FEBRUARY 2020

KC Foundation raises $24,000+ for dual credit scholarships

The KC Foundation raised more than $24,000 for dual credit scholarships Jan. 17 at the third annual “Continuing the Dream through Education” Martin Luther King, Jr. Dual Credit Scholarship Breakfast.

The breakfast, established at KC in 2018, raises funds for students without adequate resources to enroll in dual credit classes and provides financial assistance (for students who earned some college credit while in high school) to continue their education at KC.

This year’s amount raised is a 12 percent increase over last year. Three students spoke at the breakfast about the importance of dual credit and talked about how the courses have prepared them for their next educational step.

Student speakers included Laura Martinez, of Longview; Toni Gore, of Kilgore; and Emalea Boatman, of Kilgore.

Martinez began taking dual credit classes as a freshman at Longview High School. Last May, she graduated from both LHS (with a perfect 4.0 GPA) and KC with an Associate of Science.

“I am proud to say that I am the first generation in my family to have walked the stage for two graduations and attend college,” Martinez said. “Taking dual-credit courses in high school opened my eyes and helped me learn to be independent and take responsibility for my education.”

Martinez is also now a certified EMT and is majoring in Emergency Medical Services Professions.

Oil museum draws large crowd for theater reopening

The East Texas Oil Museum at Kilgore College had a packed house for the ribbon-cutting and grand reopening Feb. 1 of one of the most visited attractions at the museum, the Boomtown Theater.

U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, Kilgore Mayor Ronnie Spradlin and KC President Dr. Brenda Kays were in attendance for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Upgrades to the theater — part of a two-year museum renovation project — include refinished seating to maintain a vintage feel, a digital projector and an improved version of the theater’s movie, "The Great East Texas Oil Boom.

PTK named Five-Star Chapter

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) announced this week that the KC chapter, Gamma Omicron, has achieved Five-Star Chapter status.

The KC chapter will be recognized for the honor at the annual spring regional convention and at PTK’s annual international convention, “PTK Catalyst,” set for April 2-4 in Dallas at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center.

The PTK Five-Star Chapter Plan offers five levels of engagement with each level consisting of prescribed activities to build a strong, active chapter taking advantage of all PTK has to offer.

Also, all three of the Gamma Omicron Fall Common Scholarship nominees were elected to the All-Texas Academic Team with only 100 students selected out of 50 colleges in Texas.

All-Texas Academic Team members from KC include Kyle Kaufman, sophomore nursing

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

Tashauna Morris

“I wanted you to know what a tremendous help Tashauna has been. The library’s aggregator project would not have been completed without her. She has helped library patrons (students & faculty) with ProctorU issues, helped people to connect with the college WiFi, problems with PaperCut, helped with the electronics in the classrooms and conference room, etc. She is truly an asset to the library.”

-Melanie Magness

Library Technical Services Coordinator

Melanie Magness

“Both Melanie Magness and Tashauna Morris are great examples of Radical Hospitality – KC Employees who go "Above and Beyond" award. Both have worked very hard beginning in the spring of 2019 to fix nine separate problems with library databases. Their work makes it easier for students to access electronic materials at the Randolph C. Watson Library.”

- Susan Black

Director, Randolph C. Watson Library

PHOTO ABOVE: Laura Martinez talks at the breakfast about how the dual credit scholarships made possible by the KC Foundation helped her take college classes at KC. Photo by Jamie Maldonado/KC

PHOTO ABOVE: ‘MLK’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PHOTO ABOVE: ‘PTK’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PHOTO ABOVE: ‘MUSEUM’ CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

PHOTO ABOVE: Photo by Jamie Maldonado/KC
President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

A Pendulum Swing?

During my career, I have lived through many higher education ideology shifts. Some good and others maybe not as good... Occasionally, similar to hair or clothing styles, an “oldie but a goodie” will resurface and everything old will become “new” again!

Completion By Design, the student success forerunner of our Guided Pathways work, heightened many ideology shifts in higher education. At the forefront, or ground-zero, of those shifts was the idea that “students don’t do optional.” As practitioners, we were told that if we believe that a practice or procedure is beneficial for students, we should make it mandatory.

