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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.

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College moves to new home on the web

Effective Jan. 11, 2010, Collin College will change its web address.
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Dr. McKenzie clearly recalls climbing into her grandfather's grey-blue station wagon and delivering sacks of cold cuts, freshly ground meat, fruit, vegetables and canned goods. She was surrounded by diversity, poverty and generosity, and that experience shaped her into the individual she is today—a sociology professor at Collin College and the 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year.

Dr. Tracey McKenzie

"Each year, judges consider America's most elite professors to select a single honoree, and this year Dr. McKenzie surpassed all the others," said Dr. J. Robert Collins, who chairs the college's Board of Trustees. "Dr. McKenzie is a remarkable individual, and we are extraordinarily proud to have a professor of her caliber among our fine faculty."

The U.S. Professor of the Year competition is sponsored by two very prestigious organizations—the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The highly-coveted award is considered the pinnacle of collegiate teaching.

According to Collin College President Cary A. Israel, Dr. McKenzie's achievement continues Collin College's legacy of national, award-winning professors. "Collin College is the only community college in the nation to have three U.S. Professors of the Year—and this exceptional accomplishment was achieved in only nine years. There are only two universities with three national winners—Kansas State University and Williams College," Israel said.

Dr. Rosemary Karr, professor of developmental mathematics, and Brad Baker, professor and theatre department chair, were named U.S. Professors of the Year in 2007 and 2000, respectively. CASE and Carnegie also honored Collin College psychology professor Jennifer O'Loughlin Brooks in 2006 as the top college or university professor in Texas.

Israel continued, "We are particularly proud of Dr. McKenzie because her dedication to student success continually transcends the traditional classroom borders."

Like many of her peers, Dr. McKenzie teaches online, traditional and Learning Communities classes. However, she taught nine Learning Communities courses with six different colleagues.

She was also instrumental in helping Collin College receive the national 2001 Bellwether Award for Innovation and has shared her knowledge and experience at numerous national conventions. In addition, she has served as director of the college's quality enhancement

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plan, Service-Learning campus coordinator, student organization advisor and chair of Learning Communities since 2003. Students in her classes have assisted numerous community organizations including St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Habitat for Humanity and Frisco Family Services.

According to Dr. McKenzie, she enjoys teaching sociology because the discipline offers students the opportunity to learn why they believe what they believe.

"When you recognize the forces playing upon you, then you have control. I want students to challenge themselves, and me, and question their commonly held truths. I want to help them learn to think rather than take things at face value, to feel empowered to make choices, rather than being victims. I hope they can do that for themselves and for society as a whole," Dr. McKenzie said.

A dedicated advocate for Collin College students and programs, Dr. McKenzie is an active contributor to the Cultivating Scholars research initiative, the Book-in-Common program and new student orientation sessions. She is a campus coordinator for African American History Month and a member of the Society of Interdisciplinary Thinking. In 2006, she began teaching the college's Student Leadership Academy course, and within two years a second section of the course was added to accommodate an influx of students.

Dr. McKenzie says she is only one of many dedicated Collin College professors.

"There is nothing at this college that I have done alone. The faculty here are an inspiration. This award represents all that Collin College professors do. I know I was recognized because of the ground-breaking programs offered at this exceptional college. When I teach the Student Leadership Academy class, I tell students to surround themselves with people they find inspiring that are going to make them the best they can be, and I am surrounded by faculty that do that," Dr. McKenzie said.

Dr. McKenzie has impacted the lives of countless students, like Melinda Archacki, who chose to keep in touch with her long after she took her courses because of the impact she had on her life. Archacki, who is pursuing a BA, BS and teaching certification for middle grades at The University of Texas at Dallas, plans to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

"Dr. McKenzie's commitment to Collin College and her students involves more than just her profession. It is who she is as a person. She is dedicated to guiding others to learn, but she is also open to learning herself. Dr. McKenzie has a way of seeing the world not only as it has been, nor as it is, but as it is becoming. She has the ability to ground an individual in the present, while also instilling a vision in the future. This is imperative as we continue to grow universally into a more interconnected society," Archacki said.

