

DRIVING DIVERSITY



2018
REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY

AN INSTITUTIONAL YEAR IN REVIEW



LEE COLLEGE

FOR DISPLAY UNTIL DECEMBER 2019

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A message from the President

Lee College had an amazing year in 2018. We achieved record enrollment, earned a number of national awards, increased the number of students graduating with certificates and degrees, and continued our rise as a shining star within the regional communities we serve. The 2018 Report to the Community is full of inspiring stories, life changing experiences and many notable achievements. I know that you will enjoy reading our 2018 Institutional Year in Review.

Lee College's unduplicated credit enrollment in fall 2018 reached 8,234 students. The College has never seen an enrollment that high since its creation in 1934. In addition to our enrollments at the main campus in Baytown and the McNair Center, we have experienced robust enrollments in college courses taught to high school students in 17 different school systems in the Lee College Service Area. Also of note is our Second Chance Prison Education Program in Huntsville, where we have seen exceptional enrollment growth. The collaboration between Lee College and five school districts (Anahuac, Dayton, Hardin, Hulls-Daisetta and Liberty) at the Lee College Education Center in South Liberty County continues to flourish.



The theme of the 2018 Report to the Community is Driving Diversity. By the numbers, 43% of Lee College students are Hispanic/Latino, 37% White, 14% African American and 6% other ethnicities. In April 2018 Lee College won, out of the 1,100 community colleges nationally, the Advancing Diversity Award of Excellence from the American Association of Community Colleges. This was followed in September, 2018 with our recognition as the Western Region Equity Award winner and national finalist from the Association of Community College Trustees. Capping this trend, the College recently received notification at the annual meeting of the Achieving the Dream (ATD) organization that we were one of 11 community colleges in the nation designated as a Leader College of Distinction. "The metrics ATD established for Leader College of Distinction are meant to encourage colleges to sustain aggressive efforts that result in far greater student success and equity," said Dr. Karen Stout, President and CEO of Achieving the Dream. "The honor recognizes Network colleges that have lived their reform work over time and see real improvements in student achievement across the institution."

These awards are the result of the leadership of the College's Board of Regents, faculty and staff. Of course, without the support of the communities that Lee College serves, the accomplishments noted in this Report to the Community would not be possible. Thank you!

Enjoy reading about your community college. It continues to be an amazing story.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Dennis Brown

A message from the Chairman

This past year has seen many successes at Lee College and there is much of which to be proud. However, I am especially proud of the recognitions the College has received in its work with promoting equity and diversity within the institution. These distinctions are significant to me not only as the Chairman of Lee College's Board of Regents but as the first Hispanic engineer to work for Humble Oil Refinery, later ExxonMobil, serving as Baytown's first minority city councilman, and later serving as Baytown's first Hispanic mayor for 11 years. The work advanced by the College in these areas is deeply meaningful to me personally but also as a member of this community. The work being done at the College ensures that people in our communities have access to education and training that gives them a path to better paying jobs, lifelong careers and bright futures for themselves and their families.

Service has been core to my life's story – service to country in the United States Army and service to my community as one of its citizens. As the valedictorian of my graduating high school class, I was able to secure scholarships to attend college. Those scholarships, combined with the G.I. Bill, allowed me to graduate from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering in 1969. Education changed my life and allowed me to provide for my family. Much has changed for the better in our country since I graduated from college but much work remains. I am very proud of the staff and faculty of Lee College that work every day to advance the mission of the institution, strengthening the fabric of our society through the power and affirmation of education.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete C. Alfaro".

Pete Alfaro

Lee College Board of Regents

Board of Regents

Pete C. Alfaro, Chairman

Mark Hall, Vice Chairman

Judy Jirrels, Secretary

Weston Cotten, Assistant Secretary

Dr. Keith Coburn

Gina Guillory

Mark Himself

Susan Moore-Fontenot

Gilbert Santana



From left to right, top row: Dr. Keith Coburn, Susan Moore-Fontenot, Mark Himself, Gina Guillory, Gilbert Santana.
Bottom row: Dr. Dennis Brown, Weston Cotten, Pete C. Alfaro, Mark Hall, Judy Jirrels.

President's Cabinet

Annette Ferguson, Vice President of Finance & Administration/Chief Financial Officer

Dr. Angela Oriano, Vice President of Workforce and Community Development

Dr. Donnetta Suchon, Vice President of Student Affairs

Dr. Veronique Tran, Vice President of Instruction

Layton Childress, Dean of Applied Sciences

Dr. Carolyn Lightfoot, Chief Information Officer

Dr. Onimi Wilcox, Dean of Academic Studies

Donna Zuniga, Dean of the Huntsville Center

For fifth time, Lee College named an Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College

\$1 million prize for community college excellence recognizes outstanding achievements

Lee College was named today as one of the top 150 community colleges in the United States eligible to compete for the \$1 million 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in American community colleges.

This is the fifth consecutive time that Lee College has been selected an Aspen Prize Top 150 Community College from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide.

"Everything we do at Lee College is centered on serving our community and providing a quality education that empowers our diverse students to confidently navigate their futures," said Pres. Dr. Dennis Brown. "Our recognition as a Top 150 Community College and eligibility to compete for the Aspen Prize are a testament to the leadership and commitment of our Board of Regents, and the value and impact of the work that our talented faculty, staff and administrators do for our students everyday. We truly believe that every Lee College student can be successful."

"Our recognition as a Top 150 Community College and eligibility to compete for the Aspen Prize are a testament to the leadership and commitment of our Board of Regents, and the value and impact of the work that our talented faculty, staff and administrators do for our students everyday."

– Pres. Dr. Dennis Brown



Awarded every two years since 2011, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: exceptional student outcomes in student learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and access and success for minority and low-income students.

Lee College will move forward to the next round of the competition for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence by submitting an application to be reviewed through a rigorous evaluation for

a spot on the top ten Aspen Prize finalists list. After the top ten finalists are named, the Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each finalist and collect additional qualitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner, finalists with distinction and rising stars in spring 2019.

Estimates from Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce suggest that out of the 11.6 million jobs created in the post-recession economy, 11.5 million require at least some college education. The vast majority of students who enroll in community colleges do so because they believe that postsecondary education will provide them a path to rewarding work, stable employment, and family-sustaining wages.

"Especially in the current social and economic climate, it is exceptionally important that our nation's community colleges develop the diverse talent needed to fuel democratic engagement, social mobility, and economic opportunity and growth," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Through this competition we're working to inspire other institutions across our country to ensure more students succeed in college and their lives beyond those campuses."

Lee College offers more than 100 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as non-credit workforce and community education courses, that prepare its diverse student body for advanced higher education; successful entry into the workforce; and a variety of in-demand careers. With the main campus and McNair Center located in Baytown, Texas, and a satellite education center in nearby South Liberty County, the college serves a geographic area of more than 220,000 residents that includes 17 school systems. To learn more, visit www.lee.edu.

Lee College receives AACC diversity award

When Lee College was recognized with the American Association of Community Colleges' Award of Excellence in the category of Advancing Diversity, the honor reflected innovative work by people and departments across campus. Lee College was chosen for this distinction from a field of approximately 1,200 community colleges nationwide. This is the college's second national award in three years. The prior national award in 2015 was for Excellence in Student Success.



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, AACC President and CEO; Dr. Dennis Brown, Lee College President; Victoria Marron, Lee College Executive Director Hispanic-Serving Institution Initiatives; Dr. Angela Oriano, Lee College Vice President of Workforce and Community Development; Dr. Christina Ponce, Lee College Executive Vice President; Dr. Mary S. Graham, AACC Chair, Board of Directors and President of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Lee College President Dennis Brown said, "This recognition is a testament to the tremendous work being done by our faculty and staff in creating a culture that empowers our diverse student population to thrive, succeed and realize successful futures – whether they choose to continue their education or move on to rewarding careers."

The American Association of Community Colleges is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges. The association represents nearly 1,200 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and more than 12 million students. "Winning in a category or being identified as a finalist for a category is always a huge honor," says Brown. "For any institution, it's like the Academy Awards for community colleges."

Joining Brown in receiving the award were Lee College's Executive Director of Hispanic-Serving Institution Initiatives Victoria Marron, Executive Vice President Dr. Christina Ponce and Vice President of Workforce and Community Development Dr. Angela Oriano.

Marron said the efforts to improve the college experience for historically underserved populations benefits all students.

"We're really trying to plan for the future growth, not just of our community but of the college and addressing our growing Hispanic population is important for us as a college," she said.

Dr. Christina Ponce concurred, adding "We are honored to receive this award because it brings to light important issues on equity and diversity. By designing supports like mentoring, a STEM hub, linked courses, involving families in a student's college journey, and creating learning communities, students have additional resources to be successful. Lee College will continue to work hard at creating equitable opportunities for students in supportive environments where all individuals in our community can learn, complete their educational goals and have successful futures."

"We've been very blessed in having several different grant awards, and by centralizing those awards it allows us to work collaboratively across Lee to help all students," says Marron.

A prime example, Marron said, is the STEM lab, which is open to all students. "When the grant was written, because it comes from the Hispanic-Serving Institutions department in the U.S. Department of Education, they're expecting certain measurements and certain other activities to target low-income and Hispanic students."

In making the award, the AACC statement said, "Lee College has taken a strategic, proactive approach to addressing inequities hindering the persistence of its under-served students, especially the growing Latino population.

