Dr. Kays wins prestigious PTK award

Dr. Brenda Kays has been awarded with Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, the most prestigious PTK award for community college presidents. Thirteen recipients were selected from among 617 college presidents eligible to receive this award. Recipients were nominated by students on their campus. The award recognizes college presidents who have shown support of student success initiatives leading to stronger pathways to completion, transfer and employment. MORE

Six KC instructors honored with NISOD Excellence Award

Six KC instructors are recipients of the annual National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award. Instructors honored with the award are Julian Redfearn (business and information technology), Ada Ortiz (economics), Alesha O’Steen (industrial technologies), Kristi Kleinig (health sciences), Lori Truman (liberal arts) and Mary Shaw (math and science).

Redfearn is also KC’s 2022 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor nominee and the recipient of the Hamilton F. and Kathryn G. Beeson Teaching Award. NISOD's Excellence Award recognizes faculty, staff and administrators each year who demonstrate an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

Recipients of the award will be honored May 28-31 in Austin during NISOD’s annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence. Each Excellence Award recipient received a specially cast, pewter medallion.

“Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their colleges’ mission is something we look forward to doing each year,” said Dr. Edward J. Leach, NISOD’s Executive Director.

Preview Day set for March 25

Registration is underway for KC’s annual Ranger Preview Day to give potential students an opportunity to learn more about the exciting opportunities KC offers. The event is set for Friday, March 25, with online registration available at www.kilgore.edu/previewday. It is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about KC.

Instructors will be available to answer questions during division showcases that will provide a hands-on approach to learning about what the college offers. Students and parents will also be able to learn more about financial aid, scholarships, admissions, choosing a college major, career pathways and residential life.

“We are excited to have prospective students on campus,” said Chris Gore, dean of enrollment management and student success. “The day will be a great opportunity for potential students to learn more about the college and to experience what being a Kilgore College student is all about.”

For more information, contact Callie Blakeley, assistant director of admissions and recruitment, at (903) 983-8216 or cblakeley@kilgore.edu.
Opportunity of a Lifetime for Texas Community Colleges

The fifty community colleges across Texas have been given the opportunity of a lifetime. As you are probably already aware, Senate Bill (SB) 1230 was enacted during the last legislative session, that Senate Bill established the Commission on Community College Finance (Commission). The current community college funding model has been in place for a number of years and no longer allows Texas’ community colleges to thrive in their dual mission of work force development and academic transfer. The current funding model lacks in its ability to help community colleges improve student outcomes in alignment with state postsecondary goals. Ultimately, the purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations for consideration by the 88th Texas Legislature which will convene in January 2023.

There are twelve individuals currently serving on the Commission. As you know, I am one of those twelve appointees. I was appointed by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Dade Phelan. The Speaker also appointed Rep. Oscar Longoria and Rep. Gary Vandeaver to serve. The Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Texas Association of Community Colleges were all given appointees via the language in SB 130 which is the bill that created the Commission during the last legislative session. Sum total, there are 3 legislators, 4 community college presidents, 1 trustee, 1 faculty member, and two business leaders serving on the Commission. Dr. Harrison Keller, Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), is also a part of the Commission and his THECB staff are supporting the work of the group.

The Scope of the Commission was outlined in SB1230. Specifically, the legislation expects the Commission to examine trend and forecast data, seek stakeholder input, and account for equity in student outcomes. The Commission is exploring this data in order to inform its recommendations for:

- How public two year colleges should be funded, including contact hour funding formulas, and
- The feasibility of establishing shared service agreements or inter-institutional collaborations where institutions of higher education may perform administrative services, other than direct instruction and student support services, for other institutions of higher education for a fee or other consideration

The Commission has met as a whole three times. We have heard presentation from individuals and organizations both inside as well as outside Texas. This level of communication has been mostly at the global level designed to not only inform us, but to get our creative juices flowing! Presenters have run the gamut from the State Demographer’s Office (one of my personal favorites) to advocacy groups and think-tanks. The next phase of the Commission’s work will move from global to more specific.