[.edu/pr_images/Tracey_McKenzie-web.jpg" width=123>](#)

Dr. Tracey McKenzie

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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.

The Collin Higher Education Center, which is opening on the northeast corner of Central Expressway and the Sam Rayburn Tollway (State Hwy. 121), is a center pooling the finest bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs from area universities. Collin College officially signed partnership agreements in November with Dallas Baptist University, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Woman's University, The University of Texas at Dallas and the University of North Texas following approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Now, admissions and registration are in process for spring semester classes.

The concept for the center evolved as the educational needs of the local community changed. A decade ago, local residents needing upper-division undergraduate courses or graduate school could commute to area universities after work. However, that has become increasingly difficult as the population and highway congestion in Collin County and North Texas mushroomed.

After several years of planning, collaboration and construction, the Collin Higher Education Center is now the ultimate venue for those who need the convenience and accessibility to fulfill their higher education goals.

To get started, students interested should consider the program of their choice, consult



*Collin College President
Cary Israel signs a
proclamation establishing
the Collin Higher Education
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Matt Uppole

Then: Collin Fire Academy Class, No. 1 Valedictorian

Now: Battalion Chief, Coppell Fire Department

How did the Collin College Fire Academy help prepare you for your career?

The entire program has had a huge impact on my career. The passion that the instructors had for the fire service was very contagious. That is what has helped me the most for my career, and I still carry it with me each day. I was taught by great instructors that we should leave the fire service better than we found it. They taught me that we owe it to the next generation of firefighters.



Matt Uppole

You were in the first fire science graduating class. How has the program evolved to help fill the need in the community for firefighters?

The fire academy has changed a great deal as far as equipment and facilities. We had to travel to burn buildings and drill fields in Sherman, Lewisville and Waxahachie. We had to use equipment from fire departments from all over the area. We have come a long way from the first days of the program. The program has evolved to help the needs of the area departments. Now they come to use the Collin College drill field and burn building. Most of the area fire departments come to Collin College to train their employees and keep their skills sharp.

Dr. Erin Schafer

Then: Collin College freshman

Now: Assistant Professor, Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of North Texas

How did Collin College help you succeed?

Collin College gave me a strong foundation for my future academic goals in a supportive and nurturing environment. The classes were small, which enabled me to ask questions and get the help I needed to succeed. One particular example is a history professor who asked me to enroll in an honor's class. This was the first time that any instructor, at the high school or college level, suggested that I had strong learning potential. Long term, I believe this early success gave me the confidence to aspire to higher educational goals.



Dr. Erin Schafer

What research are you working on?

My research focuses on improving speech understanding and conversational abilities of

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people who have cochlear implants through the use of hearing assistance technology, such as frequency modulation (FM) systems, or auditory training (like practice exercises focused on listening in challenging situations). These devices help to lessen the difficulties these listeners face in noisy situations. The future of audiology is limitless because improvements in technology and engineering of hearing devices continue to allow for improvements in hearing abilities of people with hearing loss.

Adele DeVries

Then: Phi Theta Kappa All-USA honoree
Now: Consultant, Material Management Business Systems, The Boeing Company

How did Collin College help get you where you are today?

My first lesson was to understand myself. I remember Lisa Cronin, professor of psychology, in my very first semester saying that if she could teach us just one thing that would remain for the rest of our lives, she would have accomplished her goal. While enrolled in the Honors Institute, Dr. David Garrison, professor of political science, put the tools in my hands that helped me understand the society to which I was assimilating. He showed me where to go, what to look for and what I was seeing. Collin College has many valuable programs, one of which provided me with a mentor. At times when I was overwhelmed, Marilyn Rice, professor of development education, encouraged me with the words, “You can do it.” I still hear her words of soulful support when I am inundated.



Adele DeVries

What did you take away from Collin College in terms of leadership, and how do those skills come into play now?

