

## New Campuses, Degrees Coming Soon!

### Fall 2020 openings in Allen and Wylie mean more student options

**C**ollin College's **Wylie Campus** and **Technical Campus**, scheduled to open in Fall 2020, will bring new educational opportunities along with specialized new facilities in central and southern Collin County as part of the college's efforts to make affordable education more accessible for all.

From a slate of new and improved workforce programs to unique amenities and designs, the individual campuses each offer their own benefits. However, both will provide more options for students, whether they want to build a foundation for a four-year degree or become job-ready as soon as possible.



**\$15 MILLION**

Approximate construction escalation costs avoided by building the Technical and Wylie campuses simultaneously.\*

\* Data from RS Means Historical Cost Index and The Turner Building Cost Index. Based on industry standard historical escalations rates that ranged between 4 percent-5 percent per year over the same period. Assumes \$150 million being escalated over the two-year duration.

**TECHNICAL CAMPUS**

With its unique three-story, cantilevered design featuring multiple "trade bars" dedicated to major career concentration areas, the **Technical Campus**, being built at 2550 Bending Branch Way in Allen, was designed with workforce education at its core. The campus will serve up to 7,100 students when fully occupied, providing credit and non-credit courses for traditional, dual credit, and continuing education students in a range of high-wage, high-demand career fields.

Nine new technical programs and two new health sciences programs will join existing programs at the new campus. Other programs are in development or awaiting approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and

Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Each was developed in consultation with area industry and business leaders, keeping Collin County's growing technological, industrial, and trade needs in mind.

"The training that the Collin College Technical Campus will offer has been designed to prepare our students for bright futures and a high quality of life," said Dr. Bill King, Technical Campus vice president/provost. "They will

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**Dr. Bill King**  
Technical Campus  
Vice President/Provost



**WYLIE CAMPUS**

Long anticipated by the area's residents, the **Wylie Campus** features a unique, modern look with a light-colored stone exterior, a stately glass-enclosed library, a campus commons building designed to draw the eye, and interior features including a grand staircase created to welcome students and the community alike.

A student center will offer amenities including Mama Lucido's café, a Starbucks bar, and the college bookstore to be run by Barnes & Noble. Student engagement facilities and the library will encourage students to stay on campus, and art studios and music practice rooms will allow them to explore their creative sides.

Students can work up a sweat at the CougarFit fitness center, which is located in the campus commons along with a career center and welcome center. Students can also learn about the college's Honors Institute or

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## Separate but together: A message from the district president



**Dr. Neil Matkin**  
Collin College District  
President

Dear Friends,

I hope this edition of *Connection* finds you well. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has altered each of our lives. My heart goes out to those who have lost friends and relatives, and everyone whose lives have been disrupted in major and even minor ways.

I am thankful for our hard-working faculty and staff who empowered us to make sure students were able to continue their education throughout this difficult time period.

Please allow me to acknowledge the unwavering support from the college's dedicated Board of Trustees. In the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak they placed the well-being of our students, employees, and communities as their top priority. As a result, the college shared respiratory supplies with area hospitals, rapidly moved classes and student services to an online format, closed our facilities, practiced social distancing, accelerated energy-saving upgrades on our campuses while students learned from home, and created innovative opportunities to protect the time students have already invested in their studies.

When it became evident that internet access was an issue during shelter-at-home orders, the college partnered with area school districts to offer hot spots and created new "Wi-Fi Drive-Ins" (external hotspots) at Collin campuses for students without internet access. To ease the transition from high school to college, the college also held Collin College Bound virtual events for high school seniors.

We believe in celebrating student accomplishments and did so in a responsible fashion. Faculty, staff, and leadership honored future health care heroes with recognition parades for more than 140 nursing and allied health students. Our "Class of 2020 Graduation Celebration" event provided students with an opportunity to mark their graduation safely with photos, commencement messages, and the opportunity to commemorate their achievement through a virtual celebration.

We will be open for business in the Fall semester and will offer students a variety of choices to maintain social distancing and safety measures. The highest priority of Collin College is the continued health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.

When students go online to enroll, they will have options to select the instructional method which best meets their needs and personal comfort level. Our goal is to meet individual needs to the extent

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## A message from the district president

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possible. This applies to all campuses and centers. You can learn more at [collin.edu](http://collin.edu).

Lastly, I want to speak about the recent heartfelt efforts of many of our fellow citizens to draw attention to injustices which have plagued our society for generations. I am deeply proud of Collin College and the role that we play in providing educational opportunity. I am equally proud of our steadfast focus on the college's Core Values, and particularly the value of having dignity and respect for each and every person.

Racial prejudice is a societal evil. We should always speak out against it whenever and wherever it occurs. I encourage our students to exhibit and practice the best of humanity in our daily walk as an example to one another and to our communities. In this troubled time, I believe we at Collin College have a solemn responsibility to be a shining example of harmony, peace, fairness, and civility.

