



News & Notes

September 2025

The fall semester is in full swing! Check out what's happening at Collin College.

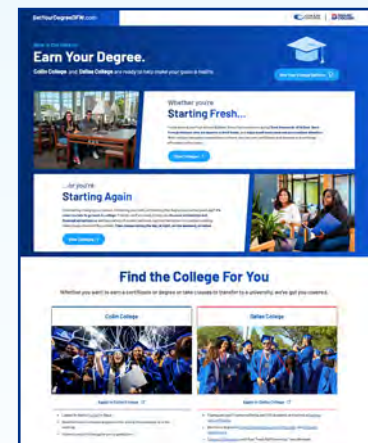
1. Collin College receives fifth gold-level veterans award

- The Texas Veterans Commission has honored Collin College with **gold-level status** for the fifth year in a row under its Veterans Education Excellence Recognition Award (VEERA) program. The college has **received the award every year since 2021**.
- The **VEERA program** recognizes colleges and universities that exemplify excellence in education and related services that contribute to the **success of veteran and military-connected students**. The Texas Veterans Commission's practice of awarding gold-, silver-, and bronze-level statuses signifies the depth and breadth of the services provided.
- More than **3,000 veterans and military-connected students** were enrolled in Collin College classes in Spring 2025.



2. Collin College and Dallas College team up for new higher education initiative

- Collin College and Dallas College have teamed up to help more students in our region reach their educational goals. The **"Get Your Degree"** initiative aims to engage local students who may have begun a higher education journey but have not yet completed their degree.
- This initiative clearly outlines **cost savings** when attending a community college like Collin College or Dallas College, while also providing an easy-to-access website to learn more about each institution and the steps to apply.
- As partners, both colleges are prioritizing reaching this demographic to encourage an upward trend in **degree completions within the Dallas-Fort Worth region**. Both Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin and Dallas College Chancellor Dr. Justin Lonon were featured in a **CW33 special segment** that highlights this initiative and the importance of community colleges creating a path of opportunity for diverse learners.
- To watch the full segment, visit www.cw33.com/top33/collin-college-a-path-of-opportunity-for-diverse-learners. For more details about this initiative, visit www.getyourdegreedfw.com.



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3. *Education Insider Magazine* features Collin College as a Top Community College 2025

- Collin College has been named a **Top Community College 2025** by the *Education Insider Magazine*, featured in the magazine's September edition. The recognition, which includes a total of eight community colleges from across the country, recognizes institutions that demonstrate **exceptional academic performance, innovation, and leadership in shaping future professionals**.
- As part of the recognition, Collin College District President Dr. Matkin, participated in a **featured profile** for the magazine. The profile included highlights of Collin College's recent success stories and accomplishments.



- To read Dr. Matkin's full profile story, visit www.educationinsidermagazine.com/collin-college. For more information about the **Top Community College 2025** recognition, visit <https://community-colleges.educationinsidermagazine.com/organizations/top-community-colleges.html>.

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



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Dates to Know:

**Collin County Growth Summit
at Toyota North America**

**Friday, Oct. 10
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**



**State of Education Frisco
at Embassy Suites Dallas - Frisco**

**Thursday, Oct. 30
8-10:30 a.m.**



Board Events:



Paramedic Class # 48 Graduation

Wednesday, Oct. 8
6:30-7:30 p.m. at the McKinney Campus
Conference Center

Committee of 100 Reception

Tuesday, Oct. 28
5-7 p.m. at the McKinney Campus
Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center



Trustee Highlights:

Board of Trustees Secretary
Dr. J. Robert Collins attends
the Scholarship Awards 2025.



Board of Trustees Treasurer
Andy Hardin and Vice
Chair Dr. Raj Menon attend
President's Circle 2025.



Board of Trustees Chair Jay Saad
with honoree Elaine Fanini,
recognized upon her retirement.



Board of Trustees member
Justin Adcock attends
President's Circle 2025.

Board of Trustees members.
Left to right:
Cathie Alexander,
Justin Adcock,
Secretary Dr. J. Robert Collins,
Vice Chair Dr. Raj Menon,
Chair Jay Saad,
Treasurer Andy Hardin,
Staci Weaver, and Jim Orr.