This one is easy to answer. There are two key components here: First, Collin College supports Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Its hallmarks of scholarship, leadership and service have guided me since my induction. These principles direct my actions and decisions constantly. Everything I do is in pursuit of this. Secondly, I learned that leadership is defined by setting an example worth following. In life, servant leadership as defined by the Service-Learning program and Student Leadership Academy, direct me to make every effort to lead in a way that others will consider me a part of the team.

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Forging an Era of Fusion:

A reflection on the future of education in Collin County

By Cary A. Israel, president of Collin College

The queen went so fast that it was all she could do to keep pace with her; and still the queen kept crying, "Faster, Faster!" but Alice felt she could not go faster, though she had no breath to say so... "Are we nearly there?" Alice managed to pant out at last. "Nearly there?" the queen repeated. "Why, we passed it ten minutes ago! Faster!" (Through the Looking-Glass)

Just as Lewis Carroll's Alice eventually realizes how quickly you move through life when you continually press onward, we, too, can be reawakened to the present moment. This "great recession" has given us the opportunity to pause, reflect and refine our vision of the future.



Cary Israel

Looking Back

As the college celebrates its 25th anniversary, I want to thank the community members who voted for the inception of Collin College and those who have generously given their time and donations. Today, 70 percent of all freshmen and sophomores in the state of Texas begin their degrees at community colleges like Collin College. However, a startling number of students need scholarships and financial aid to attend.

While the current economic turmoil makes us yearn for the past, we must realize that many jobs available in the workplace 10 or 25 years from now do not currently exist. Community colleges, like Collin College, are flexible and ready to serve as the permanent pipeline to supply the labor force with these newly evolving professions, just as they have in the past. I believe America's success in the next 25 years depends in no small part on support of the community college system.

Opportunity for Tomorrow

Like many of you, I can relate to our students who face challenges in obtaining education and skills. I was afforded marvelous opportunities in life because of education and because individuals provided scholarships for students like me. I was lucky enough to have a national defense loan and a scholarship, but I still had to work several jobs, just like many students at Collin College. To continue to have doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, firefighters, police officers, accountants and technology experts, we need to work together to keep education affordable for all.

How do we ensure quality higher education, provide scholarships and continue to maintain a low tax rate? We do that through partnerships.

As you see in our [related story](#), Collin College set a new standard of collaboration with the [Collin Higher Education Center](#). The college is also embarking on a new regional training center for law enforcement and fire science. By working together and not duplicating efforts we can save money, time and energy and prove that the whole is indeed bigger than the sum of its parts.

Twenty-five years ago, the founders had no way of knowing how quickly the college would

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change and grow. Today, Collin College has seven [locations](#) and offers more than 100 [degrees and certificates](#) as well as hundreds of [continuing education](#) courses to ensure a globally-competitive workforce.

Looking toward the future, our trustees made a visionary move several years ago by making our three major campuses— [Central Park Campus](#) in McKinney, [Preston Ridge Campus](#) in Frisco and [Spring Creek Campus](#) in Plano—fully comprehensive, so students throughout the district can access the same core courses in the humanities, arts, communications, math and sciences.

As a college, we must realize that we have to keep changing and evolving. We are entering an age of fusion, a time in which we need to come together to reinforce our democratic ideals, harness our energy and create new jobs. We are a free society, but to be competitive and succeed as a country, our expectations and standards must be elevated. Ultimately, we need to embrace the desire for lifelong learning because each of us will be called upon throughout our adult lives to engage in the learning process and ultimately better the entire community.

Sociologist and futurist Arthur Shostak focused on the effect of change in tomorrow's workforce when he stated, "Future employers will be looking for people with human distinctiveness, characteristics such as imagination, creativity and novel thinking that people possess, but smart machines do not."

Our ideals need not change in spirit, but rather in application. For example, in the last decade, we have transformed the college in many ways. We created a Weekend College as well as an eCollege that offers hundreds upon hundreds of online offerings. We also forged unique pre-admission partnerships with 10 universities and created endowed chairs. In addition, Collin College has been a leader in learning communities courses as well as dual credit coursework at local high schools.