We look forward to resuming our campus life while observing recommended safety guidelines, and I wish all of you the best in the weeks and months to come.

With deep gratitude and warmest regards,

*H. Neil Matkin*

Neil Matkin, Ed.D.  
District President

### Collin College celebrates 35 years of service



April 6, 2020, marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of Collin College. This milestone is an opportunity to sincerely thank all who have worked tirelessly to create educational opportunities that continue to impact the lives of individuals as well as our communities. That list of honorees is long, from the college's founders, community members, civic and business leaders, to students, employees, and alumni – like the first responders trained at the college's law enforcement and firefighter academies.

### A few highlights from the 2019-20 academic year

- The college broke ground on the **Celina Campus**, the **Farmersville Campus**, and the **Information Technology Center at the Frisco Campus** – all three are slated to open in Fall 2021.
- In January, classes began for our new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity (BAT) degree.
- Enrollment surpassed 59,000 students for the first time in the college's history.
- The **Technical Campus** and **Wylie Campus** are set to open in Fall 2020.
- By 2021, Collin College will have a total of 11 sites.



## New Campuses, Degrees

### NEW WYLIE CAMPUS

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receive help with their studies at the Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance.

"When it opens this fall, this campus will be a point of pride for the community, and Wylie's citizens have already embraced its mission to be a comprehensive educational source for Wylie and beyond," said Dr. Mary McRae, Wylie Campus vice president/provost.

As with other comprehensive campuses, the Wylie Campus will provide students with both transfer and workforce pathways. Like the Technical Campus, additional new programs are currently being reviewed by SACSCOC.

For more information about the Wylie Campus, visit [www.collin.edu/campuses/wylie](http://www.collin.edu/campuses/wylie) or email [wyliecampus@collin.edu](mailto:wyliecampus@collin.edu). Apply now at <https://apply.collin.edu>. Registration for the Fall 2020 semester is open now.

#### Programs offered at the Wylie Campus

**Business Management**

**Education and Child Development**

**Fine Arts**

**Health Sciences**

**Hospitality Management**

**Insurance Management**

**Medical Assisting Advanced Practice**

**Real Estate**

**STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)**

**Veterinary Technology**

*and many more*



## Something for every student need



**STUDY SPACES**

**Library, a social staircase**



**FOOD**

**Mama Lucido's café, Starbucks**



**EXERCISE**

**CougarFit fitness center, intramurals**



**CAREER PREP**

**Job search, soft skills training**



**FRIENDS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Student groups, on-campus events**



**INSPIRATION**

**Beautiful vistas, outdoor areas**



# Coming Soon! Fall 2020 openings in Allen and Wylie

## NEW TECHNICAL CAMPUS continued from page 1

learn the skills they need to thrive in their chosen industry, thanks to the strong corporate partnerships that have helped guide program creation.”

Dual credit partnerships for career and technical education (CTE) programs with the Allen, Frisco, McKinney, and Plano school districts will allow interested students to get in on the ground floor of that technical education. Allen ISD also partnered with Collin College for a 40,000-square-foot dual credit area on the campus, which will allow Allen ISD to move all of its academic dual credit operations from Allen High School to the Technical Campus.

Learn more about the Technical Campus at [www.collin.edu/campuses/technical](http://www.collin.edu/campuses/technical) or email [technicalcampus@collin.edu](mailto:technicalcampus@collin.edu). Apply now at <https://apply.collin.edu>. Registration for the Fall 2020 semester is open now.

### New Programs

- Activity Care Professional
- Automotive Technology
- Biomedical Equipment Technology
- Collision Technology
- Construction Technology – Carpentry
- Construction Technology – Electrical
- Construction Technology – Facility Management
- Construction Technology – Plumbing
- Construction Technology – Safety
- Industrial Automation
- Medical Assisting Advanced Practice

### Existing Programs at the New Campus

- Computer Networking
- Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD)
- Construction Management
- Electronic Engineering Technology
- HVAC
- Health Professions
- Welding Technology



## Collin College Maintains High Bond Ratings

Two major bond rating agencies assigned their highest quality ratings to Collin College’s Series 2020 Limited Tax Bonds.

### Rating Agencies

Agencies analyze a borrower’s risks and give a “grade.” The higher the grade, the more credible the borrower.

### Collin College’s Bond Ratings

Standard & Poor’s  
Global Ratings

**AAA Stable**

Moody’s  
Investors Service

**Aaa Stable**

“The college received exemplary credit ratings in both 2020 and 2018. These ratings demonstrate that Collin College continues to be a model, stable institution with excellent financial stewardship by our elected trustees.”

— Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College District President

### Reasons for top ratings:

- Large and rapidly growing tax base
- Strong resident income and wealth levels
- Low debt and pension liabilities

### High bond ratings translate to:

Low interest rates

2018	2020
3.29%	2.64%

Low cost of debt

More budget for infrastructure and services

Sources: Standard & Poor’s Global Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service.



## The missing link: Collin College bolsters the industry pipeline

Area industries are faced with critical job shortages, and many high school students may be unaware of the numerous, diverse workforce career options that are currently available. There is a gap in the industry pipeline, but it is narrowing. Collin College is bridging the gap between industry and high schools and providing the workforce training the community needs.

**“Collin College is taking a fresh look at an old problem of technician shortages,” Gustavus said. “It is refreshing to see innovative ideas and solutions to problems that others in the education sector were not able to overcome.”**

The college recently added a host of new workforce certificates and degrees, many of which will be housed in the new Collin College Technical Campus that opens this fall. In addition to gaining the skills businesses need,

students will have the opportunity to earn industry certifications.

### Partnering with industry

What do industries do when they have a shortage of trained workers? They join a Collin College advisory board. The college regularly performs labor market analyses and works with industry leaders to create curricula that helps industries gain trained employees and students gain employment in high-demand jobs.

According to Toby Gustavus, manager of Workforce Development for Gulf States Toyota and a Collin College advisory board member, the number of positions available in a

dealership is staggering. From the salesforce to the parts delivery person to IT personnel, every dealer employs a vast amount of talent, he said.

“A quick search on technician wages will show the salary range from \$36K to \$100K-plus,” Gustavus said. “The National Automobile Dealers Association states the industry needs 76,000 service technicians annually. With attrition rates and industry growth, we need qualified individuals to enter this profession more than ever today.”

Gustavus added that Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs have decreased in numbers over the years.

“Collin College is taking a fresh look at an old problem of technician shortages,” Gustavus said. “It is refreshing to see innovative ideas and solutions to problems that others in the education sector were not able to overcome.”

### Partnering with ISDs

There are severe job shortages in some areas, and Collin College is educating middle and high school students about the many available opportunities. Students who are informed can start taking the correct classes earlier and earn industry certifications that lead to employment right out of high school. Students can select from a wide variety of workforce options ranging from welding, HVAC, and construction management to health sciences. They can also advance their careers by earning associate degrees.

According to Karen Buechman, director of Career and Technical Education at Plano ISD, the Health Sciences Academy, a partnership

between Plano ISD and Collin College, provides Plano ISD students with a rewarding, hands-on learning environment to gain the skills and knowledge that enable them to be life-ready citizens and leaders in the workforce.

“Most students in the academy can enter college with enough credits to be a sophomore,” Buechman said. “Collin College provides Plano ISD with a unique opportunity within our district for our students to enhance their college and career readiness. This year, we will have our first group of students who will be eligible to earn Associate of Applied Science degrees prior to their high school graduation.”

### Envisioning the future industry pipeline

By working together, Collin College, industry, and area ISDs have created a win-win-win solution. When high school students receive industry certifications the entire Collin County community benefits with a thriving, well-trained workforce.

“What excites me the most about this opportunity is that we have the ability to help transform lives at the Technical Campus,” said Dr. Bill King, vice president/provost of the Technical Campus and Courtyard Center. “We are opening up a campus that will produce students who are job ready and who will accommodate the continuing growth of this area. The timing couldn’t be more perfect.”

For more information about the new Technical Campus, visit [www.collin.edu/campuses/technical](http://www.collin.edu/campuses/technical).

For more information about dual credit, visit [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit).

## Collin College fills administrative appointments

Collin College has filled four newly created positions in the growing district, including general counsel and chief student success officer.



Dr. Jay Corwin

**Dr. Jay Corwin** has been appointed as the new chief student success officer. The CSSO is responsible for developing, monitoring, and promoting student success and enrollment management strategies as well as creating programs to increase retention, completion, and academic success for all students throughout the college district. Corwin serves as a member of the college’s executive leadership team.

Prior to joining Collin College, Corwin served as the associate vice president of university advancement at the University of Central Oklahoma. Corwin has nearly 20 years of experience in higher education, serving in a number of roles at the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma.

Corwin holds a Doctoral degree in Adult and Higher Education, a Master of Education, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, all from the University of Oklahoma.

**Monica A. Velazquez** has been appointed as general counsel. This new position is charged with providing proactive advice and counsel to the district president and Board of Trustees regarding critical strategic, legal, and policy issues. Velazquez serves as a member of the college’s executive leadership team.



Monica A. Velazquez

Velazquez served as an attorney at the law firm of Clark Hill Strasburger (formerly Strasburger & Price) for more than 17 years, including time as a partner at the firm’s Collin County office.

