KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

Selena Rutherford

I’d like to recognize Selena Rutherford for her RADICAL HOSPITALITY. She’s been a KC employee for a short time, but as a counselor and an as-needed advisor, she is quick to offer help in any possible way. Being short-staffed in the Counseling Center, she has stepped in numerous times in helping students with questions about their schedules, counseling students in need, and being available to support not only students but also staff. Anytime a student needs help, she willingly offers to help. Selena is never too busy to assist students, she is always friendly and compassionate with students, and she is very much a team player. Kilgore College is lucky to have Selena in Student Services, and her colleagues are blessed as well.

- Submitted by Sheri Burlingame
  Director of High School Student Success

Stovall named new dean of Business, Entrepreneurship & Information Technology

Welcome to KC’s new Dean of Business, Entrepreneurship & Information Technology, Kristen Stovall, who began March 1. Stovall comes to KC from Trinity Valley, where she served as Division Chair of Business, Technology & Public Services. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as the new dean. Her office is located in Porter Business Building, Room 105, and her email is kstovall@kilgore.edu.

Revels ‘The Pulse’ kicks off April 3

Tickets are on sale for the annual Rangerette Revels set for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 3, and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, April 6-9. The show, titled “The Pulse,” will include a wide variety of dance genres, including the Rangerettes’ signature “high kick” production for the finale. All seats are reserved and tickets are $30 each. Tickets are sold online only. To purchase tickets, visit www.rangerette.com and click on “Purchase Revels Tickets.”

Above: KC business administration student Zhyon Bell took home the top prize at the second annual Cruise for Success car giveaway in 2021 — much to the delight of his KC football teammates, who swarmed him in a celebratory group hug when they realized he had won.
Right: Bell celebrates with Rickey Clark of Patterson Chevrolet - Kilgore. Photos by Rachel Stallard/KC

Car giveaway, crawfish boil April 21

KC will host the third annual Cruise for Success car giveaway in tandem with a crawfish boil on April 21 in the Lee Mall/Mike Miller Plaza.

The event will feature a “Red Carpet Processional” for the 10 student finalists at 10:30 a.m. followed by the awarding of the brand new Chevrolet Trailblazer, courtesy of Patterson Chevrolet - Kilgore. Runner-up will win $1,000 and the eight other participants will win $500. Featured events – besides the car giveaway to one lucky student – will be performances by the KC Drumline, the KC Twirlers and Rowdy. Music will be provided by DJ Hollywood with all of the crawfish you can eat beginning at noon.

2022 Chevy Trailblazer sponsored by:
Patterson Chevrolet

Above: KC business administration student Zhyon Bell took home the top prize at the second annual Cruise for Success car giveaway in 2021 — much to the delight of his KC football teammates, who swarmed him in a celebratory group hug when they realized he had won.
Right: Bell celebrates with Rickey Clark of Patterson Chevrolet - Kilgore. Photos by Rachel Stallard/KC
Goodbye to 60x30TX... Hello to Building a Talent Strong Texas!

On Wednesday, March 23, all Texas colleges and universities received an email from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announcing an updated strategic plan for all of higher education. In this email, THECB Commissioner Dr. Harrison Keller explained the rationale for the change to those of us who had grown used to the simplicity of 60x30TX. Essentially, Dr. Keller is asking all of us to think beyond 2030!

The updated strategic plan for higher education, aptly called Building a Talent Strong Texas, raises the bar for all educators across the state, specifically for those who work in higher education. The revised strategic plan has three SMART (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-based) Goals.

Those goals are:

- **First:** At least 60% of Texans ages 25-64 will have a postsecondary credential by 2030. Hmm... You might be asking yourself: Isn’t that the same as 60x30TX? The answer is yes, and no. 60x30TX focused on 25-34 year-olds. Building a Talent Strong Texas expands the age range to reflect that all Texans, including those Texans who have already celebrated more than 34 birthdays, must be highly skilled if Texas is to compete in the global economy. Due to rapidly changing technology and automation, we all have, or will be, faced with upskilling or reskilling to remain relevant and marketable.

- **Second:** The postsecondary credentials mentioned in the first goal must be credentials of value. You may be asking yourself: Isn’t every credential valuable? You guessed it, yes and no is the answer to that question. Yes, in terms of the fact that all education is valuable. One’s educational attainment is one of the very few things in life that can’t be lost or taken away! However, when this goal addresses credentials of value, it is referring specifically to three things: 1) the credential must be stackable or something that a student can build upon when they are required to upskill or reskill without having to start from scratch; 2) the credential must enhance a student’s earning potential; and 3) the cost of obtaining the credential should leave the student with little or no debt.