With that premise in mind, during the November 2019 Guided Pathways Institute, a KC team mulled over the fact that students sometimes withdraw from classes without consulting with instructors and/or advisors about the impact withdrawing will have on financial aid status, class repeat penalties, delays in reaching academic/career goals, etc. These students may also have misconceptions about their inability to complete courses or earn the grades they need.

The Pathways team discussed that current KC policies tend to make it too easy for students to withdraw from courses without considering the ramifications and their actual ability to complete courses. It isn’t that the current policies are “bad” per se. The current policies were created with the desire to make withdrawing as convenient on students as possible. Convenience and streamlining are desirable outcomes, except when they preclude important conversations from taking place between a student and his/her faculty member.

In order to review current policies and practices under the lens that “students don’t do optional”, an ad hoc working group composed of Ronda Lee, Dr. William Stowe, Dennis Cliborn, Lisa Bischof, Laura Mulanax, Rebekah Metcalf, Amanda Jackson, Dr. Ginger Dennis, Donny Seals and chaired by Jase Graves and Dr. Staci Martin was formed. This multi-talented group, representative of all college constituencies, will create a policy requiring student consultation with faculty and/or advisors before a student may withdraw from a class. The group will also work to mitigate the various complications such a policy might create. Whew—that will be a heavy lift, but I know that the talents represented on this ad hoc group are up to the task!

The new policy is set to be launched Summer 2020. Stay tuned for more details...

Happy Groundhog and Valentine’s Day!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

Welcome New Full-Time Employees!

Rho Hinoth — Academic Advisor, Arts & Mathematical Sciences
Heather Brenton — Project Coach, Early Childhood
Daniel Byer — Professional Support Assistant – TRIO
Kenny Byrd — East Texas Police Academy Instructor
Ryan Cavel — Workforce Admissions Counselor – Student Development
Donna Davis — Professional Support Assistant – KC-Longview
Caleb Dorsey — Learning Specialist – TRIO
Holly Foster — Professional Support Assistant – Financial Aid
Clint Fultner — Bookstore Clerk

Mo Lowman — Support Specialist – Purchasing
Jaclyn Magness — Support Specialist – Library
Karla Mojica — Academic Advisor, Public Services/Industrial Tech
Odalys Olivas — Support Specialist – Adult Education & Literacy
Jennifer Rich — Mathematics Instructor – Arts & Mathematical Sciences
Kyla Sather — Career Coach & Academic Advisor – Student Development
Beverly Taylor — Professional Support Assistant – Financial Aid
Jesseca Watson — HR Assistant
News & Reminders:

Three band members earn all-state status

Three KC Ranger Band members have earned seats in the Texas Community College Band Directors Association (TCCBDA) All-State Band.

Ranger Band members selected are Jadon Cherry (French horn) of Kilgore; Avery Taylor (tenor saxophone) of Hallsville; and Houston White (tuba) of Sabine.

The TCCBDA accepts recorded auditions each October for music students from Texas community colleges trying out for a seat in the all-state band.

“This is truly an accomplishment for these students,” said Brent Farmer, KC band director. “Their performance along with other ensembles showcased at the TMEA Clinic/Convention showcase the best of the best in the state of Texas.”

All-state band members will attend the Texas Music Educators Conference and Convention, Feb. 12-16, in San Antonio.

At the conference, students will audition again for seating placement and rehearse for a performance at the end of the conference.

Eighth Ranger softball season underway

The softball team opened its 2020 season Feb. 2 at The Ballpark at KC Commons. KC, under the leadership of head coach Leslie Messina, will begin its eighth season. In 2019, the softball team had a banner year by winning its first postseason game in the the Region 14 Tournament. Assistant coaches for the Rangers are Trish Robinson, Angelica Gonzales and Amber Williams. SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Tutoring available for students

Did you know there are tutors available for free to assist your students in various courses?

The Zone - Kilgore: Tutoring and computer services are available in The Zone Tutoring Lab Mon-Thurs from 8 a.m. to midnight and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Support Building. For more info, contact Ronda Lee at 903-988-7491 or email her at rlee@kilgore.edu.

The North Zone - Longview: The Longview North Zone Tutoring and Computer Lab is located in the Longview North Building, Room 100. Tutoring is available Mon-Thurs from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info about Longview services, please contact Ebony Dennis at 903-236-2030 or edennis@kilgore.edu.

