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The Community Update from Collin County Community College District

FALL 2008:
Volume 6, Issue 1

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

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



Faculty and Staff Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS Faculty & Staff

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Students News

HIGHLIGHTS Student News

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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.

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



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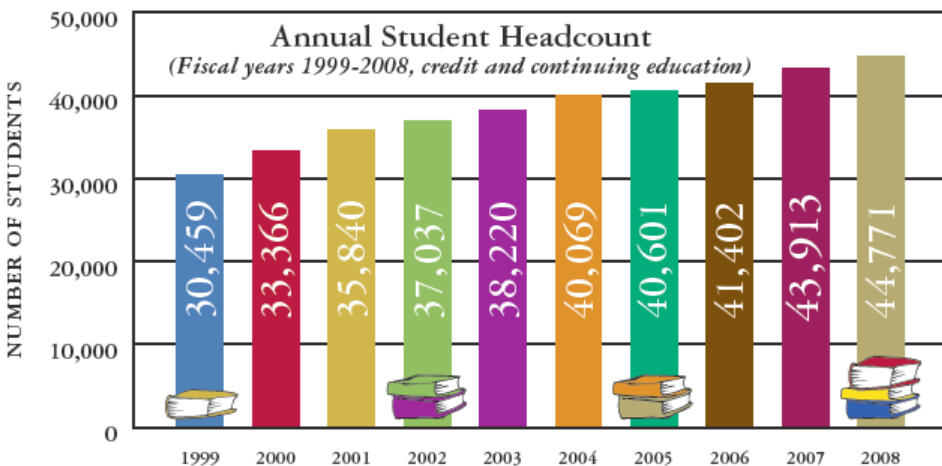
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Collin College is so committed to accountability that we are proactively releasing a report card to the community. There are many A's on our report card, but there are also grades that have room for improvement. For instance, the number of students graduating with a degree or certificate and the number of students dropping classes in the middle of the semester are both similar to the state average. That is simply not good enough. It is critical to acknowledge our challenges and inform the community that strategic plans are in place to raise a handful of average measures to an exceptional level.

Collin College trustees believe accountability is important not only because we are stewards of public funds, but more importantly because we impact the community and the lives of our students. Collin College is firmly committed to providing an outstanding education for our students.

