings include glucose, hearing, vision, spine, blood pressure, body fat, and more. Attendees can also learn about safety issues and the public agencies who respond to their emergencies. This year's Health and Safety Fair is scheduled from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Friday, March 9, at the Central Park Campus Conference Center, 2400 Community Ave. in McKinney, Texas.

Book-in-Common

Each year, the Book-in-Common program selects a new book for the community, students, and college employees. The free program wraps up with a visit from the author.

This year's selection, "Take This Man" by Brando Skyhorse, is a memoir about a young man who grows up searching for a father while trying to find truth in his mother's stories.

SPEAKERS
EVENTS
FILMS
DANCE
THEATRE
THE ARTS
LIBRARIES



Don't miss the author presentation, Q&A, and book signing on Monday, April 9- Tuesday, April 10. For details, visit <http://www.collin.edu/academics/bookincommon/>.

The Dignity Initiative

From renowned international speakers on domestic violence to films and panel discussions, The Dignity Initiative works to raise awareness and inspire action on issues of violence against and oppression of women. Free spring events including The Resilience Workshop, Dancing Saved My Life ... Healing Through Movement and Miss Representation film screening run February-April. For more information about The Dignity Initiative, visit <http://www.collin.edu/community/dignity/>.

Passport to the World

Feel like you've traveled the globe without stepping out of Collin County. The Passport to the World program brings continent-hopping adventure to audiences several times a year. From the snow-covered volcanic landscape of Iceland to Machu Pichu and the Amazon in Peru, Collin College faculty members research and travel to exotic destinations every year and share the knowledge and experiences they bring back. Learn more about the Passport program at <https://www.collin.edu/academics/passport/>.

Knowledge is Power

Expand your knowledge base with a series of free lectures which examine subjects through the lens of two or more academic disciplines. Past Knowledge is Power lectures have explored the birth of rock 'n' roll, the

sociological influence on nutritional intake, cybercrime and its legal impacts, and the human cost of war on those caught in the crossfire. Check Collin College's online calendar for upcoming events at www.collin.edu and learn to see from many perspectives.

Come, visit

College Sports

In the mood to catch a game? Collegiate basketball and tennis at Collin are low-cost alternatives to more expensive tickets. The Lady Cougars basketball team has won its conference championship for three years in a row, while the men's team averages 20 wins a season. Collin's men's and women's tennis teams recruit students from around the globe and often rank high in national polls. Tickets to basketball games are only \$3 for non-students. Take in a tennis match for free. Learn more about Collin College's sports teams at www.collin.edu/athletics.



Career and Job Fairs

Collin College opens its doors to the public for career education and planning at events throughout the year. While some are devoted to particular fields – technology, health sciences, etc. – others offer a broader variety. Most provide information on educational programs, offer overviews of possible career tracks and counsel attendees on the benefits and pitfalls of different career fields. Check Collin College's online calendar for upcoming events at www.collin.edu.



Library Services

Collin County resident? Get a library card, and take advantage of the college's vast array of free resources including research assistance from reference librarians, an online library catalog, scholarly and popular books, movies, music, and audio books.

Visit the Consumer Health Information Center for wellness, health, and medical information. Resources include books, videos, audio recordings, brochures, medical journals, and magazines. For details, visit <https://www.collin.edu/library/>.

Popular classes

Summer Camps

Is your middle or high school son or daughter interested in robotics, music, dance, nursing or cybersecurity? Summer is a great time to explore careers or learn new skills. College College offers a diverse group of camps to meet a variety of interests. Students can even take SAT/ACT preparation classes. Costs vary per camp. For a complete listing of summer camps, please visit <http://www.collin.edu/community/summercamps.html>.

Seniors Active in Learning (SAIL)

Interested in lifelong learning? 55 years or older? Learn about history, economics, science, music, film, and more. Instructors, college professors, and business leaders offer classes without tests, grades, papers or residency requirements. SAIL members choose six classes for \$100 per semester and attend free guest lectures. Visit <http://www.collin.edu/sail/>.

Creative Careers Continuing Education Courses

Interested in developing skills in guitar, genealogy, interior design, photography, creative writing, Photoshop or jewelry making? The college offers numerous Creative Career non-credit courses. Fees vary. To see a full listing of courses, visit <http://www.collin.edu/ce/creative-careers.html>.

