Educational Opportunity Center helping students continue education

Kilgore College has received a federal Educational Opportunities Center (EOC) grant of $1,160,250 to help unemployed workers, low-wage workers and returning high school and college students enter or continue a program of postsecondary education.

This is the first Educational Opportunity Center grant awarded to KC and it will assist 850 adult learners per year in Gregg, Rusk, Upshur and Harrison counties to find their path to higher education.

The EOC, led by Rosa Hopkins, has offices on the second floor of the Longview North Building and on the first floor of the Student Services Building on the Kilgore campus.

EOC provides counseling and information on college admissions and services to improve participants’ financial and economic literacy.

“With financial hardships discouraging students from succeeding in college, TRiO programs like EOC take on new importance because they continue to help guide unemployed and underemployed workers and returning high school and college students toward earning a degree,” said Maureen Hoyler, president of the non-profit Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in Washington, D.C. “COE is dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities nationwide.”

For more information, please contact Rosa Hopkins.

Kays appointed to state finance commission

Dr. Brenda Kays has been appointed to the Texas Commission on Community College Finance – announced Nov. 11 by Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, Dade Phelan.

“It is a distinct honor to be named to this commission, and I am extremely thankful to Rep. Phelan for providing me with this opportunity to hone community college funding recommendations for consideration by the 88th Texas Legislature,” Kays said.

“The work of this commission is crucial due to its potential significance for the 50 community colleges in Texas. Our ability to drive economic and workforce development, as well as provide pipelines of access into the state’s premier university systems, will be impacted by the work of this commission.”
Dr. Brenda Kays

President's Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

Congratulations and Sincere Gratitude to KC Faculty & Staff!

In November of this year, the Texas Success Center honored the exemplary work of six community colleges for their implementation and scaling of guided pathways. Kilgore College was one of the six colleges recognized.

The award that we received was for excellence in mapping pathways to student end goals. The award was based on the fact that we rank number three in the state regarding the percentage of students earning 30 or more credit hours in their first year! The press release went on to say that KC stands out for its well-designed programs, detailed information to students on the website, program maps and the alignment of mathematics within each program of study. These practices drive improvement and enable students to achieve their postsecondary goals.

Those were very kind and well-deserved words of praise for everyone who contributed to implementing the practices noted. However, I believe that those words only scratched the surface and didn’t do a good job of actually articulating why the “magic” happens at KC. It’s not about the practices in and of themselves. Instead, it is the people who are implementing those practices that make a difference. It is all about the relationships and the connections that you build with our students. It is each of you who genuinely cares and demonstrates that concern to our students.

I see or hear about these moments of care daily. A faculty member in the classroom spends extra time when a student has difficulty mastering a concept—advisors who cheer and celebrate each student’s victory. Counselors encourage those students who don’t think that they can go on to try to stick it out one more day. Librarians who help find just the right journal article for the paper that is due tomorrow. The IT Help Desk individual fixes the technical issue that seemed impossible only a few moments ago. The smile we provide to students walking across campus or who stop by our offices for a chat. In short, and believe me, I could go on, it is our people, it is each of you, who make the difference. You are at the heart of this award, and I am genuinely grateful to each of you because while the physical award is pretty, it can’t begin to touch the reward of seeing our students achieve their goals and dreams!

I have sincere gratitude for how you take care of our students, especially the extra special care you have demonstrated over these past 21 months.

My wish for you this Christmas is to be surrounded by those people you cherish the most while sharing the beautiful moments of the holiday season!

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication to our students. They deserve our very best. Enjoy every minute of your break. You deserve it.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER! @KCBrendaKays

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COLLEGE NEWS

Deck the Halls! A Holiday Concert
Dec. 2, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Van Cliburn Auditorium
Free Admission

The Kilgore College Music and Dance Department will present, “Deck the Halls,” at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, in Van Cliburn Auditorium. Performances will include the KC choirs and the KC Guitar Ensemble. The program will include holiday favorites and popular Christmas tunes. Admission to the concert is free.

Shop for Christmas at the oil museum

The East Texas Oil Museum at KC has expanded and increased its gift shop offerings, just in time for Christmas. The museum welcomes you to come explore not only the museum (FREE for KC employees and students), but also to shop for that special gift this holiday season in its gift shop. One special item is the limited-edition 2021 East Texas Oil Museum Derrick wood ornament, handcrafted right here in Kilgore from the wood of the derrick that once stood in front of the museum.

For more items to purchase, click here to look around the entire digital gift shop. From books, to jewelry to locally crafted items, the ETOM is the place to find that perfect gift.

The museum is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info, visit www.kilgore.edu/oilmuseum.

FACULTY & STAFF REPORTS

Merlyn Holmes, executive director of the KC Foundation and community relations, has been appointed to the Texas Municipal League (TML) Executive Committee, and has been asked to serve on the Texas Association of Community College Foundations (TACCF) Scholarship Committee.

The TML has been around since 1913 to help city leaders meet the ever-changing challenges of governance. The League exists to provide legal, legislative and training services to city governments in Texas.