COLLIN COLLEGE REPORT CARD



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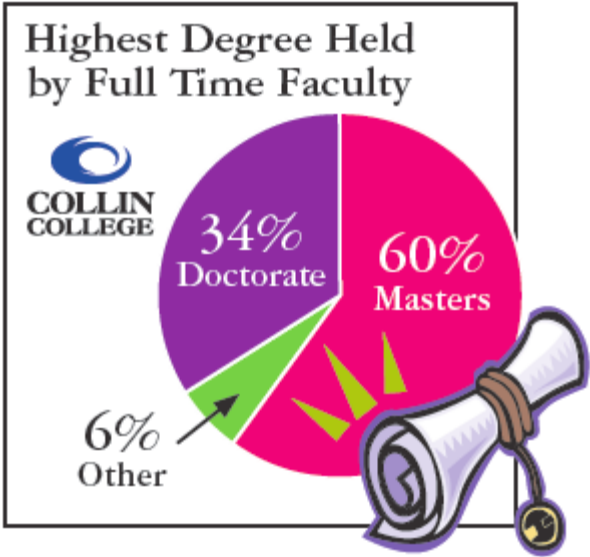
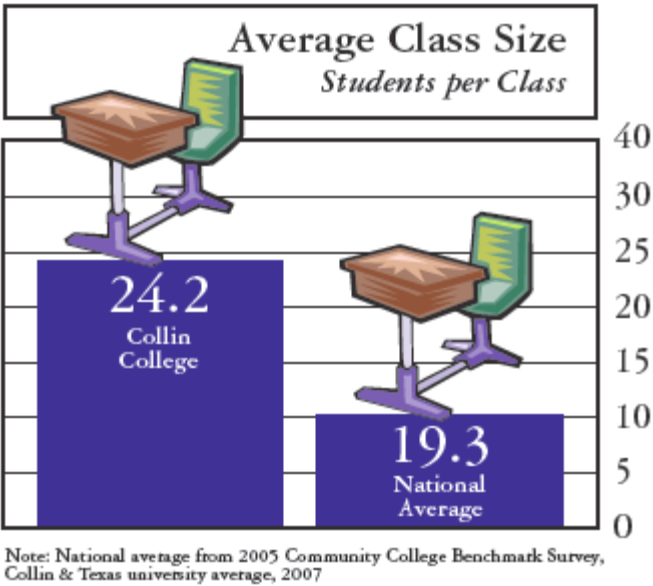
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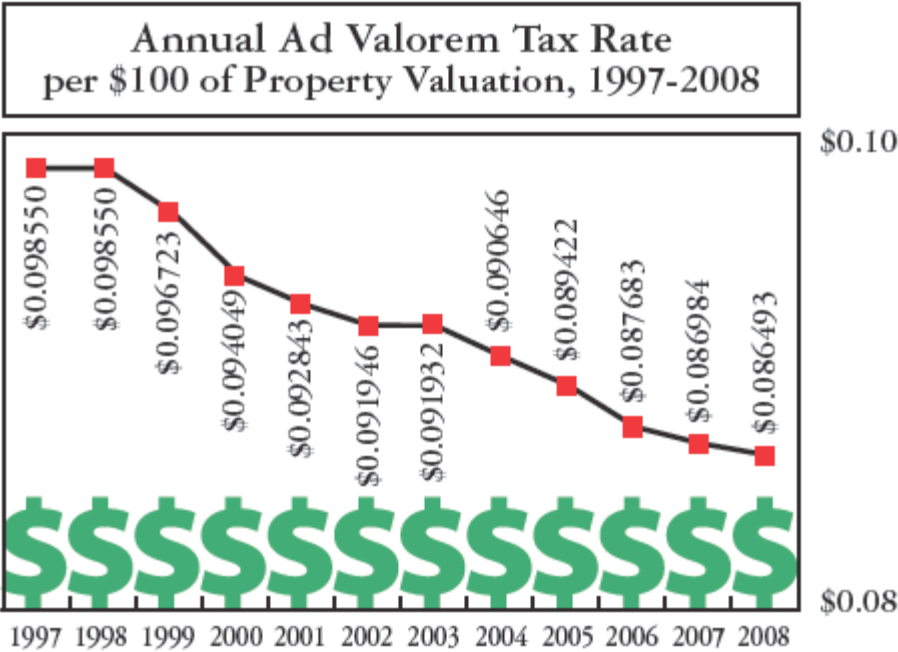
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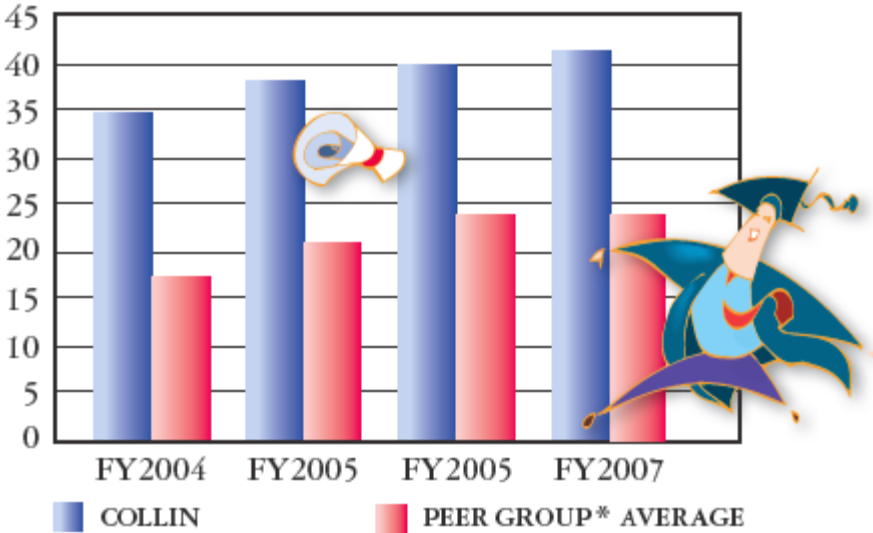
CONTRACT TRAINING

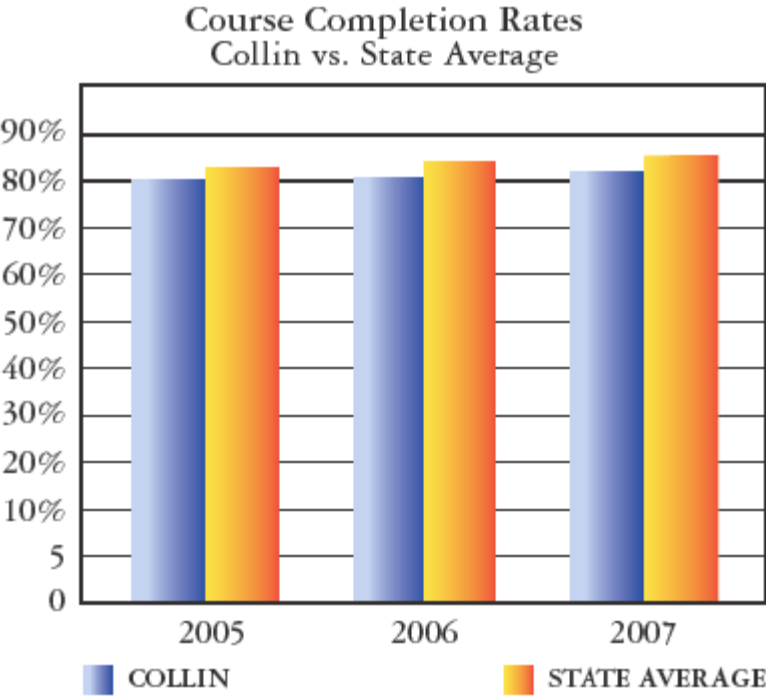
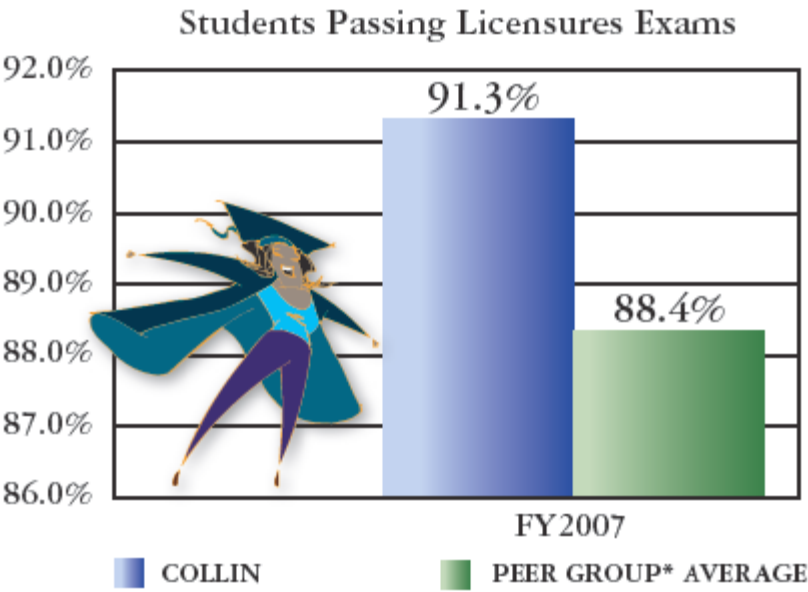
56 companies served in 2007

