

Voters approve Proposition 1 to fund Collin College Master Plan

It was almost two years from the time Collin College began developing its master plan to the day voters approved the bond issue that will fund the plan, but it was worth the wait.

Proposition 1, a \$600 million bond referendum, passed on May 6 with more than 56 percent of the countywide vote, paving the way for the college to move forward with its comprehensive master plan. Three out of four precincts voted in favor of the referendum, an indication of local residents' strong support for the college and its decision to add several new facilities and a wider range of academic and workforce programs over the next decade.

"An exciting new era has dawned at Collin College, and we are grateful for the community's support," said Dr. Neil Matkin, district president. "Our master plan will now become a reality, allowing us to serve more students, residents, and businesses than ever before."

With the passage of the bond issue, the college will address a number of key priorities. Several new facilities will be built, including a public safety training center already under construction in McKinney. Other projects include a technical center in Allen, a campus in Wylie, educational centers in Celina and Farmersville, and an information technology center at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco.

The public safety training center is scheduled to be completed next summer. Planning and design for the Wylie campus and the technical center in Allen began in May and will continue until the start of construction, which is scheduled for the fall of 2018.

"The Wylie campus will enable us to directly serve the rapidly growing population in southeastern Collin County," said Dr. Brenda Kihl, executive vice president. "At the technical center in Allen, our partnerships with area school districts and companies will open doors to more lucrative and meaningful career options for high school and adult learners."

Dr. Bob Collins, board chair and founding member of the Collin College Board of Trustees, called the vote a "win-win" for the college and the county.

"The programs and facilities included in the master plan will enable us to truly serve all of Collin County in the future," said Collins. "That's been a goal of ours since the college was founded, and it's exciting to know it's about to become a reality."



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Bond election ushers in a new era at Collin College

Neil Matkin
Collin College
President

This week marked the beginning of a new and exciting era in the history of Collin College. On May 6 the voters of Collin County approved Proposition 1, the Collin College Bond Issue. This \$600 million bond referendum will pave the way for the construction of several new facilities and enable us to offer many additional academic and workforce programs. To the citizens of Collin County, we say "thank you!" We will work quickly and transparently to execute our master plan over the next five to seven years.

During the campaign we were frequently asked about the size and scope of the bond issue – in particular, how it would affect property taxes. Collin County's population, commercial construction, and residential housing are growing rapidly, a trend that is expected to continue through 2040. Since the college is one of only two entities that levy property taxes countywide (the other being the county itself), we anticipate an expanding tax base because of that growth. As a result, the college projects little or no impact on tax rates through 2024, and potential reductions thereafter due to the growth of Collin County.

Collin College's financial history is strongly conservative, as is its future. We offer the lowest tuition rate of all 50 community college districts in the state, and the second-lowest property tax rate. Our Board of Trustees has held the line on tuition and tax rates for 32 years and is committed to doing so in the future. The result is a thriving, growing institution of higher education that serves more than 53,000 students and generates more than \$525 million in economic benefits for Collin County each year.

In April we broke ground on our new Public Safety Training Center in McKinney, which will provide state-of-the-art training for our fire and police academy cadets as well as for first responders throughout the area. In the years ahead we will also build: the Collin Technical Center in Allen, planned to operate in collaboration with the Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Plano ISDs to offer critical academic and workforce training opportunities; a full campus in Wylie; appropriately sized education centers in Celina and Farmersville; and an Information Technology Center on the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco.

There will be many new academic and workforce programs introduced, and a number of physical improvements at our existing facilities, including veterans centers.

These are truly monumental times for Collin College and the entire county. The passage of the bond will enable us to keep pace with the growth of Collin County, while remaining dedicated to our vision of "delivering a brighter future for our students and our communities."

Collin College is your college, and we thank you for your support.

Collin College to offer selected bachelor degrees

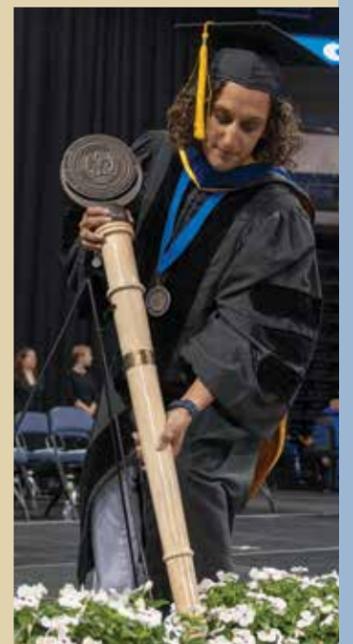
Collin College is breaking barriers and entering a new frontier – baccalaureate degrees. After passage by the Texas Senate and House, Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 2118 authorizing certain public community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. Collin plans to introduce a bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree, a bachelor of applied technology degree, and a bachelor of applied science degree.