Velazquez holds a J.D. degree from The University of Texas at Austin – School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

**Ali Subhani** has been appointed as director of internal audit. This new position is charged with performing independent and objective

audit services, including operational, financial, and compliance-related projects across all areas of the college. Subhani reports to District President Dr. Neil Matkin and to the Board of Trustees through the Finance and Audit Committee and serves as a member of the college’s executive leadership team.

Subhani’s career in higher education has spanned more than 14 years, including serving as the executive director of Audit Services at Texas Woman’s University, and serving in audit-related roles at the University of Texas System Administration and The University of Texas at Dallas.

Subhani holds a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Information Management from The University of Texas at Dallas. He is a Certified Internal Auditor, a Certified Information Security Auditor, and a GIAC Systems and Network Auditor. Subhani has also served as the president for the Texas Association of College and University Auditors.

**Dr. Roger Widmer** has been appointed as chief operating officer of Collin Corporate College. The COO is tasked with developing a strategy resulting in increased corporate training contracts and enrollments on behalf of Collin Corporate College.

Widmer has a career in higher education that spans 30 years. He has held leadership roles with both private non-profit and private proprietary institutions.

Widmer has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate level, but primarily has worked in administrative positions including president of the Argosy University Suburban Chicago, Phoenix and Nashville campuses, and Ellis University, also located in Chicago.

Widmer earned his Doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Sarasota in Sarasota, Fla. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif.



Ali Subhani



Dr. Roger Widmer





# Collin Corporate College adds value to local businesses

**Collin Corporate College** partners with local businesses throughout Collin County to provide top-shelf training for their employees, according to Dr. Roger Widmer, Collin Corporate College's chief operating officer.

"Instead of providing a pipeline of new talent, Collin Corporate College provides skills-gap training to assist the local business community in remaining current and flexible in a rapidly changing business environment," said Widmer.

Collin Corporate College, launched in 2017, provides customized contract training in several business areas, such as technology, technical skills, leadership, organizational effectiveness, team building, employee engagement, and performance management.

"Our main function is to go out into the community and ensure that any business, big or small, which needs employee training, receives high-quality, affordable education without ever having to leave the county," said Dr. Adam Pitluk, executive director of Collin Corporate College.

Pitluk said the department offers a robust list of courses in addition to continuing education courses that can be tailored to any company. Pitluk also said if a company needs training that is not currently offered, the department will work hard to ensure they find a way to provide it.

"Information Technology is a rapidly growing field, and a lot of companies don't know what they need until they need it. Likewise, we don't know we need to teach it until somebody asks for it," Pitluk said. "We will do the due diligence for the company and find certified instructors who are able to communicate well for the client. We'll put them under our purview and have them go out there and represent Collin Corporate College. Anything they need, even if we don't offer it, we'll go find it."

Selerix, a software company based in McKinney, has utilized Collin Corporate College in the past for employee training. Vice President of Service Operations Paula Kapavik said the college was available to them

for all types of training, whether it was onsite or offsite training, short half-day sessions, multi-series training, or more.

"The subject options are unlimited at Collin Corporate College," Kapavik said. "They were extremely professional and experienced with helping us tailor the training specific to our company needs. We love using a partner within our own community, and they have proven to be a great resource for our firm."

Pitluk said many people have the misconception that Collin Corporate College is continuing education and if they want to take classes with the college, they have to interrupt their day or go to the college after hours.

"One of the things I really want to stress is that we're here and we go to you – you don't have to come to us," Pitluk said. "And if your business location is not conducive to training, we can host any business at any of our campuses."

Pitluk also said a lot of businesses don't realize that the same instructors who teach at the top research universities in the metroplex are teaching at Collin Corporate College.

"I believe we have become an invaluable resource to a lot of companies in the county," Pitluk said. "The business community has really embraced the resources at their disposal because prior to this it was almost like a game of pick up. Anytime companies needed training they would have to cherry pick various businesses to do training for them, and now we're like a one-stop shop for them."

Widmer said Collin College is deeply woven into the district it serves and is highly regarded by the communities of Collin County.

"The college serves a distinct role in educating and training the next generation of leaders and provides a pipeline of talent necessary to support our business community," he said. "Collin Corporate College is an extension of the educational mission of Collin College."

## Educational power:

# Former student's work helps patients worldwide

**M**any people want to make a difference in the world, but few know their actions have the ability to affect millions of people. Dr. Niclas Chiang Tan is among those rare individuals.

A Collin College alumnus, Tan is part of a team at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company (Cambridge, Mass.) that developed a drug format that is authorized for maintenance therapy for patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.

Ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are inflammatory bowel diseases that affect 1.6 million Americans, with as many as 70,000 new cases diagnosed annually. In March 2020, the subcutaneous formulation of the drug Vedolizumab (Entyvio®) was recommended for approval in the European Union.

