



## Growing our own: Collin College funds master's degrees to expand teacher pipeline



**D**id you know that Collin College Dual Credit allows high school students to take college-level courses and earn **both high school and college credit simultaneously**? This “two-for-one” opportunity lets students check off graduation requirements at their high school and earn transferable college credit with a single class.

There is a growing demand for Dual Credit classes. To meet those needs, Collin College is supporting local educators with a new partnership. The college, the University of North Texas (UNT), and area independent school districts (ISDs) are finalizing the Scholars for Teaching Excellence Program (STEP). STEP will offer K-12 teachers the opportunity to earn Dual Credit teaching credentials at UNT through a discipline-specific master's degree or a graduate academic certificate. Tuition and fees for qualifying participants will be covered by Collin College.

“Through this collaboration, Frisco ISD is able to develop more

*Advancing educators.  
Strengthening schools.  
Serving students.*

### Program at a glance

Through flexible online coursework, UNT will offer eligible ISD educators a **Master of Arts in English, History, Political Science, Economics, or Mathematics** through two pathway options:

- **30-hour** master's degree in chosen discipline
- **18-hour** embedded graduate academic certificate for teachers who have earned a master's in another field

teachers and serve more students — delivering a real win-win for our district,” said **Dr. Mike Waldrip, superintendent of Frisco ISD.**



Dr. Mike Waldrip

“Importantly, this innovative partnership strengthens academic excellence and helps more students earn college credit in high school — saving them time and money to kickstart their college careers.”

### What makes STEP different

- **Collin College will cover each participating educator's tuition and fees** at UNT.
- **Ongoing professional development for participants** will be included to support successful completion.
- **Eligible Collin College faculty will be able to teach master's degree instruction** in coordination with UNT.
- The program will be available to ISDs **that partner exclusively with Collin College for their Dual Credit offerings.**

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## Think globally, but act locally: Trustee's vision transcends 8,000 miles

**E**ducation is a catalyst for positive change that should be available to everyone, according to **Dr. Raj Menon, Collin College Board of Trustees vice chair.**

“My entire life has been shaped by my education,” Dr. Menon said. “I have been blessed, and my service as a trustee is my way of giving back to the community. I want to make sure that as many people as possible in Collin County can get a quality education at an affordable price. That's what Collin College does, and I'm happy to be of service in the leadership of this great institution.”

Dr. Menon has served on the college's Board of Trustees since December 2016. He served as treasurer for eight years before becoming vice chair in 2025.

An alumnus of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT), Dr. Menon and two others founded the IIT Alumni Association of North Texas (IITNT) in 2003. He was the founding president.

Dr. Raj Menon

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Meet Collin College's  
New Trustee:

## Glenn Callison

**C**ollin College recently welcomed **Glenn Callison** to its Board of Trustees. He was sworn in to serve in Place 1 through **May 2027.**

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# Collin College student and alumnus share their educational success stories

Sienna Whitaker

**S**ienna Whitaker, a student in the Welding program at Collin College, and Garrett Williams, an alumnus of the Automotive Technology program, exemplify the college's mission to produce highly skilled leaders.

Whitaker was inspired by her father, a construction contractor, whose guidance engendered a passion for precision that comes with being a skilled welder.

"My journey to welding started with my father, who taught me from a young age that being a girl absolutely didn't limit my abilities," Whitaker said. "He included me in everything — from hands-on projects to complex building tasks — and those hours together instilled in me both the practical application of engineering principles and a deep appreciation for hard work."

Introduced to Collin College's Welding program by her high school teacher, Whitaker says her instructor's tutelage helped increase her confidence in the field and enabled her to tackle challenging welding projects in high school. Her head-on approach to welding continued at Collin College.

"My experience at Collin College has fostered significant academic growth, both within the welding discipline and in essential professional skills," Whitaker said.

"The Welding program provides a comprehensive and challenging approach to learning, which has been incredibly rewarding. When faced with a difficult weld or a complex

concept, I've learned that the best way to overcome it is by seeking mentorship."

