Martin named VP of student services, AD

Dr. Staci Martin has begun duties as vice president of student services and athletic director.
A native of Daingerfield, Martin has 24 years of higher education experience and has worked at KC since 2001.
She served as assistant registrar from 2001-05, associate registrar from 2005-07, the registrar and director of admissions from 2007-14, and as vice president of institutional planning since 2014.
She graduated from Texas A&M with a Bachelor of Science; earned a Master of Science from TAMU-Texarkana and earned a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from Texas Tech.

Dr. Staci Martin

Skopek begins role as VP of instruction

Dr. Tracy Skopek has begun duties as vice president of instruction and chief academic officer.
Skopek comes to KC from Tulsa Community College where she has served as dean of liberal arts and public services since 2015. She also taught political science courses at TCC.
“I am excited to join the amazing faculty, staff and students at KC and look forward to contributing to the outstanding work already under way,” Skopek said. “My husband and I are thrilled to be back in East Texas again.”
She is originally from Mesquite and graduated from Texas Tech University with a Ph.D. in Political Science and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. Skopek also earned a bachelor’s degree in Government from The University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Tracy Skopek

Best begins duties as vice president of organizational effectiveness & excellence

Dr. Mickey Best began July 16 as the college’s new vice president of organizational effectiveness and excellence.
Best comes from New Mexico State University Grants, a public community college in Grants, N.M., that is a branch campus of New Mexico State University.
Best served as the campus president for NMSU Grants from 2017-20 where he served as chief executive officer, providing leadership and direction in all aspects of administering the university branch campus.
Best is from Duncan, Okla., and graduated with a Ph.D. in arts, administration, history, theory and criticism from Texas Tech University.

Dr. Mickey Best

Next COVID-19 vaccination clinic: Aug. 9

KC is hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the community in the fitness center. Remaining dates are Monday, Aug. 9; Tuesday, Aug. 31; and Tuesday, Sept. 21. The clinics are open on these dates from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Both the Pfizer (2 doses) and Johnson & Johnson (1 dose) will be available. Persons 12 to 17 years old will only be offered the Pfizer vaccine, and they must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian at the vaccine clinics. Appointments are recommended; however, walk-ins are welcome. Times can be scheduled by visiting www.NETHealthCOVID19.org, or by calling (903) 617-6404.

Jennifer Rich

“A student stopped by who had nothing but high praise for math instructor Jennifer Rich. The student, who is a disabled veteran, has an amazing story, overcoming serious brain/physical injuries. The student said Rich has spent countless hours outside of class helping him, even volunteering her own time this summer to help him prepare for the math portion of an exam to become a state trooper. I am not surprised by his comments having witnessed first-hand, in her short time here, her dedication to helping students succeed.”

- by Brandon Walker
Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences

Anthony Tippitt

“I wanted to write and say that Anthony Tippitt* has been the MOST helpful employee I have ever encountered at KC. I went to KC myself part-time for years. He is so friendly and so thorough and just goes above and beyond to ease my anxieties while trying to get my daughter squared away for the upcoming semester.”

- by Brandy Lachney
Parent of KC student

* Tippitt, from New London, is a student-worker in the financial aid department.
Honoring Dr. Turpin

Please join us for a “low-key celebration” (at Dr. Turpin’s request) to honor Dr. Mike Turpin’s 37 years of service at KC. We are truly thankful for his dedication and hard work over the years to help make the college the success it is.

The celebration is set for **9 to 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 13**, at the Baptist Student Ministries Building on the Kilgore campus.

And, although he is retiring, he will be back on campus shortly (after some much-needed time off) to transition into the part-time Teaching and Learning Specialist role with an office in the Woodfin Center.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
@KCBrendaKays

A Come & Go Celebration Honoring

DR. MIKE TURPIN

Please join us for a “low-key” celebration (at Dr. Turpin’s request) to honor his 37 years of service to Kilgore College

Friday, August 13, 9:00 – 11:00 am
At the BSM on the Kilgore College Campus
809 Nolen St., Kilgore, TX 75662
Cookies ~ Punch ~ Coffee

Faculty & Staff Reports

Walker named associate dean of arts & sciences

Brandon Walker has filled the newly created role of associate dean of arts & sciences.

Brandon has been a strong leader as department chair and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this position that will transition into oversight of dual credit as well as other responsibilities within the division,” said Becky Johnson, dean of Arts & Sciences.

Walker earned an Associate of Arts from KC, a Bachelor of Science in Math from UT Tyler and a Master of Science in Math from Stephen F. Austin State University.

He began working at KC in 2004 as a math instructor and was promoted in 2016 to assistant department chair of Math, Engineering & Physics. He transitioned to department chair in 2017.