IA: Did you know?

The KC Foundation’s 3rd Annual MLK Breakfast broke last year’s record for dollars raised and 100 percent of the scholarship funds go directly to our dual-credit students. This year’s gifts were up 12 percent:

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
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Data provided by the KC Office of Institutional Advancement

‘PTK’ continued from page 1...

major from Longview; Angie Chirino, sophomore nursing major from Kilgore; and Krista Armstrong, sophomore culinary arts major from Longview.

These three students will be honored at an awards ceremony April 1 at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Dr. Paul Buchanan is the faculty PTK sponsor at KC.
dual credit, I was eligible for KC parents are KC graduates. House and because both of her because of the proximity to her of dual credit. She chose KC Christian Academy with 12 hours and graduated from Boatman Stephen F. Austin State University graduation. Immediately after high school dual credit and enroll at KC who earn at least 12 hours of poverty that runs in our family. " Putting an end to the vicious cycle of in school so that she and I could pushed me to do my very best school here at KC, " Gore said. "She 11 years old that my mom started very long time. It wasn't until I was East Texas Charter School. She and her mother struggled She and her mother struggled to several years, another program to help students pursue education and economy, it is imperative that all students pursue education and training above and beyond a high school diploma. "

To ensure a thriving East Texas said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. level of post-secondary education, "

Taking college-level courses in high school allows students to learn communication and time management with their instructors before entering college – where they would have to learn those same lessons at a much higher tuition cost. "Economic forecasting informs us that in the very near future more than 60 percent of the jobs available will require at least some level of post-secondary education," said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. "To ensure a thriving East Texas economy, it is imperative that all students pursue education and training above and beyond a high school diploma." KC works with high school counselors and superintendents in its service area to identify students needing assistance to access dual credit courses, as well as current dual credit students who may not otherwise be able to continue their education. For more information, or to provide a gift to scholarship funds at KC, contact Amber Kinsey, Scholarships and Alumni Relations Specialist, at 903-988-7523 or akinsey@kilgore.edu.

**‘MLK’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...**

Gore, a 16-year-old from Kilgore, graduated from KC with two associate degrees before graduating from high school at East Texas Charter School.

"My family lived in poverty for a very long time. It wasn't until I was 11 years old that my mom started school here at KC," Gore said. "She pushed me to do my very best in school so that she and I could put an end to the vicious cycle of poverty that runs in our family." She and her mother struggled financially, but were helped by the KC Connection – a program offering a 40 percent tuition discount to dual credit students who earn at least 12 hours of dual credit and enroll at KC immediately after high school graduation.

Gore is enrolled this semester at Stephen F. Austin State University as a junior and plans to obtain a master's degree by the age of 21.

Boatman was home-schooled and graduated from Boatman Christian Academy with 12 hours of dual credit. She chose KC because of the proximity to her house and because both of her parents are KC graduates.

"Because of my 12 hours in dual credit, I was eligible for KC Connection and continued at the college full-time," Boatman said. "The dual credit scholarship benefited me by allowing me to start college full-time with a greater confidence and knowledge of my abilities."

"At the end of the day, we want you to be able to reduce your cost. You can bring more folks into your program, pay teachers well; you go back into the community we serve, and if our community is not successful, ultimately, as a business, we won't be successful."

\[Photo by Jamie Maldonado/KC\]

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**DATA: Did you know?**

87% of first time in college full-time students enrolled in Fall 2019 returned for Spring 2020. This is up from an 84% rate the last three years.

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**‘MUSEUM’ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1...**

Oil Boom," which is now a digitized version of the original 16mm film with an additional two minutes of production.

"The Boomtown Theater has been a popular attraction since the museum opened its doors in 1980," said Olivia Moore, ETOM Manager. "The upgrades to the theater, as well as the movie, are state-of-the-art and we're excited to show the public."

Museum renovations were made possible by a grant from the city of Kilgore. "Without doubt, we would not be here today without the generosity of the city of Kilgore," Dr. Kays, KC President, said prior to the ribbon-cutting. "We thank the city of Kilgore for its visionary leadership and generous provision of funds to renovate the Boomtown Theater."