Change is occurring at such a rapid pace that it seems we are out of breath on occasion, resembling Alice in *Through the Looking Glass*. However, change is inevitable. Rather than shun it, as citizens in a democratic society we can choose to accept change and the responsibilities that accompany it on every level. Together, we can serve as a successful example that communities throughout the nation can emulate.

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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. The following recipients of these prestigious honors represent the exemplary dedication to students and the love for learning held by all Collin College professors.

Dr. Tracey McKenzie

Professor of Sociology

2009 U.S. Professor of the Year



Dr. Tracey McKenzie

"With sociology, I strive to help students put their lives into perspective and empower them to make choices to improve their own lives and the lives of others. Although I have been called naïve and idealistic, these are the goals that motivate me, and I believe this is a way I can make a small difference. My experience has taught me that if I honor the sacredness of each life that enters my classroom, respect the experiences that each student brings, create a safe environment for students to express themselves, then I can facilitate a classroom of open dialogue, questioning and critical thinking. What we do, regardless of our discipline, is assist students in realizing their potential and perhaps discovering their purpose."

Dr. Rosemary Karr

Professor of Developmental Mathematics

2007 U.S. Professor of the Year

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Dr. Rosemary Karr

"I want to leave this world better than when I came into it. I want to make a difference. The National Association for Developmental Education has a motto that describes my mission in teaching mathematics: helping underprepared students prepare, prepared students advance, and advanced students excel. All students should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for employment in a global economy; I take my inspiration from the desire to see them do just that. Presently in our country, it seems socially acceptable to be math illiterate. We have all laughed when someone commented "I cannot do math." How many of us would laugh if someone stated, "I cannot read"? We need to change this attitude."

Brad Baker
Professor and Theatre Department Chair
2000 U.S. Professor of the Year



Brad Baker

"As a professor, I encourage my students to take responsibility for their own learning, and I encourage creativity and imagination as part of the learning process. As an artist and a teacher of theatre artists, I believe strongly that art and knowledge should benefit society/communities. Art should not be created in a vacuum, and art is not about the seeking of applause. Art must paradoxically observe and comment on society as it is, while informing and arming society for continual change. This is why I believe so strongly in civically engaged learning."

2006 Texas Professor Of The Year



Jennifer O'Loughlin-Brooks
Professor of Psychology
2006 U.S. Professor of the
Year

FullBright Scholars



Dr. Betsy Brody
Professor of Political
Science
1994 Fulbright Scholar



Dr. Kay Mizell
Professor of English
1997 Fulbright Scholar

Minnie Stevens Piper Professors



Dr. Peggy Brown
Professor of English and
Humanities
2009 Piper Professor



Dr. Rosemary Karr
Professor of Developmental
Mathematics
2008 Piper Professor



Gary Hodge
Dean of Social &
Behavioral
Sciences
1991 Piper Professor



R. Scott Yarbrough
Professor of English
2001 Piper Professor



Dr. Lynn Jones
Professor of Government
1984 Piper Professor

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Did you know?

- On **April 6, 1985**, Collin County voters overwhelmingly voted Collin College into existence by a margin of 61 to 39 percent.



April 19, 1985 Board of Trustees



Current Board of Trustees

- Collin College held its **first classes** at night on September 3, 1985 at area high schools.
- The **first campus** opened in McKinney in January 1986. The district now has seven locations, and four more are planned.



Central Park Campus Original Site, Oct. 1985



Central Park Campus Library, June 2009

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- The **first graduating** class totaled 12 students on May 16, 1987. In 2009, the college awarded nearly 1,500 degrees and certificates



Class of 1987



Class of 2009

- Collin College now offers more than **100 degree and certificate programs** and serves about 46,000 credit and continuing education students annually.
- **Royden L. Lebrecht and Texas Instruments** were the first to donate at least \$1 million to Collin College. In 2009, the college launched The Hallmark of Opportunity campaign to raise major gifts for desperately-needed scholarships and provide naming opportunities for patrons. For more information, call Mary Frazier at 972.599.3143.
- Collin College has incredible professors who are passionate about learning. Collin is the only community college in the country with **three U.S. Professors of the Year**, and only two universities –Williams College and Kansas State University – are home to three honorees.
- The **Collin Higher Education Center** opens in January 2010 offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to local residents through university partners.