"With a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Hispanic-Serving Institution division, coupled with other funding sources, the college established a centralized Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives Department.

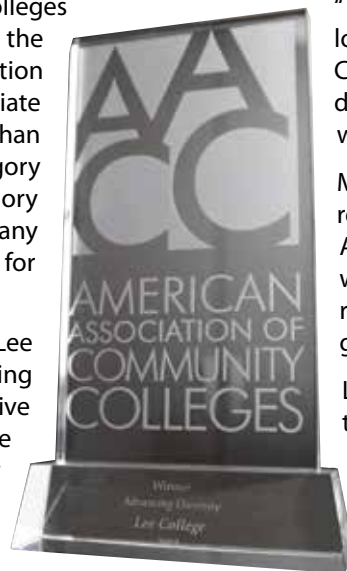
"The HSI Initiatives Department allows the college to provide students with a centralized hub to take advantage of academic support," the statement continued.

"The college has targeted communities with the lowest college-going rates by taking its Mobile Go Center, which includes a wide array of resources, directly to families. Lee College also has offered city-wide STEM recruiting activities."

Marron said, "What set us apart is that we took a really proactive approach to planning for the future. Advancing diversity doesn't mean that we're saying we're as diverse across campus as we need to be, rather we're advancing to the point of where we're going to be.

Lee College has been honored by AACC multiple times in recent years — in 2017 as an AACC Award of Excellence Finalist for Advancing Diversity, Faculty Innovation and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership. In 2016 as an AACC Award of Excellence Finalist for Faculty Innovation, Exemplary Board/CEO and Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership, and in 2015 as an AACC

Award of Excellence Winner for Student Success as well as an AACC Award Finalist for Exemplary Board/CEO.



ACCT Recognizes Lee College for its work in institutional equity

The Association of Community College Trustees announced recipients of its annual Regional Awards for community college trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff members, and presented the Western Region Equity Award for 2018 to Lee College, thereby qualifying the college for the national award.

“Community colleges are one of our country’s national treasures, offering affordable, high-quality higher education for all American people,” said ACCT Chair and Edmonds Community College Trustee Emily Yim. “Regional ACCT awardees represent the most outstanding people and programs from throughout the United States.”

The following article by Dr. Dennis Brown first appeared in Ferris State University’s publication Perspectives as a result of Lee College’s recognition.

Let us first begin by stating how honored we are to have been asked to contribute to an article about creating equity and achievement, a priority at Lee College in Baytown, Texas. Lee College is proud to have been recognized by the American Association of Community College Excellence Award in Diversity and the Association of Community College Trustees Western Regional Equity Award both in 2018. With over 83 years of service, Lee College continues to celebrate diversity and has been intentional with supporting underserved populations and providing opportunities for all students.

Lee College has taken a strategic and proactive approach to addressing persistence barriers students face, especially in our growing Latino population. As a recipient of two recent Department of Education Hispanic Serving Institution grants, Lee College leveraged funding to establish a campus-wide sustainable HSI Department to ensure that support systems would have the best outcomes and could support all students for decades to come. Through this bold endeavor, we were able to offer students a centralized hub of support and a wide variety of diversity programs to celebrate cultures, provide mentorships, host cultural pedagogy professional development for faculty, and involve families and community groups as part of the college support system. We have targeted communities with the lowest college-going rates by taking our mobile go center full of resources directly to families. We have launched a Café College with Project GRAD Houston called GRADcafe targeting opportunity youth. We proudly offer our students the nationally recognized Puente Program from California, among other programs.

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, planning for the future needs of our students, as well as increasing our stance on diversity, is at the core of our mission. For example, last year we created a department to house all initiatives previously created under our 2011 HSI STEM Grant and current grants from the Department of Education HSI Division. These funding sources specifically ask us to address the inequities in enrollment, persistence, completion and transfer of many of our marginalized student groups. Two of the five overarching goals of our Title V Grant is to increase the persistence of male students and first time in college students. Through strategic leveraging and cross collaboration the grant teams have been able to assist, construct

and build partnerships across the institution. Many of these efforts were led through this department with data driven decision making, all in an effort to support underserved students. We have addressed persistence barriers of underserved students through practices such as mentoring, intrusive advising and STEM pathways with four-year partners.

When we look at “diversity” it is important to realize we are not just talking about ethnic groups, but a variety of types of groups within our community and institution. For example, first-generation students tend to hold underrepresented identities that often intersect across race and social class. Since race and ethnicity are related to socioeconomic status and parental education, these disparities could in part influence educational attainment outcomes by race and ethnicity. The cultural experiences encountered by first-generation student populations as a whole impact their access, success, and completion in post-secondary educational settings. We are eliminating barriers, improving processes, and offering a supportive family environment for all students to thrive in.

The faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to design programs to help students be successful in and out of the classroom. Below are a few highlighted programs that have created equitable outcomes for students.

PROJECT LEeway is designed to promote and facilitate access to technical education through student-centered services which promote equity, foster success, and contribute to the economic independence of students who are members of special populations. The program is funded by the Carl D. Perkins grant. Students receiving services are enrolled in non-traditional programs, students with disabilities, displaced homemakers, and limited English proficiency students. Leeway services are available to meet the needs of qualifying students. Services include childcare assistance, textbook lending, transportation assistance and a food bank.

PUEENTE MENTORING PROGRAM provides a three-prong approach to addressing persistence and completion of Hispanic and other low socioeconomic first-generation students: 1) English from developmental into college level English courses linked to freshman orientation courses; 2) Intensive advising with a College Completion and Transfer Coach, and 3) Mentoring from professionals in careers desired by the students. Puente students over the last five years have persistence rates on average 25 percent higher than other first generation students. Puente students on average earn at least 11 credit hours their first year solely through the Puente Program. Many of us know the impact mentoring has on students, especially those of low-socioeconomic, first-generation sub-populations. Due to the great team at Lee College we have just welcomed our seventh cohort of Puente students. The implementation of Puente has shown effectiveness in many areas from linked courses, intrusive advising, university awareness, and culturally relevant teaching practices. The Puente Mentoring Program boasts participants with a persistence rate over 20 percent, higher than other like students.

STEM OUTREACH provides strategic leveraging and cross

collaboration. The grant teams were able to assist and build partnerships across the institution and community to build bridges for all students. Many of these efforts were led with the overarching goal of supporting underserved students by addressing campus-wide improvements and technology upgrades, various professional development opportunities, and STEM Outreach activities across the region. These efforts have served over 50,000 students and community members annually. STEM Outreach events have gone to churches and community events, and celebrated across two counties serving over 200,000 residents. Many of these outreach events involve hands-on learning, bringing children and their families together to learn about all the opportunities not only in STEM but in education.

FIRST IN THE WORLD Best practices learned from the HSI Initiatives Department steered Lee College to become the sole community college in the state of Texas to be a recipient of the First in the World Grant. The FITW Grant took the needs of many of our part-time students into consideration as we developed our first Weekend College Program through high impact practices such as learning communities, hybrid-block scheduling course offerings and true advising relationship building support with a College Completion Coach. The Weekend College Program now boasts a three-year graduation rate of 70 percent in comparison to the state average of 20 percent.

R.E.A.L. Several of Lee College's student organizations focus on diversity and inclusion. Reaching Excellence Against Limitations R.E.A.L.'s mission is to "help manufacture an environment where the black voice is heard and put into action." Members have provided mentoring to a group of young men at a local college bound elementary school assisting them in building upon their four pillars: Educate, Empower, Enhance and Create Change.

OHANA aims to use education, support and advocacy to create a safer and accepting environment for all people – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. As part of their work, the organization hosts events and activities that bring awareness of LGBTQ+ issues.

The **MAS RAZA COLLECTIVE**, a student organization with ties to the Mexican American Studies Program and Puente Mentoring Project, aims to educate and improve the community through the power of activism and the empowerment of marginalized groups.

WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING is helping diversify the petrochemical industry by promoting high wage, high demand careers that are often filled by men and preparing woman for those roles.

As an HSI **ACHIEVING THE DREAM LEADER COLLEGE**, planning for the future needs of our students, as well as increasing our stance on diversity, is at the core of our mission. Lee College serves the community by providing innovative and quality education to our diverse students along guided pathways to gainful employment, personal enrichment and life-long learning.

A newly developed **EQUITY COUNCIL** comprised of faculty, staff,

administration and a community member have begun reviewing data both qualitatively and quantitatively in order to address equity barriers for students. As a result of many of these endeavors, the HSI Department has implemented supplemental instruction in various gateway courses as well as peer mentoring. Grant funded advisors will utilize these resources in order to provide deeper interventions to assist students with graduation and transfer to employment and/or university.

Lee College's college administration is diverse. We have leadership representation from all ethnicities and a good balance of females and males. We work hard to attract strong talent and have faculty and staff who serve as leadership role models for our students. Our team has been successful in raising millions of dollars in scholarships and grants, and are always finding new ways to make college accessible and affordable for all students.

We have made it a priority to increase capacity of our services and facilities for students, faculty and staff. A few newly created endeavors have been supplemental instruction, peer mentoring and an equity council. All of these endeavors operate under an equity lens, with disaggregated data at the forefront of implementation and evaluation. Additional services assisting all students have been classroom technology upgrades, various professional development opportunities, STEM outreach activities that have served over 50,000 students and community members, and enhanced case management strategies in our counseling and advising department.

