

The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College



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[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



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The Collin College Mock Trial team beat out Vanderbilt University, the University of Washington, the University of Georgia, Portland State, and the University of Tennessee at the national championship in Memphis recently.

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Several former Collin College theatre students are working and performing ON BROADWAY .
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Students with degrees earn more in their lifetimes than their counterparts without that significant piece of paper, but how much debt is too much? Student loan debt in America now exceeds creditcard debt, which The Chronicle of Higher Education says is creating "a new generation of serfdom." If the pattern continues, the future looks expensive according to Bill Carlino, editor-in-chief of Accounting Today, who noted "The amount of student loans taken out last year crossed the \$100 billion mark for the first time, and total loans outstanding will exceed \$1 trillion for the first time this year." That is twice the amount owed just five years ago. CNBC dubbed this national deluge "America's College Debt Crisis."



SAVING MONEY

So how did Biemer do it? How did she pay off her loans?

Her debt was greatly reduced by a decision she made early in her college career.

"Attending Collin College put me on the right path. I would have accrued a lot more debt by attending a university for four years versus attending Collin for two years and a university afterward. Collin's preadmission partnerships made my path that much clearer," she said. "Also, had I gone exclusively to a four-year school, I wouldn't have been exposed to scholarship opportunities at Southern Methodist University (SMU). I don't think I would have had that opportunity as a freshman. They see how responsible transfer students are, and I think that is why I received scholarships."

Even with scholarships, Biemer still needed student loans for her degrees. Today, she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in advertising and a Master of Arts degree in advertising from SMU.

Rob Franek, The Princeton Review senior vice president of publishing, has researched colleges and universities across the country and is a national authority on quality higher education.

"I have to say hats off to Collin College here in Dallas and the (Collin County) area—exceptional school academically. I think I love it so much because it has a great associate degree program but also great articulation programs with four-year colleges," said Franek.

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According to Cary A. Israel, Collin College district president, the impact of Collin College's unique preadmission partnerships with four-year colleges and universities may surprise area residents.

"Collin College has the lowest tuition in the state of Texas and streamlined preadmission partnerships with 10 top Texas universities. Students can attend Collin College for two years, transfer to our exceptional partner universities and dramatically reduce their college debt. In addition, students can earn associate degrees prior to transferring to a university or after they have completed the requirements at the transfer university, with a reverse transfer degree option," President Israel said.

SAVING TIME

Collin College student Leonardo Leal hasn't started taking classes at the university yet, but he has already saved money at his next college. Leal plans to earn his associate degree at Collin College in December and transfer to The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. Recently, he spoke to a UT Dallas advisor at the Collin Higher Education Center and opted to take advantage of the preadmission program.

"I locked in my tuition. I will pay this year's tuition next year. I am guessing that I have saved thousands of dollars by attending Collin. I pay \$400-600 each semester at Collin. At universities, you can pay \$4,000 for a semester. Also, as part of the UT Dallas preadmission program, if I attend a special conference, they will waive the application fee," Leal said.

TIME IS MONEY

Leal says he is earning his bachelor's degree faster by attending Collin College now. "If my only choice was to attend a university for all four years, I would not have been able to attend college yet because I would not have been able to pay for it."

For Leal, Collin has made college a real-time, viable option, and it also allowed him to freely explore a variety of fields and find his true passion.

"I thought I wanted a career in information technology, but I learned that it wasn't for me. If I had been at a university, I don't know if I would have followed my heart and switched my major to business administration. Collin College has exceeded my expectations."

HOME SWEET HOME

Once Biemer finished college and landed a job in advertising, she paid the maximum payment on her loans, and when she could, she sent in extra money. For her, it all boiled down to a simple mathematical equation: Quality education from Collin College plus quality education at a university equal less debt. Recently, that equation translated into something tangible.

"Had I gone directly to a four year university, there is no way I would be finished paying off my student loans, and I wouldn't be closing on the house I am closing on next week. You need to be smart about your education and your future. I recommend Collin because it is a good financial decision."

