

Collin College trustee receives regional leadership award



Dr. J. Robert Collins

Dr. J. Robert Collins, founding trustee and Collin College Board chair, received the 2019 Trustee Leadership Award for the Western region from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

The award is based on a trustee member’s significant contributions to the community college concept and outstanding work in the Western region.

“I’ve been blessed to be able to serve Collin College since 1985 alongside talented individuals with great vision,” Collins said. “It is an honor to receive this award, and I want to thank my colleagues throughout the years for their continued support.”

Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said Collins has been an advocate for the college and its success.

“We were thrilled to learn that Dr. Collins received the 2019 Trustee Leadership Award,” Matkin said. “Throughout his many years of service on the Board, he has dedicated countless hours to continually advocating for student success and institutional excellence.”

Collins has served as a member of the Collin College Board of Trustees for 34 years, beginning with the founding of the college district in 1985, and has been elected by the citizens of Collin County to serve through May 2021. During his tenure, Collins has served as vice chair of the Board for six years and as chair for eight years.

Throughout Collins’ service as a trustee, he has fostered a visionary focus for the Board. Notably, he spearheaded the establishment of a wide-area fiber network (WAN) dedicated to the college in 2002. As a result, the college now has a 58-mile WAN that connects all campuses and provides it with a stable, secure network. This innovation established the necessary state-of-the-art infrastructure for the college’s academic and administrative systems and outstanding information technology curriculum.

Collins also worked tirelessly with fellow trustees to create the college’s current master plan and maximize the college’s impact within its service area. As a result, the college moved forward with proposing a \$600 million bond issue that the local voters approved in 2017.

Collins also serves as a board member of the Farmersville Economic Development Corporation and is a member of the Farmersville Rotary Club. Collins previously served on the Plano City Council and served as the mayor pro tem.

Collin College launches new bachelor’s degrees

As we usher in the new year, the landscape of Collin College is changing. 2020 marks the first time the college will offer a baccalaureate degree. But instead of offering one bachelor’s degree this spring, Collin College will offer two: a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

According to Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin, even though the college will be offering bachelor’s degrees, it will remain a community college.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer these new baccalaureate degrees,” said Matkin. “These programs will help address critical workforce shortages in high-demand fields in North Texas.”

In 2017, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 2118 into law, authorizing certain public community colleges to offer up to three baccalaureate degrees. Plans for a third baccalaureate program at Collin College are in development and will be announced at a later date.

“We are proud to offer our new bachelor’s degrees at Collin College prices – the lowest tuition in the state,” said Dr. J. Robert Collins, founding trustee and Collin College Board chair. “These new degrees offer students the opportunity to build on the associate degrees they have earned and advance their future careers.”

BAT in Cybersecurity Program

Labor market analysis shows a rising demand for information technology industry employees, especially individuals with bachelor’s degrees in cybersecurity. A 2018 report from the International Information System Security Certification Consortium indicates that there is a shortage of approximately 498,000 professionals in the U.S. and close to three million worldwide in the cybersecurity field.

The new Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree offers students the opportunity to take their associate degrees in information security to the next level with a degree that offers high-wage jobs in a high-growth field, according to Gregory Newman, Collin College associate dean of academic affairs.

“Knowledge paired with skills is the currency of the 21st century, and this combination is particularly in demand in cybersecurity,” Newman said. “Collin College is committed to providing students with a

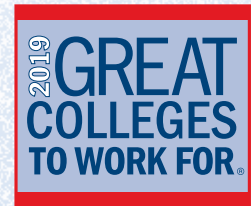


hands-on, rigorous cybersecurity program. Students who receive BAT in Cybersecurity degrees from Collin College will have the proficiency to compete for jobs throughout the country.”

According to Elena Garrett, vice president of product management for Elemental Cybersecurity Inc., North Texas’ high-tech corridor is one of the hottest markets for cybersecurity professionals in the nation. She adds that the presence of companies such as Intel; AT&T Inc.; Verizon Wireless; T-Mobile; Microsoft Corporation; Cisco Systems, Inc.; Samsung; Ericsson; Texas Instruments Inc.; Raytheon Company; and others creates a

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Collin College named a 2019 Great College to Work For



Collin College is one of the nation’s best colleges to work for, according to a new survey by the “Great Colleges to Work For” program.