Previously patients could only receive the drug through IVs. Tan's team combined the biologic protein-based medicine and put it into two easy-to-use medical devices that patients could use outside of a hospital setting.

"The molecule that was recently filed for approval is the first combination product for the company," said Tan, analytical lead for the Entyvio® Subcutaneous program. "Patients' feedback informed us that the IV drug was great and that it changed their lives, but they also expressed that having to take off work and receive infusions in the hospital was challenging. The team at Takeda listened and developed a subcutaneous alternative that provides patients with a choice for self-administration at home."

### A fresh start at Collin College

Tan earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1999 and worked in the telecom industry. When North Texas' telecom corridor floundered, he decided to change career fields and take classes at Collin College. Tan earned a certificate in biotechnology from the college in 2003. The capstone class in the program provided him the opportunity to perform research at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW). He went on to earn a Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from UTSW in 2008.

"It all really started in Dr. Bridgette Kirkpatrick's lab," Tan said. "She made sure we understood the material. Collin College provided me with biotech skills and competencies that allowed me to have two subsequent

internships at UTSW in DNA cloning and protein expression. If I didn't have the skills, I wouldn't have been able to switch careers from engineering to bioscience as seamlessly as I did."

### When the job becomes personal

Knowing someone with the disease made the drug development and approval process personal for Tan.

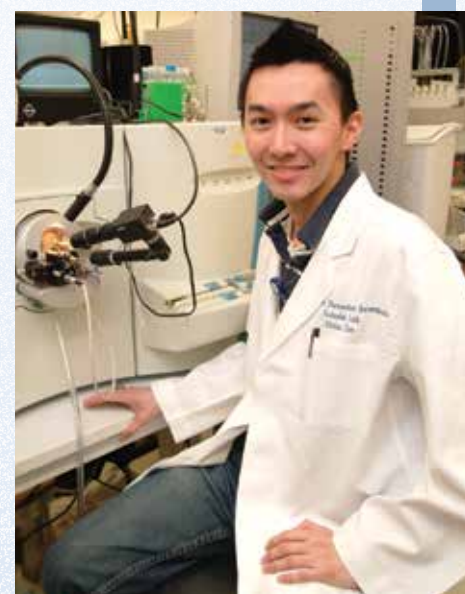
"My coworker's father's colon had to be removed when our IV drug was in review," Tan said. "Her two younger daughters began showing early symptoms of ulcerative colitis when we were developing the subcutaneous drug. The IV drug was only approved for adults at the time. My coworker spent many of her Friday nights at the children's hospital with her girls while they received infusions."

According to Tan, of all the programs that the pharmaceutical industry has in clinical trials, only approximately 7 percent make it to commercial products. In fact, he said that the IV format of the drug that received FDA approval in 2014 was in development for 16 years.

"It was destiny that this drug was in my department," Tan said. "We had to take it to market. It is definitely gratifying, but it is not just my work. It takes a village to take a drug to commercial filing. Everyone worked tirelessly, especially the one-and-a-half years leading up to the filing, to get this molecule out. We know this will dramatically improve people's lives."

Looking back, Tan never doubts his decision to change his career path.

"This is science that impacts people's lives," Tan said. "I've been with this company for 10 years now. My title has changed five times, and my role has changed six times from a bench scientist to a leadership position. None of this would have happened if I hadn't switched industries."



Dr. Niclas Chiang Tan  
Collin College Alumnus



## By the Decade: 2010-present



**Dr. Neil Matkin**  
Collin College District President

### What have been the highlights of your tenure as president thus far?

My first day at Collin College was April 6, 2015, the 30th anniversary of the college. On that afternoon, people lined up to form the number 30 for a commemorative photograph. Shortly after, I raced off to Austin to meet with the Board chair at the time, Mac Hendricks, and former President Cary Israel to meet with our legislative delegation and work the legislative session.

From the beginning, I think the number one achievement has been to have an alignment with our community, re-engaging the K-12 community and growing our dual credit enrollment. We were also challenged to embrace a big, audacious goal to create the 2016 master plan, in which we weren't just looking at alignment but asking the question, "What can we do to really meet the community's needs today and tomorrow?"

### What were the goals of the master plan?

We identified key sectors of growth. We also looked at where we were and where we weren't. I discovered there were some students who weren't well served by our college because of growing traffic patterns. It had always been about 15 minutes for students to get to our campuses, and now it was taking 30 and 40 minutes.

We created demographic maps, we looked at where students were coming from, and we made a determination that we were going to work to serve all students. That meant expanding our physical footprint. It also meant expanding our course offerings to include some technical offerings. We wanted to make sure there was a pathway for every student in Collin County to achieve his or her goals and dreams.