The college has begun the process of seeking approval to grant baccalaureate degrees from the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

For the BSN, approval will also be required by the Texas Board of Nursing and a national accreditation commission. The college's goal is to begin offering a BSN no later than the fall of 2019. If that goal is met, students who enroll in the nursing program this fall will be able to transition into the bachelor's program in 2019 and complete their BSN entirely at Collin College.

Over the last five years, students in Collin College's associate degree program in nursing have demonstrated first-time pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination that are consistently higher than state and national averages. In 2011, Collin's nursing program was the first in Texas to be designated by the National League for Nursing as a Center of Excellence in nursing education.

"We are ecstatic about this milestone achievement," said Dr. Bob Collins, founding trustee and chair of the Collin College Board of Trustees. "The approval of the BSN degree in particular will allow us to broaden the pipeline of qualified nurses and deepen our partnerships with area hospitals."



NEW DEGREES COMING THIS FALL

Fall is just around the corner—ushering in cooler weather, new backpacks, and, at Collin College, new degree programs. The college is offering new associate of applied science degree programs pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Students can now earn degrees in Supply Chain Management and Commercial Photography. Soon students will also be able to earn degrees in Welding, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), and Diagnostic Medical Sonography, all also pending approval by SACSCOC. This fall, students who are interested in welding can take two new welding classes: Metal Sculpture (WLDG 1408) and Foundry Practices (WLDG 1471).

Supply Chain Management

The Dallas-Fort Worth area is a national leader in supply chain services with 500 motor carriers, 50 air cargo carriers, three top freight rail lines, three major airports and 250 area firms. Supply chain managers are responsible for a global network of purchasing, transportation and warehouses, delivering products and services for many companies.

These managers build competitive infrastructure, leverage worldwide logistics, synchronize supply with demand, and measure performance globally. For more information about the Supply Chain Management program, email Thomas Ehrhart at TEhrhart@collin.edu.

Commercial Photography-

Taught by photography professors who are active in the industry, the Commercial Photography degree program will offer four new courses.

Book, Design and Presentation

PHTC 1371 - handmade book binding, design elements and print on demand books

Video for Photographers (PHTC 2371) - shooting and editing video for photographers

Digital Imaging II (PHTC 2349) - advanced digital editing

Co-Op Internship (PHTC 2380) - internship course which includes business etiquette and practices

Students in the commercial photography program can also take classes in portraiture, studio, fashion and architectural photography. For more information, email Elizabeth Mellot at emellott@collin.edu.

New Certificates

Certain certificates are pending approval from SACSCOC.

Business Management

Certificate Level 1 Human Resources Management

Commercial Photography

Certificate Level 1 Studio Production

Certificate Level 2 Commercial Photography Specialist

Computer Networking

Certificate Level 2 Enterprise Services Professional, LAN/WAN focus

Certificate Level 2 Enterprise Network Professional, Cisco Focus

Certificate Level 3 Enhanced Network Professional, Cisco Focus

Certificate Level 2 Enterprise Systems Professional, Microsoft focus

Certificate Level 3 Enhanced Network Professional, Microsoft focus

HVAC

Certificate Level 1 HVAC

Certificate Level 2 HVAC

Supply Chain Management

Certificate Level 1 Logistics

Certificate Level 1 Purchasing

Welding

Certificate Level 1 Welding Technology

Certificate Level 1 Foundry/Metalsmithing

Building bridges through College Express, dual credit initiatives

Outreach to high schools serves a need

Collin College is making it easier for young students to prepare for post-secondary education with its College Express and dual credit programs.

Established in 2016, the College Express initiative provides tools for parents, students, elementary and secondary school officials and the community at large to learn about Collin College and the broader college experience.

“College Express is a vehicle to help students prepare to go to college,” said Raul Martinez, associate vice president of K-12 partnerships. “We take college exploration, preparation, application processes and customized workshops out to the high schools and the community.”

Customized workshops include topics like note taking, time management and reading a textbook effectively. The idea is to give students the tools to thrive at Collin or any college.