Whitaker has received several scholarships, including the East Fork Masonic Lodge Scholarship and the SkillsUSA WD-40 Scholarship.

***"The scholarships have helped me feel significantly more at ease, without the stress of finances," Whitaker said.***

After graduation, she plans to continue pursuing welding with a focus on gas tungsten arc welding and earn a bachelor's degree in engineering technology.

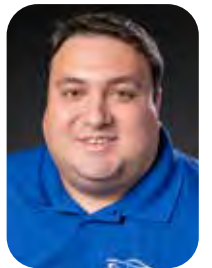


Collin's inspirational alumnus, **Garrett Williams**, who graduated magna cum laude, is an Automotive Service Excellence Master Technician. He took first place in the SkillsUSA competition for the state and fifth in the nation. Williams received several scholarships and said he enjoys hands-on work and providing services that help the community.

"I always loved working with my hands, solving puzzles, and helping people," Williams said. "As I grew up, I learned that I could do all three of those things while working on cars. Since day one, everything related to the automobile has clicked in my mind, making me want to understand it more."

Williams said his time at Collin allowed him to "experience real-world customer concerns in a safe environment."

"My professor, **James Yervasi**, taught me a phrase very early on in my education at Collin College," Williams said. "The phrase is 'trust but verify.' This stuck with me because it reminds me to double- and even triple-check that the repair procedure was carried out correctly so that the client does not have to return to the dealership due to negligence during repairs."



James Yervasi

Williams' advice to students pursuing their educational goals is to remember that "every little step toward the end goal has an impact, no matter how big or small it is. Success isn't handed out; it's earned through hard work."

For the students interested in applying for scholarships, he encourages them to "apply for as many as you can. The worst thing they can say is no."

**To learn more about the programs at Collin College, visit [www.collin.edu/academics](http://www.collin.edu/academics).**



