



# News & Notes



May 2025

The gowns were donned, and the confetti flew. Spring is over, and summer is here along with an update to keep you informed about what's happening at Collin College.

## 1. Spring Commencement is Marked with Multiple Ceremonies

- More than 1,000 graduates walked across the graduation stage for **Collin College's Spring 2025 Commencement** on May 16.
- The college held ceremonies at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., making it the first time Collin has added a second spring commencement ceremony and the first time since the addition of winter commencement in 2018 that the college has expanded its graduation recognitions.
- The college made the expansion to allow more **family and friends** to watch their loved ones receive their well-earned degrees and certificates.
- Several degree programs also offered **specialized ceremonies** this month to mark their students' completions, including:
  - Allied Health Recognition Ceremony
  - Automotive Technology Ceremony
  - Construction Management Hard Hat Ceremony
  - Cybersecurity Challenge Coin Ceremony
  - Fire Academy Graduations – Classes 95 and 96
  - Health Sciences Academy Pinning
  - High School Dual Credit Student of Excellence Award Ceremony
  - Honda PACT Ceremony
  - LVN to RN Pinning Ceremony
  - Associate Degree Nurse (ADN) Pinning Ceremony
  - Paramedic Class 46 Graduation
  - RN-to-BSN Stole Presentation
  - Raytheon Apprentices Graduation
  - Toyota T-TEN Ceremony
  - Veterinary Technology Pinning Ceremony
- Specialized ceremonies planned for this summer are graduations for Law Enforcement Class 118, Fire Academy Class 97, and Paramedic Class 47, and a Vocational Nurse Pinning Ceremony.



## 2. Texas Workforce Commission Grant will Boost Medical Assisting Program

- Collin College received a \$144,827 **Jobs & Education for Texans (JET)** grant from the Texas Workforce Commission in May.
- The funds will be used to purchase **patient simulator devices** related to identifying and responding to irregular heartbeats, properly placing IVs, and drawing blood.
- The JET program provides grants to buy and install equipment for career and technical education courses across the state.
- The grants were announced at a ceremony hosted by Collin College as a part of a group of **grants worth \$580,758**. Denton ISD and Dallas College were also grant awardees.



*Pictured (left to right) are Collin College Senior Vice President of Student and Community Engagement Dr. Jay Corwin, Texas Workforce Commission Jobs & Education for Texans Advisory Board Member Robert Uhl, Collin College Chief of Staff Mary McClure, Collin College Director of Grants Management Laura Henry, Texas Workforce Commissioner Joe Esparza, Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin, and Collin College Medical Assisting Advanced Practice Program Director Leon Deutsch.*

continued

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### 3. Record Number of Collin College Students Earn Texas SkillsUSA Gold

- Eleven Collin students took home gold medallions from the **SkillsUSA Texas State Leadership and Skills Conference** held in Corpus Christi in April.
- Gold award winners will compete in the upcoming **national SkillsUSA competition** this June in Atlanta, Georgia.
- This is the **third year** that Collin College students have participated in the competition, with **44 competing**.
- The group doubled the number of competitions that it won last year with gold awards in **3D Visualization, Automotive, Automotive Refinishing, Collision Damage Appraisal, Collision Repair Technology, Graphic Communications, HVAC, Photography, Technical Computer Application, and Welding**.
- Overall, **23 students were awarded gold**, silver, or bronze medallions.



*Collin College SkillsUSA advisors hold up some of the state and national championship banners that students have won since the college began competing in 2023.*



### 4. Collin College Athletics has Multiple Reasons to Celebrate

- **Alisha Nunley**, a sophomore basketball player, and tennis players **Cem Atlamis**, **Jose Castillo**, **Enrique Doldan**, **Minjae Kim**, and **Luke Stula** were named **Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-Americans** this spring.
- Collin College Tennis competed in the men's and women's national championships in May, taking **No. 3** and **No. 6** respectively. The No. 3 finish was Collin College's highest finish by the men's team since 2013.
- **Minjae Kim** was named the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Sophomore of the Year for 2024-25. Kim was ranked No. 1 in the nation in junior college play by ITA at the end of this regular season. **Jose Perez Castillo** was named ITA's Most Improved Sophomore for Region II.
- Collin College's bid to host the **Division 1 Men's Tennis Tournament** in 2026 and 2028 has been approved by the NJCAA.
- Golf boasted two **Top 100 ranked athletes** in its inaugural season – **Johnna Johanson**, ranked No. 67 in NJCAA women's golf and will be returning to the team in Fall 2025, and **Noel Bondesson**, ranked No. 79 in NJCAA men's golf.
- Collin welcomed **Grace Wells** as its new coach for a reinvigorated volleyball program set to begin play in **Fall 2025**.
- Read an interview with Wells and catch up on all the latest athletics news at <https://athletics.collin.edu>.



Alisha Nunley



Cem Atlamis



Jose Castillo



Enrique Doldan



Minjae Kim



Luka Stula



Johnna Johanson



Noel Bondesson



Grace Wells

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