With seven campuses located throughout Collin County, you're sure to find a Collin College campus near you that is hosting interesting events! Explore campus locations at <http://www.collin.edu/campuses/index.html>.



CONTINUING
EDUCATION

SPORTS

JOB FAIRS

SENIOR
LEARNING

SUMMER CAMPS

Collin College defines concealed carry policies

To be in compliance with state law that took effect Aug. 1, 2017, Collin College has implemented new policies regarding the carrying of concealed handguns on its campuses. District officials are confident that the policies will maintain safe environments for students, faculty and staff, while respecting the rights of legally-armed individuals to carry on campus.

Collin College's policy, approved by the Collin College Board of Trustees, reflects recommendations from the Texas Association of School Boards and input from faculty and staff, and consideration of other colleges' policies. Guidelines governing the concealed carrying of a handgun fall under a revised policy governing weapons of all types, CHF (LOCAL).

"Collin College and the Board of Trustees have worked diligently to ensure a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors, while also respecting the rights of people who are licensed to carry a handgun," said Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "We believe that the commonsense measures put in place by this policy are the best way to satisfy state law and maintain campuses where our students, staff, and faculty feel safe."

Student Highlights.

Student **Yerania Cisneros** was selected to travel to NASA's Johnson Space Center to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project (NCAS). The five-week scholars program culminates with a four-day, on-site event at Johnson Space Center and offers students the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and others as they learn more about careers in science and engineering. While at NASA, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each team is responsible for developing and testing a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach. Cisneros will be one of 348 community college students from across the United States to be part of the program.



Yerania Cisneros

Two Collin College music students were selected for an honor band made up of some of the best two-year college students from across the state. **Cameron Bush** and **Tyler Pressley** were selected from more than 230 students from 30 different colleges to be part of the Texas Community College Band Directors Association (TCCBDA) All-State Symphonic Band. The students' efforts culminated in a concert performance at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center as part of the annual Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Convention in San Antonio.



Tyler Pressley

Collin College student **Tien Le** was the Southwest Region winner of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Student Math League. The competition is open to students of two-year colleges who have not yet received a degree and four-year college students who have not achieved junior status. Students participate in two testing sessions answering pre-calculus questions. Le beat her closest competitor in the Southwest Region by 10 points to claim the top spot.

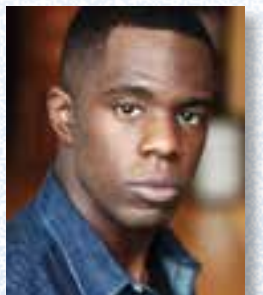
Two Collin College students were featured in the promotional videos benefitting McKinney's Historic Chestnut Square. **Natasha Merlene** and **Alex Stein**, students taking COMM 2331/Announcing, hosted the video shorts promoting McKinney's "Tour de Coop" fundraiser. The shorts were written by COMM 2339/Writing for Radio, TV and Film students **Allison Amaya** and **Tiffany Page**, and produced by Communication Studies Professor **Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings**.

Health Science Academy Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students **Karilyn Hutchenrider** and **Sara John** took first place in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) EMT state

competition in Corpus Christi at the 2017 Texas HOSA State Conference. Hutchenrider and John, members of the HOSA-Health Sciences Academy chapter hosted by Plano Independent School District (PISD), are now preparing to move on to the national HOSA competition with Collin emergency medical service (EMS) Professor Greg Cox and Heidi Cardenas of PISD.

Dental Hygiene students **Danielle Dotson** and **Keri McShan** wrote an article for *Dentistry iQ*, an online publication for dental professionals. The article was titled "The Effects of Endurance Training on Athlete's Oral Health." In addition, Collin students **Sarah Biggs**, **Jeni Dunn** and **May Yao** also had their research papers published in *Dentistry iQ*. The article was titled, "Beyond the Sugar: Chemicals in Sodas and Their Link to Systemic Diseases and Oral Health."

Three former Collin theatre students are making waves on and off-Broadway. **Mallory Michaellann Brophy** will soon make her Broadway debut in CATS. **Akron Watson**, coming off a well-received run in "The Color Purple," is performing in a Broadway production of "The Play that Goes Wrong." Collin alumnus **Michael Urie** had his run in Harvey Fierstein's "Torch Song" extended by two weeks.