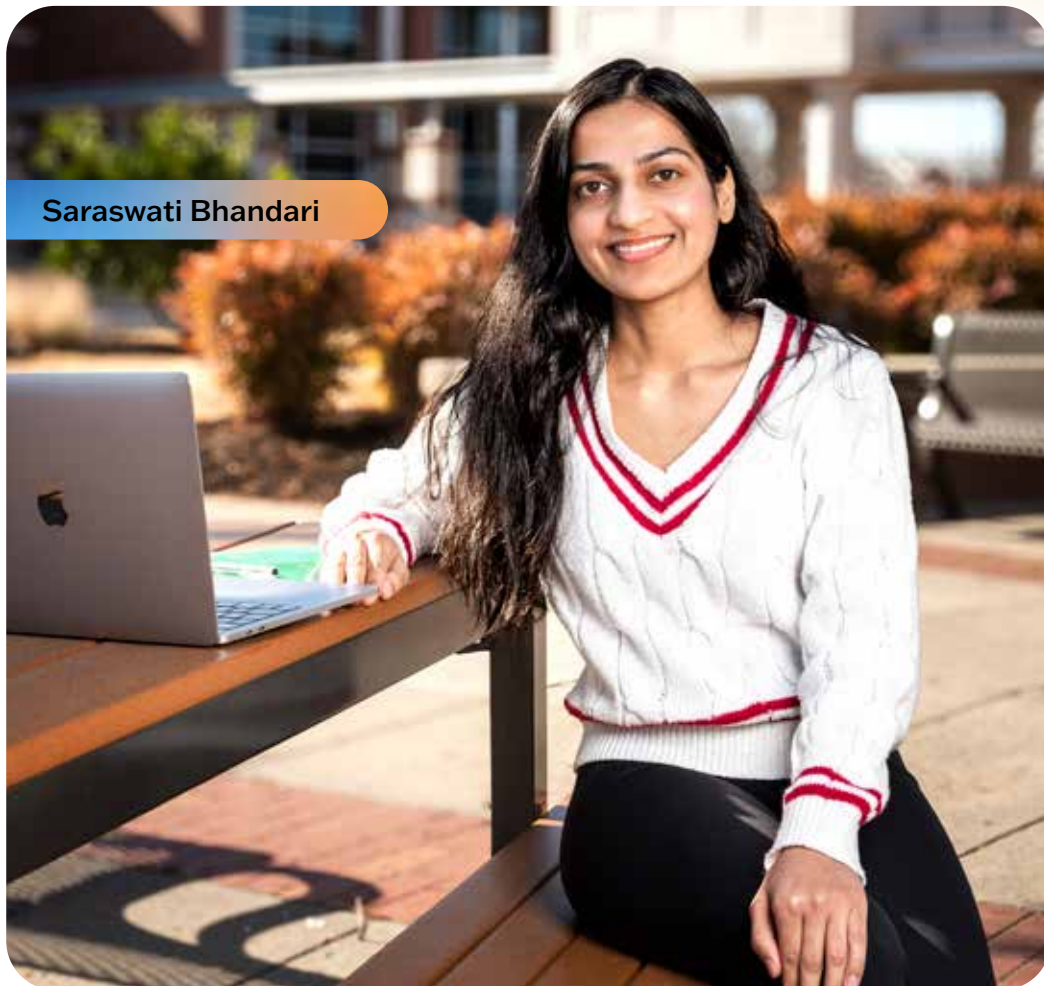
Garrett Williams

## Foundation focus:



FOUNDATION

## Collin College benefits from Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Association of North Texas endowment initiative



Saraswati Bhandari

**E**stablished in 2022, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Alumni Endowed Scholarship is awarded annually to a Collin College student pursuing a Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) degree.

The endowment was initiated by members of the IIT Alumni Association of North Texas (IITNT) who wanted to pay it forward.

"The IITNT alumni group is deeply committed to supporting education, and they demonstrate that commitment through their generous scholarships to students at Collin College," said **Laura Madden, executive director of the Collin College Foundation**. "Dr. Raj Menon, Collin College Board of Trustees vice chair and an IIT alumnus, is a passionate advocate for the college. He connected our two organizations, which led to the creation of a scholarship endowment that will support students in perpetuity. It's been



Laura Madden

inspiring to see IITNT's involvement spark additional personal gifts from alumni who are eager to support education and STEM students at Collin."

**Saraswati Bhandari, Collin College student and IITNT Alumni Endowed Scholarship recipient**, said scholarships provide more than just financial assistance — they can bring comfort, assurance, and hope.

"When I was awarded the scholarship, I felt as though a great burden had been lifted," said Bhandari, who hopes to become a registered nurse. "I am now one step closer to realizing my goals, which also serves as a reminder that such opportunities have the power to transform people's lives."

Madden encourages anyone interested in starting an endowment to reach out to the college. Endowments can be established with a minimum gift of \$30,000, and the scholarship can be aligned with preference to areas of personal interest.

An endowment is one of many ways to make a lasting impact. **Visit [www.collin.edu/foundation](http://www.collin.edu/foundation) to learn more about ways to give.**

### Trustee's vision

Continued from page 1

"I encourage people to think globally but act locally," said Dr. Menon, who is still actively involved in the approximately 1,000-member organization. "I serve on the Collin College Foundation board and saw the impact of scholarships. My vision was to do some good in our community while also giving back to our alma mater."

**With encouragement from Dr. Menon, IITNT recently raised \$30,000 for an endowed scholarship.** Interest generated from the

donation will be awarded as scholarships for students pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) degrees. Additionally, four IITNT members

established personal endowments totaling \$137,500.

According to **Dharma Verma, IITNT president**, attending a recent Collin College scholarship celebration was moving.

**"It was very touching because some recipients were first-generation students," Verma said. "These scholarships are transformative for them and their families. Collin College is offering tuition at the lowest price in Texas and is playing a very pivotal role. With the endowment funds, IITNT wants to help the local community. We also partner with Collin College to hold our events which are focused on community engagement and enrichment."**

**Sanjeev Kumar, former IITNT president**, believes in an educational legacy.

"If you want to change people and their lives, education is critical," Kumar said. "The majority in the alumni association here are engineers, and we wanted to focus on STEM programs. The endowment is important to me personally, although I would say it is more about our community. People come and people go, but this is something that is going to go on for all of us, and that is more important."