Preston Ridge Campus Circa 1993



Preston Ridge Campus 2009

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Student & Alumni Highlights

Collin College's **Damian Hume** won the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Small College Championships in Mobile, Alabama. In addition, Hume was awarded the 2009 James O'Hara Sargent Sportsmanship Award. Hume beat the No. 1 ranked community college player in the country at the ITA Southwest Regional Championships earlier in the year. In November, Hume was the only non-NCAA Division I player to compete in the ITA Intercollegiate Indoor Championships at Yale University.



Damian Hume

Brent Forrest, convergence technology student, and **Brett McCormick**, former convergence technology student, copresented "Project-Based Case-Based Learning, a Student Perspective" during the conference student showcase at the annual National Science Foundation Advanced Technical Education Conference in Washington, D.C.

Student **Amy McDonald**, of McKinney, was named to the USA World Championships Women's Tumbling Team in September and placed second in the World Championships in St. Petersburg, Russia in November.



Amy McDonald

Under the direction of **Helen Doughty**, associate professor of developmental reading/college success, Collin College's chapter of the National Society for Leadership and Success, **Sigma Alpha Pi**, inducted more than 250 students after debuting this fall.

Alumni News

Registered dental hygienist, **Cathy Nobles**, was recently elected to serve as secretary for the Texas Dental Hygiene Association (TDHA). Nobles is a 2001 Collin College dental hygiene graduate. For the last three years, she has served on the TDHA board of directors as a trustee for the Greater Collin County Dental Hygiene Society.

Former Collin College theatre student **Brian J. Smith** stars as Lt. Matthew Scott in the Sci Fi Channel series Stargate Universe, which debuted this fall.

Former theatre student **Kim Whalen** is starring on Broadway as Luisa in the musical The Fantasticks.

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Faculty and staff highlights

Collin College's Child Development, Nursing and Real Estate programs were designated as exemplary by The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Ralph Long, professor of speech, was named the president of the Texas Speech Communication Association for 2009-10. He previously served as vice president for TSCA.

Dr. Collin Thomas, professor of biology, published research online and in an upcoming issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The research is the first to demonstrate that a process called "autophagy" prevents harmful bacteria such as Salmonella from becoming successful pathogens.



Dr. Collin Thomas

Dr. R. Flowers Rivera, professor of English, was awarded the Leo Love Merit Scholarship in Poetry by the Taos Summer Writers Conference in association with the University of New Mexico.



Dr. R. Flowers
Rivera

Matthew Ware Coulter, professor of history, and **David Marble**, professor of criminal justice, published "Active and Collaborative Learning in the Dallas Community: Connecting History, Criminal Justice, and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy" in the April 2009 *Journal of Learning Communities Research*. The article describes best practices for involving Learning Communities classes in the surrounding community.



David Marble and
Matthew Ware Coulter

Michele Brown, professor of culinary arts, published an article titled "Flour: Which Kind to Use and for What Purpose" on Chef Talk, a culinary website. The site also published Brown's review of the cookbook, *A16*.

R. Scott Yarbrough, professor of English, published his poem "Halloween: My Office Mate's Fear" in *Nassau Review*, a publication of Nassau College in New York.

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Janet Sheppard, associate dean of Continuing Education, was recently re-elected to a second two-year term to serve as a director on the National Council for Continuing Education and Training (NCCET) Board.

Dr. Barbara Money, vice president of Student Development, was named the Educator of the Year by the Plano Community Forum during its 28th annual Awards Banquet.