Together we have now been able to take on a more collaborative non-territorial approach to serving our Hispanic and other underserved populations. This in turn has shown great benefits and strides in serving all of our students and surrounding communities.

What makes Lee College so amazing is that many of our employees are from this area and carry the true definition of community when they walk on our campus day in and day out. Lee College serves the community by providing innovative and quality education to our diverse students along guided pathways to gainful employment, personal enrichment and life-long learning. It is an incredible honor to work alongside this dynamic team day in and day out.

*Contributors to the article:
Dr. Dennis Brown, President;
Dr. Christy Ponce, Executive
Vice President; Victoria
Marron, Executive Director
of HSI Initiatives.*



OUR SERVICE TO OUR HOME

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Women regents help guide Lee College into the future

Whether it's working alongside industry giants to train a new generation of petrochemical workers or advising small business owners in how to grow their dream, Lee College is a major player in keeping Baytown thriving—and has a proud history of women serving in its own leadership.

The Lee College District is governed by nine elected regents who make the major decisions governing the college, including setting a budget, a tax rate and selecting a president.

Three women currently serve on the Board of Regents: Susan Moore-Fontenot (first elected in 1988, she is the second most senior regent), Judy Jirrels (elected in 2004) and Gina Guillory (one of the two newest regents, elected in 2017).



Susan Moore-Fontenot

Moore-Fontenot sees the school as central to the community.

"Lee College is the hub for all things educational. As a premiere community college, we provide comprehensive educational programs for youth to senior citizens in unique delivery systems while making our approach affordable and accessible," she said.

"As an economic development partner, Lee College provides new, emerging and mission-critical industry-personalized education and workforce preparedness to meet the needs of our local business and industry," Moore-Fontenot continued.

Jirrels said, "Lee College looks for opportunities to teach and train students of all ages to be productive in our community."

For Guillory, "Education/knowledge is what allows our economy to develop, grow and expand. As we join with the city, the school



Judy Jirrels

district and various other community partners to serve our citizens, we develop a path forward that allows us to build on our successes."

All three women have deep roots in the community and connections to other partners in its development.

Jirrels' ties to Lee College cross generations. "I attended Lee College and wanted to take my perspective of education and work with the

board. I was also the daughter of a former regent, Jess Navarre. I was proud of him and his service and wanted to follow in his footsteps."

"I felt called to serve Lee College because I had a varied experience with education. I spent nine years as a home-school parent and then entered education as a public school teacher," said Jirrels, who teaches second grade in Goose Creek CISD.

Moore-Fontenot retired from GCCISD as director of personnel. "Having spent 40 years as an educator, my life's purpose is education and I enjoy working with a team of regents while continuing to fulfill that purpose." She is also a graduate of Lee College.

Guillory is also a Lee College alumna with a career in public service, having worked in several City of Baytown departments before attaining her current position as the city's management analyst.

"Lee College was my college of choice when I graduated high school," she said. "My mother always said the way you find out what your purpose is, is to find the thing you enjoy doing that you could get paid to do but you'd do it for free ... and here I am ... walking in my purpose."

Whether viewing the college from a perspective of years of service as a regent or from the eyes of a recent addition, the women of the Lee College Board of Regents see a continuing central role for the institution.

Jirrels said she wants to see the college increase its graduation rates. "We are increasing each year and continuing to move forward. I would also like to see more high school graduates in Baytown see the value of Lee College and make Lee their first choice in their educational journey."

Guillory sees the college continuing as a leader in community education. "It is my prayer that Lee College will continue to flourish and be one of the best institutions of learning in Texas. With the continued growth of the city and industry partners, I expect Lee College to be trend-setters and provide pathways for higher education and great-paying jobs," she said.

Moore-Fontenot said, "My hope for Lee College is simple—continued growth that fulfills our mission. Our footprint will continue to expand over the years as we seek to be the number-one choice of students to get a quality and affordable education."

Envisioning the future of the institution, both Guillory and Moore-Fontenot see growth on the horizon.

Guillory said, "In 20-25 years, I expect for additional locations to be built to increase our service area and our athletics programs to include more than just volleyball and basketball."

"As we dream of possibilities in the next two or three decades," Moore-Fontenot said, "Lee College could emerge as a four-year institution which provides bachelor's degrees either alone or in collaboration with other four-year institutions."

"One thing is for certain: We will continue to be service-oriented and provide a first-class education."

Lee mural project livens up downtown Baytown

We've all heard what to do if life hands you lemons. The City of Baytown, with some help from Lee College, is applying the same approach when handed a weed-choked crumbling foundation of an long-gone retail building.

In fact, a little paint, a lot of hard work and several dozen colorful umbrellas has already turned an eyesore into something of a Houston-area attraction.

While the umbrellas the city hung over the vacant lot in the 100 block of West Texas Avenue were the first things to make it a selfie destination, Lee College art students are decorating the walls of the alley with equally colorful depictions of scenes that represent Baytown, portrayed in a geometric graffiti style.

Art instructor Jennifer Herzberg said, "Lee College was contacted about this alley to do a mural and we said 'yes!'"

"It was part of an assignment," she added. "I've got probably 30 students signed up."



Yulia Trujillo-Rodriguez paints background for a mural depiction of the train in Roseland Park

Many of the students participating were in her class in the Spring Semester.

"The City of Baytown gave us some of their ideas, we gave them some of our ideas, we went back and forth a few times," Herzberg said. The students made color drawings of the planned murals during class, just as they would when doing a contracted work as a professional artist.

While the sketches and consultation process were part of the graded classwork for Herzberg's Painting I students in the Spring Semester, work on the murals themselves is not being done for course credit, she said.

The walls on either side of the vacant lot have visible structural columns that the artists are using to frame segments of the mural. Some works will span several sections, others will be just one.

Most of the themes are familiar symbols of Baytown or southeast Texas. Fish and pelicans are planned for other sections, and the Hartman Bridge and a giant alligator will dominate another wall.

The train engine that sits in Roseland Park is another featured image, being painted by Yulia Trujillo-Rodriguez. She said she chose the train as a humorous tribute to the trains that always seem to block the road just when she's running late for class.

Even though the classwork for the train mural is finished, Trujillo-Rodriguez said she felt the need to stay with the project.

"I started this at the end of Painting I," she said. "I don't like leaving things undone."

South Liberty County Center showcases Lee opportunities

Lee College Education Center(LCEC)-South Liberty County welcomed dozens of visitors in April for Open House that featured the Kids at College Preview.

The Open House event also included free meningitis vaccinations, individualized college transition Q&A, information about the Dual Credit Institute for high school students, information about Weekend College, the Lee College Small Business Development Center, the Lee College Mobile Go Center, information about travel programs and other activities for senior adults, and exhibitor tables including the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge and GRADcafe.

"The Open House was to help our Liberty County area communities understand that Lee College services the entire population – from Kids at College programs, to senior adult travel programs, to the Dual Credit Institute, to traditional college-age students," said Wesley Wells, Center Manager. People who missed the Open House are welcomed and encouraged to visit LCEC-South Liberty County at their convenience.

For the last two years, scores of high school students have taken advantage of the opportunity to earn dual credit at LCEC-

South Liberty County. About 150 students from the Anahuac, Dayton, Hardin, Hull-Daisetta, and Liberty school districts have enrolled each year in courses that include process technology, electrical theory, technical math, technical drafting, as well as college basics or electives that include English, government, history, art, psychology, sociology and learning pathways. These Dual Credit Institute courses meet weekday mornings.

In addition, courses taught weekday evenings for all Lee College students have included U.S. history, pharmacology (for nursing students), computer networking, learning strategies and speech.

Beyond these college courses, dozens of persons enroll annually in either English as a Second Language or GED preparation, each taught by an instructor with Harris County Department of Education.

Other programs and services at LCEC-South Liberty County include free FAFSA application workshops by the Lee College Financial Aid Office, and Community Education courses including Kids at College.

To learn about opportunities available or planned for LCEC-South Liberty County, call 832-556-5660 or 936-334-8169.

OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

PROGRAM & STUDENT SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS

Lee College Announced as Bellwether Finalist

Weekend College Recognized

Lee College was one of ten national finalists selected for the prestigious Bellwether Award on the merit of its Weekend College program. The Bellwether Awards are conferred by The Bellwether College Consortium housed within The University of Florida's College of Education.

The Bellwether Awards identify and promote effective postsecondary programs for replication at higher education institutions across the nation and consequently positions colleges to pursue various funding opportunities. The consortium also provides a platform for its members to collaborate on potential joint ventures while having access to educational thought leaders.

"This is the first time Lee College has been recognized for this prestigious, national distinction," says Lee College President, Dr. Dennis Brown. "It's especially fitting given the significance of the Weekend College and its impact on the futures of our students. This program is literally changing lives by providing access to education in a format that speaks to real-life scenarios. People have families – they have to go to work. The Weekend College format at Lee College makes it possible. It truly is transformative for our students. I couldn't be more proud of everyone involved in the Weekend College – especially our students."

"This program is literally changing lives by providing access to education in a format that speaks to real-life scenarios."

Lee College's Weekend College is targeted to adult learners and working students. Funded through a \$2.7 million First in the World Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Weekend College gives students the opportunity to earn associate degrees in less than two years by attending classes only on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Five majors are currently offered: Transfer in Allied Health, General Studies – Social Science Concentration, Business Administration and Management, Industrial Welding Technology and Computer and Network Maintenance Technology. Lee is the only community college district in Texas — and one of only four community colleges in the entire country — selected to receive First in the World grant funds.