According to Dr. Menon the endowment speaks to the character of the IITNT alumni, but that is only one aspect of his connection with the college. Looking back over his Board service, two milestones stand out: the approval to offer baccalaureate degrees and the passage of the \$600 million bond.

"Shortly after my Board appointment, we gained approval for bachelor's degrees," Dr. Menon said. "The trustees and college leadership had been working on this with the legislature for a long time. With the passage of the bond, we expanded our footprint with beautiful new campuses in Allen, Wylie, Celina, and Farmersville."

Ultimately, for Dr. Menon, it is all about building a better community.

"Collin College is a fantastic institution in a great place within Texas — Collin County," Dr. Menon said. "We are fortunate to have this amazing community which affords us the opportunity to attract and retain dedicated leaders, faculty, and staff. It's people that really make the difference."

**To learn more about scholarships, visit [www.collin.edu/foundation](http://www.collin.edu/foundation).**

# Collin College hosts summer camps

# Explore! Discover!

**M**iddle and high school students can enjoy a variety of camps this summer at Collin College. Participants can choose from topics ranging from automotive exploration and creative writing to robotics. The following camps are located at the college's campuses in Allen, Celina, Farmersville, McKinney, Plano, and Wylie. **For a complete listing of Collin College summer camps, visit [www.collin.edu/community/summercamps](http://www.collin.edu/community/summercamps).**

## ALLEN

**Technical Campus, 2550 Bending Branch Way, Allen**

**Automotive Exploration Camp**  
**Wednesday-Thursday, May 27-28**  
**8:30-11:30 a.m. (Morning Session)**  
**1-4 p.m. (Afternoon Session)**

This camp is open to students entering grades 9-12. Students will explore the basic functions, maintenance, and light repair of automobiles, particularly for new drivers, as well as safety considerations for maintaining a vehicle, all on actual vehicles supplied by the college.

**Basic Dent Repair Camp**  
**Monday-Wednesday, June 8-10, 8 a.m.-Noon**

This hands-on summer camp introduces students entering grades 9-12 to the fundamentals of basic dent repair. Students will learn how vehicle panels are designed and what causes dents and minor damage. They will learn how professionals safely repair vehicles using industry-standard tools and techniques. Through guided instruction and supervised practice, campers will develop practical skills while gaining insight into automotive collision repair careers. No prior experience is required — this camp is designed for beginners who want to explore hands-on automotive work in a supportive, educational environment.

**Electronics Level I Camp**  
**Monday-Thursday, June 8-11,**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Session 1)**  
**Monday-Thursday June 22-25,**  
**9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Session 2)**

This camp is designed for students entering grades 8 and 9 who are interested in exploring the basics of electronics and building circuits on breadboards. This camp is sponsored by the Department of Engineering, Computer Science, and Engineering Technology.

**Vehicle Detailing Camp**  
**Wednesday-Thursday,**  
**June 17-18, 1-4 p.m.**

Get ready to shine this summer! The Vehicle Detailing Camp is a hands-on, skill-building experience designed for students entering grades 9-12 who love cars and want to learn how to make them look showcase-quality. Students will explore the art and science of vehicle detailing — from proper washing techniques to interior detailing — using professional tools and products in a fun, supervised environment.

**Electronics Level II Camp**  
**Monday-Thursday, July 6-9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

This camp is designed for students entering grades 8 and 9 who are interested in learning the basics of soldering and desoldering. This camp is sponsored by the Department of Engineering, Computer Science, and Engineering Technology.

**Robotics Camp**  
**Monday-Friday, July 20-24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Unleash your creativity to build and test small robots at the Robotics Camp. This camp is designed for students entering grades 7 and 8. This camp is sponsored by the Department of Engineering, Computer Science, and Engineering Technology and the Collin Robotics Club.