### What is something you would like people to know about Collin College?

One of the things that people often don't see about Collin College is that we're truly a team effort. If I were to really talk about one of the greatest accomplishments, whether

I'm talking about myself or my two predecessors, it's creating a team of people who are passionate, who care about this college, and who want to see the college thrive. Our leadership team is incredible, and we have folks throughout the organization, whether they're a dean or a professor, these folks are committed to this college moving forward. It's my pleasure to work with such a dedicated team of professionals, who are putting in tremendous hours, effort, and expertise to grow Collin to its highest height.



**Pat McAuliff**  
Director of Fire Science

### What was the impact of opening the new Public Safety Training Center?

The Public Safety Training Center, which opened in 2018, is a fantastic facility offering a variety of different props and opportunities for both firefighters and police officers. It's been something that I have been working on since I started with the college 33 years ago. The facility is a godsend to our program, and to the community. The fire departments and police officers needed a place to train, and Collin College is here to provide that service.

### What are some of the big changes you've seen at Collin College?

To me, the biggest change that I've seen is the shift toward inclusion of workforce programs and the creation of additional workforce programs. There has been a void in offering those programs over the years. I'm elated to see it happen because it's needed in this community. That's part of what a community college is here for – to help provide not only the academic preparation but also the workforce preparation.

### What have been the biggest highlights between 2010 to now?

For me, obviously the opening of the Public Safety Training Center and our ability to provide continuing education programs to firefighters was a highlight. Our program is unique in that we bring

individuals in and help them learn the very basics of getting jobs as firefighters. And then we see them come back and finish their degrees as firefighters. Then we see them return again, year after year, through continuing education. We create an eternal student with every firefighter that comes through the Collin College fire science program.



**Dr. Toni Jenkins**  
Senior Vice President of Campus Operations

### What do you think the highlights of the college's history are, overall?

Overall, I think Collin College has been very responsive to the community and its needs as they have changed over time. Throughout the college's history, there has been widespread support from the community, from businesses and industries, and the education community. Growth in programs, enrollment, and campuses has been fueled by their input and has made Collin College what it is today.

### Why has Collin College placed a greater emphasis on workforce careers in recent years?

I think there are many factors. As a society, we've become more aware of meaningful career opportunities that don't require a baccalaureate or master's degree. There are now a number of options for individuals with certificates or licensures in their fields. We've also become increasingly aware of the impact of student loan debt. Workforce programs can help students avoid much of this debt. Finally, I think the work environment for a lot of these fields has changed. Take construction or collision repair – everything is so high tech now. I think we have an opportunity to help individuals understand how truly exciting these careers can be.

### Why is it important that Collin College develop new bachelor's degrees as well?

This is another way that the college is filling a need in our growing community. In order to gain Magnet status, more and more hospitals are seeking nurses with

four-year degrees. Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree will provide career growth opportunities for associate-degreed nurses and help fill a labor market need.

The Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree will also address a crucial need. Collin County is a technology hub, and we know that cybersecurity is a concern for nearly all businesses and entities. The BAT in Cybersecurity will build on the Associate of Applied Science degree and help individuals learn how to prevent vulnerability and cyber attacks.



**Mary Nguyen, RN**  
Collin College Alumna  
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center  
at Abilene School of Nursing Alumna

### Why did you decide to earn your associate degree at Collin College?

I was already attending the Plano ISD Health Sciences Academy and taking Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) dual credit classes in addition to advanced placement and honors classes. I thought, "Why not take classes at Collin, shorten my time at a university, and earn my associate degree as well?" Taking EMT classes in high school and normal high school classes and going to Collin at night was really tough, but I was determined to earn a college degree before I attended a university.

### What do you think makes Collin College unique or extraordinary?

Collin College is extraordinary because I had such great relationships with all of my professors, and the quality of education that Collin College provides is comparable to a university. It's just a really great opportunity for every student to be a part of the Collin experience. I started taking classes when I was 14, and it's helped me be ahead in my college career, and it's all thanks to Collin College.

### What impact has Collin College had on your life?

It definitely has shortened my college career by a lot, but it really has helped me become a better adult and empowered woman, especially because I'm so young. It's been an amazing opportunity.



## Workforce spotlight: Electronic Engineering 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 College 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 Electronic Engineering Technology.

### Electronic Engineering Technology

Electronic Engineering Technology at Collin College provides students with the foundation for a career in electronics, manufacturing, and automation with a focus on electrical engineering theory and hands-on application of skills. Students learn to build and repair electronics, starting with courses on the building and integration of basic circuitry. Those foundational skills lay the groundwork for advanced subjects like 5G wireless connectivity and robotics, each of which plays an increasingly larger role in technology and the ever-expanding "Internet of Things."

The program shares many of the same components with Biomedical Engineering Technology, which focuses more directly on medical technology, and Industrial Automation, which addresses the installation and repair of manufacturing machinery. Those two programs have been developed for the new Technical Campus opening in Allen in Fall 2020.