(L to R) Dr. Dennis Brown, Lee College President; Monica Martinez, First In The World Weekend College Grant Project Director; Jessica Falla, HSI STEM Grant Success Coach; Pete Alfaro, Lee College Board of Regents Chairman

Of the first cohort of students to enroll in the Weekend College in Fall 2015, fully 70 percent completed their associate degree programs in less than 24 months – significantly more than the state average of 12 percent that measures out to three years. Much of that success is attributed to the program's unique design, which keeps the same groups of students together from enrollment to graduation or transfer; offers courses at multiple campus locations, with many delivered in a hybrid format that blends online and classroom instruction; provides block scheduling that enables students to know exactly which courses to take and when they will be held; and ensures Weekend College courses are never dropped or filled to capacity. Students also work with a completion coach who helps them apply and enroll, secure financial aid and conquer any challenges that arise during the program or after graduation.

Speaking to the success of the program, Dr. Veronique Tran, Vice President of Instruction for Lee College says, "The power of the relationships being built between the students, staff and faculty cannot be overstated. Those connections are powerful. It's certainly one of the primary reasons we are seeing so many students stay in the program and graduate." Tran goes on to echo Brown's comment regarding the way the Weekend College is structured. "By developing a program built to suit the needs of working families, we empower those students. All the commitment in the world falls by the wayside if the schedule doesn't work for the student. But when we are able to meet people where they are and making access possible, they flourish. Lee College's Weekend College is proof of that."

Honors Students Named Jack Cooke Kent Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Cilah Ndofor and Emily Blumentritt Recognized

Lee College has the distinction of having two of its honors students selected as semi-finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship. Cilah Ndofor from Cameroon, West Africa, and Emily Blumentritt from Baytown are both currently enrolled in Lee College's Honors Program. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has selected 534 high-achieving community college students from across the U.S. as semifinalists to compete for its Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, from a pool of nearly 2,500 applicants. This highly competitive scholarship will offer selected finalists as much as \$40,000 per year for up to three years to complete their bachelor's degrees at selective four-year colleges and universities.

Cilah Ndofor, a general studies student tracked to transfer to a four-year institution as a pre-medicine major has her sights set on eventually becoming a neurosurgeon.

"Words can't express how overjoyed I was when I received the email stating I had been selected as a semi finalist." Says Ndofor. "I really wasn't confident about myself because I know this scholarship selection is highly competitive but I just kept my fingers crossed and I'm still keeping them crossed!"

Noting what a boost it was to her confidence, Ndofor says of the nomination, "I now believe I can succeed in anything I do in life."

She continues by saying that she would "characterize the significance of being selected a semi-finalist as beneficial. Mentioning in my transfer applications that I am a semi-finalist for this prestigious scholarship will definitely improve my chances of getting accepted and getting scholarships as well. I am very honored for making it this far in the competition."

Ndofor is currently pursuing applications to Harvard, the University of Texas at Austin, Rice University and the University of Houston – Main Campus. She plans on pursuing a major in biology with a minor in mathematics prior to applying to medical school.

Emily Blumentritt is a general studies major with plans to transfer into a wildlife biology or related program.

"I'm very passionate about nature, wildlife, and giving back to my community, so I hope to pursue a career in which I can contribute to scientific knowledge, help preserve nature and wildlife for future generations, and connect others to the natural world in a way that brings value and meaning to their lives. I'm considering applying to various universities, including Cornell, Texas A&M, and UCLA."

As with Ndofor, Emily was surprised and excited to be chosen as a semi-finalist.

"Being considered for this prestigious scholarship has really opened things up for me. As a Jack Kent Cooke semi-finalist, I've already been invited to apply at an ivy league school, something I had never truly thought of as a possibility before. Being selected as a semi-finalist is a recognition of the hard



Dr. Georgeann Ward, Lee College Honors instructor; Cilah Ndofor, Emily Blumentritt

work and talent that a student displays in their community college years. It's truly an honor to be selected."

The honors program at Lee College has cultivated a national reputation for the rigor of its coursework and the high caliber student it produces. Its impact on the lives of its honors students is evident.

"I sent in my application expecting to be disappointed," says Blumentritt. "I am incredibly grateful to the wonderful professors here at Lee who helped me apply for the scholarship and who have supported me and my work throughout my time here."

Community colleges hold many of the nation's most gifted students," said Harold O. Levy, Executive Director of the Cooke Foundation. "Yet too often these students are denied the opportunity to fulfill their potential due to lack of adequate resources and support. Our scholarships help to remove these barriers so that talented students with financial need have a chance to complete their college education and pursue their goals and dreams."

Cooke Scholarships fund the costs of attending college not covered by other financial aid, plus intensive academic advising, stipends for internships, study abroad opportunities, and the ability to network with other Cooke Scholars and alumni. After earning a bachelor's degree, these Cooke Scholars will also be eligible to apply for a scholarship for graduate school worth up to a total of \$75,000.

The Cooke Foundation is dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need. Since 2000, the foundation has awarded \$175 million in scholarships to more than 2,300 students from 8th grade through graduate school, along with comprehensive counseling and other support services. The foundation has also provided over \$97 million in grants to organizations that serve such students. www.jkcf.org



Alyssa Hooks



Divya Singh



Leah Sparkman



Emily Blumentritt

Presidential Honors Day recognizes excellence in many disciplines

The Lee College Presidential Honors Day award ceremony in April recognized students who have achieved excellence in their respective fields of study, both in academic programs and workforce programs.

Capping off the ceremony, four students were inducted into the Lee College Hall of Fame: Alyssa Hooks, Divya Singh, Leah Sparkman and Emily Blumentritt.

The students recognized for outstanding achievement in their fields of study were:

In developmental education, the students recognized were Elizabeth Gonzalez in English, Karla Yajaira Medina in math, and Amber Burns in learning strategies.

In English and humanities, the students recognized were Shawn Montague in freshman composition, Kate Agee in sophomore literature and Garrett Broussard in humanities.

In the honors program, the students recognized were Emily Blumentritt in American studies and Dylan Arabie in the human condition.

In kinesiology, athletics and wellness, the students recognized were Collin Means in basketball, Antonio Gonzalez in kinesiology, and Celeste Isis Rodriguez in volleyball.

In math, engineering, natural and physical sciences, the students recognized were Makenzie Brown in chemistry, August Voytek in general biology, Nathan Helms in geology and Avia Perry in anatomy and physiology.

In social and behavioral sciences, the students recognized were August Voytek in government, Caleb Durbin in history, Kyle Grammond in psychology, and Erika M. Castillo in sociology.

In speech communication, languages and teacher education, the students recognized were Karen Renee Tyler in Spanish, Alyssa Hooks in speech, Victoria Calzoncint in teacher education, and Ashley Humphrey in child development.

In visual and performing arts, the students recognized were Luis Banos in art, Abigail Vernier in theater arts, Andrew Adams-Whitehead in music-instrumental, and Kalon Samouel in music-piano.

In allied health, the students recognized were Kathryn Mixon in health information technology, Rachel Turner in mental health services drug and alcohol abuse counselors program and Detreal Veal-Mathews in mental health services drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

In business technology, the students recognized were Jennifer Perry in accounting technology, Jennifer Jimenez in business administration, Jessica Fuselier in business management, Valeria Brajas in international business, Linda Ramirez in drafting, Elizabeth Estrada in professional administrative technology, Kalli Sellers in paralegal studies and Beverly Squyres in process piping design.

In nursing, the students recognized were Stephanie Ploehm in associate degree nursing and Brady Oliver in vocational nursing.

In process technology, the students recognized were Adam Edward Peralta in manufacturing industry technology, Justin W. Kay in applied general chemistry, Cody A. Abt in process technology, and Romel Benavides in safety management.

In technical studies, the students recognized were Oscar Jaimes in electrical technology, Lonnie Freeman in industrial instrumentation, Jessica Aguirre in instrumentation technology, Stephanie Catchings in analytical instrumentation technology and Leroy Montgomery in electrical construction.

In industrial studies, the student recognized was Randy Howell in welding.

The outstanding student of the year for IMPACT Early College High School was Erik Carbajal.

Beyond the Classroom: Students Present at Local & National Conferences

Lee College Honors Program students have been busy this year, with several of them presenting their academic research at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference (NULC) at Weber State University in Utah and others presenting their work at the regional Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Council Symposium at College of the Mainland.

Dylan Arabie, Emily Blumentritt, Garrett Broussard, Dinah Lemonier, and Amy Waltz-Reasonover presented their work at NULC, along with IMPACT Early College High School seniors Chyna Lewis and Divya Singh. Presenting beside students from four-year universities, the students demonstrated depth and poise as they shared their ideas and networked with peers from other institutions. All of the students had written their research for the Lee College Honors Program courses.

Waltz-Reasonover said of her experience at NULC, "Trips like this give students the opportunity to interact with instructors and students from institutions all over the country, as well as the opportunity to hear leaders in their field discussing the processes by which they attained their success. This is an interaction we cannot receive in the classroom, and one that goes a long way to ensuring our futures in those same fields."



prepared additional research that was different than what they had shown at NULC. Competing against students from several other colleges, Gelves won an Honorable Mention for her analysis of Clifford Beers' autobiography.

