



News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department • April 2024

We are almost at the end of the 2023-24 academic year, and what a year it has been! Here is the latest from Collin College.

1. Collin College students named 2024 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold and Silver Scholars.

- Collin College students **Simrah Sajjad** from Plano and **Alan Tovar** from McKinney were named **2024 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholars**, and each will receive a **\$1,500 scholarship**.



COCA-COLA SCHOLARS FOUNDATION



(Top to bottom): Nathan Gray, Alan Tovar, Simrah Sajjad, and Jersey Johnson

- Collin College students **Jersey Johnson** from McKinney and **Nathan Gray** from Dallas have been named **2024 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholars**, and each will receive a **\$1,250 scholarship**.
- Candidates for the academic team are nominated by college administrators based on criteria including academic excellence, leadership, and community engagement.
- Coca-Cola Academic Team members will be honored in both local and statewide ceremonies. They were recognized internationally during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, PTK Catalyst in Orlando, Florida, on April 4-6.

2. Collin College's Jennings, Buss named All-Americans for second year

- **Waiata Jennings** and **Mackenzie Buss** from Collin College have been selected for the **NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball All-America teams** for the second consecutive year. They were key members of Collin's Southwest District-winning basketball squad that secured consecutive appearances in the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.
- Jennings, a 5-foot-9-inch sophomore guard from Rotorua, New Zealand, was named a **First Team All-American** after averaging **21.7 points, 7.6 rebounds, and 3.3 assists per game**, with **739 points** this season. She also recorded **122 steals** and received multiple accolades, including **Player of the Year** awards and selections to **All-Region** and **All-Conference teams**.
- Buss, a 5-foot-4-inch sophomore guard from Lake Dallas, earned **Second Team All-American** honors. She averaged **17.7 points** per game with a shooting percentage of **51.8%**, including **36.8%** from three-point range, along with **six rebounds** and **3.6 assists** per game. Buss was also named to the All-Region V Team and received Region V All-Tournament Most Valuable Player honors.
- The 2023-24 Collin College Women's Basketball team achieved a 30-3 overall record, clinched their first-ever NJCAA Region V Tournament title, and ended the regular season **ranked No. 4 in the NJCAA coaches poll**. The regional tournament win secured them the **Southwest District** title and the **No. 4 seed in the national tournament**.



Waiata Jennings



Mackenzie Buss



continued

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3. Collin College named “Gold” Military Friendly, Military Spouse Friendly School

- Collin College has been named a **2024-25 Military Friendly® School** at the **Gold** rank, as well as a **Military Spouse Friendly School**. This is the **ninth consecutive year** the college has been recognized with a Military Friendly designation and the first time it has been recognized at the Gold rank.
- Institutions which earn Military Friendly® School designations have been evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey which measures 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 **2024-25 survey** with **537** earning special awards for going above the standard. Collin College’s gold designation signifies that its survey score was within **10% of Top 10 schools** in its category – Large Community Colleges.
- The 2024-25 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. Collin College continues its free concert series in May



- Collin College continues its **free music series** in **May** at its **Plano Campus**.
- Community members are encouraged to come and enjoy these free concerts performed by the college’s talented student musicians.
- The events are **free** and **open to the public**, although reservations are encouraged for events in the **Plano Campus’ John Anthony Theatre**.
- Reservations can be made by clicking the appropriate calendar link at www.collin.edu/finearts/#Events.



Fine Arts

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