Assistant department chair David Rangel will become the department chair of math, engineering & physics, effective with the fall semester.

Richardson takes over as director of bands

Dr. Kevin Gray Richardson has been named director of bands to take the helm of the Ranger Marching Band, wind symphony, jazz band and KC Steel.

“My family and I are thrilled to return to East Texas,” Richardson said. “My wife is a graduate of Longview High School and most of her relatives, including her wonderful parents, live in the area. Now our daughters will get to enjoy the most precious thing in life, which is being close to family. I can’t wait to get started at Kilgore.”

Richardson has served as director of bands and assistant professor of music at The University of Texas Permian Basin since 2018.

College News

Support the KC Foundation’s Annual Campaign for Student Success

The KC Foundation is excited to kick off the 2021-22 Annual Campaign for Student Success. This campaign is an opportunity for KC employees to show support and commitment to our students and the college. By giving, you could be a lucky winner! With your gift, your name will be entered into a weekly drawing during July and August.

Please return pledge sheets by Aug. 31. If you gave last year by payroll deduction and would like to do so again this year, you must fill out a new form. If you have any questions, please contact Merlyn Holmes.
DATA: Did you know?

**Summer 2021 enrollment:**
1888 credit students

*This is a 5.8% increase compared to two years ago (Summer 2019).*

Data provided by the
[KC Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness](#)
Keiser named director of college’s ERP Systems Innovation & Development

Brad Keiser has been selected as the new director of ERP Systems Innovation and Development for KC. While he will begin transitioning to this new role, he will continue to serve as the college’s database administrator until a replacement is found.

As the director of ERP Systems, Keiser will manage the applications used at the college, including J1 Desktop, J1 Web, AccessKC, document imaging and AccuSQL just to name a few.

For the time being, all IT incidents submitted for any of these applications will be sent to Keiser for his review and assignment to the appropriate resource(s).

KC mourns losses of former employees

B.J. James, longtime English instructor at KC, passed away May 16 at the age of 85. She was awarded Teacher of the Year three times at the college and was well loved and respected by her students.

View full obituary

Mitch Smith, longtime carpenter at KC, passed away July 3 at the age of 72. He worked many years in the family business, Smith Cabinets and later retired from KC.

View full obituary

Upward Bound student earns national recognition

Jude DuBois (director of Upward Bound) is pleased to announce that Pine Tree High School junior Joseph Cordova (a KC-Upward Bound student) was recently selected as a College Prep Scholar by QuestBridge from a pool of 15,000 applicants. QuestBridge is a national program that matches high-achieving first-generation prospective college students with top universities such as Duke and Notre Dame. College Prep Scholars are juniors recognized as “strong potential applicants” in the final selection process as seniors.

Joseph Cordova

Two summer graduation ceremonies set for Aug. 12

KC will hold two summer graduation commencement ceremonies Thursday, Aug. 12, in Dodson Auditorium. There are 274 eligible applicants set to receive 291 degrees/certificates.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will be a combined LVN pinning/graduation ceremony, and the 6 p.m. ceremony will be for all other graduates. Each graduate will receive up to six (free) tickets for the ceremony at 6 p.m. More tickets will be available if needed. Both ceremonies will be livestreamed on the KC YouTube page for anyone who cannot attend.

Dodson Auditorium doors will be open one hour before each ceremony begins.

Female athletes honored by NJCAA for academic excellence

The KC women’s basketball team has been recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) as an All-Academic Team of the Year by earning a team GPA higher than 3.0 for the 2020-21 school year. Three women’s basketball players were named First Team All-Academic, one second team and two on the third team.

KC softball had one player named Second Team All-Academic.

“Women’s basketball players earning First Team All-Academic recognition were Jada Hood (Roseville, Minn.), Maya Scheitel-Taylor (Worthington, Minn.) and Farah Shaaban (Cairo, Egypt). Honored as Second Team All-Academic for women’s basketball was Vianey Galvan (League City, TX). Josephine Adegbite (Houston, TX) and Laraunven Randle (Rowlett, TX) were named Third Team All-Academic. For softball, Hannah Grumbles (Nederland, TX) was named Second Team All-Academic First team award-winners earned a 4.0 GPA; second team honorees earned a GPA between 3.80 and 3.99; and third Team selections earned a GPA from 3.60 to 3.79. Women’s basketball head coach is Addie Lees, entering her fourth season at KC, and head softball coach is Trish Robinson, entering her second season at KC.

“Our team remained focused during challenging times and exceeded expectations,” Lees said. “I am extremely proud to be their coach.”