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Degrees and Certificates awarded in 2007: 1,419

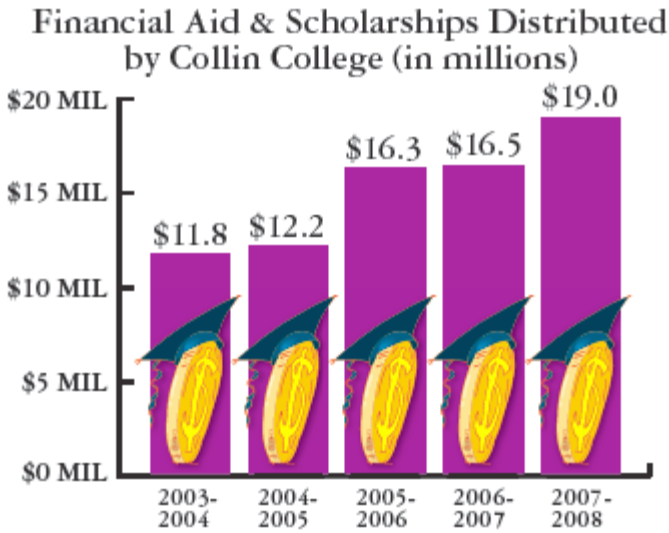
Rate of Students Transferring to Universities

