Jenkins transitions to new role focusing on extending KC mission, strategic college initiatives

Over the next few months, Dr. Mike Jenkins will transition out of student development and into a new role that will focus on extending KC’s mission and strategic initiatives across campus and throughout the service area as Executive Vice President – Internal Collaboration and Strategic Initiatives. Along with his new responsibilities, he will continue to work directly with KC’s facilities and marketing teams.

KC has initiated a nationwide search for a new vice president of student development/athletic director. With the integration of student affairs and athletic director duties in this position, KC is fortunate to have Kristan Propes in place. She will cross train with executive assistant Barbara Prater and will assume the position of executive assistant to the VP of student development/AD to allow for continuity and stability for the division. Also, Prater will make the move with Dr. Jenkins to the administration building to serve as his office’s administrative assistant.

Davidson selected as Piper Professor nominee

Dayna Davidson, director of Associate Degree Nursing, has been named as the college’s Minnie Stevens Piper Professor nominee and the recipient of the Hamilton F. and Kathryn G. Beeson Teaching Award. With the nomination, Davidson is in the running to be named a Piper Professor. Ten Piper Professors are awarded annually for superior teaching at the college level. Begun in 1958, the roster of Piper Professors includes outstanding professors from two and four-year colleges and universities, public and private. KC has had six instructors so honored by the Piper Foundation: Annie Lou Winton Ballard, S.L. Canterbury Jr., Anne Dean Turk, Elwyn Bone, Bettye Craddock and O. Rufus Lovett.

KC honors longtime employees for service, dedication

Kilgore College honored 30 employees for having served KC for milestone years of service to the college. The award ceremony and luncheon was held April 30 in Masters Gymnasium. See the complete list of service award recipients on page 3.

Cruise for Success car giveaway, Pep in the Plaza set for May 6

KC will host the second annual Cruise for Success car giveaway in tandem with a pep rally on Thursday, May 6.

The “Pep in the Plaza” will begin around 10 a.m. in the Lee Mall/Mike Miller plaza area of the Kilgore campus.

Featured events – besides the car giveaway to one lucky student – will be performances by the Rangerette Swingsters, the KC Drumline and the KC Twirlers.

Music will be provided by DJ KC with Aramark providing “carnival type” foods. There will also be food trucks on hand serving drinks and tasty desserts.

This is the second year of the Cruise for Success car giveaway, thanks to Patterson Chevrolet of Kilgore.

Also on hand May 6 will be local high school cheer and dance teams.

“It’s been a long time since we’ve been able to have a real event (due to COVID-19) on campus,” said Ashley Mason, coordinator of campus life.

“We’re so excited to host this event to celebrate the successes of our students and recognize our athletic teams that are all playing this spring. It’s going to be quite an exciting event for everyone to attend.”
President’s Perspective:

Strategically planning for the future!

Thank you to all of you who have taken time out of your day to participate in a strategic planning listening forum or who arranged for Dr. Staci Martin and me to connect with students. Your feedback has been thoughtful, constructive and very insightful.

We started the process at the end of March, and so far, we have connected with approximately 200 faculty, staff and students. For the next three weeks, our outreach will shift to listening to the voices of some community members throughout our service area. Specifically, we will be meeting with community leaders from Kilgore, Gilmer, Gladewater, Henderson and Longview.

In reality, we probably heard enough great ideas for inclusion in KC’s next strategic plan in just the first couple of weeks! Nancy Law has generated pages and pages of great comments, ideas, and recommendations (we thank her for being our scribe). The most challenging task will be to parse the volume of information into workable themes to set measurable goals and objectives.

Ideally, we hope to have the first draft ready in June and continue fine-tuning until adopted by the KC Board of Trustees in August. We will provide a preview and seek additional feedback along the way.

However, some issues we are not going to wait to address. Every listening session with students and employees and feedback on various surveys indicated a need to improve communication at KC. With that goal in mind, Rachel Stallard was recently named the KC Communications Officer at the college. Rachel will be working to enhance communication college-wide. Among some of her first steps, she will be pursuing the following:

1. Becoming a member of the Improving the Student Experience (ISE) Communications workgroup.
2. Becoming a member of the KC Communications Committee that Dr. Turpin chairs.
3. Using her journalism background to approach college information as “news tips.”
   a. What does she hear, see or read that the entire campus needs to know? Or a subset of campus (e.g., students)? What medium should it be communicated through (e.g., email, app, webpage, social media, etc.)?
   b. What does she pick up on that needs to be pushed to Chris Craddock for a media press release?
   c. How can she mine the events calendar to identify newsworthy information/messaging proactively?
4. How can the marketing team use her information/tips to create more community connections via social media, press releases, TV news stories, etc.?