"This conference gave me confidence in myself; now, I feel that once I branch out into bigger things, I can succeed."

Honors Program Coordinator Georgeann Ward said, "The other instructors and I are proud of all of our students for taking on the challenge and additional work required to prepare for a regional or national academic conference. Their dedication to learning is apparent, and they should feel confident in their abilities as they move to the next levels of their education."



Similarly, Lemonier said, "Student travel to academic conferences is an incredible gift to students because it breaks the notion of isolated education and is a foundation for many young writers like myself. This conference gave me confidence in myself; now, I feel that once I branch out into bigger things, I can succeed. I always envisioned myself being a part of greater things; the NULC conference was an essential first step."

At the GCIC Symposium, IMPACT juniors Maria Gelves and Hannia Granados presented their work along with Blumentritt, Lemonier, and Waltz-Reasonover, who had



Environment meets history in award-winning paper

Galveston Bay has both shaped and been shaped by the forces of the environment, history and industry – and a Lee College student earned a prestigious award from the Texas State Historical Association for her paper about those forces.

“I set out to try to discover more about what the natural environment of the Baytown-Houston area looked like,” said Emily Blumentritt, who wrote the paper in her Honors American Studies class. “In doing so, I discovered a lot about how the culture and economics of the area was shaped by the environment.”

Blumentritt entered the paper, titled “Prairies and Industry: The Ecological History of the Galveston Bay Area,” in the 2018 Caldwell Memorial Award for Excellence in History. Her paper competed with freshman and sophomores from colleges and universities across the

“I’m hoping it will really help me in my studies in the future. Maybe by exploring things like history and writing, it can also bring science to people who might not normally be exposed to it or consider it.”

state for the award, which is presented to a lower division student and upper division (junior and senior) student.

Dr. Portia Hopkins, one of the professors in the American studies class, said, “There are not a lot of historical papers that are written about the ecology of Texas, so it combines that aspect of science and history.”

Blumentritt said that when she transfers to a four-year university, possibly next fall, she plans to study wildlife biology or a similar field.

Hopkins said of why the paper stood out, “I think in part it does come from that method of research that she learned in her science classes: to ask specific questions that are answerable, then look at the evidence in order to build your argument.”

American Studies is an Honors Program class that combines American History and American Literature into a single six-hour class, Hopkins said. “In the Honors Program, we try to get (students) to think interdisciplinarily, anyway.”

“She was bringing in a lot of different discussions in her paper. She’s not just talking about the history of the region and how progress and development have really shaped that, but she’s also looking at sustainability issues.”

Blumentritt said that as she continues her science studies, the studies in this course will have a benefit.

“In today’s world, I think it’s important to have a varied perspective, because we live in a world with a lot of varied problems now. I’m hoping it will really help me in my studies in the future. Maybe by exploring things like history and writing, it can also bring science to people who might not normally be exposed to it or consider it.”



Costa Rican Collaborative

Lee College's Study Abroad Program Pins Pedagogy To Inspiration

by Margene Lenamon, Biology Instructor

"If a child is to keep alive (their) inborn sense of wonder, (they) need the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with (them) the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."

– Rachel Carson

This mandate has become the mission of the Science Education Academy (SEA) to nurture future teachers to become the adults that will help our youth hold on to that inborn sense of wonder. Created nearly five years ago by Margene Lenamon, (Science Instructor, Lee College) and Teresa Lattier (Director of Teacher Education, Lee College), SEA is the culmination of a series of interesting conversations that ultimately morphed into a partnership to promote the teaching of science to future teachers, as well as having a professional development outreach platform with elementary schools in the Lee College service area to assist them with teaching more science as well.

For example, in the very first year of their partnership, during a discussion about the program with a visiting Texas A&M articulation team, Margene and Teresa were invited to the Texas A&M Soltis Center for Research and Education in San Isidro Peñas Blancas, Costa Rica (check out their website at <http://soltiscentercostarica.tamu.edu>). Joined by their community partner, Tracey Prothro (Superintendent, Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center, Baytown) they spent a week exploring

the possibilities available to them and were encouraged to develop a field trip experience for their students at Lee College. By February of the next year they made their inaugural experiential learning opportunity through an immersive science fieldwork trip with five education majors and one science major.

Their trip began with an overnight stay and exploration of the capital city of San Jose, where students enjoyed the local street festivals, learned about Costa Rica via its historical buildings and witnessed different cultural mores. But the students were also tasked to take careful note of the many accommodations made for those who have special needs-some their own future students may have-discovering multiple innovative inclusion practices, including the unique differentiation of sizes and shapes of the local currency. Up and out early the next day-the trip north to the Soltis Center included a high altitude stop, where a winding drive took the students to a chilly visitors center some 8,885 feet above sea level, and a short hike from there allowed them to peer into the active crater of Poas volcano. The series of cataracts (waterfalls) along the road leaving the area of this stratovolcano made for just one of the thousands of photo ops that during our week-long adventure, threatened to exceed the capacity of our camera's memory cards.

Students collected and analyzed data, worked and interacted with field biologists, all while exploring the unique environmental setting of a cloud rainforest.

After arriving and settling into the beautifully and environmentally conscience accommodations at the Soltis Center, students began to experience science in the context of a field research station. At various times during the week students collected and analyzed data, worked and interacted with field biologists, all while exploring the unique environmental setting of a cloud rainforest. Opportunities to hike in the beautiful mountainous terrain and to see geological features such as waterfalls and deep ravines also provided occasions to view flora and fauna unlike anything these students had ever seen firsthand before. Students also studied and observed the water cycle in a setting markedly different than is observed in Southeast Texas-even though experiencing very little rainfall, since the timing of the trip fell just within the dry season, which extends from mid-November to April.

Finding themselves only 10° from the equator, students had to adapt to their new schedule that saw sunrise and sunset, as well as breakfast and dinner, occurring at around 6 each day. Most mornings included a wake-up call by local holler monkeys and/or a resident toucan.



Breakfast in the dining hall kicked off a series of activities with each day having a new and different event, some at the center, and some requiring excursions into the surrounding region. Most excursions not only had a destination of interest, but also typically involved several unscheduled roadside stops to get up close and personal with sloths, coatimundi (or pizote to the locals), iguanas, Morpho butterflies, and a number of birds, too many to list here.

One excursion began at 4:30 a.m., experiencing sunrise from the bus in route to a local farm to milk cows. This was followed by a morning of learning and participating in the conversion of milk to cheese-which concluded with stories to repeat for a lifetime and delicious samples enjoyed by all. Another excursion exposed students to a truly unique venue for the teaching of math via the use the geometric patterns found in a series of gardens. A Costa Rican teacher retired after 22 years to create and promote the benefits of self-sustained eco-tourist farms. He blended both his passions to create this extraordinary day trip destination. His farm also allows visitors to learn about various indigenous plants as well as how to capture every possible resource, including the methane from the farm animals! Each visit is capped off with a 5-star meal produced entirely on site-including delicious pan-seared Tilapia.

Each day delivers a truly rewarding experience. However, one of, if not the most, rewarding is the day these future teachers spent at the local one-room schoolhouse. There they got to interact with 15 students spread across grades 1-6 that all work within one classroom with one teacher. The day is spent putting pedagogical ideology into action. As well as getting to engage in several educational activities with the elementary students, we also eat lunch, make baggie ice cream for dessert, play some soccer, and walk away with a better appreciation of what second language learners experience. One of the most unique experiences students had not only that day, but throughout the trip was for Lee College's dual language students to be truly appreciated for being bilingual, and for the single language participants to experience what it is like to be immersed in a language different from their own. It is a fun yet powerful day for all involved.

The trip doesn't end without a few hours spent on the last day actually getting to be a "tourist" with opportunities to souvenir hunt, experience a world class zip-line adventure, or just take in

the spectacular views of the areas famous landmark, Arenal volcano. It is truly an immersive, experiential learning adventure for all participants, both current and future educators alike.

The SEA team will continue its “pay it forward” policy. This policy arose from the rationale for the original trip that was made to the Soltis Center. The invitation was made to the SEA program as a way to help bring more colleges and students to the Soltis Center to help perpetuate its mission. Therefore, each trip SEA has the opportunity to make, they invite at least one other participant who is legitimately interested in developing a field trip to the center of their own and/or individuals who can help provide support to perpetuate these trips. This field trip is not a vacation-it is a working week for all involved. All faculty and guests are required to provide at least one interactive, hands-on lesson to be conducted in the centers two fully equipped classrooms with the students. The trip is a culmination of months spent preparing-from paperwork to funding and multiple details in between and it is no small feat to make a trip like this happen. But it is worth every effort!



After being the “pay it forward” attendee three years ago, this trip will be the second by Dr. Gregg Lattier and several business students. The majority of the trip is combined with all students taking part in the same excursions. However, the day the education students spend at the elementary school, the business students visit a coffee plantation and processing plant, one of the biggest businesses in Costa Rica. This combination of two different programs going simultaneously provides a number of benefits not the least of which is making it much more affordable for all attendees. During the last trip, each team understandably viewed the day’s activities through the lens of their own discipline and each team had their own meetings to discuss the day’s events; however, at dinner and on many of the bus rides, what developed between many of the participants were exceptionally rich conversations that were truly phenomenal to witness. Students spontaneously began to enrich each other’s learning experiences as they discovered where each of their worlds had overlap and commonalities,

and the faculty encouraged various presentations from both teams to be made to the entire group which led to some very creative feedback-truly taking cross discipline learning to a whole new level.