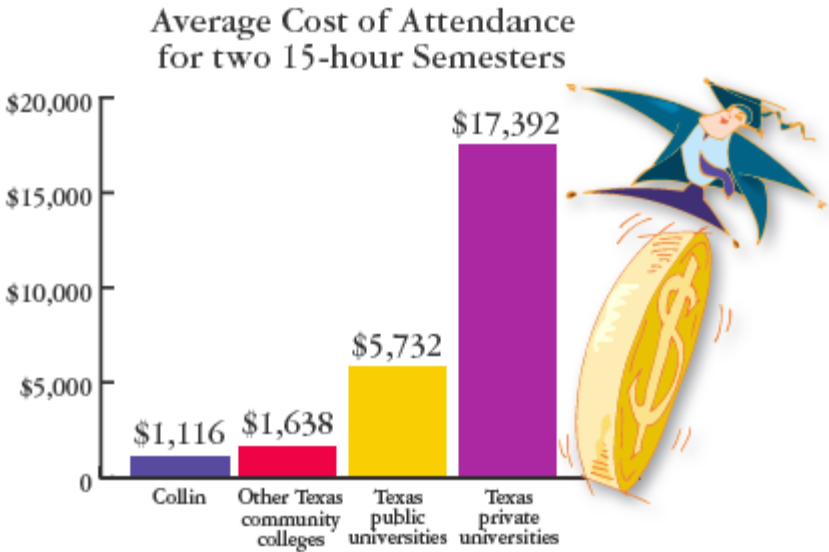




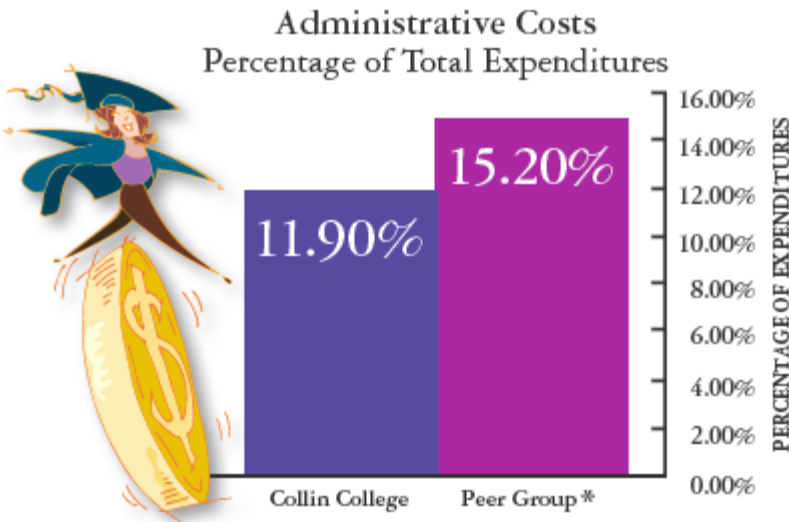
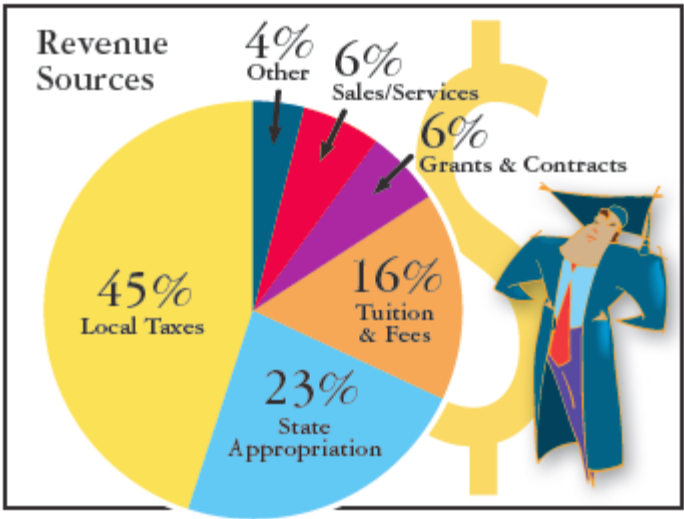


COSTS AND FINANCIAL AID





INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS



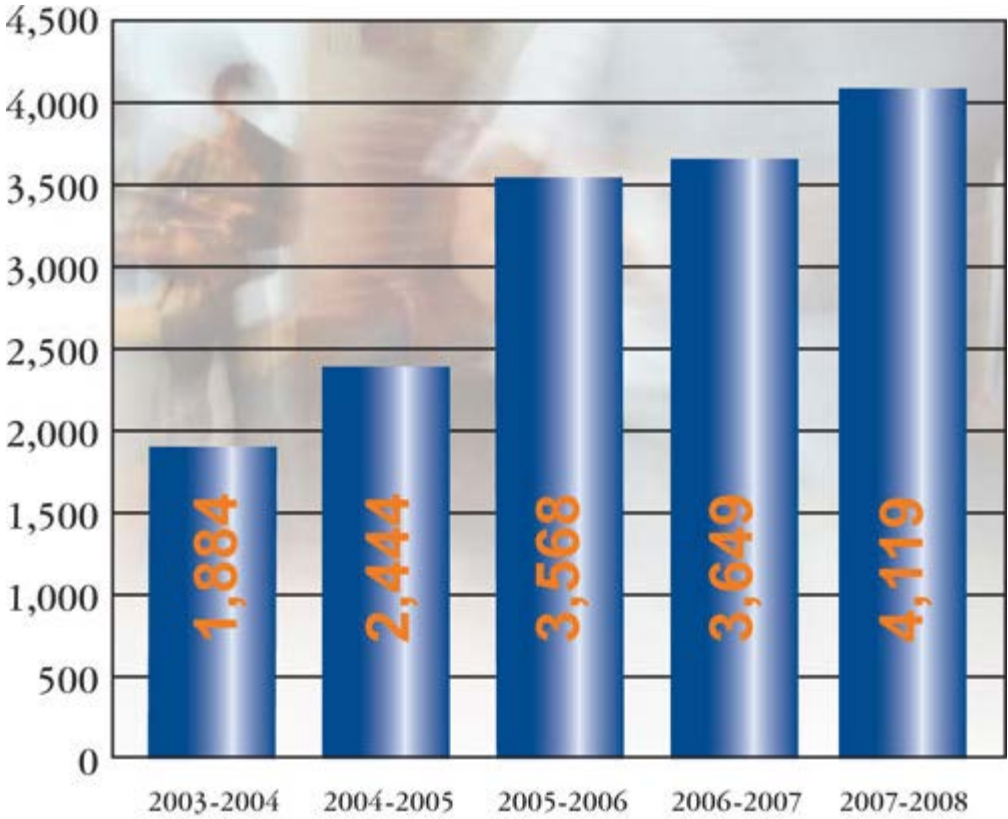


2007 Percentage of Graduates from Area High Schools Enrolled at Collin College

Allen	32%	McKinney North	26%
Anna	22%	Melissa	26%
Blue Ridge	25%	Plano East	31%
Celina	25%	Plano Senior	22%
Community	25%	Plano West	17%
Farmersville	13%	Princeton	24%
Frisco	26%	Prosper	29%
Frisco Centennial	35%	Wylie	34%
McKinney	28%	TOTAL	27%