The survey results, which were released in the fall, are based on a review of 236 colleges and universities. Collin College was one of 85 institutions to achieve the “Great Colleges to Work For” recognition. Other honorees included Baylor University, Lone Star College, and Texas Christian University.

“There is no place I would rather be than at Collin College,” said Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. “From new bachelor’s degrees to innovative programs and events, this vibrant college is unique. However,

what makes Collin College exceptional is that it is home to professors and staff who are truly dedicated to student success.”

Collin College was also named an Honor Roll Institution because it was highly rated across multiple categories including: collaborative governance; professional/career development programs; confidence in senior leadership; teaching environment; compensation and benefits; facilities, workspace, and security; respect and appreciation; job satisfaction; supervisor/department chair relationship; and work/life balance.

“This is a very satisfying affirmation of Collin College, but our real goal is not recognition – it is creating a community that

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high-demand environment that workforce placement companies are currently unable to satisfy.

“Collin College BAT students will graduate with multiple must-have certifications that make them attractive candidates for many of the highest in-demand, entry-level jobs in this field,” Garrett said. “Additionally, in the past, the high cost of obtaining a four-year degree through traditional universities prevented many talented individuals from starting or completing their bachelor’s programs. This is a win-win for the industry, the students, and of course the community, which will reap the benefit of a growing influx of educated, in-demand professionals supporting their local businesses, municipalities, and social organizations for decades and generations to come.”

Students who have already earned a two-year degree in an information security field are eligible to enroll in the BAT in Cybersecurity degree program. To view a listing of information sessions for the BAT, visit www.collin.edu/departments/cybersecurity/. All eligible students must attend an information session and meet with a career coach. For more information and to contact a career coach, email workforce-programs@collin.edu or call 972.377.1501.

To download an information sheet, visit www.collin.edu/academics/programs/CYBR_BAT.html.

RN-to-BSN Program

Collin College’s RN-to-BSN program offers students the opportunity to schedule their clinical requirements at times that best suit their schedules and earn a Sigma Theta Tau Nurse Manager Certificate. Students with an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) can complete the BSN in one year by attending classes two days a week or students can attend part time by taking classes one day a week. To commemorate the college’s 35th anniversary, the inaugural BSN class is limited to 35 individuals.

According to Gary Huey, Learning Institute manager for Medical City Healthcare, the BSN degree is preferred over the associate degree because of the focus on research, theory, and

public health which are emphasized in more detail in the BSN program.

“The Collin College nursing program will provide registered nurses the opportunity to meet directly with faculty to clarify any questions or concerns they have in a more timely manner than an online program,” Huey said. “The BSN program at Collin College will benefit our hospitals with Magnet status by offering employees further education beyond the associate degree. In addition, BSN nurses are more marketable and can offer our community partners more educated RNs to meet the changing needs of our society.”

To view a listing of information sessions and the BSN application, visit www.collin.edu/nursing/bsn. To download the BSN application, click on the “Spring 2020 RN to BSN application.” To download an information sheet about the college’s BSN program, visit www.collin.edu/academics/info/nursingBSNInfoSheet.pdf. For more information about the Collin College BSN, visit www.collin.edu/academics/programs/NURS_BSN.html or email RN2BSN@collin.edu.

In addition to earning the Collin College BSN and BAT in Cybersecurity degrees, students can earn bachelor’s degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce) at Collin College’s Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge). Students can earn the following A&M-Commerce bachelor’s degrees: a Bachelor of Business Administration in General Business, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Analytics, a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, and a Bachelor of Social Work. For more information, visit www.tamuc.edu/academics/locations/Frisco/.



Collin College named a 2019 Great College to Work For continued from page 1

values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense, everyone at Collin College helps to make this a great place to work,” said Dr. J. Robert Collins, founding trustee and Collin College Board chair.

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional questionnaire that captured employment data and workplace policies from each institution and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether

an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

“Great Colleges to Work For” is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more information and to view survey results, visit the Great Colleges Program website at www.greatcollegesprogram.com.

ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results.

Study shows Collin College will continue to have a strong economic impact on region

Emsi, a labor market analysis firm, conducted an economic impact study on Collin College and a capital analysis study of the college’s four new campuses. The firm presented the results this past fall.

The study showed that in fiscal year 2018, Collin College’s current campuses added \$721.2 million in total income and supported 10,863 jobs in Collin County.

According to the study, after construction and when enrollment stabilizes, the new campuses are projected to add a total of 12,500 students annually.