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Collin College Mock Trial Team

The **Collin College Mock Trial** team beat out Vanderbilt University, the University of Washington, the University of Georgia, Portland State, and the University of Tennessee at the national championship in Memphis recently. Out of 144 participating student attorneys, only three students received a perfect score, and Chris Arnell of the Collin team achieved that perfect score. The accomplishment of a perfect score at this high level of competition is rare and Arnell became the first from a two-year college.



Chris Arnell

Members of the team are (from left to right) Cassady Decker, professor Candace Eldridge, Michelle Davis, Kimberly Smith, Geae Ferrer, Chris Arnell, Christina Doncell, An Nguyen, Professor Robert Franklin, Myka Ferrer, Mark Yablon.

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Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences

www.collin.edu/casmns

The Center for the Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences

(CASMNS) provides undergraduates the rare and valuable opportunity to participate in research projects. Past students have analyzed DNA, discovered asteroids, tested lasers and more. CASMNS is designed for highly motivated and talented students majoring in mathematics and/or natural sciences.

Student Leadership Academy

www.collin.edu/academics/sla

Developing effective servant leaders is the core mission of **Collin College's Student Leadership Academy**. Established in 2002 and modeled after local community leadership programs, the academy is a rigorous leadership experience unique to Collin College.

Honors Institute

www.collin.edu/honors

Open to all majors, the **Honors Institute at Collin College** offers small class sizes with highly-motivated students eager to take part in open discussion and thought. Honors courses are engaging and interactive. Honors students enhance their opportunities for admission and scholarships to prestigious four-year colleges and universities.

Learning Communities

www.collin.edu/learningcomm

Learning Communities courses feature a pair of professors from different disciplines team teaching a class and connecting concepts under a common theme or question. Students receive six credit hours. This fascinating concept encourages open dialogue between students and professors with unique insight into each subject.

Service Learning

www.collin.edu/academics/servicelearning/

Service-learning is simple: Apply the knowledge accrued in the classroom in real-world situations that benefit the community. Whether students are building homes for Habitat for

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Humanity or raising funds for local women's shelters, service-learning takes higher education to the streets.

Honor Societies

www.collin.edu/campuslife/student_orgs.html

Collin College is home to a number of awardwinning **academic honor societies**. These groups are extremely active in service on and off campus, and compete on the state, national and international stages. Collin College honor society chapters include: Phi Theta Kappa (honor society for two-year colleges), Alpha Beta Gamma (business), Kappa Delta Pi (education), National Technical Honor Society (technical education), Psi Beta (psychology) and Sigma Kappa Delta (English).

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Landline phones are becoming more obsolete by the day. As such, more cell phone towers are being designed and placed to accommodate the more than six billion cell phone subscriptions worldwide.

As a services software engineer at Ericsson, Katharine Lomas, a Collin College alumna, is responsible for creating the networking design for new cell phone towers in the area—a challenge she loves and one that allows her to make a positive impact on the world.



Katharine Lomas

"With engineering, you always face new problems to solve," Lomas, a Plano resident, said. "What is most rewarding is that you are part of big solutions that provide positive impacts around the globe."

CONNECTING THE WORLD

The solution—or design— of Lomas' work at Ericsson, she explains, allows towers to communicate with the rest of the network, enabling voice and data transmission so that users can make and receive calls or surf the Internet.

She designs at least eight base stations a day or 40 per week, having totaled more than 3,000 since she started working for Ericsson.

"Every day, the services software engineers of Ericsson are finding solutions. If we were in the highway planning business, we would be the guys laying more lanes so that you don't have to deal with the 5 o'clock traffic anymore."

"It was due to the great foundation I developed at Collin College that I was able to complete my electrical engineering degree, and then apply my problem-solving skills to a new career."

From a design perspective, Lomas is responsible for creating the traffic network description that serves as inputs to create integration scripts. In other words, she creates the initial and final inputs to integrate radio base stations for people to communicate.

"In the end, we create solutions that connect the world. We do this each and every day," Lomas said. "It's very gratifying to watch everyone around me in the community connecting through a network that I took part in developing."

COLLIN COLLEGE, WOMAN ENGINEER PRIDE

Lomas also takes pride in the fact that she graduated from Collin College, where her

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Associate of Science degree jump-started her trek toward becoming an electrical engineer.