TACCF is a professional association consisting of executive directors and fundraising professionals employed within Texas community colleges, districts and foundations.
On-Campus Calendar

1, Nursing NCLEX Review, Devall Ballroom, 7:30 a.m.
   KC Christmas Get-Together, Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza, 2:30 p.m.
2, KC Foundation Board Meeting, Devall Ballroom, 11:30 a.m.
   “Deck the Halls” Choir/Guitar Concert, Dodson Auditorium, 7 p.m.
4, SAT Administration, Old Main, 8 a.m.
   Basketball (W) vs. Dallas Angels, Masters Gymnasium, Noon
   Basketball (M) vs. Victoria College, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
6, Band Concert, Devall Ballroom, 7 p.m.
8, Basketball (W) vs. Paris Junior College, Masters Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
9, Nursing Pinning/Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m.
   Cafeteria Closes at 6 p.m.
   Residence Halls Close at 10 p.m.
10, Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 6 p.m.
   Campuses Close at 2:45 p.m.
11, Basketball (M) vs. Lee College, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
12, Rangerette Christmas Show, Dodson Auditorium, 2 & 5 p.m.
14, KC Board of Trustees Meeting, McLaurin Building, 6:30 p.m.
28, Basketball (M) vs. Southwest CC, Masters Gymnasium, 6 p.m.

FACULTY & STAFF REPORTS

April Morey, who works in the cashier’s office, was the lucky winner of the Ranger Ambassadors Bake Sale raffle on Nov. 17. She won a gift basket full of treats. The Ranger Ambassadors, sponsored by Callie Blakeley, are student leaders from varied backgrounds and academic disciplines who help with recruitment efforts, KC tours, special events and community service.

Birthdays

December
1-2 Dawn Wilson
1-3 Nicholas Simpson
1-3 Sandra Teel
1-3 Wade Gates
1-11 Monica Brock
1-12 Laurie Kimball
1-12 Jennifer Deupree
1-13 John Raulston
1-14 Julian Redfearn
1-14 Rachel Stollard
1-16 Ada Duarte De Ortiz
1-16 Jude Dubois
1-16 Lillian Jackson
1-18 Janet Wiley
1-20 Chris Gore
1-21 Joel Estrada
1-22 Halen Dorsey
1-22 Amanda Jackson
1-22 John Whitehead
1-24 Gena Berry
1-26 Gin Germany
1-28 Michael Smith
1-30 Kevin Powers
1-31 Larry Dorsey
1-31 Rebekah Metcalf

January
1-3 Lynn McCutchen
1-3 William Stowe
1-9 Cary Challis
1-9 Collin Harris
1-9 Russell Waggoner
1-10 Mary Isichei
1-11 Paul Buchanan
1-13 Sheri Gillis
1-16 Kenny Byrd
1-17 Matthew Gayetsky
1-18 Sheri Burlingame
1-18 Terrance Hopkins
1-18 Shelley Wayne
1-20 Sarah Whitfield
1-21 Heidi Everett
1-21 Terry Hanson
1-21 Sandra Ruddell
1-22 Caroline Hardee
1-27 Vickie Gamling
1-28 Charmyn Tumey

Cultural Awareness Day

Cultural Awareness Day was a huge success thanks to the International Student Club, faculty, staff and students who were able to stop by.

The International Student Club thanks each of you who were able to come support the international student body and listen as our students shared passionately about their countries.

They want to continue to do more activities in the near future so watch for more involvement opportunities! The International Student Club is sponsored by Wade Cates, Community Education and International Student Support Specialist.

DATA: Did you know?

Enrollment Snapshots for recent Fall and Spring terms can be found on the Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Excellence web page. If you’re looking for enrollment numbers or student statistics on race/ethnicity, gender, age, major type, etc., you may find what you need there. Just look under the “Enrollment Data” section on the web page here.

Data provided by:
KC Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Excellence
Welcome New Full-Time Employees!

Alisha Barrows
Financial Aid and Appeals Specialist – Began Nov. 16

Gena Berry
Support Specialist, Health Sciences – Began Nov. 16

Larry Dorsey
Veteran Certifying Official & Benefits Specialist – Began Nov. 16

Stephanie Freed
Executive Assistant, VP of Organizational Effectiveness & Excellence – Began Oct. 16

Julie Franklin
Support Specialist, Public Services & Industrial Technology – Began Sept. 1

Kaylee Fyffe
Advisor, Health Sciences – Began Nov. 1

Jennifer Halton
Professional Support Assistant, Health Sciences – Began Oct. 1

Taylor Hamlet
Professional Support Assistant, Dean of Health Sciences – Began Oct. 6

Rosa Hopkins
 Coordinator of Education Opportunity Center, TRIO – Began Oct. 16

Miecha Jackson
Support Specialist, Testing Center – Began Sept. 1

Nicole James
Workforce Development Specialist, Health Science – Began Oct. 16

Shannon Joos
Professional Support Assistant, Athletics – Began Dec. 1

Lynn Kenney
Executive Assistant, VP of Administrative Services/CFO – Began Nov. 16

Mandy Key
Education Opportunity Center Advisor, TRIO – Began Nov. 1

Laurie Kimball
Professional Support Assistant, Registrar – Began Sept. 1

Bill McPherson
Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety & Risk Management – Begins Dec. 13

Courtney Pruitt
Interim Athletic Director – Began Nov. 1

Ruby Ramirez
Education Opportunity Center Advisor, TRIO – Began Nov. 16

Selena Rutherford
Counselor – Began Nov. 1

Abby Smith
Alumni Specialist – Began Dec. 1

Jeremy Thomas
Database Administrator – Began Nov. 1

Nina Thomas
Human Resources Generalist – Began Nov. 16

Julie Webb
Fire Academy Instructor & Dual Credit Coordinator – Began Nov. 1

Scott Withers
Controller – Began Sept. 1

NOT PICTURED:
Terence Mathis
Coordinator of Campus Life – Began Nov. 1

PHOTOS BY RACHEL STALLARD KC MARKETING