#### Career Outlook for an Electronics Engineering Technician\*

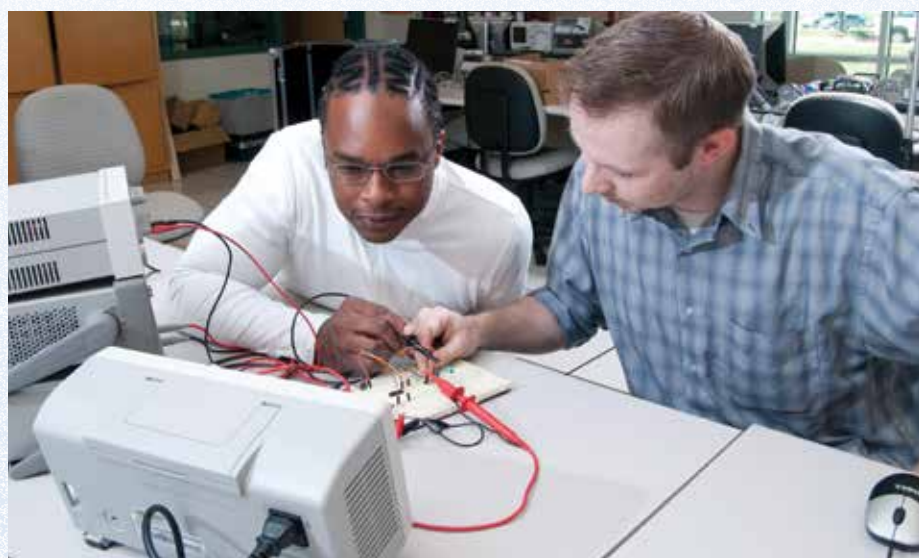
Average Salary: \$72,200      12% growth

#### Choose Your Education

#### Electronic Engineering Technology

Associate of Applied Science degree (60 credit hours)

Certificate Level 1 – Electronic Engineering Technology  
(34 credit hours)



Industry partners including Texas Instruments, Raytheon, and Oncor recruit from the college's EET program regularly and often give presentations to classes about the benefits of working in technology.

For more information on Electronic Engineering Technology, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/programs/EET\\_1Overview.html](http://www.collin.edu/academics/programs/EET_1Overview.html).

Learn more about these and other workforce programs at Collin College by contacting [workforce-programs@collin.edu](mailto:workforce-programs@collin.edu).

\* Job growth projected from 2019-2026. Data obtained from JobsEQ (Collin County), O\*NET, and Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas.

Note: The earning potential for employees with certifications and Associate of Applied Science degrees may exceed the average salary.

## IT'S GROW TIME!

New construction is happening throughout the county as Collin College continues to build the educational facilities of tomorrow. Collin College's new facilities will provide something for everyone.



### CELINA CAMPUS

About 100 people braved cold, rainy conditions to attend the groundbreaking of the planned Collin College Celina Campus on Jan. 16. Planned to open in Fall 2021, the 96,000-square-foot facility sits on 75 acres of former farm land overlooking a picturesque natural water feature.

Designed to grow along with population and student needs, Phase 1 of the new campus will include classrooms, a library, computer and science labs, and student enrollment services, and will serve approximately 2,500 students when fully occupied. The first phase of the Celina Campus will provide courses for academic transfer as well as computer networking and information systems cybersecurity, computer-aided drafting and design, and health professions.



### FARMERSVILLE CAMPUS

Officials broke ground on the planned Collin College Farmersville Campus on Dec. 6, 2019, with about 150 people in attendance.

The 52,000-square-foot campus is planned to open in Fall 2021. Designed to support 1,250 students, the Farmersville Campus will offer academic transfer courses, as well as programs including business management, logistics and supply chain management, health professions, computer systems, and other new workforce programs currently under development. Campus amenities include a library, science labs, a workforce lab, and student enrollment services.



### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTER AT FRISCO (PRESTON RIDGE)

When complete, the 92,000-square-foot IT Center at the Frisco Campus (Preston Ridge) will provide students with specialized labs to support animation and game art, graphic arts, video production, computer networking, computer science, computer systems, cybersecurity, geospatial information systems (GIS), and the new Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity degree.