The SEA program truly subscribes to the belief that “Inspiration is not taught, it’s learned!”

This years “pay it forward” attendee will raise the possibility of yet another college being afforded the opportunity to make the most of Texas A&M’s stellar international facility. Dr. Lillian McEnery, the director of the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) Success Through Education Program (STEP) (an initiative we are a current partner of with our BAERR program), will join us to discuss the prospects of a joint UHCL/ Lee College future educators field trip for next year. She is also our co-principle investigator on the UHCL side in a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant-writing partnership. The grant proposal to be submitted in March will help fund a bridge program connecting SEA and future teachers at both Lee College and UHCL through professional development opportunities designed to increase their science teaching efficacy by providing additional background science content to supplement their degree plans. We have lots of spectacular plans to discuss that will provide numerous opportunities for our future teacher students.

SEA has been and continues to be a partnership where opportunities abound. Future plans include exploring additional grant funding to keep the Costa Rica program on track, as well finalizing a service learning type program to encourage future teachers in becoming Junior Science Ninjas! Students will have several opportunities to accrue hours of outreach through participation with the Science Ninja, in area STEM Family nights hosted by many elementary schools, by working the hands-on science stations at the STEM Zone area of the Nurture Nature event at the Baytown Nature Center and/or by assisting or instructing at the annual Lee College STEM day, as well as summer STEM camps currently in development. The SEA program truly subscribes to the belief that “Inspiration is not taught, it’s learned!” Therefore to inspire, you must have been inspired! We believe the Costa Rica experience and other immersive and experiential learning opportunities being developed by the SEA program will provide that inspiration for our students to persist and become the next group of inspirational educators for their students!

OUR BELIEF IN SECOND CHANCES

HUNTSVILLE CENTER



Huntsville horticulture program grows trees for habitat restoration

For much of the Houston area, the water that flows into homes from municipal water supplies comes from Lake Livingston, the second largest lake entirely within the borders of Texas. Lee College plays a unique role in keeping that water healthy and flowing.

Since 2013, Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs has restored habitat for fish and wildlife populations, improve fishing and water quality, and reduce erosion by regularly planting vegetation in non-bulkhead areas to inhibit silt flow and provide a shelter for small fish and fingerlings to restore the fishery of the lake.

The group has planted 10,100 American Water-willows at 18 sites, mostly in the southern portions of Lake Livingston. Those trees have their roots in the horticulture program Lee College operates at the Ellis Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Lee College Huntsville Center Dean Donna Zuniga said, "It is always a positive message to showcase the incarcerated students giving back to the communities. Keep in mind, all the propagation, planting and growing of the willow trees is occurring in our horticulture classes at Ellis."

Texan by Nature, an Austin-based nonprofit, designated the Lake Livingston Friends of Reservoirs efforts as a "Conservation Wrangler."

In doing so, the group noted that most of the project's research and development is now done by Lee College Instructor Scooter Langley and the inmate horticulture students at Huntsville's Texas Department of Criminal Justice Ellis Unit, who are exploring growth methods to produce larger, healthier plants in less time.

Founded by former First Lady Laura Bush, Texan by Nature's mission is to spur Texan-led conservation that produces tangible benefits for people, prosperity, and natural resources by activating new investments in conservation. According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, Texas anglers spend over \$1.5 billion annually in pursuit of their sport.

Zuniga said that in May, instructor Langley and several other Huntsville Center faculty members were among the group of volunteers planting willows at the lake.

Tina Buford, Texan by Nature's board president, said, "This innovative conservation project combines broad-based community engagement in collaboration with state agencies to help improve water quality, restore recreational fishing, and provide economic benefit to the region."

Lee College Huntsville Program contributes to Habitat for Humanity home

As Habitat for Humanity of Baytown dedicated its newest home this year, a special contribution by students of the Lee College Huntsville Program was part of the residence.

Lee College was a pioneer in providing college education for prison inmates and continues to operate a successful program at several units in and around Huntsville. In one of those, the Ferguson Unit, the college offers classes in cabinet making.

“The students were excited about building the kitchen cabinets since they knew the cabinets were for a Habitat house,” said Jason Turner, cabinet making instructor.

“Sandy Denson and several of the Habitat volunteers visited the Lee College Cabinet Making Class to speak with the class

when they were here during Spring Break.

Turner, the cabinet making instructor, said the work with Habitat for Humanity benefited the students.

“The visit had a great impact on the students since they were able to take part in the project from the beginning. The students really appreciated Sandy and the rest of the group taking the time to come and see them and the Cabinet Making program that is offered through the Lee College Prison Program at the Ferguson Unit,” he said.

“Since part of what Lee College emphasizes to the offenders that are on the road to rehabilitation is to give back to the communities, this project really hit the mark for the students.”



of 18 offender students about the need the organization had for the Habitat houses.”

Denson, who is resource development director for Habitat for Humanity of Baytown, said the work saved more than half the cost of cabinets for this home, with Habitat for Humanity only having to pay for materials.

This is the first time the Huntsville program has participated in the construction of a Habitat home, she said, but Lee College has long provided support for the organization’s efforts to provide affordable housing.

Lee students and faculty members are regular volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, with groups from the Rotaract program, the nursing program and the volleyball team participating more than once a year.

In addition, the college provides support in other ways, such as when it allowed a visiting group from St. Louis to use showers

Habitat for Humanity of Baytown is an independent unit of Habitat for Humanity, which builds homes for people with limited incomes. Much of the labor and materials is donated.

The family receiving the home is required, before the home is completed, to contribute a set number of hours of “sweat equity” either in their future home or in another Habitat for Humanity house.

The family then is required to pay Habitat for Humanity back for the work and materials that it had to pay for. That “mortgage” is repaid without interest charges and is used to finance construction of additional homes.

Since its beginnings in 1990, Habitat for Humanity of Baytown has built 40 homes. Nationwide, the Habitat for Humanity organization is one of the largest homebuilders in the country, transforming the lives of not only residents, but also volunteers and contributors.

SUPPORTING OUR WORKFORCE

CENTER FOR WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Texas Mutual Awards \$100K to Fund Risk Management Program at Lee College

Lee College one of 10 colleges statewide receiving Texas Mutual safety education grants

Texas Mutual Insurance Company awarded a \$100,000 grant to Lee College to further establish a risk management institute, which will provide workplace safety courses for local employers, workers and the general public. Craig Witherspoon, Texas Mutual's manager of safety services for the Houston region, and Lee College President Dr. Dennis Brown announced the \$100,000 grant at the Lee College Board of Regents meeting Feb. 15.

This is the second year Lee College has received a safety education grant from Texas Mutual to help establish a risk management program for increased safety awareness and to reduce work-related accidents and injuries. The goal of the program is to provide a wide range of possible courses relative to the workforce in Baytown.



(L to R) Dr. Angela Oriano, Lee College Vice President Workforce and Community Development; Pam Warford, Lee College Foundation Executive Director; Dr. Dennis Brown, Lee College President; Craig Witherspoon, Texas Mutual Manager of Safety Services Houston Region; Pete Alfaro, Lee College Board of Regents Chairman; Kimberly Techiera; Lee College Community Education Director; Dr. Christina Ponce, Lee College Executive Vice President.

"We are very proud of our partnership with Texas Mutual and the great success of the risk management institute."

"We are thrilled to Welcome Texas Mutual back to Lee College. The caliber of service Texas Mutual commits to Texas and communities like Baytown, truly does make a difference in individual lives as well as the overall safety of our local workforce. We are very proud of our partnership with Texas Mutual and the great success of the risk management institute," said Dr. Brown.

Since 1999, Texas Mutual-the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance-has awarded \$6.6 million in safety education grants, and more than 30,000 students have attended free safety institutes offered at various community colleges. Lee College is one of 10 community colleges in Texas that provides safety classes via funding from Texas Mutual.

Lee College's Center for Workforce and Community Development introduced its risk management institute in October with an open house and partnered with Lowes-Baytown to present a Safety First

information session for small businesses and Hurricane Harvey victims. Since then the institute has offered courses in OSHA recordkeeping, surviving violent encounters and conflict resolution. These courses will cover topics such as OSHA 10, fall prevention, and safety communications, to name a few, supporting a national construction safety initiative. Training is scheduled on weekdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and will be offered at Lee College's Center for Workforce and Community Development, and its McNair Center and Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County locations.

"Workplace safety education has always been and will continue to be a sound investment, and we are happy to partner with Lee College again to make safety programs a priority in the Baytown area," Witherspoon said. "The courses that will be available to area employees, along with other safety institutes around the state, help workers across Texas be safer and more successful on the job. These grants and the other safety programs from Texas Mutual demonstrate our commitment to ensuring millions of workers get the education they need to work safely."

For more information about the risk management institute at Lee College and a full course listing, call 281.425.6311 or log on to www.lee.edu/workforce.

Women in Manufacturing makes an impact

Even though the Lee College Women in Manufacturing (WiM) organization has been active for less than a year, it has already achieved visibility as one of the more active student organizations on campus.

WiM works with the sponsorship and mentorship of BASF, an international chemical manufacturer with nearby facilities in Pasadena, Freeport and Port Arthur.

Scott Van Wagener, site manager of the Pasadena facility was on hand for the group's banquet, and explained what motivated the company to reach out to students — particularly women students — at Lee College.

