We’d like to share some of the exciting things highlighted during December’s KC Board of Trustees meeting!

**KC awarded prestigious 2022 RODEO award!**

- Dr. Brenda Kays proudly announced that KC was recently selected as a recipient of the 2022 RODEO award in Recognition of Dedication to Educational Outcomes (RODEO). Congratulations to all faculty and staff who made this prestigious award a reality (presented to KC at the November Pathways Convention in Dallas). This award is based solely on KC’s student success data. Due to KC employees’ hard work and dedication to our students, Kilgore College stands out as an exemplar in seven key performance indicators associated with credential completion.

- Notably, Kilgore College ranks in the top 10 colleges for incoming students who:
  - Earn 15 or more college credit hours in Year 1
  - Earn 30 or more college credit hours in Year 1, and who
  - Persist from Term 1 to Term 2.

Specifically, KC excels in credit accumulation. Sixty percent of incoming students earned 15 or more college credit hours in Year 1, and 19% earned 30 or more in Year 1 (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2022). This early success enables students to stay on track toward their goals. KC ranks 8th in the state, with 77% of incoming students persisting from Term 1 to Term 2 (THECB, 2022). The bottom line, the commitment of KC to systems redesign and student success enables students to achieve their postsecondary goals.

**T.L.L. Temple Foundation to invest $200,000 for KC’s student success!**

- The T.L.L. Temple Foundation out of Lufkin, Texas, is one of the organizations that noticed KC’s RODEO award. KC recently received notification that the T.L.L. Temple Foundation is making a $200,000 investment in student success at KC! These new grant dollars from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation will help qualified students with tuition, fees and emergency needs. More details will come, but our goal is to start distributing these dollars to students for the Spring 2023 semester.

**Pedestrian bridge groundbreaking set for Jan. 12**

- KC will hold an official groundbreaking this month to celebrate the demolition of the remainder of the old pedestrian bridge and the construction of the new bridge. The groundbreaking is set for **10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12**, at the site of the old bridge. The bridge will be ADA compliant with elevators on both sides and will truly be a landmark for the college and the community. In September, the KC Board of Trustees awarded RLM General Contractors as the contractor to demolish what is left of the pedestrian bridge, and to build a new bridge. Costs associated with the pedestrian bridge project will be covered by insurance proceeds and college reserves. The demolition/construction of the new pedestrian bridge is expected to take nine months.

**Data shows upward trends for KC despite pandemic**

- **Natalie Bryant** reported that KC had 176 new students who enrolled at the college for the Fall 2 term. These are students who were NOT enrolled in Summer, Fall 1, or the Fall 16-Week terms. Of these students, 78 of them were students who were brand new to KC (had never taken a class at KC before).
- **KC’s dip in enrollment since the pandemic is much less in comparison to other community colleges in Texas.** KC’s enrollment during the Fall 2019 semester was 5,305. In the Fall of 2022, enrollment was 5,189 (a 4.1% decrease). Statewide, the average drop in community college enrollment was 11.8% from Fall 2019 to Fall 2022.
KC passes the 25% threshold to become a Hispanic-Serving Institution

- **Bryant** also reported that since 2019, Hispanic enrollment at KC is up 6% (statewide, Hispanic enrollment at community college dropped 4%). With this increase, KC’s Hispanic enrollment is now 25.6% which qualifies KC as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

Applications available soon for three KC Board of Trustees seats

- Qualifying residents, including incumbent (current) trustees, can apply soon to run for a seat on the KC Board of Trustees. Applications will be available for the South Zone (Leverett’s Chapel ISD, Overton ISD, West Rusk Consolidated ISD), the North Zone (Gladewater ISD, White Oak ISD, Sabine ISD) and the Central Zone (Kilgore ISD). Anyone interested who qualifies can apply from Jan. 18 to 5 p.m. on Feb. 17. More information is available at [www.kilgore.edu/board](http://www.kilgore.edu/board).

Health Science Center construction, Stark Hall refurbishment and renovation project

- So far, weather hasn’t played a factor in the targeted completion of the new Health Science Center. It is still on-schedule for its targeted completion date. Also, major refurbishments and renovations are underway at Stark Hall by Riley Harris Construction. Renovations will include converting stall-type showers into individual showers, replacement of windows, painting the entire interior of the facility, removing carpeting in the hallways, refinishing the terrazzo, replacing cracked concrete stair steps, adding lighting in the hallways, installing ceiling fans in all dorm rooms and renovating the lobby bathrooms. Stark Hall construction is under contract to be completed by July 31.