## CELINA

**Celina Campus, 2505 Kinship Parkway, Celina**

**Challenge Survival Camp**  
**Monday-Thursday, June 15-18, 9 a.m.-Noon**

Campers will have the opportunity to become citizen scientists and unleash their inner explorers. This camp is for students entering grades 7 and 8. Participants will learn to master essential survival skills — from water purification to teamwork — in this immersive adventure.

**Body Lab 1 Camp:**  
**Inside the Human Body**  
**Monday-Thursday, July 13-16,**  
**1-4 p.m.**

**Body Lab 2 Camp: Super Bodies and Superpowers**  
**Monday-Thursday,**  
**July 20-23, 9 a.m.-Noon**  
 Body Lab 1 Camp, which is for students entering grades 5 and 6, explores how the human body works through hands-on experiments, real specimens, and interactive challenges. Body Lab 2 Camp, designed for students entering grades 7 and above, takes body science to the next level by combining genetics, technology, and performance in a creative, student-driven experience.





# Over! Have fun!

## LEGO STEAM Camp I

**Monday-Thursday, July 13-16, 9 a.m.-Noon**

## LEGO STEAM Camp II

**Monday-Thursday, July 20-23, 1-4 p.m.**

Campers will use LEGO builds to tell stories and express ideas through art and engineering. LEGO STEAM Camp 1 is designed for campers entering grades 5-6. They will explore real physics concepts through hands-on LEGO challenges like balloon-powered boats, cars, and alternative-powered vehicles.

LEGO STEAM Camp 2 is designed for campers entering grades 7 and above. They will design and build exciting attractions inspired by theme parks and carnival games, invent clever solutions in a castle-based challenge, and bring their creativity into the modern world by designing ideas that improve everyday life.

## FARMERSVILLE

Farmersville Campus, 501 S. Collin Parkway, Farmersville

### College for Kids

**Monday-Thursday, June 15-18 and June 22-25, 8:30 a.m.-Noon**

College for Kids is a summer youth enrichment program for students entering grades 7-9. Students will participate in project-based inquiry and exploration courses where they will discover new talents, meet new friends, and develop the knowledge and skills to begin thinking and planning for college success. This year's camp will offer new and revamped courses with options including AI Cyberdetectives, The Vital Sign Avengers, Astronomy, Shark Tank, Geology, Animal Care, and much more!

## McKINNEY

McKinney Campus, 2200 W. University Drive, McKinney

### Nurse/Health Science Investigation Camp

**Monday-Wednesday, June 1-3, 9 a.m.-Noon**

This camp is for students entering grades 7-12 who are interested in learning more about the healthcare field. Offering unique opportunities for participants, this camp will provide hands-on experience including assisting medical personnel during simulations and sensory activities, utilizing

industry-standard equipment, and participating in demonstrations. This camp will focus on healthcare areas such as health professions, nursing, respiratory care, and medical assisting.

### College for Kids

**Monday-Thursday, June 1-4, 8:30 a.m.-Noon**

College for Kids is a summer youth enrichment program for students entering grades 7-9. Students will participate in project-based inquiry and exploration courses where they will discover new talents, meet new friends, and develop the knowledge and skills to begin thinking and planning for college success.

## PLANO

Plano Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano

### Summer Dance Festival

**Monday-Friday, June 15-19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

The Collin Summer Dance Festival is a weeklong dance intensive welcoming beginning through advanced dancers ages 14-adult. Classes include modern, jazz, ballet, hip hop, contemporary, tap, musical theatre, improvisation, and more.



## WYLIE

Wylie Campus, 391 Country Club Road, Wylie

### Summer Creative Writing Workshop

**Monday-Friday, June 8-12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Collin College Wylie Campus staff and faculty are excited to offer the third Teen Summer Creative Writing Camp directed by award-winning writer Joani Reese. Students will learn about canonical and contemporary poets and writers while creating their own poems and short fiction. The camp will introduce students ages 14-17 to a variety of writing genres, techniques, and styles, such as micro fiction, metered poetry, free verse, and flash fiction. Each student will learn to write stories and poems and have the opportunity to read published writers' and poets' work and speak with them remotely about their writing processes. Guest speakers will share tips and tricks.

