



News & Notes

An update from the Public Relations Office ■ July/August 2020

The fall semester has arrived and while it's different than previous years, Collin College continues to thrive. Here is the latest of Collin College news.

1. Collin College returns for the fall semester with a restart plan focusing on safety and learning options

- Collin College reopened campuses this fall with a full complement of classes ranging from face-to-face courses with enhanced social distancing to an expanded offering of hybrid/blended and fully online courses for students.
- The college created a comprehensive safety plan that requires face masks/coverings in all public spaces on campuses including classrooms and labs.

2. Collin College approves new medical and paid sick leave benefits

- Collin College entered into a partnership with TimelyMD to provide telehealth benefits for all credit students, adjunct faculty, and part-time staff.
- Called CougarCare, these benefits are accessible at www.cougar.care.
- This is a **one-year pilot** and will ensure that individuals who attend or work for the college have access to necessary health resources via telemedicine.

3. The new Technical Campus and Wylie Campus are now open to the public; ribbon cutting and open house events to be held

- The new Technical and Wylie campuses opened to the public on **Aug. 24**, and the college will hold ribbon cutting events to mark the openings of the new Technical Campus and Wylie Campus. The events will also include campus tours.
- Technical Campus ribbon cutting and tours will be **Friday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m.** An open house and tours will occur on Saturday, **Sept. 12 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** The Technical Campus is located at **2550 Bending Branch Way, Allen.**

- Wylie Campus ribbon cutting and tours will be **Friday, Sept. 25 at 6 p.m.** An open house and tours will occur on Saturday, **Sept. 26 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m.** The Wylie Campus is located at **391 Country Club Road, Wylie.**
- For the health and safety of our students and community, face masks and social distancing are required on campus.



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4. New Chief Financial Officer appointed

- The Collin College Board of Trustees appointed **Melissa A. Irby** as the college's new Chief Financial Officer at its **Aug. 4** meeting.
- Irby will serve as the investment officer of the college and as financial advisor to the District President and Board of Trustees.
- Irby will also serve as a member of the district's executive leadership team to plan and implement programs and services at the college.
- Irby worked for Abilene Independent School District for nearly two decades, most recently serving as the district's CFO. Irby holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from McMurry University in Abilene and a Master of Accounting from Abilene Christian University. Irby is also a certified public accountant with the Texas Board of Accountancy.



Melissa A. Irby

6. Collin College has been named a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education



- This is the third time that Collin College's nursing program has earned a **Center of Excellence distinction from the National League for Nursing (NLN)**.
- The program was honored for enhancing student learning and professional development.
- Collin College is just one of four Texas colleges/universities and the only Texas community college honored as a Center of Excellence.
- The college was also named a center of excellence in **2011** and **2015**.

7. Collin College held nursing pinning

- **61** nursing students recently graduated from Collin College.
- An indoor pinning ceremony was held on Friday, **Aug. 7** in the McKinney Campus Conference Center.
- The event was broadcasted via Facebook Live for family and friends who were unable to attend due to social distancing.



Did you know?



While the physical location of The Art Gallery is currently closed because of COVID-19, student exhibitions will be viewable online starting with the "Student Photography Portfolio Exhibition."

Student artists were part of the Spring 2020 Photography Portfolio class taught by Professor Lisa Means. The advanced studio class required students to create a cohesive series of works, preparing for commercial photography careers.

Their work will be available to view at www.collin.edu/department/artsgallery. In addition, the webpage will include a video tour of the images and video interviews with the professor, students, and lab assistants discussing the experience of creating artwork with COVID-19 restrictions.