



News & Notes

An update from the Public Relations Office ■ March/April 2020

The Spring semester has been busy with new program approvals, fundraisers, basketball championships, and a historic move to offering online classes due to COVID-19.

1. New programs approved and slated to start in Fall 2020

- **Veterinary Technology, Medical Assisting Advanced Practice and Activity Care Professional** programs were approved on Feb. 14 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
- The classes for these programs will begin in **Fall 2020**.
- **Veterinary Technology** classes will be offered at the **Wylie Campus**. **Medical Assisting Advanced Practice** classes will be offered at the **Wylie and Technical campuses**. **Activity Care Professional** classes will be offered **online**.



2. Stetson & Stiletto Standoff raised more than \$225K in scholarship money

- Collin College Foundation's annual scholarship fundraiser was held on Feb. 19 and raised more than **\$225,000** benefitting scholarships. It also served as the college's official 35th anniversary party.
- The fundraiser sold out with a record number of attendees and included a special presentation from **Leigh Ann Pike**, a Collin College alumna from the first graduating class. She is the vice chair of the inaugural Alumni Advisory Council.
- In celebration of the college's 35th anniversary, the Collin College Foundation sold squares of fabric for \$35 with a message and the donor's signature during the event. The squares will be stitched together to create a large 35th anniversary commemorative banner that will be unveiled during the commencement ceremony, which has been postponed until Aug. 21.



3. Collin College basketball players named All-American, All-Region, All-Conference

- Collin College men's and women's basketball players were honored with **All-Region and All-Conference** team nods for their performances in the 2019-20 season. The teams compete in the **North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference (NTJCAC)** in **Region V** of the **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)**.
- The Lady Cougars basketball advanced to the NJCAA Region V Championship game. The team went 13-3 in conference, 24-9 overall, and secured their fifth conference championship in six years.
- **Coach Jeff Allen** was named NTJCAC Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. Sophomore guard Destiny Thurman was named a Third Team All-American. Thurman will play for The University of Texas at El Paso next year.
- The Cougars men's team went 23-8 overall, 11-4 in conference, and made an appearance in the regional tournament. The team finished second in the NTJCAC.



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4. Business and Manufacturing Consortiums have partnered with Collin College for job-training grants

- A consortium of business and manufacturing companies has partnered with Collin College to provide job training using **\$606,113** in grants from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grants will benefit employers in the North Central Texas area.
- TWC awarded two Skills Development Fund grants. The first is a **\$289,982** grant to Collin College and a manufacturing consortium consisting of Tower Extrusions and Quest Medical. The other is a **\$316,131** grant to the college in partnership with a business consortium consisting of Platform Manufacturing Group, Forte Payment Systems, and Natural Polymer International Corporation.
- Training will be facilitated through Collin College's Grants Management Office, which provides strategic planning and customized training to meet the changing needs of businesses, community, and the regional economy.



5. Collin College maintains AAA ratings and convention of financial excellence

- Standard & Poor's Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service have both assigned their highest quality ratings, **AAA Stable and Aaa Stable** respectively, to Collin College's Series 2020 Limited Tax Bonds.
- Both agencies cited that Collin County's large and growing tax base with strong resident income and wealth levels, low debt, and pension liabilities as reasons for the top ratings.
- The top ratings enabled the college to negotiate a favorable sale of its \$350 million par 2020 Limited Tax Bonds with lead underwriter Siebert Williams Shank & Co., LLC. The college received an interest rate of 2.64 percent for the serial bonds with a maximum maturity of 20 years.
- According to both agencies, the college is not vulnerable to immediate material credit risks related to Coronavirus. The longer-term impact will depend on both the severity and duration of the crisis.

COVID-19 Update

As the situation surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) evolves, Collin College remains committed to the health and safety of students, employees, and campus visitors. The college continues to closely monitor the situation and is focusing on academic continuity for students.

As monitoring continues, the college will inform students and employees via email and the CougarAlert system of changes and any other important decisions. Please check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the college website at www.collin.edu for updated information.

We encourage our college community to continue to check their Collin email for updates and subscribe to CougarAlert to receive emergency notifications at www.collin.edu/cougaralert.html.