"The degree I completed at Collin College was the first of many goals I accomplished throughout my academic career," Lomas said. "The Collin College professors made a difference as they provided me with the tools and encouragement I needed to succeed. It was due to the great foundation I developed at Collin College that I was able to complete my electrical engineering degree, and then apply my problem-solving skills to a new career."

Lomas is also proud of the fact that her work is paving the way for other women electrical engineers.

"It's a wonderful feeling to be part of a movement for women in engineering," Lomas described. "I was presented with an opportunity to meet with local women in science, technology, engineering and math disciplines through an affinity group. It was during this opportunity that I discovered the joy in reaching out to the next generation of female engineers. Seeing this next generation of female engineers with an insatiable appetite for knowledge and a level of enthusiasm was truly an awe-inspiring moment for me. Taking part in motivating and connecting with the next generation is an amazing experience that I will always treasure."

Not to mention playing a part in connecting the world.

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This fall, Collin College students can take classes in polysomnographic technology, an allied health specialty in the clinical care and management of sleep disorders.

The new program offers an Associate of Applied Science degree for students without a healthcare background as well as certification for board-registered healthcare professionals in fields including respiratory care, nursing, physician assistant, polysomnography and electroencephalography.

Degree and certificate graduates can take the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists exam to become a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) and/or the American Board of Sleep Medicine exam to become a Registered Sleep Technologist (RST). Polysomnographic technologists conduct the sleep studies that allow physicians to diagnose and treat patients suffering from sleep disorders.

Spaces in the Polysomnographic Technology Program are limited. For more information, email Amber Allen at amberallen@collin.edu or call 214.491.6238.

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Cameron Woolley, of Plano, was one of 50 college students nationwide to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The prize is \$30,000 per year for Woolley to complete his bachelor's degree. It is the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students in the nation. Woolley plans to transfer to Southern Methodist University in the fall and pursue a degree in economics and risk management. His long-term plans include going to law school and a career in intellectual property law.

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Cameron Woolley

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Jennifer Hembd, student, was offered an internship at NASA's Johnson Space Center for the spring semester. She worked with the multimedia team archiving for the Shuttle Retirement Project.



Jennifer Hembd

Student **Jennifer Morgan Cooper** received a 2011 Sigma Kappa Delta Writing Award for her literary analysis, "Marlow's Struggle." The analysis was published in Volume VIII of the organization's literary journal. Sigma Kappa Delta is the national English honor society for two-year colleges.

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Collin College's chapter of **Phi Theta Kappa** international honor society received 12 honors at a regional conference including the Honors in Action Award of Distinction, Communication Award, College Project Participation Award and more. Students **Richard Pearce** and **Christine Vasily** were named to the District Hall of Honor. Pearce and **David Grissom** were also named to the Texas Hall of Honor.



Collin College's student chapter of Active Minds received the United Voices Award at the **Active Minds** National Conference held at the University of Maryland. The award recognizes a chapter that has succeeded in building coalitions of individuals, organizations and other campus entities to advance the mission of Active Minds. There are 367 chapters across the nation and only seven received this award.

Several Collin College former students are appearing on network TV, including **Shawn Parikh** (Cougar Town), **Kimberly Whalen** (Glee), **Scott Michael Foster** (Californication, The River and Zero Hour) and **Michael Urie** (Partners). Also see page 4 for Collin College students working on Broadway.

Chi Gamma chapter of **Sigma Kappa Delta** was recognized as an "Ivy" chapter for 2010-11. Ivy chapters are recognized for their outstanding performance.



Student Holly Sanchez was one of seven individuals named by Gov. Rick Perry to the Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee. The committee serves Texas families who have infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays.

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Pastry Arts student **Erica Gallegos** won second prize in her division in the Oklahoma Sugar Arts Show. Student **Aamina Masood** received the Texas Chef's Association/ American Chef's Federation scholarship for her assistance at their Circle of Honor event.



Erica Gallegos



Aamina Masood

Former student **Joshua Dennis** was named Singer of the Year at the National Association of Teachers of Singing Competition. Dennis graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in vocal performance and began his career at the Des Moines Metro Opera. He's currently performing at the Santa Fe Opera House.