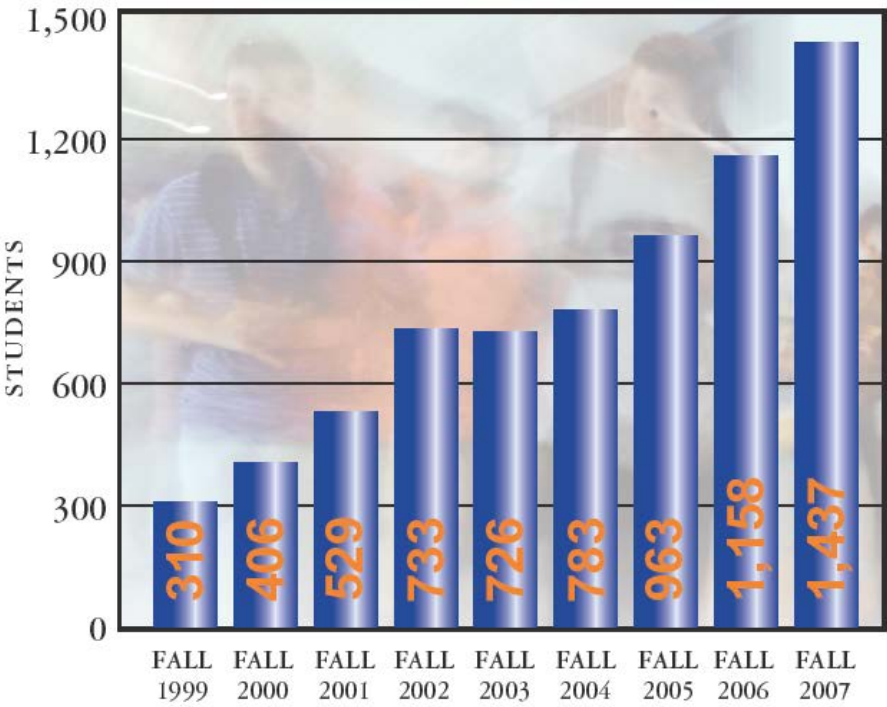
WEEKEND COLLEGE ENROLLMENT 2003-2008

Weekend College provides the opportunity to complete associate degrees, with schedule options on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, Saturday afternoons, Sunday afternoons or any combination without interrupting the work week.



DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS

Dual credit is when a student receives both high school and college credit for the same class.



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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 (*pictured above*) in which university partners will offer a variety of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Programs currently under consideration for the Higher Education Center include:

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Accounting and Information Management
Applied Arts and Science
Business Administration
Child Development
Communication
Criminal Justice
Health Studies
Interdisciplinary Studies
Nursing Psychology

MASTER'S DEGREES

Accounting and Information Management
Business Administration
Counseling
Curriculum/Instruction
Education Administration/ Leadership
Engineering Systems
Higher Education
Human Resource Management
Leadership Studies
Teaching

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Counseling
Educational Leadership
Higher Education

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Systems & Engineering Management

According to Dr. J. Robert Collins, chairman of the Collin College Board of Trustees, "Students can expect to see course details relatively soon because the first classes will be offered in spring 2010. We are already fielding calls from students eager to enroll. It is clear these programs are of great interest to residents in the area."

Construction of the new campus will begin this fall at the northeast corner of Central Expressway and Hwy. 121. The center is scheduled to open in January 2010.

For the latest information on the Collin Higher Education Center, e-mail Brenda Kihl at bkihl@collin.edu or call 972.758.3875

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War-torn dreams lead brothers to become physicians

When Tri Phung was a young boy, he and his brother Vu visited a local Vietnamese orphanage with their mother. While his mother delivered money she had collected for food and clothes, Tri gazed at hundreds of children with birth defects and deformities. One skinny girl with bruised skin and tousled hair, wearing old pajamas, stared at him every time he visited. Though she always seemed to have her face turned in his direction, it was as though she was looking through him. Eventually, Tri learned that she was blind and deaf, and her bruises were from falling. Her image and plight haunted him.

"She had probably never seen or heard anything. As a young boy, I decided I wanted to be a doctor because I wanted to help," Tri said.

Today, Tri is an anesthesiology resident at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. After attending Collin College, he earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and an MD from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine.



Dr. Tri Phung



Dr. Vu Phung

"Collin College made a big impression on my life. If you want to go to medical school, I would recommend Collin College. I would recommend that my own children go to this school," Tri said.

The Vietnam War almost took Tri's dream away. During the war, Tri's father was the director of the financial department for the Exxon Saigon Division. After the war, he was incarcerated for several years. His family's property was taken, and they had to pay rent to live in the home they previously owned. His mother was left alone to care for six boys.

"They threw everyone educated in jail; they called it reeducation camp. Our whole family was blacklisted, and we could not find jobs. They took everything—every grain of rice," Tri said.

Tri's oldest brother escaped by boat to Australia. His mother tried to arrange an escape by boat for the rest of the family, but the government learned of the plan and confiscated everything again. Two years later, two more sons tried to escape by boat, but they were never heard from again. Eventually, Tri's uncle sponsored the family to come to the U.S., and by the time they arrived in America they were able to receive political asylum.

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Tri and Vu came to live with an aunt in Texas, while their mother and father stayed in California. The brothers could speak very little English when they first took classes at Collin College.