### Texas All-Star Jazz Camp

**Sunday-Friday, June 14-19**

The Texas All-Star Jazz Camp is open to musicians of all levels with a minimum age of 13. The curriculum includes jazz theory, improvisation, jazz history/listening, instrumental masterclasses on saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums, and ensembles — big bands and combos. Jazz camp faculty include members of the Collin College Music Department as well as jazz performers and educators from across the country.



Scan the QR code for more information about Collin College summer camps.



## Collin College Biomedical Equipment Technology:

# The hidden niche that's saving lives



Matthew Abad

**W**hile visiting someone in the hospital, you become intrigued by the equipment in the room and its functionality. As a person who enjoys tinkering with machines, you wonder, “How does the EKG machine measure the heart and record data? How are the machines in the room repaired, and can we trust them to monitor our loved one's condition?”

These questions are part of the invaluable information that field experts address in the classroom as they teach future technicians in the Biomedical Equipment Technology program at Collin College.

“Biomedical Equipment Technology is the career field for technicians who support the medical equipment in hospitals, doctors' offices, and clinics throughout the country,” said **Joseph Irving, Collin College Biomedical Equipment Technology professor**. “It's a relatively specialized field that combines medical terminology and knowledge with electronics and a computer background.”

Through courses and hands-on lab experience, students complete the program with the technical skills needed to “save a life without touching a patient.” Students can earn an Associate of Applied Science in Biomedical Equipment Technology, with the opportunity to work as a technician specializing in specific medical equipment at a manufacturing facility or as a technician for a hospital, clinic, or medical facility.

“I always inform students that what we teach here is fundamental and that they will continue learning once they enter the field,” Irving said. “We have a wide range of equipment here that allows students to gain extensive hands-on experience.”

Irving worked as a biomedical equipment technician and manager for 25 years at Baylor Scott & White Health. He started teaching full time at Collin College in 2024.

“I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience,” Irving said. “Being a biomedical equipment technician is a highly satisfying job. You are contributing to helping the patients get better and helping the physicians and nursing staff ensure they have the necessary equipment.”

**Matthew Abad**, a recent graduate of the program, shared his experience as a biomedical equipment technician.

“I discovered the program through my dad's co-worker, who attended and graduated from the program,” Abad said. “I wanted a career where I could make a positive impact on others, which is what inspired me to enroll in the program where I'm able to work on medical equipment to ensure healthcare providers can offer the best quality of care to patients. The program helped me familiarize myself with test equipment and medical equipment encountered by technicians in the field.”

**To learn more about the Biomedical Equipment Technology program at Collin College, visit [www.collin.edu/department/engineering/biomedicalequipment](http://www.collin.edu/department/engineering/biomedicalequipment).**

## Collin College's New Trustee: Glenn Callison

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**“It's an honor to have the opportunity to serve as a trustee for an organization I hold near and dear,” Callison said. “Education has always been an important cornerstone of my life, and being a small part of Collin's continued growth and success is a privilege.”**

By day, he's an equity shareholder attorney in Dallas at Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, where he has worked with organizations like Whitman Peterson Partners and publicly traded real estate investment trusts.

Beyond his legal expertise, Callison has worn many hats in his community — past chair of the Collin College Foundation board, current chair of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Plano's board, and president of the NAIOP North Texas Real Estate Association board.

**“Glenn has demonstrated great dedication to his community,” said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. “His expertise and insight help us continue serving our number one priority: our students.”**

Passionate about community involvement, Callison has also served on the boards of the Plano ISD Education Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, The Real Estate Council, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), and the Plano Symphony Orchestra, among other organizations.

