



# News & Notes

An update from the Public Relations Office ■ May 2020

Another academic year has ended and although as a community we've had to face some challenges because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it has not slowed down Collin College.

## 1. Collin College holds pinning parades to honor Nursing and Allied Health graduates

- The college put together two recognition parades to honor more than **140 Nursing and Allied Health** graduates.
- **More than 60** graduating Nursing students were individually recognized for their diligence and achievement on **May 15**.
- **More than 80** graduating allied health students from Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Health Information Management, Polysomnographic Technology, Respiratory Care, Surgical Assisting, and Surgical Technology programs were also recognized on **May 22**.
- To view the parades, please visit [www.facebook.com/collincollege](http://www.facebook.com/collincollege).



## 2. Collin College and Texas Workforce Commission team up for COVID-19 Response Training

- Local businesses retooling their products and workforces in response to COVID-19 may be eligible to receive free training through Collin College thanks to **\$10 million** in Rapid Response Grants from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- The TWC set aside money from its Skills Development Fund to offer fast turnaround grants of **\$50,000-\$250,000** for training related to the COVID-19 response.
- Grant applications have been streamlined so that the businesses who need training assistance for their full-time employees can receive it as rapidly as possible.

## 3. Collin College makes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations from Health Sciences to help fill shortages at local hospitals

- Collin College loaned ventilators to Baylor Scott & White-McKinney and Methodist Dallas Medical Center to assist with the shortage of ventilators due to COVID-19.
- Additionally, the college donated PPE (masks, gowns, and gloves) to Baylor Scott & White-McKinney, Medical City Dallas, Methodist Dallas Medical Center, Parkland Hospital, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital-Dallas, and UT Southwestern Medical Center to assist with PPE shortages caused by the virus.
- Collin alumni are also on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic as they manage critical care ventilators and provide therapeutic interventions for patients. Respiratory Care students receive extensive training in managing ventilators and treating cardiopulmonary diseases.



### 4. Collin College announces Cameryn Clackler as the 2020 Student Employee of the Year

- **Cameryn Clackler**, a student assistant of the Theatre Department at Collin College, has been named the **2020 Collin College Student Employee of the Year**. She was awarded the honor in a virtual presentation on April 20.
- Clackler helped run the box office and also served as house manager for the college's theatre productions. She provided leadership by serving as a student supervisor and providing training for volunteers and ushers. Clackler was described as the voice and face of the Collin Theatre Center.
- Clackler will receive her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts with a focus in Theatre.

### 5. Dr. Don Weasenforth announces retirement after 17 years at Collin College



- After 17 years of service to Collin College and its students, **Dr. Don Weasenforth** will retire at the end of May.
- Weasenforth first came to Collin in January 2003 as a professor of English as a Second Language (ESL) and later served as a professor of English Composition. Simultaneously, he was also a Collin student who played violin in the string ensemble.
- In 2011, he served as the dean of academic affairs for the Developmental Education Department, then as dean of academic affairs for the Plano Campus from 2013-2017. In 2017, he assumed the role of associate provost of instruction for Collin College, and in 2018 became the vice president/provost of the Frisco Campus.
- **Dr. Jon Hardesty**, vice president of academic affairs, has been appointed interim vice president/provost.

## COVID-19 Update

The health and safety of the college community and the public is of the utmost importance, and Collin College continues to monitor the situation closely. Collin College has implemented a phased approach to reopen offices and campus operations. Employees should refer to the COVID-19 Recovery Plan for details. The college's facilities will remain closed until further notice. (An exception includes a limited number of summer classes that may meet in person while practicing social distancing and observing recommended safety measures.)

Please check the Updates and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at [www.collincollegenews.com](http://www.collincollegenews.com) for updated information.