By fiscal year 2027, the last year of the analysis, Collin College alumni associated with the four new campuses are estimated to add \$11.4 million in income to the economy per year, supporting 130 jobs. This annual impact is expected to increase as the college continues to serve more students.

Total impact

\$721.2 million total income added in the county
... or ...
1.1% of county’s Gross Regional Product

10,863 total jobs supported in the county
... or ...
1 out of **58** jobs in the county

Colleges receive U.S. Department of Labor grant for flexible apprenticeships

Collin College and Columbus State Community College recently received a U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies Flexible Learning Expressway for Technology (FLEXTech) Apprenticeship Consortium grant. The DOL awarded a total grant of \$3,788,691 million.

Collin College and Columbus State Community College are joining forces to create a national model for flexible apprenticeships in IT and IT-related industries to increase the number of workers in high-demand occupations. Both higher education institutions will partner with an industry consortium to design and implement apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeship programs regionally, document their success, and disseminate the information across the country. Expansion partners include Florida State College at Jacksonville, Florida and Marion Technical College in Ohio.

According to Dr. Ann Beheler, co-director of the FLEXTech grant and executive director of emerging technology grants at Collin College, the grant supports all subdisciplines of IT, cybersecurity and programming, including emerging subdisciplines, and benefits students and employers.

“Students will have the skills employers are looking for because in addition to classes our program will focus on providing support services such as career coaching, tutoring, and

workshops for learning employability skills, résumé writing, and interviewing skills for students in the first portion of their studies,” Beheler said. “Employers will have the opportunity to interview these students and mentor them in an industry apprenticeship, allowing students to earn salaries and gain experience in a work environment while they complete their classes.”

The consortium will leverage Columbus State Community College’s Workforce Advisory Council and Collin College’s Business and Industry Leadership Team (BILT) to support alignment with industry need. The partners will create a combined Employer and Education Consortium to establish new employer-driven IT apprenticeship pathways and expand existing pathways.

According to Dr. Don Weasenforth, vice president/provost of the Collin College Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge), currently IT-related industries are reliant on foreign workers with H-1B visas. This program is designed to nationally disseminate efforts intended to accelerate the large-scale expansion of apprenticeship opportunities in IT-related industries for all Americans.

“The consortium’s goal is to serve 1,600 apprentices, create and expand apprenticeship programs, and engage employers that adopt apprenticeship programs,” said Weasenforth.

For information, call 972.377.1064.

McKinney Campus (Central Park) has a new VP/Provost



Dr. Mark Smith

Collin College Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Mark Smith as the new vice president/provost of the McKinney Campus (Central Park) at the September 2019 Board meeting.

Smith replaces Dr. Jon Hardesty, who is now Collin College’s vice president of academic affairs.

Smith was the vice president of educational services at Temple College, where he served in a number of roles such as chief academic officer and associate vice president of distance education. Smith also served as the president of Cloud County Community College in Kansas.

Smith holds a bachelor’s degree in business and an MBA in Executive Leadership from William Carey University. He also holds a Ph.D. in Education from Capella University.



Automotive Service, Collision Repair programs will train technicians of tomorrow



An automotive service technician with Ewing Automotive Group inspects a Mercedes-Benz engine.

Matthew McIlwain got into automotive repair by fixing his own car. He did not have grand ambitions. He just needed a vehicle to get to work, and he liked the problem-solving aspect of auto repair.

Now an automotive service technician with the Ewing Automotive Group’s Mercedes-Benz of Plano, he looks back at the decision to attend a technical school in California as the start of a career with new challenges every day.

“I get a sense of fulfillment out of tackling a problem and fixing a car,” McIlwain said, adding that his job lets him shift his hours to fit his working style. “The freedom of it is nice. I am able to control my time more than any other job I’ve ever had.”

McIlwain is the type of self-driven, technically-minded person who Collin College’s Automotive Service Technician and Collision Repair programs were made for. Students who want to work with their hands and are looking for high-demand, high-tech careers will find programs at the new Technical Campus to fit their passions. Opening fall 2020, the Technical Campus will offer other programs including Biomedical Equipment Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Computer Networking, Construction Management, Electronic Engineering Technology, HVAC, Health Professions, Industrial Automation, and Welding Technology.

The college district is attracting educators with hands-on experience in their industries and the three-story Technical Campus will have dedicated lab space for each program.