Dual credit classes allow high school students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously.

The district has added or expanded 14 dual credit programs since 2015. They include both academic and technical education programs, allowing students to get a head start on their college careers or to make workforce certifications easier. The Career and Technology Center approved by voters in May will be located in Allen and provide even greater access to those programs, much as shared facilities with Plano, Frisco and McKinney ISDs do currently.

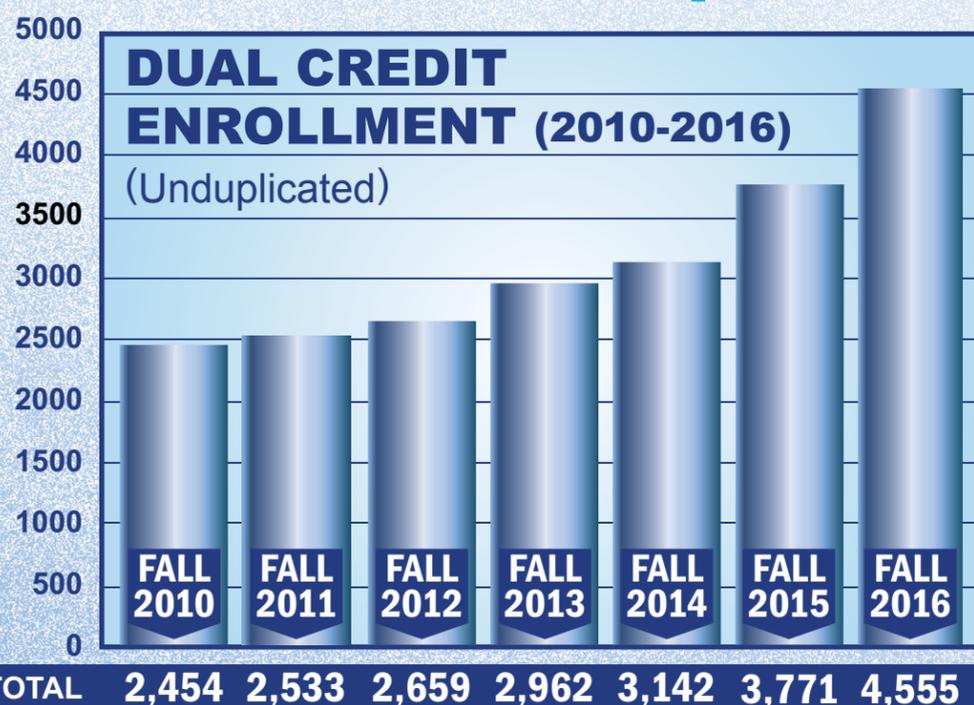
More than two thirds of college district’s service area high schools now offer 30 or more dual credit hours. The Collin College Master Plan calls for offering that level of dual credit opportunities at every school in the service area by 2020 as part of district outreach. Dual credit participation has grown from 2,450 students in 2010 to 4,550 in fall 2016 and is projected to grow to more than 6,100 students by 2020.

More than
6 million people
are employed in
supply chain management,
and the field is anticipated
to grow by
1.4 million jobs
by 2018.

– Fortune Magazine

Would you like to learn more?

From dual credit and career exploration with summer enrichment camps to campus tours and financial aid information, more information is available at www.collin.edu/express.



Where are they now?



Johanna Qvist with Dr. Eric Kandel

From au pair to Nobel Prize-winning laboratory research assistant

When **Johanna Qvist** came to America from Sweden she worked as an au pair. Not sure of her life trajectory, she enrolled at Collin College. One biology class with professor Rebecca Orr forever altered her future.

“I had never taken science classes in Sweden,” Qvist said. “Introduction to Biology was my first science class. Professor Orr changed my whole view. It was the way she was teaching and applying things to real life. I knew then that I wanted to study science and medicine.”

Before earning her Collin College associate of science degree summa cum laude in 2013, Qvist was selected to join the college’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She and fellow members helped with a zebra mussel bill that affected the local area’s water supply.

Columbia University and beyond

“I was receiving emails from Columbia University asking me to apply,” said Qvist. “I thought they were sending them to the wrong person, but I thought, ‘What the heck?’ and applied.”

Qvist earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology from Columbia University in 2015. Today, she is a neuroscience research assistant in Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric Kandel’s laboratory at Columbia University Medical Center. Qvist plans to apply to M.D./Ph.D. programs and ultimately practice medicine coupled with academic research.