“The classes at Collin College have fewer students. You get a lot of attention, and you have the opportunity to ask questions. For example, Dr. Fred Jury’s organic chemistry classes are good because he teaches you to think; his tests are not multiple choice. They allowed me to understand complex concepts, which I have been using repeatedly in research studies and in medical school. Even now, as a physician, when I am reading drug study papers, the technical discussion part usually involves organic chemistry,” Tri said.

According to Tri, Professor Peggy Breedlove’s English as a Second Language classes were very helpful. He learned mathematics from Professor Denise Brown and says he still remembers the mitosis and meiosis lessons he learned in Dr. Nelson Rich’s biology class.

“Collin College made a big impression on my life. If you want to go to medical school, I would recommend Collin College. I would recommend that my own children go to this school,” Tri said.

A Solid Foundation for Lifelong Learning

Tri and Vu performed the very first Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) project at Collin College. Under the direction of Dr. Jury, Dr. Rich and Dr. Sid Dunkle, the brothers studied the metabolic rates of geckos.

“That research project helped us get scholarships to attend UTD. It was the first time I ever did research. I learned how to collect the data and find information in the library. It also helped me with another research project I completed at UTD,” Vu said.

Though they had different reasons, ultimately Tri and Vu chose the same career. Currently, Vu is a family practice resident at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. This summer, he will begin a geriatric fellowship at the University of Cincinnati. Like his brother, after taking classes at Collin College, Vu earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from UTD and an MD from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Originally, Vu wanted to work in computer science; however, when his mother became ill he decided to switch his major to biology and become a physician.

“Mom had Valley Fever, a fungal infection in her lungs. She was hospitalized in the intensive care unit for a couple of months. She did not make it. Not a lot of doctors talked to us and explained what was going on. No one told us how sick my mother was, and I felt so useless and unable to help my mom. I did not want that to happen to any other person,” Vu said.

Vu was born in 1974, the year before North Vietnam invaded Saigon. When his father was in prison, Vu was sent to live with an aunt for financial reasons.

“They had to release my father because he committed no crime. They kept my father in prison for no reason. We waited for eight years to come to the U.S. because so many Vietnamese people were applying,” Vu said.

The wait made Vu especially grateful for the opportunity to attend college. Vu praises the teaching abilities of chemistry professor Dr. Amina El-Ashmawy and microbiology teacher, Hershell Hanks, who he says was like a father to him.

“I learned all of the basics so well that later at UTD I didn’t have any problems. Some people at the university did not have the solid knowledge that I received. At Collin College, the professors gave us challenging problems to help us understand difficult concepts, so I was able to comprehend new concepts easier than other people. Even

now, when I am reading medical articles about the latest advances I find that the new concepts are not that difficult to understand because of the solid base I acquired at Collin College,” Vu said.

According to Vu, the professors at Collin College went the extra mile to help his brother and him. Collin College professors offered moral support when their mother was ill. Dr. Rich and Dr. Jury took Vu and Tri to a scientific conference, and Dr. Jury invited the brothers to spend Thanksgiving with his family.

“For me and my brother, those things were important. When we came here the culture was new to us, but Collin College professors opened their hearts to us. I believe we would not have had the success we have today if we went straight to the university. Things that happen at Collin College, I don’t think happen at other places,” Vu said.

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

Inside Collin County Business has named college trustee **Stacy Anne Arias** one of Collin County's 21 Leaders for the 21st Century.



Stacy Anne Arias

Professor Dr. Rosemary Karr was one of 15 professors statewide named a 2008 Piper Professor, an honor presented annually by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation to professors for superior teaching at a Texas college or university.



Sandra Herron

Dr. Sandra Herron, professor of Spanish, published *The Changing Faces of Chilean Poetry* in August 2008.



Dr. Mike Broyles

Collin College received an engraved NASA award plaque honoring the international contribution of physics professors **Dr. Mike Broyles** and **Dr. Greg Sherman**. The professors led students in a Collin College Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) undergraduate research project that provided astronomical measurements to the International Asteroid Search Campaign (IASC). Dr. Broyles and Dr. Sherman directed physics students in their quest to locate Near Earth Objects (NEOs) that could impact the earth. Lead professor Dr. Broyles' name was published at the Minor Planet Center (MPC) at Harvard University in association with the project's findings.



Dr. Greg Sherman



Diana Sage

Diana Sage, professor of speech communication, and **Dr. Debra St. John**, professor of government, graduated from the Academy for Leadership and Development, a yearlong program designed to advance organizational leadership and provide succession planning for leaders in postsecondary institutions. The academy was developed by the Chair Academy, a division of Maricopa Community College District in Mesa, Arizona.



Dr. Debra St. John

Barbara Money, associate vice president of Student Development, received her doctorate in leadership in higher education from Capella

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University. In addition, **Kelly Martin**, professor of English, earned a doctorate in humanities-studies in literature from The University of Texas in Dallas and **Sonja Andrus**, professor of English, earned her doctorate in English from Texas A&M University-Commerce.



Dr. Kelly Martin



Dr. Sonja Andrus

Dr. Barbara Money



Lupita Tinnen

Lupita Tinnen, professor of photography, was selected by the Center for Photography at Woodstock for Woodstock A-I-R, a residency program for minorities working in the photographic arts.