Shaun Smith, director of the Automotive Service and Collision Repair programs at Collin College, has been working to outfit the Technical Campus’ lab spaces with technology to train the next generation of automotive technicians. The automotive training area

will include four traditional classrooms, a computer lab, and an open workforce lab with nine car lifts, a truck lift, two flat bays, a transmission classroom, and an engine classroom. The labs will feature the latest scan tools and state-of-the-art multimeters from industry leaders, a Car-O-Liner alignment system, electronics simulators for determining faults in wiring, a downdraft paint booth and mixing room, and access to test cars for student work.

“Our vision is to mirror what the industry is using right now,” Smith said. “We don’t want the technology to be five or 10 years old. We want to train the students on the equipment that dealerships are using so they can walk out of our classrooms and be comfortable in the industry.”

That is a welcome statement to Pamela Robertson, a recruiter at the Ewing Automotive Group. Robertson is excited about the opportunities the programs will offer students in Collin County, both in high school and after.

“One of the big reasons I’m excited about the campus is how affordable the program is,” Robertson said, adding that technical schools can be very expensive.

The Ewing Automotive Group is just one of several local dealerships, collision repair shops, and automotive manufacturers that are working with Collin College’s advisory committees to ensure students are learning the skills they need to thrive in a dynamic automotive industry.

“Our advisory committees are our link to the industry, and they provide us with insights we might not have otherwise,” said Dr. Bill King, vice president/provost of the Technical Campus and Courtyard Center. “Our students will graduate with an exceptional technical education because the programs we offer are continually adjusted to meet industry needs.”

“We want to train the students on the equipment that dealerships are using so they can walk out of our classrooms and be comfortable in the industry.”

Shaun Smith

By the decade: 1990-1999

What kind of impact does Collin College make in its service area?

“The college has had a significant impact on our communities. I’ve heard countless stories of individuals whose lives have been changed because of the college. For example, the grocery store clerk who saw my Collin College t-shirt and said, ‘Oh, do you work for the college?’ She was thrilled to meet someone who works at the college. She told me her story about her favorite faculty member and her favorite class. Those of us who work at the college have heard many stories from students of how completing their education at Collin College made such a difference in their lives. Collin creates incredible connections within the community – including individual students, families, community members, businesses, and civic leaders. The college is also a significant contributor to the local economy, with its current operations adding more than \$700 million annually.”



Kim Davison
Collin College
Chief of Staff

What was it like to work for the college district in its early days?

“As the college was getting started, it was ‘all hands on deck!’ We would all work registration, we would all advise students, and we would do whatever was needed, including answering the switchboard on a bad weather day. That was part of the fun of being involved in the college’s early days, and it was part of what made being in that original group so, so special. While most jobs have specialized over the years, we continue to see that type of attitude across the college as we work together toward the college’s vision of ‘Delivering a brighter future for our students and communities.’”

What are some important milestones from the 1990s?

“As we entered the next phase of growth of the college’s physical footprint in the 1990s, we moved from a single location in McKinney to multiple locations with the opening of the Plano Campus (Spring Creek) in 1988, Courtyard Center in 1993, Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge) in 1995, and rented space in Rockwall in 1999. With multiple locations, new challenges arose – particularly related to communication. Technology played a huge role in helping us bridge communication between the campuses. We launched our first website as www.ccccd.edu in the late 1990s, and by 1999 most of the college’s offices and computer labs had computers. Technology continues to change at a rapid pace, and it has been a priority to stay current with technology trends and to train our students using state-of-the-art equipment and processes.” ■

What was Collin College’s reputation in the 1990s?

“I think the recognition that came in the 1990s was that this college was something really special, and it began to get recognized on a national level. After just four or five years, we started to see Collin College’s name mentioned prominently and nationally for the programs that we had and for the quality that was here. We started a learning communities program, and we started a service learning program. In both of those, we won national awards. Those were real highlights of that decade for me.”



Gary Hodge
Collin College
Professor and Dean
of Academic Affairs
(retired)

What makes Collin College unique?

“What makes the college unique to me is the people. I am constantly impressed by the quality of the faculty and the quality of the leadership here. When I was the dean, I got to visit classroom faculty and see them teaching. The innovation, the creativity, just the excellence that exists in the classroom, I think that stands out first to me. Everywhere you go in this district, whether it’s on a campus or at the Collin Higher Education Center, there are good people – good in terms of not only being good people to work with but good in terms of the excellence they bring and the dedication they bring. I see people that really care about the college and really want to excel, and I think that’s outstanding.”