Ralph Woods, student, placed second in Pearson Publishing's National Writing Rewards Contest for his essay titled "The Rise of Social Media: The Downfall of Progress" and received a \$500 prize.



Collin College's Model United Nations delegation competed in the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City representing "Zambia." The delegation was recognized for Outstanding Position Paper By Committee in the African Union, in addition to being named an Outstanding Delegation along with groups from University of California-Berkeley, Boise State University and University of Arkansas.

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Professor **Kris Berg** released a CD on the MAMA Records jazz label from Phoenix, Arizona. "This Time/Last Year" from Kris Berg & The Metroplexity Big Band includes many area jazz musicians, including Collin College associate music professors **Kevin McNerney**, **Kent Ellingson** and **Micah Bell**. The CD features six original compositions and three original arrangements by Professor Berg.



Kris Berg

Dallie Clark, professor of humanities, was elected the new president of the Southwestern Division of the Community College Humanities Association.



Dallie Clark

Dr. Levi Bryant, professor of philosophy, published "Wilderness Ontology" in *Preternatural* and "Of Parts and Politics" in *Identities: Journal for Politics, Culture, and Gender*.



Dr. Levi Bryant

Dr. Nell Ard, director of nursing, co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Professional Nursing*. The article is titled "Academic Partnerships to Increase Nursing Education Capacity: Centralized Faculty Resource and Clinical Placement Center."



Dr. Nell Ard

Adam Miller, professor of philosophy, published his fourth book, *Speculative Grace: An Experiment with Bruno Latour in Object-Oriented Theology*.

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Dr. Mark Popowski, professor of history, published the book *The Rise and Fall of Triumph: The History of a Radical Roman Catholic Magazine, 1966-1976*.

Phi Theta Kappa named **District President Cary A. Israel** to the district CEO Hall of Fame. The honor society also presented Donna Okaro with the Administrator Award and named Professor Julie Sears to the Advisor Hall of Honor for the Texas Region.



Dr. Cary Israel

Keith Volanto, professor of history, published "The Life and Work of Dr. Beadie Eugene Conner: An African American Physician in Jim Crow Texas" in an edition of *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

Professor of Sociology **Tracey McKenzie's** article "The Professor as Entertainer: Keeping Students Captivated and Engaged" was published in *Community College Week*.



Tracy McKenzie

Yassmin Ansari, professor of developmental mathematics, is co-publisher of "The Minimal Polynomial of Some Matrices Via Quaternions" that appears in volume 22 of *Advances in Applied Clifford Algebras*.

Gloria Cockerell, professor of business, English and management, published *Making Marketing Meaningful*, a principles of marketing textbook.

Professor of English **R. Scott Yarbrough's** poem "Ketchup" appeared in the annual literary journal of literature *The Evansville Review*. Also, another of Yarbrough's poems, "Vein Faced Dolls with Eyes" appeared in *Bluestem*, a publication of Eastern Illinois University.



R. Scott Yarbrough

Joan Reese, associate professor of English, published a chapbook of poems titled *Final Notes*. Her poems and fiction have appeared in several publications, and her creative nonfiction piece, "The Lost Boy," was recently read by Robert Vaughan at an NPR affiliate station.



Joan Reese

Marta Frey, Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) director, was inducted into the "Million Dollar Loan Club" by the North Texas Small Business Development Center Network for

helping acquire \$3.5 million dollars in economic development for Collin SBDC clients in 2010-11.



Mart Frey

Amy Lenhart, counselor, was selected as Texas Outstanding Counselor of the Year by the Texas College Counseling Association at its annual meeting.



Amy Lenhart

Linda Qualia, director of counseling services, received the Collin County Council on Family Violence Advocate of the Year award.



Linda Qualia

Don Weasenforth, professor and dean of developmental education, was selected to serve on a statewide leadership committee for the Texas Developmental Education Initiative.



Don Weasenforth

Assistant Director of Academic Advising/Student Success **Carie Dippel** has been asked to serve on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's statewide Academic Advising Work Group. The work group will develop an assessment and evaluation instrument for academic advising in the state.

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Did You Know?

