



Fact Sheet

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COLLIN COUNTY'S FIRST UNIVERSITY CENTER NOW OPEN

The Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) is officially open for spring semester. The Collin College facility is a university center, featuring junior- and senior-level college classes as well as master and doctoral programs from area universities.

About the university center

- University partners at the Collin Higher Education Center include the following:
 - Dallas Baptist University (DBU)
 - Texas A&M University-Commerce (A&M-Commerce)
 - Texas Woman's University (TWU)
 - The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas)
 - The University of North Texas (UNT)
- The center is located in the heart of Collin County on the northeast corner of U.S. 75 and the Sam Rayburn Tollway (St. Hwy. 121) in McKinney on property donated by the McKinney Economic Development Corporation.
- The center is Collin College's first brand new site in the district in nearly 15 years. (Preston Ridge Campus opened in 1995.)
- The opening of the Collin Higher Education Center is a special celebration for the college district because the first campus was established in McKinney nearly 25 years ago.
- The center serves as a multi-purpose facility housing administrative departments and the university programs. It will also provide space for meetings and training for the growing district as well as area non-profits and community groups.

Academic facts

- Spring 2010 classes begin for UTD on Jan. 11. The semester begins on Jan. 19 for UNT, TWU, A&M-Commerce, and DBU.
- Course sections offered in Spring 2010: 61
- Number of classrooms: 24
- Classroom capacity:
 - Small classroom: 20
 - Large classroom: up to 80
- Degrees/programs: (see enclosed list)

- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the plan for the new degree programs in October, and college and university partners officially inked the agreement establishing the center in November.
- Students attending the Collin Higher Education Center will follow the respective university policies and procedures including admission criteria, tuition and fee rates and financial aid.
- Collin College will continue to be a community college, with degree programs for freshmen and sophomores at six other locations throughout Collin County. Collin College serves more than 46,000 credit and continuing education students annually and offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs. The only public college in the county, Collin College is a partner to business, government and industry, providing customized training and work force development.

Market Demand

- In a recent study, 35 percent of Collin County residents were interested in bachelor's degrees and 65 percent were interested in master's degrees.
- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, the number of job openings that require a bachelor's or master's degree will increase by 16.5 percent and 18.9 percent, respectively, by 2016.

Facility Details

- The new facility is 125,000-square-feet.
- Collin College began construction of the center in 2008.
- The McKinney Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) donated 5.5 acres for the site, valued at \$1.8 million. MEDC also donated \$2 million toward a parking structure for the site.
- PBK Architects designed the center, and Lee Lewis Construction built the facility.
- Construction cost remained amazingly low at \$30 million.
- Brenda Kihl, Collin College's associate vice president of strategic initiatives, is the administrator overseeing the Collin Higher Education Center.
- Phone number: 972.599.3100
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