- **Third:** This goal stresses that Texas must be a leader in basic and applied research that translates into discoveries, innovations and economic development. On the surface, you may assume that this goal does not apply to community colleges. The commissioner begs to differ. No, community colleges don’t award research-based doctoral degrees, yet we are the perfect place to incubate research that translates into discoveries, innovations and economic development.

Similar to how Natalie Bryant in our Institutional Research office breaks down or disaggregates KC data, the THECB will also disaggregate the outcomes associated with each goal. Commissioner Keller made the following statement in his email: “Across all these goals, we will break down the data by race, gender, income and geography to make sure all Texans have an opportunity to succeed. Over the past decade, 95% of our state’s population growth was in communities of color. If we do not advance our higher education goals equitably, we can’t achieve them.”

The THECB will provide each college/university with more information, program resources and tools designed to aid in completing these updated goals. As I receive more information, I will pass it along to all divisions and departments.

With the emphasis you place on the success and well-being of our students, KC is presently achieving many of the outcomes associated with this revised strategic plan. This article provides a brief overview of Building a Talent Strong Texas. The entire document is available here: [https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/building-talent-strong-texas/](https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/agency-publication/miscellaneous/building-talent-strong-texas/).

Until next month,

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER! @KCBrendaKays

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

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**DATA: Did you know?**

**Natalie Bryant** (Coordinator of Institutional Research) was awarded a Level 1 Professional Development Certificate by the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR) on March 2. TAIR recognizes members for completion of multiple workshops covering a broad range of topics related to institutional research. Bryant and **Ursula Dyer** attended the Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR) conference in Denton Feb. 28 to March 2.

**Stephanie Laszik** (eLearning Faculty Development Specialist), **Mary Shaw** (Biology chair/instructor) and **Nicholas Simpson** (biology instructor) will speak at NISOD’s 2022 International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in May. Their presentation is titled “We Aren’t Doing Them any Favors: Hyflex Course Design that Accounts for All Students.” The conference is the definitive gathering of community and technical college educators passionate about teaching and learning. Over the years, NISOD’s annual conference has provided faculty, administrators and staff with the resources, ideas and solutions that drive excellence in all areas of community and technical college campuses.

This year’s conference is set for May 28-31 at the JW Marriott in Austin.

3-Year Graduation Rate

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015 Cohort</th>
<th>2016 Cohort</th>
<th>2017 Cohort</th>
<th>2018 Cohort</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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</tbody>
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Kilgore College’s three-year graduation rate for its first-time-in-college, full-time students has been increasing over the past few years, and KC is consistently performing better than the median of the IPEDS comparison group of similar colleges.

Data provided by:
KC Office of Organizational Effectiveness and Excellence
On-Campus Calendar

2, ACT Test, Old Main Building, 8 a.m.
Spring Vocal Recital, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7 p.m.
3, Rangerette Forevers Reception, Rangerette Gymnasium, 11 a.m.
Rangerette Revels, Dodson Auditorium, 2 p.m.
4, Softball vs. Paris Junior College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
5, Texas Eastman Engineers Presentation, Devall Ballroom, 1 p.m.
8, Faculty Advising Friday (Advising & Registration), Watson Library, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
6, Rangerette Revels, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
7, TRIO Academic Ceremony, Devall Ballroom, 5 p.m.
Rangerette Revels, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
8, Rangerette Revels, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Faculty Advising & Registration, Watson Library, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
9, Softball vs. Navarro College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
Rangerette Revels, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
11, KC Board of Trustees Meeting, McLaurin Building, 6:30 p.m.
13, Movie Night sponsored by the Diversity Alliance, Devall Ballroom, 5 p.m.
14, Superintendents Roundtable & Luncheon, McLaurin Building, 11 a.m.
15, Good Friday Holiday – Campuses Closed
19, TSI Review/Panel Discussion (testing), Devall Ballroom, 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Trinity Valley CC, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
Residential Life Spring Fest 2022, Carpeted Gym, 6 to 10 p.m.
21, National Adult Honor Society Ceremony, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
Cruise for Success Car Giveaway/Crawfish Boil, Lee Mall/Miller Plaza, 10:30 a.m.
22, East Texas Addiction Conference, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
Faculty Advising & Registration, KC-Longview, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
23, Softball vs. Bossier Parish CC, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
Administrative Professionals Appreciation Day, Devall Ballroom, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
28, College-Wide Data Summit, Via Zoom, 9 a.m.
30, Blue & Gray Meet & Greet-Athletic Department, Devall Ballroom, 1 p.m.
Softball vs. Northeast Texas CC, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
Spring Football Blue/Gray Scrimmage, Football Stadium, 3 p.m.