Did you KNOW?
Several former Collin College theatre students are working and performing **ON BROADWAY.**

Kelli Sawyer
Actor, "Avenue Q"

Elizabeth Judd
Actor, "Spider-man: Turn Off the Dark"

Michael Urie
Actor, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"

Jason Ralph
Actor, "Peter and the Starcatcher"

Thomas Charles LeGalley
Costume designer, "Lysistrata Jones"

Brendan Quigley
Master electrician, "Wicked"

Brian J. Smith
Actor, "The Columnist"

Andrew Serna
Company management, "Jersey Boys"

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One degree leads to
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The power of an associate degree: One degree leads to another

For years community colleges have been graduating nurses, firefighters, dental hygienists and many other two-year degrees that allow graduates to immediately enter the workforce. But what about the transfer student who intends to earn a bachelor's degree?

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Collin College named Texas' first Center of Excellence in Nursing Education

The National League of Nursing (NLN) recently recognized Collin College as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education--Texas' first and only program with this prestigious designation. Of the more than 1,800 nursing programs in the country, only 19 have been named a Center of Excellence, placing Collin College alongside Johns Hopkins and Villanova University.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Collin College group awarded \$20 million federal grant

A consortium led by Collin College recently was selected for a \$19,998,974 grant, part of nearly \$500 million in federal grants targeted to help unemployed workers who are changing careers.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Congressional Veteran Commendation

U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson recognized U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Paul Simeon of Frisco with the Congressional Veteran Commendation. Simeon is a Collin College student who serves as president of the college's chapter of Student Veterans of America.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



You're hired! Alumni find success despite economy

Nobody can control the ebb and flow of the economy, but it is possible to insulate yourself from layoffs and cutbacks by "restructuring" your career

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portfolio.
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Where are they now?
Flying high: Alumna gets her dance career off the ground
Emmy Walker is one Collin College graduate who does not keep her feet on the ground. She is a professional aerial dancer who defies, among other things, gravity.
[Click Here for Full Story]



Where are they now?
Waging a war for the animals
Simon McNeny has always loved animals and knew he wanted to be a zookeeper as a teenager, so he took his first science classes at Collin College and earned an associate degree in 2007 followed by a bachelor of science degree in Wildlife and Fishery Science from Texas A&M University.
[Click Here for Full Story]



Frisco campus expansion opens
Collin College's campus at 9700 Wade Blvd., in Frisco is expanding with the opening of two new buildings this spring.
[Click Here for Full Story]



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A degree WORTH MORE than you paid

Policy makers and the general public are asking whether student loan debts outweigh the quality of the degrees and their earning power. We believe community colleges like Collin College are a bastion of hope for those who fear they will be priced out of higher education. As you will see in this special edition of our community newsletter *Connection*, the quality of Collin College is among the finest in the nation. Yet the cost—both to the individual student and the taxpayer—is low.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Outstanding Students and Alumni

3rd in the World, Asteroid Discovery, Best in U.S., Alzheimer's Research, Mock Trial v. Harvard, Brown & Tufts, Tennis National Championship, Microbiology Fellowship at Cornell, Broadway & Hollywood, National Civic Fellow, MIT Summer Research Program, *Zoological Science* Cover Story, Texas Outstanding Dental Hygiene Student, Diversity Leadership, New Christian Artist, Pearson Prize, Top Licensure Rates, *Smithsonian*, Cisco, Jazz Honors

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Outstanding
Students
& Alumni

Outstanding Faculty

U.S. Professor of the Year, Piper Professor, Historical Commission Award, Elite Nursing League, Tennis Coach of the Year, Basketball Coach of the Year, National Mentorship Award, Global Challenge Winner, Johnson & Johnson Award, Top CPA, English Teaching Award, Texas Chef of the Year, Early Childhood Certification, U.S. Embassy Invitation, New York Times Best Seller

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Outstanding
Faculty

College Honors

Center for Excellence in Nursing Education, Carnegie Classification, President's Honor Roll, National Science Foundation Grant, Federal Summit on Education, Texas Top 3 in Nursing, County's 1st University Center, Award-Winning Campus Design, AAA Rating, Military-Friendly, Fiscal Management Accolades, Frisco Person of the Year, James H. Boswell Award, Republicans' Highest Honor, National Pacesetter, Exemplary Programs, Association Presidency, Plano Educators of the Year, Small Biz Center of the Year, Health Librarian Honor, Plano Citizen of the Year, National Psychology Awards

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Did You Know?