How has the college changed?

“I feel like we are finally, as a college, meeting the true mission of the community college. We have moved from being focused primarily on academic transfer programs to expanding workforce programs. To me, seeing the trade programs become a part of the college and the new Technical Campus that’s being built are important. The focus that Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin has brought to workforce education makes us a true community college, a part of the community. We’re now meeting the needs of this county both for students who want to transfer and for students who want to get an education and be able to go to work pretty quickly.” ■

What were the early days of the Fire Academy like?

“When the Fire Academy started out, Pat McAuliff [director of fire science and EMS] was the only person in fire science. He hired me as a student assistant in the spring of 1991, and we had to beg and borrow [equipment to train with]. The McKinney Fire Department, the Plano Fire Department, the Lewisville Fire Department, and the Sherman Fire Department all loaned equipment, loaned fire engines, and loaned breathing apparatuses. I spent a lot of days on the road driving between all of those different places to borrow equipment, and then we had to put it on either in the McKinney Campus (Central Park) parking lot or we would have to drive to other facilities.”



Matt Uppole
Battalion Chief,
Coppell Fire Dept.
Academy Graduate
and Adjunct Faculty
Member

How has Collin College affected your life?

“It’s had a huge impact – by providing me the education I needed for my state certifications as a firefighter, by providing me the ability to go on to the University of North Texas, and by providing me a platform to hone my skills as an educator. It has made me a better firefighter. It has made me a better leader in the fire service by affording me all those opportunities.”

What should people know about Collin College?

“Collin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, and it’s been that way for at least the last two decades. The college has kept up with that growth by adding facilities, staff, and programs. The support of the taxpayers for this [fire academy] and for the other programs at the college is something I think the general public needs to understand. Their taxes are an investment in the future of Collin County.” ■

Why was the MLK Jr. breakfast moved to Collin College?

“The Plano Community Forum started the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast in the Douglass (Community) Center, but our audience became too large, so we moved it to the college in 1992. Dr. John Anthony was president at the time. It has been a wonderful experience for our guests, especially for our young adults, some of whom had never been to a higher education institution. It has been wonderful for the community.”



Evelyn McKnight
Former Co-Chair of the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Power Leadership Breakfast
with former Collin College Trustee
and Co-Chair Adrian Rodriguez

Why is the breakfast an important event?

“Hosting the breakfast is a true example of engaging in the community. I think Collin College is a great partner. We have expanded (the breakfast) throughout Collin County. That’s why we started inviting the mayors and other elected officials. We want it to be a welcoming audience to help celebrate the legacy of Dr. King. This event is about Dr. King and what he did for the country and what we still need to do to embrace his dream.”

How does this partnership help students?

“Education is paramount to the Plano Community Forum and Collin College. That is why we try so hard to give scholarships to as many students as we can. We have students every year who go to Collin College. That is great for the community to see. Plano Community Forum appreciates the continual collaboration the college and Dr. Matkin have with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast.” ■

By the decade: 2000-2009

What was your vision for Collin College?

“My vision, and the vision of the Board of Trustees, was to make the college a nationally recognized, exemplary institution of higher education with the lowest tuition and tax possible, and we achieved that. I’m grateful and thankful for the magnificent opportunity that I had there.”



Dr. Cary A. Israel
Collin College
President Emeritus

What changed in the years you served the college?

“We were doing things that no one was doing. We created new initiatives like the Collin Higher Education Center, the Honors Institute, and Weekend College. We partnered with area ISDs and developed a health science academy and dual credit partnerships. We developed a partnership for free doctoral programs for our faculty and reestablished sabbaticals. We transformed the image of the college with a new name ‘Collin College,’ created core values, and made libraries the focal points of our campuses. We focused on civic engagement and made our campuses voting precincts. Faculty, students, and staff were winning awards left and right. Eight Collin College faculty were named ‘Professor of the Year’ by the Carnegie Foundation and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. We also grew the college to serve 53,000 students annually and awarded more than 500 scholarships annually.”

What is the key to the college’s success?

“Success is working together. Collin College is a partnership between the students, taxpayers, business and industry, ISDs, faculty, staff, chambers, nonprofits, and the community. The key is, and always will be, the people.” ■

Why did you come to Collin College?