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R. Scott Yarbrough



Janet Sheppard



Dr. Barbara Money

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Collin College offers associate degrees for future hot jobs

By 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) anticipates that 166.2 million individuals will be employed, a nearly 16-million-employee increase from 2006. A direct result of this increase will be the number of high-growth jobs that several nonprofit think tanks have identified. The great news for Collin County is that many of these "hot" professions can be accessed with an associate degree in hand. Listed below are a few of these associate degrees and programs offered at Collin College:

Nursing:

According to the BLS, a 23 percent job growth rate in nursing employment is projected through 2016. Collin College's nursing program prepares students to apply to the Texas Board of Nursing for licensure as registered nurses. The median yearly salary for a registered nurse is \$57,280.



Electronic Engineering Technology:

Students will receive quality training for fields such as advanced manufacturing equipment applications, avionics and space communications, biomedical applications and design, computer systems applications, laser and fiber optics applications, printed circuit board design and manufacturing, semiconductor wafer fabrication and telecommunications. Engineering technicians earn, on average, \$25 an hour.

Dental Hygiene:

Students are prepared to become licensed healthcare professionals who specialize in non-surgical periodontal therapy and oral health education. Dental hygiene is among the fastest growing professions and is projected to have a 30 percent growth rate through 2016. The median hourly pay is \$30.19.



Law Enforcement Academy:

Law enforcement is one of the hottest jobs on the market. In 2008, police officers and sheriffs' deputies earned, on average, \$25.39 an hour. Students in Collin College's Law Enforcement Academy will work with instructors who are experienced peace officers and study topics that reflect real-life work situations.



Respiratory Care:

The Respiratory Care program, which takes in only 25 students a year, prepares students for the Registered Respiratory Therapist board exam. Students are also prepared for an allied health specialty in clinical care

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and management of respiratory disorders. A respiratory therapist, on average, earns \$25 an hour.

Teaching:

Collin College's Teacher Certification program offers certificates in secondary and elementary grades. The college also offers an Associate of Arts in Teaching. According to the BLS, teaching jobs are expected to grow by 32.5 percent through 2014.

Paralegal/Legal Assistant:

Law firms, corporations and governmental agencies hire paralegals/legal assistants to manage an array of legal responsibilities – from performing legal research to assisting with trial preparation – under the direction and supervision of a licensed attorney. The median yearly pay is \$43,040.

Culinary Arts:

Students completing the Culinary Arts program are qualified for a variety of hands-on food preparation positions and career advancement in the food service industry. The food service industry is the largest private sector employer in the United States. The median annual pay is \$34,370.

Accounting:

Accounting clerks are expected to see a 594,000 increase in jobs through 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The BLS also reported that accounting clerks earned an average of \$33,800 in 2008.

For a complete list of associate degrees and continuing education/workforce programs, visit www.collin.edu.

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Effective Jan. 11, 2010, Collin College will change its web address from www.ccccd.edu to www.collin.edu. This also will affect email addresses for employees and students. Please substitute collin.edu for any reference to ccccd.edu.

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Auteur Film Series explores (In)Justice in cinema

As always, the Auteur Film Series is free and open to the public.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Fall registration continues; payment deadline looms for early registration

Classes begin Monday, Aug. 23. Get registered and paid up.
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Campus Dates

August is a time for those back-to-school sales and a tasty schedule of upcoming events.
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Quick Facts

Financial aid: The need is always growing.
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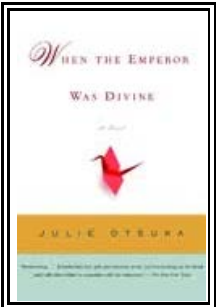
Top six in-demand careers

Getting started in the top in-demand careers while at Collin College.
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Book Review: 'When The Emperor Was Divine'

A review of this year's Book-in-Common.
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Collin Cougar scholarship drives keeps on