Akron Watson

2017 Collin Surgical Technology graduate **Beth Wyckoff**, AAS, CST, was awarded the \$1,000 Don Braziel Scholarship sponsored by The Texas State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists. Wyckoff was featured in the August edition of *The Surgical Technologist Journal*.



Michael Urie

Student teams from Collin College took first and second place at the State Sputum Bowl competition during the Texas Society for Respiratory Care Convention in Waco. The Sputum Bowl is a quiz show-format respiratory care knowledge competition in which two teams square off and try to get the correct answers the fastest. Questions include science, math, and respiratory care content. Collin's teams beat out 11 other teams to face off against each other in the finals, where the team of **Patrick Forsythe**, **Kebron Isayas** and **Cesar Romero** won by one point over the team of **Alexis Matthews**, **Cassie Morris** and **Cindy Zhang**.



Staff/Faculty Highlights.

Dr. **Diana L. Hopes**, director of academic planning/QEP, was confirmed as vice president to the Dallas Area Chapter Fulbright Board. As vice president of the board, Dr. Hopes will work with other alumni to promote professional development, mentoring, and opportunities to collaborate with area alumni as well as visiting “Fulbrighters” across the region to extend the Fulbright experience.



Cathy Donald-Whitney

Cathy Donald-Whitney, professor of biology, was inducted into the Panhandle State University Aggie Hall of Fame. Professor Donald-Whitney is one of the most highly-decorated female athletes to have run at the university in Goodwell, Oklahoma. A member of the Aggie track and field team from 1980-84, Professor Donald-Whitney’s list of athletic accomplishments include NAIA National Outdoor Championships Double All-American (100-meter and 200-meter), NAIA District IX 200-meter Champion, and NAIA District IX Women’s Track High-Point Winner. She earned NAIA All-American honors three years in a row (1982-1984) and claimed academic accolades as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete in 1984. She set multiple school records in her time at PSU.

Speech Professor **Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings’** 2013 book on service and therapy canines, “The Possibility Dogs,” was chosen as the Book-in-Common and community read by York County Community College in Wells, Maine. Professor Charleson-Jennings will discuss training dogs to support individuals and communities in crisis at that college in March. She also presented the



Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings

workshop “Make Your Story Matter: Integrity of Angle and Writing from Who You Are” at the Highland Park Literary Festival in Dallas.



Jomar Isip

Professor of English **Jomar Isip** presented “The Culture Codex: How Latina/o Authors of Children’s Literature Preserve the Past by Making It Present,” at the 44th Annual International Conference of the Children’s Literature Association.

Professor of Speech **Kerry Byrnes-Loinette** received confirmation that her article “Articulating and Utilizing Communication Student Learning Outcomes in Community Colleges” will be published in *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*. The article offers community college’s communication studies departments an overview of how to use the National Communication Association’s student learning outcomes in curriculum development and evaluation.



Kerry Byrnes-Loinette

Mohammad Hassani, associate professor of economics, recently published a book review and a research article in the *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, peer-reviewed flagship journal from the Middle East Institute, New Delhi. Professor Hassani reviewed the book *Iran’s Political Economy Since the Revolution* by Suzanne Maloney, *Contemporary Review of Middle East*, Vol. 3(2), Issue 1-3, and wrote “Iran Oil Production, Investment Policy, International Sanctions and P5+1 Deal with Iran,” in *Contemporary Review of the Middle East*, Vol. 3, Issue 4.

Dr. **Rebecca Orr**, professor of biology, was certified as a Team-Based Learning Collaborative (TBLC) trainer-consultant. The TBLC is an organization of educators from around the world who encourage and support the use of team-based learning in all levels of education. Team-based learning is an evidence-based collaborative learning teaching strategy that actively engages students in active learning and critical thinking. The TBLC conducts a rigorous two-year development and accreditation program for trainers and mentors, preparing them to develop and facilitate team-based learning courses and to mentor others in the process. Graduation and certification as a trainer-consultant requires fulfillment of six core competencies, documented by the submission of an extensive portfolio.



Rebecca Orr

Donna Hatch, dean of nursing, was selected from candidates during a nationwide search to serve on the workforce committee for the Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN). The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation sponsors APIN, which develops innovative strategies with community colleges, universities, and practice partners to prepare nurses to deliver high-quality care in all settings. APIN is focused on the Institute for Medicine’s recommendation that 80 percent of the nursing workforce has a bachelor’s degree by 2020.