Collin College students excel academically and thousands transfer to prestigious universities. See examples, including a record number of SMU scholarship recipients!
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1 of 12 in U.S.

Carnegie Foundation honors Collin College student service, volunteerism

Students and professors at Collin College take civic engagement very seriously, and now their effort has been nationally recognized.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Bursting at the Seams:

Trustees approve expansion for Spring Creek Campus

To meet the needs of students at the Spring Creek Campus in Plano, the Collin College Board of Trustees approved plans for a new library building.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Where are they now?

Educational clairvoyance and Parkinson's disease

Vincent Nguyen has a gift. He will tell you that many people helped him get where he is today, including Collin College professors, Columbia University professors and now MIT scientists.

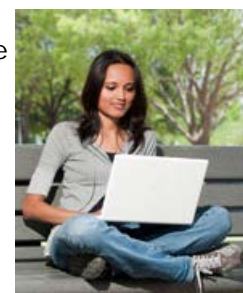
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Goodbye, commute. Hello eCollin.

Perhaps you live 45 miles away, work long hours or have family commitments that deny you an opportunity to earn the college education you crave. Attending college online through Collin College's eCollin program may be the solution.

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Faculty & Staff Highlights

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Did You Know?
Top 5 ways to ace online college classes

Thinking about taking classes online? It is different than a typical lecture class, but with these tips you'll be prepared.

[Click Here for Full Story]



FREE Podcast: Historical Giants

Check out this special podcast series with lessons from the collegiate classroom. Collin College professors and deans explain the legacy left for society by three groundbreaking scholars.

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Collin College counters economic downturn with grant to save, create local jobs

Recession. Unemployment. Almost everyone has felt the consequences of the unsteady economy. Now, 430 people in our community will be able to keep their jobs and 25 will have new jobs thanks to a Collin College grant from the state of Texas.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

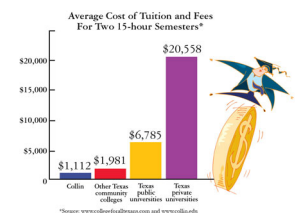


The Road to Graduation:

Students find success, savings with Collin College 'core'

While many college students and families are struggling to budget for necessities like gas and food, students who start at Collin College before transferring to a university can save automatically on travel, books and housing.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

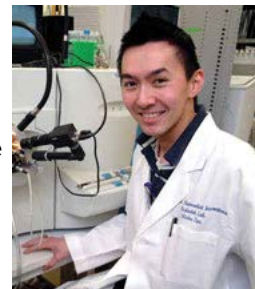


Where Are They Now?

Alumnus works to cure cancer one molecule at a time

A heart-felt thank you note renewed Dr. Niclas Tan's resolve to work even harder to achieve a goal that many people do not believe will happen in their lifetimes. A mother wrote that a disease had degraded her quality of life so much that she was not able to tie her shoes. Today, she is able to care for her family.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Bestowing a Legacy of Lifetime Gifts

Well-respected, local attorney and community activist David McCall of Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C. was one of the founding fathers of Collin College. Now, he is asking area residents for a new commitment to excellence in education.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Collin College student awarded research fellowship at Cornell

Stephanie Brown entered a whole new world, an alternate reality of the life she previously led. Armed with new vision, in the form of a microscope lens, and new tools, also known as scientific assays, she began to alter this new world full of life forms that outnumber the human race and literally cover individuals from

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Conference center gift honors 'Living Legends'

Thanks to the continued generosity of patrons who have collectively given donations of \$250,000, the Spring Creek Campus Conference Center has been renamed the "Living Legends Conference Center."

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Living
Legends

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

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2011 Collin Cabaret set for Feb. 25

The stage is set! For the first time, Collin Cabaret will be showcased on the Hill Performance Hall's main stage at the Charles W. Eisemann Center on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Combining the expressive and creative talents of Collin College's faculty, alumni and students alike, this evening promises to be an "Evening of Entertainment for Education," with all proceeds directed to student scholarships.