New CDL Institute and driving track in planning stages

- In September the KC Board of Trustees approved plant funds to construct a drive track and classroom facility for the CDL Academy on property that will be leased from the Kilgore Economic Development Corporation on FM 349. **Dr. Mike Jenkins** reported that since that meeting, he, **Dean D’Wayne Shaw**, **Rob Horn** (Workforce Development Specialist in Industrial Technologies) and **Jeff Williams** (Facilities Manager) met with staff from MHS Planning to develop initial site plan concepts. Since their meeting, Dr. Jenkins reported that the college has received a grant to complete a second building on site to be used for forklift training, and more. Initial site plan drawings from MHS planning are expected to be received by mid-January. Once approved, the college will be able to put the projects out for bid.

New Manufacturing Technologies degree/certificate coming soon

- **Dean D’Wayne Shaw** reported that a new degree/certificate program is on the horizon at KC with Manufacturing Technologies. Back in March, Shaw, Dr. Brenda Kays and others, met with the Workforce Regional Education Partnership to learn how KC could help with East Texas’ workforce. From the meeting, an advanced manufacturing council began to meet monthly to learn what skills need to be taught to students entering local manufacturing jobs. Once that was determined they looked at what equipment was needed to train these students. With the sunset of the Advanced Manufacturing Academy in Longview, KC was able – with help from industry donations, Longview Economic Development Corporation and KC’s advisory councils – to acquire its training equipment at no cost. A degree plan has been developed to submit to the coordinating board and SACSCOC. The degree/certificate plan is very flexible to meet the needs of the ever-changing manufacturing world.

KC Foundation making record-breaking strides!

- **Dr. Brenda Kays** reported that the KC Foundation is thriving under **Marilyn Holmes** and her staff! In November, the foundation installed four new officers: (Michael Clements, Jr., president; Woodie Tipps, vice president; John Ussery; treasurer; and Claudia Morgan-Gray, secretary). Through outstanding outreach, the foundation has 30 directors from 11 cities. In the last quarter, KC has received $75,000 in new endowed scholarships. Dr. Kays said it is truly a milestone this year because the scholarship
luncheon last semester had to be split into two luncheons because it had outgrown the ballroom with the large number of donors who are giving to KC.

**Music department new hires, band hall upgrades & new events for 2023**

- The KC Department of Music and Dance is proud to announce that it now has a full-time music recruiter. **Dalton Heinsohn**, who is KC’s first-ever person to work full-time in this position, will work year-round to promote the music program and work to recruit music students to KC.

Also, the department is pleased to announce that **Lauren Clark** has been hired as Interim Director of Choral Activities. Lauren will lead the KC Chorale, the KC Connection and teach Applied Voice and Music Appreciation classes. She is pleased to announce that three choral students qualified for the TTCCDA All-State Choir.

The band hall’s offices, lobby, practice rooms and uniform/instrument storage rooms were all renovated recently with a modern look and added storage space and security. New purchases included rolling music carts, a drum major podium and a sound system for indoor/outdoor practices. **Derrick Logozzo**, Music and Dance Department Chair, announced that the Spring 2023 semester will feature an increased number of performances by all of KC’s musical groups. Planned are a “World Jazz Series,” a “Symphonic Instrumental Series” and a “Choral Series.” There are also new community events planned including a “Carnival of Steel Festival” and an “All-East Texas Honor Band” which will feature a premier wind ensemble composed of guest high school musicians.

**Upcoming events for 2023-24:**

- Pedestrian Bridge Groundbreaking: Jan. 12, 10 a.m.
- Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Dual Credit Scholarship Breakfast: Jan. 13
- KC Foundation Board Retreat: Jan. 19
- Annual Cruise for Success Car Giveaway: April 20
- Purse Bingo: June 3
- Plans are also underway for a KC Gala at Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview (date/time TBD) bringing together all of the entities at KC that do fundraising (such as athletics, KC Foundation, Texas Shakespeare Festival, East Texas Oil Museum, etc.)

The next board meeting is set for February 2023 (date TBD).