Birthdays

APRIL

4-2  David Fonteno
4-3  Jackie Kelley
4-4  Micah Goodding
4-4  Terry Huckaby
4-5  Brenda Kays
4-5  Whithende Tabu
4-6  Dane Loomis Deen
4-8  Edward Bernaldez
4-9  Kelley Connor
4-10 Glenda Ford
4-10  Brian Johnson
4-12 Wesley Brasher
4-17 Jonathan Kaan
4-19 Alisha Barrow
4-19  Derek Hunter
4-20 Jason Graves
4-22 Larry Brooks
4-23 Katherine Cates
4-23  Alan Sims
4-24 Kathryn Jackson
4-24  Jennifer Rich
4-25  Heather Brenton
4-25  Renee’ Golden
4-25  Jessica Watson
4-26  Stacie Smith
4-26  Bruce Swan
4-28  Karen Scibona
4-29  Ryan Melton
4-30  Mary Hawley
4-30  Alesha O’Steen
4-30  Jeanine Tagg

Texas Mutual will present $100K to Risk Management Institute on April 20

Texas Mutual Insurance Company will award a $100,000 grant for the 15th straight year to KC to continue funding the college’s Risk Management Institute that provides free workplace safety courses for community employers, workers and the general public.
Representatives from Texas Mutual will officially present the funding to KC at a check presentation set for 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 20, on the second floor of the McLaurin Administration Building.

Oil museum presents Johnny Cash exhibit through May 21

The KC East Texas Oil Museum is featuring an exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic Johnny Cash concerts at Folsom Prison.
The exhibit, “1968: A Folsom Redemption,” is a collection of photographs and memoirs of two journalists lucky enough to be among a handful of eyewitnesses to the historic Johnny Cash concerts at the prison.
It will run through May 21 at the museum.

KC Visual Arts presents works by area high school juniors, seniors

The KC Visual Arts Department is presenting an art exhibition featuring the visual arts creations of area high school juniors and seniors.
“New Talent ’22” will be on display in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery on the Kilgore campus through April 14.
It features drawings, paintings, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design and photography.
Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays.
Admission is free.
For more information, contact Larry Kitchen, gallery director, at (903) 983-8166 or lkitchen@kilgore.edu.

SAVE THE DATE!

KC DATA SUMMIT 2022

“Dedicated to DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)!” - 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, via Zoom
Money management lessons are on full display in Room 112 of the Porter Business Administration Building. Students can duck into the living room-style lounge for a game of Cashflow (a staple among KC business instructors), a cup of coffee or to catch up on magazine reading between classes.

The room is inviting, yet also economical. Stacie Smith, accounting instructor, set her sights on the unused space for the future Phi Beta Lambda business sorority to meet. With a little help from her friends, she started arranging furniture from the KC Warehouse, and adding personal touches to couches, tables and bookshelves. Evalee Haynes, adjunct instructor, stitched up tears in the chairs and added arm covers; a coffee center and decorative baskets; John Whitehead added a microwave and some magazines; Smith brought in the rugs, business books and the game. The walls are adorned with career posters, encouraging all students to make the best use of their time at KC.

Did You Know?
April is National Poetry Month, National Deaf History Month, Celebrate Diversity Month & Autism Acceptance Month.

• 70 million individuals worldwide have autism (about 1% of the world population). One in 37 boys and one in 151 girls are diagnosed with autism. The average age of diagnosis is 4 years old.
• There is a wide spectrum of Autism-related disorders.
• More than half of children with autism are bullied at some point in their lives and twice more compared to their peers who don’t have a disability.
• Autism is NOT a disease.
• There is no known scientific link currently between vaccines and autism.
• National Deaf History Month is celebrated from March 13 through April 15 to commemorate the achievements of people who are deaf and hard of hearing.
• On April 15, 1817, America’s first public school for the deaf was opened. On April 8, 1864, Gallaudet University — the world’s first institution dedicated to advanced education for the deaf and hard of hearing — was officially founded. And more than 100 years later, on March 13, 1988, Gallaudet hired its first deaf president in response to its students’ Deaf President Now movement. More information can be found here.
• Sign language is the fourth most popular language in the world. Sign language varies from country to country. Most of the countries have their own sign language or share a certain sign language but, with a different dialect. Click here for a history of sign language. Click here for even more history.
• National Poetry Month was launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996. Sign up for a poem-a-day.

Information provided by the KC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

KC mourns death former employee Bill Nicks
Services for James William “Bill” Nicks, 70, of Kilgore were held on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Kilgore. Nicks attended Kilgore High School and then went into the Air Force. He retired from Kilgore College as an electrician in the maintenance department. He loved sports but golfing was his passion. He was so good he achieved a position in the Eisenhower Tournament in Tyler. View full obituary