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Did You Know? Collin College Pop Quiz

How many students attend online? How long has the tax rate decreased? Read on for this and much more!

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Next Stop: Melissa

College expansion eased by land donations

As a record number of freshmen take their first step onto a college campus this fall, the footprint of Collin College is growing to welcome them as well as students of the future. Several campuses are expanding and new sites are underway.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy

Collin College's 25th anniversary marks the perfect opportunity to join the "Hallmark of Opportunities, Creating a Legacy" campaign.

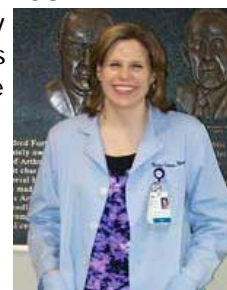
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Where Are They Now?

Former Collin student solves problems that save lives

Parents find their toddler unconscious and surrounded by open prescriptions. They rush to the hospital, but doctors need to know what this little girl ingested to give her the best treatment. In this critical timeframe, medical professionals look to former Collin College student Mindy Edwards for the answers.

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Student Highlights

Student
HIGHlights

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

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Alumni tell why they love Collin College in new eBook

As Collin College celebrates its 25th anniversary, the college is marking the

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occasion with the release of
a new e-book titled *In the
Words of Alumni*.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



National Champs! ***Collin College men's tennis team wins NJCAA Division I championship***

The men's tennis team capped off a brilliant season
in May after the top-ranked squad shared its first
National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)
Division I national championship.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Did you know?

Collin College is led by a nine-member Board of Trustees elected at large.

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High School to College:

Collin College helps area high school students fast-track to college degrees

Can you reduce the time to degree? Where can you turn for help to make sense of the different college options? Kim Rahebi and Christina Shafer found the answers to these questions and more at Collin College where they got a jump start on their college degrees with the dual credit program.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Students discover asteroid and receive NASA award

Three Collin College students discovered a four-and-a-half-billion-year-old rock that most likely formed at the beginning of the solar system.

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Research offers unique opportunities for undergrads at Collin

Whether it is extracting DNA from soil, analyzing the conservation movement or exploring the physics of table tennis, students at Collin College have an opportunity that few undergraduates do—conducting research.

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Farmersville city manager credits Collin law academy
John Moran compares the makeup of a city to a person. No matter the town's size, the new Farmersville city manager explains, it has its own personality that differentiates it from other cities.
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Did you know?
More than 2,000 local high school students enrolled in dual credit courses from Collin College last fall. Click here to see how many were from your local high school.
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SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONNECTION

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Collin College celebrates third U.S. Professor of the Year Award winner in nine years

Congratulations to Dr. Tracey McKenzie who was selected as the 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Her honor makes Collin College the only community college in the nation with three U.S. Professors of the Year.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



New university center opens: Baccalaureate, graduate programs now nearby at the Collin Higher Education Center

On January 11, juniors and seniors will step into classrooms at a magnificent, new Collin College campus for the first time, where they will find the finest bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs from area universities.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Where Are They Now?

In honor of the college's silver anniversary, *Where Are They Now* shines the spotlight on three outstanding alumni.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Forging an Era of Fusion:

A reflection on the future of education in Collin County

As the college celebrates its 25th anniversary, President Cary Israel shares insight into higher education trends and America's success in the next 25 years.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Historic Faculty Excellence

With three U.S. Professor of the Year recipients in the past nine years, one Texas Professor of the Year, five Piper Professors and two Fulbright Scholars, the faculty members at Collin College continue to earn state and national acclaim.

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Collin College offers associate degrees for future hot jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the number individuals employed to increase by 16 million by the year 2016. A direct result of this increase will be the number of high-growth jobs, many of which can be accessed through associate degrees from Collin College.

