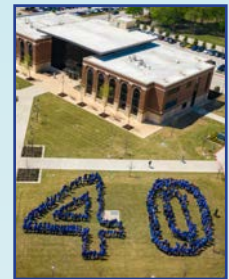# News & Notes

40th Anniversary

April 2025

Spring is in the air ... and hopefully not pollen! As we approach the end of the semester, here are some updates from Collin College to keep you informed.

1. Collin College Celebrates Four Decades of Student Success

- Festivities kicked off with a **celebratory concert** on April 4 featuring Texas Country music legend **Pat Green** alongside his acoustic quartet and **The Jared Stout Band**. The students-, employee-, and alumni-only event brought exciting entertainment to the Plano Campus where music, food trucks, and Collin College pride filled the evening.

- As a tribute to Collin College's original campus, the **Where It All Began Music Festival** at the McKinney Campus on April 5 was a fun-packed day with six musical acts performing in a variety of styles. Collin College's Celina Campus also celebrated the district's 40th anniversary with its annual **Celina Campus Carnival.** The free event welcomed more than 1,100 visitors to the Celina Campus on April 9.

- There was no shortage of cake to honor the four-decade-long legacy of Collin College as each campus planned special events throughout the week following the April 6 anniversary date. One special event included a **human number formation**. Students, faculty, and staff joined together at the McKinney Campus to create the number 40 and commemorate this milestone anniversary.

- District President Dr. Neil Matkin joined **News Radio KRLD 1080 CEO Spotlight** Host David Johnson for an on-air radio interview highlighting Collin College's 40th anniversary. Visit www.audacy.com/podcast/ceo-spotlight-34d13/episodes/40-years-11-campuses-and-60k-students-annually-dbda4 to listen to the full interview.

2. Collin College to Offer New Bachelor's Degree in Software Development Starting Fall 2025

- Collin College will offer a new **Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT)** in Software Development starting Fall 2025, launching the college's **fifth** baccalaureate degree.

- Thanks to the hard work and commitment of **Dr. Jon Hardesty**, vice president of academic affairs, and his team, the college received final approval for the degree from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges on April 4.

- The program, which will be offered at **Collin College's Frisco Campus**, builds upon the college's current Associate of Applied Science degree in Software Development.

- For more details on the application process and admission details, visit www.collin.edu/department/software-development/.

3. Collin College Designated as "Military Friendly" for 10th Consecutive Year

- Collin College has been named a **2025-26 Military Friendly® School**, as well as a **Military Spouse Friendly School**. This is the **10th consecutive year** the college has been recognized with a Military Friendly designation.

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- Institutions which earn Military Friendly® School designations have been evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey which measure factors including student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer), and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.
- **More than 1,800 schools** participated in the **2025-26 survey** with **830** earning special awards for going above the standard. Collin College was awarded the silver designation in the Large Community Colleges category.
- The 2025-26 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May and October issues of *G.I. Jobs* magazine and can be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

4. Technical Campus Hosts Annual Open House and Car Meet

- The fifth annual **Collin College Technical Campus Open House** welcomed about 900 people on April 12.
- The half-day event **highlighted academic programs** available at the campus through interactive demonstrations including advanced robotics, virtual reality simulations, and more.
- In addition to the open house, the highly anticipated **car meet** showcased a revolving line-up of custom, classic, exotic, and muscle cars.

5. Collin College's Law Enforcement Academy Integrates Motorola Body Cameras in Training

- The Collin College Law Enforcement Academy has integrated the use of **Motorola V700 body cameras** into its curriculum, elevating its police training.
- This critical technology promotes **transparency**, **policing accountability**, and **public trust**, all critical elements for cadets in their future careers.
- The cameras, a donation from **Motorola Solutions**, are a useful tool for instructors and students to analyze performance, identify areas of improvement, and provide real-life scenarios to shape future law enforcement officers.

6. Texas Workforce Commission Presents Collin College with Skills Development Fund Grants

- Check presentations totaling **$1.3 million** in Skills Development Fund grants were held April 9 at the Collin College Higher Education Center.
- The grants, which are provided by the Texas Workforce Commission, were spread across **13 local Collin County businesses** and will support the training of 130 new employees and upgrade the skills of 714 currently employed workers.
- Collin College's grants department works with each business to secure the grants and will arrange the needed skills-improvement training.
- Training offerings vary and focus on **upgrading skills** in manufacturing, finances, information technology, and more.

For additional information on these stories and more, visit www.collin.edu/news.