#### 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/](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/)

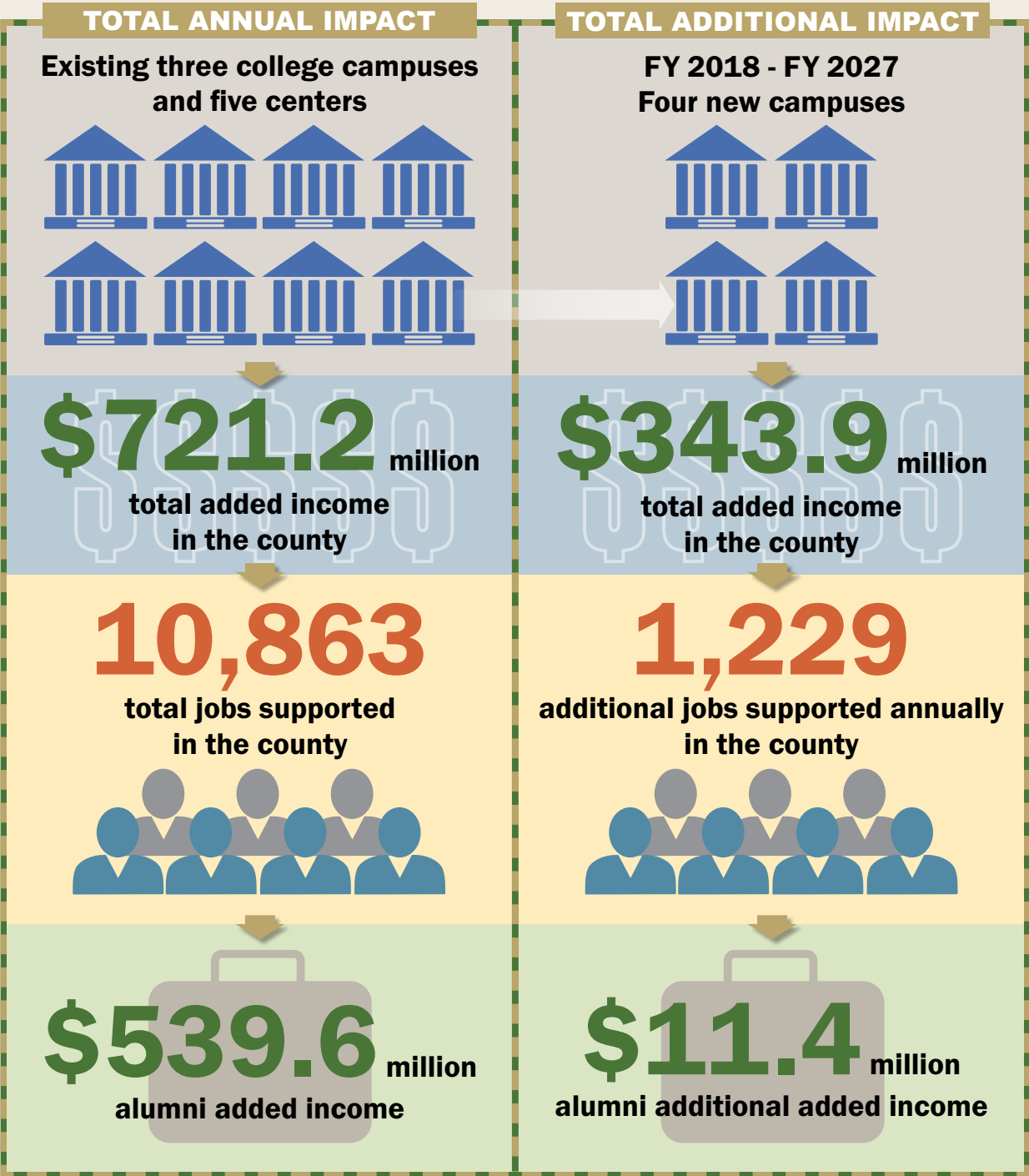


The short-term investment in four NEW campuses will yield a POSITIVE economic impact and a STEADY stream of alumni

In a study from FY 2018 to FY 2027, the present value created by the four new campuses in Allen, Celina, Farmersville, and Wylie are projected to provide a total economic impact on the Collin County economy of \$343.9 million in added income. This is equivalent to supporting 1,229 jobs every year.

The college benefits county businesses by creating a steady flow of qualified, trained workers to the workforce. Collin College enriches the lives of students by raising their lifetime earnings and helping them achieve their potential. The college benefits state and local taxpayers through increased tax receipts and a reduced demand for government-supported social service. Finally, Collin College benefits society as a whole in Texas by creating a more prosperous economy and well-educated community.

*Data from the Emsi economic value and economic impact reports, August 2019.*






REGISTER NOW  
FOR FALL!

CLASSES START  
AUG. 24

Check [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu)  
for updates on class offerings



Can't take classes during a traditional time frame?  
Collin Weekend College might be the answer.

Standard 16-week format classes meet once a week on Friday evenings, Saturdays, or Sundays

Express Block classes feature 10-weekend, eight-weekend, seven-weekend, five-weekend and three-weekend express courses

For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/weekendcollege](http://www.collin.edu/academics/weekendcollege), email [WeekendCollege@collin.edu](mailto:WeekendCollege@collin.edu), or call Collin Weekend College at 972.881.5801.

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