“Our lab works with drugs, memory, addiction and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD),” said Qvist. “I learn things every day

“Introduction to Biology was my first science class. Professor Orr changed my whole view. It was the way she was teaching and applying things to real life. I knew then that I wanted to study science and medicine.”

about science and the brain. It is never dull. We are doing things that are important to the future and will eventually go into literature for other people to learn.”

Former student’s passion for news rewarded with NPR internship

Although he is still at the beginning of his career, **Javier Giribet-Vargas** has credits on his résumé that would make some veteran journalists jealous.

Giribet-Vargas recently completed an internship at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C., an opportunity he earned after working at Dallas’ NBC5 and Telemundo 39 while in college and as a freelance writer

“The thing I got from Collin was a passion for media and communications. Professor Charleson-Jennings’ classes are, to date, the best classes I have taken I developed a passion there to do what I do now.”

for Al Dia, a Spanish-language newspaper owned by the Dallas Morning News. The D.C. internship came after a stint as a reporting intern for local public radio station KERA, during which he reported from the scene about the July 2016 Dallas police shootings. Much like his internship with KERA, the Washington internship allowed him to do research, pitch stories and book guests, in this case for a nationally-syndicated show, “Weekend All Things Considered with Michel Martin.”

“It was a dream come true,” said Giribet-Vargas. “It is something I set my mind to and I worked for it tirelessly until I was able to achieve that.”

Giribet-Vargas says he didn’t know what career he would pursue when he started college and took everything he could – social psychology, history, theatre – before an Introduction to Mass Communication class

changed his life. A guest speaker, Professor Ceilidh Charleson-Jennings, impressed him so much that he decided to look at communications – particularly television and radio journalism – as a potential career. Print

journalism came later as he worked for Al Dia and The University of Texas at Arlington’s student newspaper, The Shorthorn.

He said his communication courses at Collin challenged him and inspired his love for communications. That foundation has served as a basis for his rising career.

“The thing I got from Collin was a passion for media and communications,” Giribet-Vargas said. “Professor Charleson-Jennings’ classes are, to date, the best classes I have taken. I developed a passion there to do what I do now.”



Javier Giribet-Vargas

Newly elected trustees focus on the future

The winners of the May 6 Collin College Board of Trustees election share their thoughts.



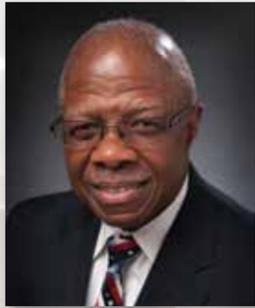
Dr. Stacey Donald

I'm very grateful for the opportunity to serve. Considering the recent passage of the bond and the important legislation affecting community colleges coming from the state legislature, this is a remarkable time to be a part of the board. I'm excited to be able to contribute to the new workforce programming, and I'm happy to be an academic on the board as we determine how to shape the district's policies and grow responsibly.



Dr. Raj Menon
Treasurer

Thank you to all the voters in Collin County for giving me the opportunity to continue to serve as a trustee. I am honored and humbled by this responsibility. I am also delighted with the approval of the bond proposition which will allow us to continue to move forward with our master plan and bring educational opportunities and programs to all the parts of Collin County that are experiencing and will continue to experience growth.



Fred Moses

I want to thank Collin County residents for their outpouring of support. I am truly humbled. As a business owner, I know first-hand the challenges employers face in recruiting a skilled workforce. Collin College is, and will continue to be, a tremendous asset to our county and business community, and I look forward to bringing my unique background and skillset to the board.



Nancy Wurzman

I'd like to thank everyone who supported my campaign and the voters who entrusted me with another term as a Collin College trustee. We have a critical job ahead as we implement the master plan that expands our programs and physical footprint to better serve the community. I'll continue to be an unwavering advocate for keeping our mission student-centered, our decisions fiscally responsible and our core values the bedrock of all we do.

Public Safety Training Center



The Public Safety Training Center is well on its way to becoming the future home of Collin College's fire science and law enforcement academies and a professional development training site for Collin County's emergency services personnel. Built in cooperation with the cities of McKinney and Allen, the 128,000-square-foot training center will include two multistory burn towers for fire training in residential and commercial firefighting settings. The center is expected to open May 1, 2018.



COMING SOON!

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