Dr. Mary McRae was named the vice president and provost of the Central Park Campus. Dr. McRae has more than 26 years of experience in higher education, including 22 years at Collin College. Under her leadership as vice president of student development that division earned an exemplary rating from the Texas Higher Education Board.



Dr. Mary McRae

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Students News

Jeanette Baillie and **Don Davis** received NASA research awards for measuring a potentially hazardous asteroid (2008 GM2) for the Killer Asteroid Project, a part of the International Asteroid Search Campaign. In addition, their names were published with their observations by the Minor Planet Center at Harvard University. The students' research was part of their Collin College Center for Advanced Studies in Mathematics and Natural Sciences (CASMNS) project.



Jeanette Baillie

Don Davis

The Nursing Program received the Continuing Approval with Commendation from the Board of Nursing. The commendation is for the 98.28 percent pass rate on the 2007 NCLEX-RN examination.

Kritanjali Dhungana, Hikma Jemal, Lida Vatanpour and Richard Wong, Collin College students, were accepted to participate in Texas A&M University-Commerce's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. The REU program offers a 10-week research experience for undergraduates.

The Collin College **Phi Theta Kappa** chapter was given the Leadership Hallmark Award, the Scholarship Hallmark Award and the Distinguished Chapter Award (given to the top 25 chapters in the world) at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention.

Former Collin student **Sarah Saunders** was recently cast to appear in episodes of Lifetime Television's hit drama series "Army Wives."

Culinary arts student **Ashley Sears** won a \$5,000 scholarship from the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association.

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These organizations also provide a venue for students of like disciplines and interests to get together and share ideas and experiences. Here are few of the honor societies now growing and thriving at Collin College.



Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the national honor society for two-year colleges. The Collin College chapter recently took home three coveted awards: the Scholarship Hallmark Award, the Leadership Hallmark Award and the Distinguished Chapter Award. In 2007-08, members participated in volunteer projects in Allen, Plano and McKinney. PTK president and nursing student Bethany Allen, of Princeton, said, "I will use the leadership skills I learned through PTK as a nurse working with patients. I have to be able to teach patients and cater to their needs. [PTK] will help me be a better nurse once I graduate."



Psi Beta

Psi Beta is the national honor society for psychology students. Students in Psi Beta undertake rigorous psychology research and have the opportunity to present papers at national conferences going toe to toe with some of the foremost universities in the nation.



Kappa Delta Pi

Kappa Delta Pi is an educational honor society for colleges and universities. Students can take advantage of benefits like grants and scholarships, community service projects, workshops, conferences, publication opportunities, professional and leadership development and employment resources.

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Sigma Chi Eta

Sigma Chi Eta is the national honor society for communication students at two-year colleges. The group co-sponsors the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “I Have a Dream” speech competition and members have participated in Earth Day and the AFI Film Festival. Hassan Barzani of Richardson said, “A couple of universities recruited me because of my association with Sigma Chi Eta.”



**Sigma Kappa
Delta**

Sigma Kappa Delta is a national English honor society. The group has sponsored a number of college events and programs like the Book-in-Common program and Auteur Film Series. Also, students can vie for scholarships through Sigma Kappa Delta. Students must maintain a 3.3 overall grade point average and achieve no lower than a “B” in an English course.

National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society is composed of students studying in Collin College’s workforce programs like law enforcement, nursing, fire science, paralegal and more. Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 while taking at least 12 credit hours. This year, they participated in a clothing drive and collected 31 bags of clothes and shoes for those in need.

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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.

Collin College is incorporating low-watering plant materials and turfgrass into the new landscape.

"This new landscape plan could save the college thousands of gallons of water a month," said Clint Wolfe, program coordinator for Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Urban Solutions Center. "The college will be able to save by using irrigation technology and more drought tolerant plant materials."

According to Wolfe, one variety of grass in the Collin College plan tolerates both shade and heat while resisting disease and insects. Another goes dormant and turns brown when it does not receive enough water, but it will come back to life and turn green once it receives a sufficient amount of water. In addition to the turfgrass, native and adaptive plants have been recommended, all from the Texas region.

To make the Central Park Campus irrigation design more efficient, the plan also includes an "evapotranspiration controller." The device, according to Wolfe, will use onsite water stations to collect information on rainfall and temperatures, and it will water the turfgrass and plants only when the system senses that they need to be watered.

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Collin Cougar wants to make a difference, could use help

Mascot seeks to raise \$1,500 for scholarship.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



Fall registration due to open

Priority registration begins June 22. Open registration begins June 25.
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Dean's List announced for spring


Maybe you made the list. Maybe you didn't. There's only one way to find out.
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College releases President's List for spring 2010

The quest for the vaunted 4.0.
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Deadline approaching for SMU pre-admission program

Why wait? Apply now for the SMU pre-admission program to get your transfer scene in order.
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College News

Many are making headlines.
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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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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 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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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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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.

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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.

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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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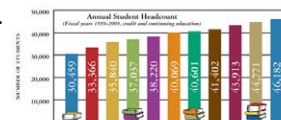
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Collin College Issues Second Report Card

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.