“I came to Collin College because I knew I was moving back to Plano after I exited the military, and I needed a place where I could get a fresh start. Collin College provided that for me. Honestly, I wasn’t really sure about my academic wherewithal. Collin College provided the perfect nurturing environment for me to learn and to grow and to realize that I could accomplish those goals that I had set for myself.”



Dr. Roderick C. Hunter, Jr.
New York College of Podiatric Medicine, D.P.M.

Collin College Commencement Speaker

The University of Texas at Dallas, Bachelor of Arts, Biology

Collin College Associate Degree

What amazes you about Collin College?

“I wasn’t just a number. I was an individual, and the professors took an active interest in my success, and you don’t find that at a lot of places. One professor urged me to go into the Honors English program. I told her that I wasn’t sure, and that I didn’t think that I could do it. She told me I could be successful. When somebody has that much confidence and faith in you, what else can you say but, ‘Yes, I’m going to take the Honors English class.’ When I graduated, two of my professors gave me a first edition of *Roots* with a note that wished me well and said, ‘Congratulations to the future Dr. Hunter.’” ■

For you, what college history stands out between 2000 and 2009?

“The building of programs stands out. A lot of programs were in their infancy in McKinney and then in Plano. We built a math lab and started adding onto the Plano Campus (Spring Creek). It was two floors, but it ended at the F wing on one side, and it ended where the gym is on the other end.”



Denise Brown
Professor of Mathematics

What do you think the general public should know about the college?

“We’re for everyone. We’re an economical way for you to get started on your degree, and we have programs for every age level, every kind of student. It is an advantage because you get a lot more attention from your professors, and the classes are smaller than if you start out at a university.”

What do you love about Collin College?

“I love the atmosphere. Of course, I love my students. I’d be happy to teach anywhere, but I’ve always felt like I’ve had freedom here. If I get an idea, I’m not afraid to try it, and I have support from my dean and other faculty. We have a budget so we can go to conferences and see how other professors are doing things across the country. I’m very thankful that we have the opportunity to do that.” ■

What was it like teaching at the college in the early days?

“I believe I started working at Collin College in September of 1986. My role at Collin College was teaching English. Teaching at the college was very interesting the first year. It was the first college in this area. We were excited to be there and teach the students. The students were so wonderful, too, and they wanted to learn. My job was to keep inspiring them, and I tried to do that.”



Dr. Myrtle Hightower
Collin College
Professor of English (retired)

Why do you believe people should attend Collin College?

“Collin College is an exceptional college. You get an excellent education for the money. Of course, the college has many national awards. It is known as one of the outstanding colleges in the area, and students attend for that reason.”

What were the highlights of the years between 2000 and 2009?

“My late husband, John, and I were named Collin College Living Legends. That meant a lot to us. The Plano Campus (Spring Creek) conference center was named the Living Legends Conference Center to honor the Living Legends. That is where we gather as a community and hold the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast celebrations each year. We were also building amazing new libraries which had classrooms for students. In addition, we met several times with the Committee of 100 members, a group of community leaders and volunteers, to work on the college’s core values.” ■



Alumni network takes historic leap forward

Over the last 35 years, more than 500,000 students have passed through Collin College classrooms, but a new initiative aims to bring alumni back to campus through service and involvement.

“The first step is to show alumni they are appreciated and valued,” Lisa Vasquez, vice president of advancement for Collin College, said. “After all, we named the alumni program ‘The Pride’ because alumni are the college’s greatest source of pride. A lot of our alumni live in North Texas, and they are telling us they want to help.”

In August, the college hired Madeline Sertner as alumni relations coordinator to build programs for former students. Sertner is a Collin College graduate who went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Government from Texas Woman’s University, but former students don’t have to be graduates to join “The Pride.” The alumni program welcomes any former student who has completed at least one course for credit or continuing education.

“We’re asking, ‘What can alumni do to strengthen the college?’ and that isn’t just about philanthropy,” Sertner said.

The college convened the first alumni advisory council in November to brainstorm on meaningful ways for alumni to get involved. Initial ideas include a traditions committee, career services, professional development, leadership training, an alumni editorial board for alumni communications, alumni events, and student support programs to connect alumni with current students or assist in special projects.

As a former student who thoroughly enjoyed her time at Collin College, Sertner understands the joy of being a part of the college culture again.

“Getting to come back to Collin feels like coming home,” she said.

The college is confident thousands more alumni feel the same way.