"The idea is to approach women that would possibly work in manufacturing, whether it be in process technician, instrument tech or analyzer tech, and to provide them support."

"These degrees make a lot of money, and people need to be aware that these are viable careers, not just for men but for women."



That support comes in the form of plant tours, speakers and more. "What we're doing is trying to partner them up with different people within BASF and get them coaching and to get them that exposure and get them to understand what it's like to work in the plants — just to better prepare them."

Like many other facilities in the area, BASF is facing the double challenge of industry growth right at a time when many current employees are reaching retirement.

"Getting people in the pipeline is an absolute issue," Van Wagener said. "These three degrees, instrument, analyzer and process technician, are by far the top degrees that we have issues bringing anybody in. I think it's a nationwide issue."

"These degrees make a lot of money, and people need to be aware that these are viable careers, not just for men but for women."

One Lee College student who is preparing for the manufacturing field is Stephanie Catchings, who serves as public affairs officer for Women in Manufacturing.

"I've been able to talk to students — both members and non-members — and help guide them through the scholarship and resume process, interview skills and anything else they need or are having trouble with," she said.

Catchings said that barriers remain for women in the manufacturing field. "We still have the same things to overcome."

"In this club, hopefully it will provide a support group. I hope that after we graduate, we can still lean on each other for support," Catchings said.

PRIDE IN OUR PEOPLE

English instructor contributes to poetry anthology

Lee College English and Humanities instructor Jerry Hamby joined 14 other poets in a reading that launched a new book in April, *Southern Poetry Anthology, VII: Texas*.



Hamby, whose poems have been published many times since the early 1990s, was invited to submit works for the volume, which is an anthology of works by a multitude of Texas authors.

Two of his original poems were selected for publication in the anthology: “Edge of the World” and “Water’s Edge.”

Southern Poetry Anthology, VII: Texas, is published by Texas Review Press, affiliated with Sam Houston State

University, and is available through the Texas A&M University Consortium Press.

Hamby’s appreciation for nature is not just found in words, but also in deeds. In April he was awarded a milestone pin by the Gulf Coast Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists for having completed 1,000 volunteer service hours.

Laura Lane-Worley

In addition to being a full-time faculty member for sociology and social work, Laura Lane-Worley takes a leading role in Lee College’s efforts to use technology to reach more students than ever—not just with the convenience of online or hybrid courses, but by using the same technology to make the courses better and accessible to more students.

For these efforts, Lane-Worley was Lee College’s 2018 nominee for the Piper Professor Award. That nominee is chosen each year by the Faculty Assembly.

She developed professional development training related to ensuring that online materials are accessible to students with disabilities, such as those who have vision, hearing or other limitations. The software the college uses for online courses has extensive built-in tools to help those students, but materials must be entered in a way that makes those tools useable.

For both accessibility and quality online course components, Lane-Worley said, “The goal eventually is to have all full-time faculty trained, and then develop training for adjuncts from that.”



James Dobberstine

One of the challenges that faces all college students—and especially those in community colleges who plan to continue their education—is making sure that the classes they take now will build toward the degree they are seeking.



James Dobberstine, chair of the Math, Engineering and Sciences Division, will help students in meeting that challenge after being named to the Biology Field of Study advisory committee for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2018.

“The objective of the Field of Study groups are to develop degree plans whereby students, if they take the agreed-to field of study, that the classes they take—that

entire block of classes—would transfer to any state institution... within that degree plan,” Dobberstine said.

“I was selected to serve on the Biology Field of Study committee among a number of applicants across the state. I was also chosen to serve as the co-chair for the committee.” The committee has two co-chairs—one from a two-year institution and one from a four-year institution.

“We looked at what courses [among those approved by the Coordinating Board for freshman and sophomore level] to determine, in the first two years of a student’s degree, what courses would be applicable to the most number of degree plans at the most number of institutions statewide,” Dobberstine continued.

In addition to helping individual students avoid having to take classes that don’t count toward their degree, Dobberstine said the effort will particularly help working and lower-income students who are more likely to receive parts of their degree from several different colleges and universities due to job or family requirements that lead to moving.

After considerable discussion and debate, Dobberstine said, the group developed a degree plan recommendation. That plan was sent for public comment to colleges and universities across the state. After adjustments arising from the comment period, the plan was ultimately approved.

Dobberstine will serve as co-chair of the committee for three years.

Wahrmund Excellence Award

The Wahrmund Excellence in Education Award is given to two persons each year: One who has been with Lee College for 10 years or less and one who has been with the college more than 10 years. Recipients in 2018 were Roy Barefield and Marissa Moreno respectively.



Marissa Moreno

In introducing Moreno as the award winner, Counselor Sarah Tidwell said, "Her leadership has catapulted the Advising/Counseling Center into the 21st Century by instituting a one-touch case management approach to serving students, developing a collaborative relationship with teaching faculty, and proudly serving as the IMPACT Early College High School liaison."

Moreno said, "What it meant for me was that faculty recognized the importance of our collaboration. For me, that was a compliment."

Putting advisers and counselors within specific divisions has improved their service to both students and faculty.

"They're able to provide a service within the division," she said. "They can also be available to assist faculty with their students. Faculty's been super supportive of it—we're very blessed. We're very grateful to faculty for accepting us."

"Advisers and counselors are now able to be specialists within that division. They're able to also become very familiar with those degree plans within that division."

Roy Barefield

As a full-time faculty member in the Nursing Program, Roy Barefield brings extensive real-world experience to his teaching.

Among his innovating teaching techniques is a "skills rodeo" event which brings together students' skills at the end of their final semester where they work in teams to solve clinical scenarios within a specified time. The event brings forward fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to pass the NCLEX-RN exam and is used in several nursing courses.

Barefield has also worked with Houston Methodist Baytown hospital to develop a telemetry training program for medical surgical nurses, and has been named by the Houston Chronicle as one of the Houston area's Top 10 Nurses.

Graeme Cox

Graeme Cox, Division Chair for Kinesiology and Wellness and Athletic Director, was named 2018 University Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Cox said he has been heavily involved in the organization for many years, and takes students to the group's conference each year.

"Many of the sessions that you go to are actual physical participation type classes, so I've had students teach any number of activities there."

Since a lot of the people who attend the conference are



teachers at the elementary or high school level, Cox has encouraged students to create activities appropriate for youngsters.

"We've done what I call pee-wee Pilates. We took some Pilates exercises and made some fun kid games," he said. "We took our college-level stuff and made it appropriate for elementary or high school."

One student did a presentation on study abroad, and 20 students led a "boot camp" for participants and taught how to teach the activity.

Cox was also elected to a three-year term as the vice president of the TAHPERD college division. Membership in the organization includes educators from all levels, including public schools, community colleges and four-year universities.



TRiO recognizes 'Best Supporting Faculty'

Lee College developmental math instructor Ingrid Wallace was recognized with an award for "Best Supporting Faculty of Spring 2018" at the TRiO 2018 Spring Leadership Award Ceremony.

Division chair Rochelle Friudenberg said, "Way to go, Ingrid, and the rest of the Developmental Education instructors, for making a difference in our Lee College student body."

LEE COLLEGE ALLIANCE

Now and Forever!

About Lee College Alliance

Lee College Alliance is a group of former Rebels, current students, parents, and friends who are dedicated to the advancement of Lee College as an institution of excellence in higher education. They are proud to serve as ambassadors for a place they once called home, a place filled with happy memories, and a place that had a significant impact on who and where they are now.

Throughout the year, the Alliance board plans and coordinates events and initiatives that are both enjoyable and beneficial to Lee College, its students, alumni, and the community at large. These efforts allow Lee College Alliance to offer support to numerous campus programs and departments, particularly those that give a much-needed boost to students facing a variety of challenges and obstacles as they pursue their degree or certification. This past year, the association provided assistance to the Center for Workforce and Community Development, Visual & Performing Arts, the Lee College Foundation, the Veteran's Center, and Lee College Athletics. Thanks to the generosity of our members, Lee College Alliance proudly established its first endowed scholarship through the Lee College Foundation. The award will help a transferring student continue their educational pursuits.

Be a part of a worldwide family of Rebels helping Rebels

As an active member, you will be part of an inner circle of alumni and friends dedicated to the advancement of your alma mater. Here are some easy ways that you can join the thousands of alumni and community friends who work together to support Lee College:

Be Connected

Become an Alliance member TODAY! When you become a member, we are better able to keep you connected and informed about campus news, fellow alumni, upcoming events, and much more.

Be Informed

Read Connected, our monthly e-newsletter and community calendar. Take time to visit the campus and learn about all that is new and exciting at Lee College. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Be Involved

Whether it's participating in alumni activities, receiving help with your resume, mentoring students, attending personal enrichment classes, enjoying the performing arts, or traveling the world with our travel program, your participation makes a difference!

"I was honored to be asked to be a part of the association and to give back to Lee College as well as our community."

– Renee Rhodes '81

2018-2019

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LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Lee College Foundation Changes Lives, Thanks to Our Loyal Donors

The Lee College Foundation celebrated 50 years of unwavering service to Lee College and its students this year. Since its inception in 1968, the Foundation has supported its mission of providing assistance to students working towards four-year degrees, technical students who seek to find a job after obtaining associate degrees or certificates, part-time students who may have jobs or are supporting families, and dual-credit students. The 20-member Foundation Board manages a portfolio balance in excess of \$13 million and awarded over \$700,000 in scholarship funds during the 2018 calendar year. Tuition and textbook scholarships are available for eligible students - no matter their program of study, whether they are full or part time, dual-credit or non-credit, or enrolled in the Huntsville Education Program. The Lee College Foundation is more robust than ever which is attributed to the support and volunteer efforts of community individuals and the business and industry leaders who have recognized the importance of postsecondary education.