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About *Cougar News*

A newsletter for the students, faculty and staff of the Collin College. Published semi-monthly. For information or submissions, call 972.599.3142. *Cougar News* welcomes student and faculty submissions. Next deadline: Aug. 15. All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the due date. Photos cannot be returned. Text should be e-mailed to mrobinson@collin.edu or sent on disk. Submit copy that is proofed, edited and saved in Word format. *Cougar News* staff: *Lisa Vasquez, director; Mark Robinson, editor; Marcy Cadena-Smith, contributor; Justin Jones, contributor; Heather Darrow, contributor; Nick Young, photography and layout.*

keeping on

These folks have given. Have you? A fundraiser where \$1 goes a long way. [\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Cougar Links

Send in your favorite things on the Internet and share with the class. [\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



College News

Special accolades given to some of our faculty, facilities and departments. [\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



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Collin Cougar seeks help in scholarship endeavor

Give \$1. Give \$5. Give \$20. With Collin Cougar, there's no such thing as a small gift.

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



Registration for fall classes is ongoing

Register today. If you don't, you might miss out on that class you need. And that would just be a shame.

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

College News

Visuals from the recent nursing and robotics camp at Collin College.

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



Jazz camp to feature nightly concerts

The 16th annual Collin College Texas All-Star Jazz Camp brings best, brightest of young musicians with a who's who of instructors.

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

Learning Communities announced for fall 2010

Space is limited for these unique learning opportunities.

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

Campus Dates

That noise you hear just ahead in the distance is the fall semester. Already, it's teeming with events.

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



Cougar Links

Food for the brain, the belly and the soul.

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About *Cougar News*

A newsletter for the students, faculty and staff of the Collin College. Published semi-monthly. For information or submissions, call 972.599.3142. *Cougar News* welcomes student and faculty submissions. Next deadline: Aug. 1. All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the due date. Photos cannot be returned. Text should be e-mailed to mrobinson@collin.edu or sent on disk. Submit copy that is proofed, edited and saved in Word format. *Cougar News* staff: *Lisa Vasquez, director; Mark Robinson, editor; Marcy Cadena-Smith, contributor; Justin Jones, contributor; Heather Darrow, contributor; Nick Young, photography and layout.*

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Collin Cougar's fundraising efforts continue

Raising \$1,500 for a scholarship.
He could use your help.
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On-campus employment available

Are you looking for a job on campus? Here's how.
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College News

Middle of summer and our students, faculty and staff can not help but remain busy.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



This may come as a surprise, but we are all Africans

Recently, Collin College sociology professor Dr. John Glass shared his findings about humans' native, unified homeland—Africa. If you are thinking, “I’m Irish, Russian, Chinese, Polish, Hispanic or Italian, how can that possibly be true?” keep your mind open and check out the ideas behind his seemingly outlandish premise.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Quick Facts

What percent of our professors are holding doctorates?
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Campus Dates

These dates are so awesome, they may not be ready for the public.
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Cougar Links

From the arts and sciences, links from the great, vast Internet.
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About *Cougar News*

A newsletter for the students, faculty and staff of the Collin College. Published semi-monthly. For information or submissions, call 972.599.3142. *Cougar News* welcomes student and faculty submissions. Next deadline: July 15. All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the due date. Photos cannot be returned. Text should be e-mailed to mrobinson@collin.edu or sent on disk. Submit copy that is proofed, edited and saved in Word format. *Cougar News* staff: *Lisa Vasquez, director; Mark Robinson, editor; Marcy Cadena-Smith, contributor; Justin Jones, contributor; Heather Darrow, contributor; Nick Young, photography and layout.*

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Cougar News


STUDENT, FACULTY, & STAFF NEWSPAPER


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Collin Cougar wants to make a difference, could use help

Mascot seeks to raise \$1,500 for scholarship.
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Fall registration due to open

Priority registration begins June 22. Open registration begins June 25.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

Dean's List announced for spring


Maybe you made the list. Maybe you didn't. There's only one way to find out.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)

College releases President's List for spring 2010

The quest for the vaunted 4.0.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)


Deadline approaching for SMU pre-admission program

Why wait? Apply now for the SMU pre-admission program to get your transfer scene in order.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)




College News

Many are making headlines.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Campus Dates

Working summer while getting ready for the fall.
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Free HIV testing at Spring Creek Campus June 22

Because awareness, education and an early diagnosis are the best defenses.