[Click Here for Full Story]



College moves to new home on the web

Effective Jan. 11, 2010, Collin College will change its web address.
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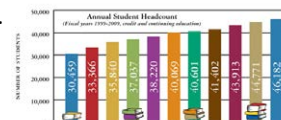
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Collin College Issues Second Report Card

One year ago, Collin College published its first report card. We now present an updated report card to show progress over the past year.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



College unveils partners, programs for university center

In January of 2010, the landscape of higher education in Collin County will change dramatically.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Collin College lowers/freezes costs

The economic crisis has taken a heavy toll on all walks of life. However, students at Collin College will soon see a welcome sight on the horizon as they plan for spring semester—lower fees.

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Where are they now?

Former Collin College student goes *Greek*

Last year 1.6 million people watched Scott Michael Foster on television. More than six feet tall with tousled brown hair and piercing blue eyes, Foster plays the fun-loving character Cappie on the hit ABC Family show *Greek*.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Collin College graduate works in U.S. district court

Nicholas Palmer was planning to become a professional musician, but his path from oboe player to lawyer intercepted a particular class at Collin College. After that class, Palmer chose law and never turned back. Today he is an attorney clerking for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, in the chambers of Judge Jane Boyle.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Texas Top 3: Nursing program earns acclaim

The state of Texas recently honored the Collin College nursing program as one of Texas' best in terms of graduation and licensure rates.

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Did you know?

Collin College is celebrating its silver anniversary, so in this issue of Did You Know compares statistics from the college's inception to today.

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Back-to-back Piper Professors:

Spotlight shines on Collin professor as one of Texas' best

As a 22-year teaching veteran, Dr. Peggy Brown's enthusiasm for her profession and students shines through in her efforts to "nurture, inspire, challenge and engage" her students. The English and humanities professor's idealistic spirit caught the attention of the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation recently, which awarded her the 2009 Piper Professor award for superior teaching at a Texas college or university.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



NASA hand picks 11 Collin students as aerospace scholars

NASA selected 11 Collin College students as Community College Aerospace Scholars. The students participated in a three-day, Mars-exploration project, designed for science and engineering students, at the Johnson Space Center.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Where are they now?

Dr. Chad Lemaire graduates No. 1 in med school

Growing up on an alligator farm, Chad M. Lemaire did not imagine that he would attend medical school, let alone graduate at the top of his class. However in 2006, the former Collin College student graduated No. 1 in his class at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and became the outstanding student in a class of 175 at one of the country's top medical schools.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Create a legacy honoring those you love and respect

Collin College is announcing an opportunity for patrons to make a high-profile and profound tribute. The college has earmarked a handful of landmark buildings and facilities for permanent naming rights tied to scholarship funds.

[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Crème de la crème:

Frito-Lay food scientist finds recipe for success in Collin College culinary program

Susan Licker had already earned a master's degree in food science from Cornell University. But when she wanted to broaden her expertise with skills she could use in her job in product development at Frito-Lay Inc. in Plano, she turned to Collin College.

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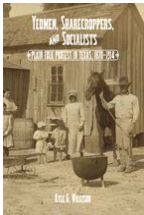
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Prestigious book award for Collin professor

Dr. Kyle G. Wilkison received the 2008 T.R. Fehrenbach Award for his book *Yeomen, Sharecroppers, and Socialists: Plain Folk Protest in Texas, 1870-1914* from the Texas Historical Commission.

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Did you know?

Learn about students attending college during high school, alumni starring on television and nursing excellence.

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Alumni who protect and serve: will they be here tomorrow?

Imagine an empty fire station, a classroom with no teacher, the vacant police cruiser. Is this an end-of-days scenario? No, it is a crisis averted in 1985 when voters established Collin College.

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Core Values lead Collin College

It is challenging to put a face on institutions of higher education because colleges are more than buildings; they are a myriad of diverse, living beings and evolving, intangible ideas. However, it is surprisingly simple to describe Collin College because the professors, students and staff exude its core values.

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Q&A with the Mayors

How does Collin College impact your community?



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Collin College leads Dr. Sydney Anne Barcus to new career path in industrial psychology.

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Collin College, schedules local town hall meetings.

Collin College is seeking community input for its next strategic plan through a series of town hall meetings scheduled in Plano, Farmersville, Celina, Allen, Frisco and McKinney.
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Did you know?

Collin College is among the largest employers in the area, supporting hundreds of Texas businesses.
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