**“Glenn is a dedicated servant-leader who has become a great asset to our incredible team,” said Jay Saad, Collin College Board of Trustees chair. “We're excited for the Board to continue its important work serving our college community.”**

Callison is a proud alumnus of Baylor University, where he earned both his Bachelor of Business Administration and Juris Doctorate. He loves to spend his free time with his wife of nearly 30 years, Jean, and their two adult children, Wil and Abby.

**For more information about Collin College, visit [www.collin.edu](http://www.collin.edu).**

Glenn Callison



## Growing our own

Continued from page 1

“Prosper ISD is honored to be part of this new Collin College and UNT initiative that is designed to strengthen our Dual



Dr. Holly Ferguson

Credit offerings, develop highly qualified educators, and reinforce our ongoing commitment to academic excellence,” said **Dr. Holly Ferguson, superintendent of Prosper ISD.**

Collin College Dual Credit partners currently receive robust support from the college, including academic advising, waived tuition for students in need of additional support, and frequent coordination in scheduling, grade reporting, and embedded instruction with ISD teachers. STEP will offer a unique advantage for ISDs **that partner exclusively with Collin College Dual Credit**, helping grow the teacher workforce for both the ISDs and the college.

**“Thanks to the leadership of our Board of Trustees, Collin College has a long history of removing barriers to student access,”** said **Dr. Neil Matkin, district president of Collin College.** “By investing in our teachers through career-growth opportunities, we expand Dual Credit access for students and deliver a real success story for the students, teachers, and communities we are so proud to serve.”

### Next steps

Pending final approvals, the STEP program is anticipated to begin in Fall 2026. Learn more at [www.collin.edu/step](http://www.collin.edu/step).

## TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING ACADEMY AT COLLIN COLLEGE



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- **Engineering courses taught by Texas A&M professors at Collin College**
- **Money-saving opportunities**



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For more information, scan the QR code or visit [www.collin.edu/academics/alliance](http://www.collin.edu/academics/alliance).



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



## SAVE THE DATE

### MAY 1

Get your fascinators and bowlers ready and head **Off To The Races** with the Collin College Foundation for our annual Stetson & Stiletto fundraiser! This year, we will be serving up classic mint juleps, delicious southern fare, and plenty of derby-inspired fun, all in support of student scholarships at Collin College.

Purchase individual tickets or sponsor a table by scanning the QR code or visiting [www.collin.edu/foundation/events/stetson](http://www.collin.edu/foundation/events/stetson).







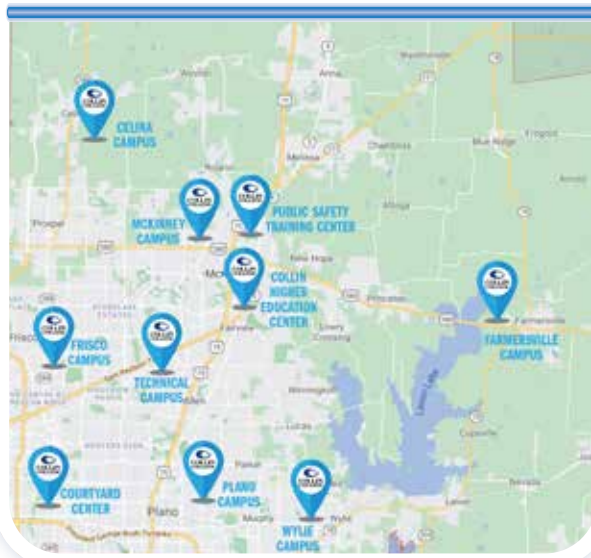
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## 5 BACHELOR'S DEGREES AT COLLIN COLLEGE'S LOW TUITION RATES

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-  Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Development

## LOCATIONS IN Allen, Celina, Farmersville, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, and Wylie

-  7 Physical campuses
-  1 Virtual campus 
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## INCREASE in degrees/certifications awarded in the past five years

**Degrees**  
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To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [www.collin.edu/partnerships](http://www.collin.edu/partnerships).



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