I know that you will hear from Rachel as she begins the task of keeping everyone “in the know” at KC.

If you have something to share with the college community regarding your areas, please get that information to Rachel.

On Friday, she communicated to me that she is “excited to bring her skills to that new role.”

FACULTY & STAFF

Welcome New Full-Time Employees!

Brooke Cates – Financial Aid/Suspension Appeal Specialist
Amber Patch-Drotar – Financial Aid Verification and Accounts Coordinator

News & Events:

Three longtime math instructors retiring at end of semester

KC wishes happy retirements to three math instructors who are leaving KC after this semester. Paige Wood retiring has worked at KC for 33 years. She was coordinator of the Math Learning Center for many years before transitioning to a full-time instructor.

Mary Gage has worked at KC in various roles for the past 20 years. She was the director of the Math Learning Center for many years before transitioning to a full-time instructor for the last few years.

Dann McDonald has taught math full-time for KC since 2013. Before his time at KC, McDonald served in the United States Air Force and retired from the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Work-study positions available this summer through financial aid

KC Financial Aid has several open work-study positions beginning in this summer. These on-campus jobs are available only to KC students who demonstrate financial need while they are enrolled. Students must have a valid, processed FAFSA on file. The work-study application is online, and there are job descriptions for each position available at www.kilgore.edu/student-jobs. Please spread the word about these jobs to our students. Students can submit one application and check the box next to each position in which they are interested. Once students apply, Rebekah Metcalf in financial aid will email them back to let them know about their eligibility and will forward eligible applications to the departments they’ve selected.

Employee discounts on merchandise

Check out the merchandise at the Kilgore and Longview bookstores and save money. The bookstores are offering 35% off for employees through May 7. You can also save 85% on all clearance merchandise. For more information, contact Kenton Beal, bookstore manager, at kbeal@kilgore.edu.
On-Campus Calendar:

May 3, Student Experience Meeting via Zoom, 1:30 p.m.
Dallas Baptist Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
May 6, Car Giveaway – Pep in the Plaza, Lee Mall/ Miller Plaza, 11 a.m.
May 7, Adult Ed Honor Society Ceremony, Van Cliburn, 6:30 p.m.
Ribbon cutting for new burn facility, Fire Academy Field, 11 a.m.
May 8, Football vs. Cisco College, Football stadium, 3 p.m.
May 10, Upward Bound Senior Celebration, Devall Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.
Rangerette Tea, McLaurin Building, 5 p.m.
May 13, Softball vs. NTCC playoff game, Softball field, 1 p.m.
ADN Pinning/Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m.
May 14, Spring graduations, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 6 p.m.
May 17 – Aug. 13, LVN Lecture Class, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
May 19/20, LVN Syllabus Review, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
May 28, Campuses close at 2:45 p.m.
May 31, Memorial Day holiday - campuses closed

Shakespeare Festival resumes performances

KC’s nationally acclaimed Texas Shakespeare Festival will reopen its doors this summer with a full lineup of shows. The festival will carry over the productions slated for the summer of 2020, which include The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Book of Will, Romeo & Juliet, The Bridges of Madison County and a world premier play for children, The Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill. Opening weekend is July 1-4 and the productions will run in rotating repertory Thursdays through Sundays until Aug. 1 in Van Cliburn Auditorium. Visit www.texasshakespeare.com for more information.

DATA: Did you know?

28% of KC’s 2017 first-time, full-time cohort of students transferred to a four-year university within three years (including graduates). This is a 5 percentage point increase over the 2016 first-time, full-time cohort transfer rate.

MAY Birthdays

5-04 Olivia Moore
5-04 Dorothy Puckett
5-05 Zachary Carnes
5-05 Nikki Runnels
5-06 Kimberly Ellgass
5-07 Shelly Gribble
5-09 Beverly Taylor
5-11 Charlotte Poe
5-13 Kristyl Hester
5-14 Nella Custer
5-14 Donna Davis
5-15 Sandra Carroll
5-17 Tina Rushing
5-20 Karen Dilday
5-20 David Whitlefield
5-22 Mary Martin
5-23 Dana Blair
5-24 Doris Johnson
5-24 Delinda Spencer
5-28 Ursula Dyer
5-29 Travis Moore

KC employees were treated to a luncheon (indoors because of weather) April 30 to celebrate longtime employees and honor the hard work of faculty and staff.