Alumni can join “The Pride” for free at www.collin.edu/foundation/alumni/ or call 972.599.3148.



Lisa Vasquez, vice president of advancement for Collin College, and Madeline Sertner, alumni relations coordinator

Workforce Focus: Welding Technology

Students interested in entering the job market quickly, improving their skills, or changing careers can choose from dozens of workforce programs at Collin College that will train them for rewarding futures. Programs ranging from animation to welding prepare Collin graduates to enter the workforce ready

to succeed, armed with the technical skills and knowledge that employers are seeking. *Connection* features some of these programs to provide details of Collin College’s offerings in workforce education. This issue’s featured program is Welding Technology.

WELDING TECHNOLOGY

From petroleum production and metal fabrication to the aerospace industry and new economy green manufacturing, welders are key to many industries because they have the skills to help build and repair the machines of tomorrow. Skilled welders can choose to work at Fortune 500 companies, travel to exotic locations for jobs as independent contractors, or run their own shops.

The Welding Technology program at Collin College provides students with the skills required for entry-level welder positions, preparing them to work using multi-process welding including tungsten inert gas (TIG), metal inert gas (MIG), stick/shielded metal arc welding (SMAW), flux-core, and oxy-fuel. The program emphasizes knowledge and skills required to work with modern industrial welding equipment, and students will gain certificates upon completion of each course.

Career Outlook*

Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers

Average salary: **\$42,800**

18% growth

Choose Your Education

**Associate of Applied Science -
Welding Technology (60 credit hours)**

**Certificate Level 1 -
Welding Technology (36 credit hours)**



Learn more at www.collin.edu/academics/programs/WLDG_WeldingTech_3Overview.html.

Learn about all of Collin College’s degree and certificate programs at www.collin.edu/academics/programs/.

*Data obtained from JobsEQ (Collin County) and O*NET.

Note: The earning potential for employees with certifications and associate of applied science degrees may exceed the average salary.

Note: Job growth projected from 2019-2026.



Collin College begins work on new master and strategic plans

In the fall, Collin College administrators and Board of Trustees members began the preliminary process to develop the new master and strategic plans for the next five years.

The current master and strategic plan, known as “Vision 2020,” is nearing its successful end.

“Vision 2020 has served Collin College well – from the bond getting passed in 2017 to the new campuses opening soon, on time and within budget,” Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said. “It has positioned the college to move forward with a pioneering look at future academic programs and student services.”

Matkin said when “Vision 2020” was first created, the focus was on new facilities and growth. The new plan will continue to highlight growth but will also target sustaining and bettering systems for students, faculty, and staff.

The master plan will be facility- and infrastructure-based, and the strategic plan will focus on academics and programs.

The overarching principles that guide the college’s planning processes include: passion for the college’s core values of learning, service and involvement, creativity and innovation, academic excellence, dignity and respect, and integrity; aligning Collin’s academic and technical offerings with the service area’s and state’s highest needs; maximizing the use of Collin’s unique resources and talents for the

benefit of students and the communities served by the college; and using clear and easily understood metrics to measure and track success.

“These guiding principles help lead us as we work together, with the community in mind, to create a plan that will continue to enable us to serve this vibrant, growing county,” said Dr. J. Robert Collins, founding trustee and Collin College Board chair.

The process began during the 2018-19 school year, and the initial draft of both the master plan and strategic plan were presented to the Board of Trustees on Oct. 4, 2019. From now through February 2020, the college will conduct meetings with stakeholders to flesh out details within major plan components. In April 2020, the Board will have a retreat to review final documents. The plans are slated to be implemented September 2020.

“As the county grows, Collin College will also continue to grow, and we’ll need more space to accommodate the exceptional learning environments students and professors have come to expect,” said Andrew Hardin, Collin College Board vice chair. “Our next master and strategic plans will be crucial as we look to provide educational opportunities to more areas, and to more people, in our service area.”

Matkin said nothing is written in stone as of yet and conversations with the community and stakeholders will help determine final priorities and goals.

MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

- 1 Complete last phases of current master plan and prioritize repurposing of available facilities.
- 2 Examine and develop expansion plans for existing facilities, future programs, and growth in the service area.
- 3 Strategically improve quality and expand existing instruction and service delivery modalities to provide increased access to college programs.
- 4 Streamline the college’s administrative data systems to improve business processes and accommodate growth.
- 5 Assess the future of on-campus student housing and evaluate the impact on student recruitment, engagement, and success.
- 6 Implement planned and future components of the comprehensive safety and emergency management plan.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- 1 Improve student outcomes to meet or exceed local, state, and regional accreditation thresholds and goals.
- 2 Develop and implement strategies to become a national exemplar in program and student outcomes.
- 3 Create and implement comprehensive integrated pathways to support student transitions.
- 4 Implement the third baccalaureate degree and targeted 2+2 programs with university partners.
- 5 Develop and implement a comprehensive staffing and succession model.
- 6 Develop a coordinated and systematic approach to engage external stakeholders.

IT'S GROW TIME!

Construction is almost nearing the end for two new Collin College campuses set to open in fall 2020, and the construction phase is beginning for two new campuses and one center set to open in fall 2021.

Wylie Campus Opening date: Fall 2020 The campus will sit on approximately 97 acres and will consist of three buildings totaling 339,000 square feet. The campus will accommodate up to 7,000 students. The campus will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campus Commons• Library• Student Center• Conference Center	Technical Campus Opening date: Fall 2020 The campus will be a 340,000-square-foot three-story facility on 32 acres. The campus will accommodate up to 7,100 students. The campus will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An underground parking garage• Space for dual credit students built in partnership with Allen ISD• Areas dedicated to major career concentrations, such as Automotive, Construction, HVAC, Welding, and Advanced Manufacturing	Celina Campus Planned opening date: Fall 2021 The campus will sit on 75 acres with Phase 1 construction totaling 96,000 square feet. Phase 1 will accommodate up to 2,500 students. Phase 1 of the campus is planned to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classrooms and lab spaces• Computer lab spaces• Library• Student and enrollment services	Farmersville Campus Planned opening date: Fall 2021 The campus will total 52,000 square feet on 75 acres and will accommodate 1,250 students. The campus is planned to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classrooms and lab spaces• Computer lab spaces• Library• Student and enrollment services	IT Center at the Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge) Planned opening date: Fall 2021 The new facility will be built on the Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge) and will total 92,000 square feet. The facility will accommodate 2,000 students. The center will expand the college’s existing and future IT programs. It will also serve as the central location for the college’s new Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree.
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Dual Credit

Save time & money! Students can earn high school credit AND college credit through Dual Credit classes. Learn more: www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/

Community leaders and business partners share their perspectives on the new Collin College campuses, which both open in fall 2020

TECHNICAL CAMPUS



Jessica Adame, National Outreach Manager, McCarthy Building Companies
“As one of the largest general contractors in the U.S., we actively recruit our future leaders from our local community colleges. Collin College provides the perfect pipeline for our future workforce. Collin College also allows our experienced construction directors, project managers, and superintendents the opportunity to provide their experience in the classroom.”



Steven Basden, Operations Manager, Levy & Son Service Experts
“By offering this type of campus in a college-based environment, it gives opportunities to students for degrees in their field. As an industry, it gives us a much-needed influx of qualified young people to grow our service business.”



Roy Villarreal, Learning Program Director, Service King Collision Repair Centers
“The new Technical Campus in Allen will help train and provide job opportunities for people whose passion is working on automobiles. The collision industry has thousands of career opportunities needing to be filled, and there are not enough collision programs throughout the United States.”

WYLIE CAMPUS



Eric Hogue, Mayor, City of Wylie
“If you know anything about me, you know that I love Wylie. I always tease and say we have a hospital emergency room and a funeral home in Wylie, so you can be born here and die here. Now, with Collin College, you can literally begin your education at the award-winning Wylie ISD and finish your higher education at the phenomenal Collin College Wylie Campus. With the new campus, we will have adults of all ages and all walks of life continuing to grow in their personal and professional lives.”



Dr. David Vinson, Superintendent, Wylie ISD
“Having a true college campus in Wylie will allow students to get the college experience without some of the uncertainty that can go along with going to a large university. For some students, this ‘test drive’ will provide them with the chance to see how college classes are structured and give them time to adjust. For parents, knowing that this option may help with the cost of college is a big help.”

Help light up the night at Collin College’s official 35th anniversary party!



Trivia Challenge and Scholarship Fundraiser!



Space is limited!
Register today!

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 6 p.m.

Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge) Conference Center
9700 Wade Blvd., Frisco, Texas 75035

Sponsorships & tickets available at
www.collin.edu/foundation/events/stetson.html
or call 972.599.3145.



FOUNDATION

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