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Warford named Student Success Person of the Year

For many students, the first and greatest barrier to attending and completing college is financial rather than academic. For her work in developing resources to help students pay for the education they need to attain their life goals, the college has recognized Pam Warford for her contributions to student success.



Warford is executive director of the Lee College Foundation and Resource Development.

DeDe Griffith, director of Student Success, said of Warford "Her heartfelt desire to see students succeed and her diligent work at meeting their financial needs has fostered a culture of caring for students who may not have even attended college had it not been for scholarships."

In nearly two decades at Lee College, Warford has helped secure funding for scholarships and other forms of support. With her leadership the portfolio balance

of the Lee College Foundation increased from \$4.7 million to more than \$13 million since she started in her position in 1999.

When Hurricane Ike struck the Texas Gulf Coast in 2008, Warford was instrumental in creating the Student Success Fund to help those facing extraordinary circumstances pay for college-related expenses. She helped implement the first online scholarship application and expanded the types of support and availability of scholarships to ensure all students are eligible for assistance – whether enrolled full-time, part-time, in dual-credit classes for high school students to earn college credits, in non-credit classes offered by the Center for Workforce and Community Development, or in the Lee College Huntsville Center for students incarcerated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"Seeing students get excited about their futures is the ultimate gratification," Warford said. "Their success makes everything we do worthwhile."

WAYS TO GIVE

Lee College has a special place in the hearts of most Baytown-area residents. For many, it was the beginning of a journey in learning that took them to new heights of personal achievement. It was the place where ideas were tested and new dreams were forged.

Gifts to the Lee College Foundation make a lasting difference for future generations. There are several ways to give and ensure that students finish what they started: their journey to a better and brighter future.

Check or Credit Card

Traditional donations are always accepted. Call the office and provide your credit card information, or use the online donation system at: www.lee.edu/foundation/donate.

Checks should be made payable to Lee College Foundation and mailed to:

Lee College Foundation,
Attention: Pam Warford
P.O. Box 818, Baytown, Texas
77522-0818

Corporate Matching Gifts

Employees and their spouses who work for a company that matches charitable

donations can enclose a form with their gift and the Foundation will request a match.

Planned Gifts

Provide for the college in a will or trust, turn over a life insurance policy or make the college a beneficiary of a retirement plan. These opportunities not only help the college and its students, but can also help ease the donor's tax liability.

Stocks and Bonds

Gifts of appreciated securities can give the donor attractive tax benefits while helping students.

www.lee.edu/foundation/donate



50 YEARS OF SERVICE
LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION GALA

“September 21, 2018 marked the Lee College Foundation’s 33rd annual Gala. With total attendance at over 350 individuals, and even after the traumatic effects of Hurricane Harvey, we were flooded with generosity and support for the Foundation from members of the community who believe in the power of education. Lee College representatives expressed their appreciation for those who attended and enjoyed the silent and live auctions, a wonderful meal, and live musical entertainment. The funds raised during this event will help provide deserving Lee College students with the financial support they need to persist. It was a successful evening all around.”

– Pam Warford

Executive Director, Lee College Foundation

Student Success Scholarship Fund

While scholarships remain the primary focus of the Foundation, it is important that we recognize the needs outside of tuition and books that can hinder a student from furthering their education regardless of their demographic. The Student Success Fund was created to help Lee College students successfully navigate extraordinary circumstances that have the potential to derail their academic goals. This fund offers assistance to students to help alleviate the burden of costs affiliated with attending college beyond tuition and books like cosmetology kits and protective welding supplies. Our hope is that by providing this support they will be able to successfully complete their courses and achieve their college goals by completing their education.

Gifts to the Lee College Foundation make a lasting difference for future generations and have a profound impact on our community. From traditional gifts to corporate matching gifts to stocks and planned giving, the Lee College Foundation values community members and industry partners who value their community college and want to participate in assisting Lee College students achieve their educational goals. The Foundation accepts both donations and grants for the benefit of the college and its students. Go to www.lee.edu/foundation/donate or call our office at 281-425-6303 to find out how you can change a student's life today.

Student Success Testimony/Student Scholarship recipient Testimony

"These scholarship programs renewed my faith in humanity. They gave me a sense of security. They taught me that when hope fades and doors close, there are good people out there willing to give a key to someone who desperately needs it. The philosophies I will create, the dreams I will materialize, the nations I will unite, shall all revere the great key of the generous Samaritan. I shall forever be grateful."

– Juniper Linus Jingco

"I am 51 years old, a mother to two boys and to two little girls I recently adopted. I wanted/needed to further my education but I didn't have the money to go back to school. After calling Lee College and working with them, I received a scholarship for tuition and books but it didn't completely cover the cost of school and that is where the Student Success Fund came in. I am currently enrolled with a full load towards my Associate Degree in Sociology. It's not easy but I am determined to accomplish my goals. I thank Lee College, the Foundation, and the Student Success Fund for allowing me the opportunity to do this for myself and for my children."

– Pamela Griffith

Current Grants at Lee College

Department of Education – First In the World (FITW)

Designed to support the development of solutions to challenges that are presented for students who are at risk for not completing postsecondary programs, including, but not limited to, adult learners, working students, part-time students, students from low-income backgrounds, students of color, students with disabilities, and first-generation students. Lee College used the funding to develop a weekend college.

Department of Education, Hispanic-Serving Institutions – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (H.S.I. STEM)

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the purpose of the H.S.I. STEM grant is to expand and enhance educational opportunities for and to improve the academic attainment of Hispanic students pursuing degrees in fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Department of Labor H-1B – Ready to Work

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor as a part of the Ready to Work initiative to support and scale innovative collaborations between employers, nonprofit organizations, and federal job

training programs to help connect people with jobs. This grant allows Lee College to offer free training to help unemployed and underemployed individuals find work quickly upon successful completion.

MD Anderson UVR

Sponsored by MD Anderson, this grant provides funding for materials and informational workshops to educate students and staff on better ultra-violet protection.

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – H.S.I. Grant

Sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, this grant provides equipment, supplies, curriculum development and scholarship monies to increase degree completion and transfer for Lee College Huntsville Center Horticulture students.

Texas Higher Education Perkins Basic Grant

Annually, the Perkins grant provides support services such as advising, childcare assistance, textbook lending, and tutoring to low income students with technical majors. The grant also funds equipment and classroom resources for technical programs.

Phillips 66

Sponsored by Phillips 66 this grant supports the instrumentation and electrical programs by providing supplies and non-capital equipment. In addition, Phillips 66 provides \$15,000 in scholarship funds to the Lee College Foundation for instrumentation and electrical students.

Texas Mutual Safety Grant Program

The Texas Mutual Insurance Company underwrites free safety training for Lee College's service area.

Small Business Development Center

The U.S. Small Business Administration provides consulting and technical assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs supporting business performance, sustainability, and creating new businesses. This funding is a pass-through from University of Houston.

Temple Foundation - GRADcafé

Underwritten by the Temple Foundation, this grant provides seed funding for the establishment of Baytown's GRADcafé which is located at 909 Decker Drive. The GRADcafé provides information, resources, and free guidance to those preparing for and applying for enrollment in a higher education institution of their choice.

Texas Workforce Commission –Small Business Program

The Texas Workforce Commission provides funding for small private businesses in Texas. Lee College's small business grant provides training funds for auto body.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – Nursing Innovation Grant Program

The Nursing Innovation Grant Program's goal is to help provide personnel and improved simulation labs that will support efforts to reduce clinical hours and to increase simulation hours.

Department of Education – Title V

Sponsored by the Department of Education Title V provides funding for activities and interventions that improve persistence, completion, and transfer of students.

TRiO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)

Educational Opportunity Centers program provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process.

TRiO Student Support Services (SSS)

Sponsored by the Department of Education, this grant provides opportunities for academic development, assist students with

basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

**Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board T-STEM**

The T-STEM grant funds up to 30 eligible T-STEM students at \$2,500 each.

Texas Workforce Commission Harvey Grant

This grant provides funding for fast track training that will benefit the community in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI)

Underwritten by ExxonMobil, a consortium of nine area community colleges use the funding for marketing and recruiting efforts spotlighting craft training in the petrochemical industry as well as faculty recruitment. The initiative also provides \$45,000 in scholarships.

Trellis Company TG Scholars Grant

Provides scholarships for eligible students enrolled at the Lee College Huntsville Center.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission Special Projects Grant

Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in partnership with Windham School District, the funding will be used to create a course-reserve program for Lee College Huntsville Center students in eight unit libraries.

Greater Texas Foundation

Thanks to the support and collaboration of community partners and Greater Texas Foundation, Lee College opened the Lee College Education Center in South Liberty County in the spring of 2016. Before the LCEC, students had to travel 35+ miles to access college courses. The Education Center, centrally located in the Lee College service area, provides residents of Liberty, Dayton and Anahuac a chance to obtain a post-secondary degree or certificate close to home.

Links to additional information about these grants is available on our website: www.lee.edu/rd/grant-development/

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