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Cougar Links

A little bit of everything: Science, food, lifestyle and terraniums.

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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.

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



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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Student & Alumni Highlights

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



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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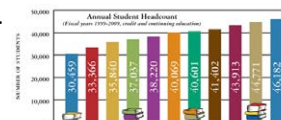
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Collin College Issues Second Report Card

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.

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

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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Student HIGHLIGHTs

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Faculty & Staff HIGHLIGHTs

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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.

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



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.

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



Q&A with the Mayors

How does Collin College impact your community?



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Where are they now?

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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Collin College releases report card

Accountability is one of the hottest words in higher education. In fact, the State of Texas is considering a report card to compare success measures for colleges and universities. Collin College is so committed to accountability that we are proactively releasing a report card to the community.

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

Coming soon: Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D's

Soon, local residents will not have to leave Collin County for junior and senior-level college classes as well as graduate and doctoral programs. Collin College is finalizing program plans for the new Higher Education Center in which university partners will offer a variety of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

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



Where are they now?

War-torn dreams lead brothers to become physicians

Read how war-torn dreams led two brothers who are Collin College alumni to become physicians. Dr. Tri Phung is now an anesthesiology resident and Dr. Vu Phung is a family practice resident.

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

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Honor societies emphasize excellence at Collin College

Collin College has six academic honor societies. These organizations promote the college's core value of "Academic Excellence," as students are required to achieve and maintain a minimum grade point average in addition to volunteering.

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College commits to water conservation effort

McKinney, Texas uses 50 percent more water for outdoor irrigation than the national average. That alarming statistic led city officials to develop a water conservation plan, and when Collin College officials began the expansion of Central Park Campus, college leaders worked with the city to adopt an innovative landscaping plan to conserve water.

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She's number one! Collin College professor honored as nation's best

When Collin College students step into class this spring, they may be face-to-face with America's top community college professor as veteran math professor Rosemary Karr donned a new title as the 2007 U.S. Professor of the Year.

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

Collin College, Austin College enter pre-admission agreement

The distance between Sherman and Collin County just got shorter for local college students.

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

Collin College President named 'Best in the West'

Dr. Cary A. Israel, president of Collin College, is the recipient of the Chief Executive Officer Award for the Western Region of the Association of Community College Trustees.

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

New higher education center to bring 4-year degrees, graduate programs to Collin County

Bachelor's degrees in your backyard. Master's degrees in McKinney. Both will go from headlines to reality in a couple of years as Collin College prepares to welcome university degree programs to a new campus in the heart of Collin County.

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

Where Are They Now? Two Brians find their personal paths to success

Are you still occasionally reminded of a professional calling you have yet to fulfill? Do you ever wonder how your life might be different if you acted on that longing? Take a look at two former Collin College students who share the first name of Brian but lead very different lives—the lives of their dreams.

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

Hard hat alert at Collin College campuses

McKinney, Plano and Frisco are undergoing renovations and construction. Come visit us and check out the changes.

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Collin College Foundation to present 2008 Collin Cabaret

Mark your calendar as the Collin College Foundation presents the 2008 Collin Cabaret, An Evening of Entertainment for Education on Feb. 16.

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The Guild of Honor

Dedication to students, love for advanced learning. These are a few factors that drive Collin College faculty to excel in the classroom. Join us as we spotlight some of the professors who have earned remarkable, national honors and brought acclaim to your community college.

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Student News



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Faculty and Staff News



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New CougarAlert text messaging system keeps students, employees safe

Campus safety may be as near as a cell phone text message with the new "CougarAlert" system. Collin College just introduced this new system to add to the convenience and safety of students, faculty and staff.

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

Collin College one of ten in nation to get 'Encore Careers' grant

Accountants, statisticians and engineers over the age of 50 looking at retirement or a re-career should know they can make a big difference.

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Did you know?

Test your knowledge of community colleges!

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