Donna Hatch

Amber Allen, program coordinator of polysomnographic technology, served as a guest speaker for several conferences: The Southern Sleep Society Conference in Houston; SLEEP 2017 in Boston; and the Healthcare Careers Exploration class at UT Dallas to speak about the polysomnography profession and Collin College’s program.



Amber Allen



Lawrence Stern

Lawrence Stern, professor of sociology, published “The Reception of Extraordinary Scientific Claims: The Search for the Elusive Engram.”

Associate Professor and Harp Instructor **Cindy Horstman** won second place in the 2016 Composition Competition of the American Harp Society Los Angeles Chapter. Horstman performed her work in the Mayman Hall at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California.

Associate History Professor **Andrew Galloway’s** film, *The Eviction*, was chosen as an official selection to the Depth of Field International Film Festival. *The Eviction* is a documentary about the closure of a homeless encampment in Dallas called “Tent City.”

Dr. Diane Stroman, lab instructor in environmental sciences, published “Balancing Property Rights and Social Responsibilities: Perspectives of Conservation Easement Landowners” in *Rangeland Ecology & Management*.



Tony Howard

Tony Howard, professor of English, is co-editing “The Liturgy of the Liberal Catholic Church,” 3rd edition, from St. Alban Press in San Diego.



Collin College earns third ‘Best & Brightest’ employer designation



For the third consecutive year, Collin College has been named one of the “Best and Brightest Companies to Work For” in Dallas/Fort Worth by the National Association for Business Resources. The honor recognizes organizations which practice innovative strategies and represent best practices in a variety of human resource measures, based on anonymous surveys conducted by an independent research firm. Collin College was noted for strengths in the categories of: community initiatives; diversity and inclusion; and communication and shared vision.

“We’re pleased that the feedback from the survey is so positive,” Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said. “Being responsive to employee needs, communicating common goals and creating a welcoming atmosphere for all fosters a positive and productive work environment that enables our faculty and staff to do their best.”

The companies selected for this honor keep their employees needs at the forefront of their policies, according to Jennifer Kluge, president and CEO of National Association for Business Resources.

“Dallas Fort Worth companies realize that their employees are key to business success. The companies that were selected demonstrated innovative human resource practices,” Kluge said. “We are very impressed by the commitment that they have demonstrated to their employees.”

The “Best and Brightest Companies to Work For®” is a national program with annual symposium and award galas presented in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Houston, Milwaukee, San Diego and San Francisco. The college was honored alongside other winners at a gala on Monday, Jan. 22 at the Dallas Arboretum.



Alumni and friends invited to Frisco half marathon in April

What has more than 4,000 feet and makes scholarships? The latest program for alumni and friends of Collin College!



The college’s official association of alumni and friends, **The Pride**, has joined forces with the North Texas Community Giving Foundation to present the **2018 Cougar Run** together with the Big Star Half Marathon on **Saturday, April 14** at Collin College’s Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco. Both events have a track record of success, but by joining together, the event will be able to raise significant funds for student scholarships at Collin.

Runners can choose from the half marathon or 5K beginning on campus and winding through picturesque streets of Frisco. There also will be a Fun Run, which participants can run or walk at their own pace, and The Pride along with partner InTouch Credit Union will host the Kids Dash, with special medals for all the junior participants.



This blockbuster event will be filled with activities for runners, friends and family members of all ages. The Pride will have a special alumni tent and Fun Zone open to the public, and featuring a meet and greet with Olympic gymnast and Collin College alum Carly Patterson. The finale of the event will be the Finisher’s Fest featuring entertainment by the Emerald City Band. Organizers expect more than 2,000 participants, and the best turnout ever, given the expanded partnership.

With 32 years of graduates in the workforce today, Collin College alumni are a force for the local economy. In fact, alumni represent \$372.6 million in impact for the local economy every year.

The Pride was established to help former students connect back to the college as they grow and prosper and lend a hand to the students on campus. Festivities like the Big Star Half Marathon and Cougar Run 5K give alumni an active way to volunteer and benefit current students while reconnecting with friends and faculty. Community members are also invited to campus to join in the fun.

To sign up for half marathon or 5K, visit runtexasbigstar.com. To volunteer to help with alumni activities, email pgregory@collin.edu or call 972.599.3145.



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