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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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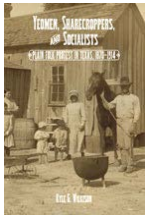
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Prestigious book award for Collin professor

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

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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.

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

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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.

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

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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The Official Community Newsletter for Collin College

Fall 2007:
Volume 5, Issue 1

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A Family Affair.

Delon and Loraine Whetten know a thing or two about sending children off to college. Five of their six children have attended Collin College over the years. Check out their story and their tips for parents of college-bound students!

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



Collin Students 'Baylor Bound'

Collin College students are heading south to Waco looking for green and gold. These students are not searching for treasure. They are seeking a bachelor's degree.

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



College Announces New Programs

Collin College is introducing three new degrees— surgical technology, health information technology and technical information and knowledge management.

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

Where Are They Now?

Collin Graduate Makes a Difference in South Africa.

Many people talk about joining the Peace Corps, eliminating world hunger or devoting themselves to causes that make the world a better place. Collin College graduate Marcela Guerrero Casas is actually doing it.

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



Student Highlights

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A sincere THANK YOU to the generous donors who helped raise more than \$209,000 for scholarships through the 2007 Evening of MONOPOLY®.

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Did You Know?

A Collin lab instructor has discovered an albino version of the famous state flower, the bluebonnet, growing at the college's Spring Creek Campus. Learn more about this discovery and all the doctorates on the faculty roster in our special feature "Did You Know?"

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Collin professor named best in Texas

Texas' top professor is not at one of the Lone Star State's public or private universities. The number one faculty member in the state is a professor of psychology at Collin County Community College. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) named Collin's own Jennifer O'Loughlin-Brooks the Texas Professor of the Year!

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



Collin, Texas A&M University join forces to celebrate the new 'Aggie Bound' admission agreement

Dogs and cats may be natural enemies, but one canine/feline combo just called a truce. Reveille, the famed Collie mascot of Texas A&M University, and Collin the Cougar joined forces in December when their respective colleges signed a special agreement. Now students who begin their college education at Collin can have guaranteed admission to complete certain degrees at Texas A&M.

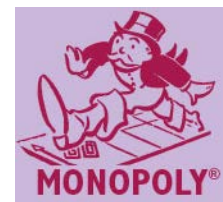
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MONOPOLY® back by popular demand!

Back by popular demand, the fast-paced fundraiser MONOPOLY® returns this spring! Take a stroll on the Boardwalk at [MONOPOLY® Madness](#) at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 at The Shops at Willow Bend to help raise scholarship funds for deserving students.

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



Collin named one of six colleges in the nation to watch

Recently, Collin was recognized as one of six colleges and universities and one of 16 civically-engaged organizations to watch across the United States.

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

Where are they now?

Former Collin student is celebrity in hit TV series *Ugly Betty*

Former Collin student Michael Urie shared his acting talent with more than 16 million television viewers in the premiere episode of ABC's new comedy "Ugly Betty." Now North Texans can see his hit character every Thursday night.

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



High school students double up with dual credit

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Lev Zaltsberg is proud of his son Dmitry for many reasons. But when Dmitry started college full time, Dad was glad he suggested “dual credit” classes at Collin for his son’s senior year at Plano West.
[\[Click Here for Full Story\]](#)



College honors Living Legends

Collin honored (from left) Mike Newman & Jean Newman, Fred Moses & Mazzie Moses, Raymond B. Cooper and (seated) Helen Hall at the Fourth Annual Living Legends Tribute, underwritten by Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano
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Collin, Texas Tech sign consecutive admission agreement

Collin County Community College District (Collin) and Texas Tech University (Texas Tech) have teamed up to provide students a new route to a degree. Officials from both institutions signed an agreement – titled “Red Raider Bound” – granting qualified Collin students guaranteed admission to Texas Tech, among other perks.

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

Destination College©: The Higher Education Help Desk

Destination College© is a new initiative at Collin that will help local families prepare for success in college. Watch for upcoming workshops as well as tutoring services, discounted SAT/ACT reviews, refresher courses and more!

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



Call for entries is underway for 2006 Living Legends, underwritten by Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano

Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the community? If so, a living legend might be among your circle of colleagues, friends or family.

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



Where are they now? Dr. Guillermo Ameer's discoveries to make the human body just like new

A quirk of fate steered Dr. Guillermo Ameer from electrical to chemical and biomedical engineering, bringing him acclaim and bringing the world a realm of medicine previously unknown. A Collin graduate, Dr. Ameer is one of 10 Illinois recipients to receive stem cell funding this year, and his research may soon alter the way surgeons practice medicine.

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



UTD offers fixed tuition for Collin students

It is a good time to be a student at Collin. More specifically, it is a good time to be a Collin student bound for The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

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Student News

Collin's chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) swept the national awards competition at the U.S. convention.

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Faculty and Staff Highlights

The spotlight is shining on Collin faculty and staff. Learn how your community college is earning national acclaim.

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Did you know...

How has enrollment grown over the last 20 years? How can college fit into a busy schedule? How do businesses access custom training? What special topics are professors studying this year? Click below to find out.

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