In this next phase the Commission will not meet monthly as a whole as has been its pattern, but will instead break into three work groups who are expected to meet at least every other week in between Commission meetings. The workgroups were created and expected to do deep dives into our state’s community college data and provide data informed recommendations to the entire Commission for consideration.

To facilitate this next phase of work, the Commission has separated into three workgroups that will focus on the following questions:

1. **College Operations**: How can the community college finance system ensure that robust postsecondary educational and training opportunities are available to students and communities across Texas?
2. **Student Support**: How can the community college finance system increase the likelihood that students with diverse backgrounds and needs are able to complete credentials of value at the institutions?
3. **Workforce Education**: How can the community college finance system promote alignment among courses, programs, and credentials offered by the institutions with emerging educational and workforce needs?

Ultimately, the recommendations from the work groups will be considered by the entire Commission in turn will make those recommendations to the Texas Legislature for consideration and action during the next legislative session which will begin in January 2023. Once those recommendations are made, and I will keep you posted, it will be imperative that members of the Kilgore College Community, Board/Faculty/Staff/Students, are actively engaged in advocacy with our local legislators. If you have any questions or maybe a recommendation to revitalize community colleges and community college funding across Texas, I would love to hear your thoughts.

On a closing note, warm wishes to all for a great Spring Break! I hope that your break will be packed with all of the rest and relaxation that you can possibly fit in. I know that each of you have worked incredibly hard this semester and this is a great time to press pause so that we can finish strong as we sprint toward May and celebrating graduation with our students!
On-Campus Calendar

1. Grand Canyon University Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
   Spring World Jazz Showcase, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7 p.m.
2. Spring Symphonic Instrumental Concert, Van Cliburn Auditorium, 7 p.m.
3. Midwestern State Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
4. Softball vs. LSU-Eunice, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
5. Campuses close at 2:45 p.m.
6. Softball vs. Midland College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 11 a.m.
7. Kilgore Legacy Foundation Red/Black Ball, Devall Ballroom, 7 p.m.
8. Spring Break
9. Softball vs. TJC, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
10. Health Sciences/Protective Services Job Fair, Devall Ballroom, 2 p.m.
11. Technical Job Fair, Devall Ballroom, 11 a.m.
12. Ranger Preview Day, Multiple Areas, 9:30 a.m.
13. Softball vs. Blinn College, Ballpark at KC Commons, Noon & 2 p.m.
14. Spring University Transfer Day, Devall Ballroom, 10 a.m.
15. Accounting, Business & Computer Information Job Fair, Devall Ballroom, 1 p.m.
16. Softball vs. Paris Junior College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.

College News

Visual Arts students win scholarships at UT Tyler

Four KC Visual Arts students won art scholarships at the "2022 Virtual Juried College Exhibition," hosted by UT Tyler's Department of Art & Art History. Of the four upper positions, KC students took 3-of-the-4 top spots, winning $2,000 art scholarships. Instructors of the students are LoriAnne Hubbard and Larry Kitchen. Winners of the $2,000 scholarships are:
- Manuel Suarez, Drawing II (LoriAnne Hubbard, instructor)
- Shin Young Park, Painting 1 (Larry Kitchen, instructor)
- Juanita Guzman, Drawing II (LoriAnne Hubbard, instructor)
Also, Sydney Cochran, Design II (Larry Kitchen, instructor) won a $1,000 art scholarship People's Choice Award.

Basketball teams will compete in Region XIV Basketball Tournament March 1-5

Both the Lady Rangers and Rangers will compete in the Region XIV Basketball Tournament March 1-5 in Jacksonville at the old Lon Morris College gymnasium.

The men men are 26-2, ranked third in the nation and have remained as one of the top-five ranked teams in the NJCAA all season. They enter the regional tournament as the No. 1 seed. The Lady Rangers are 20-9 and enter the tournament as the No. 5 seed.

For ticket and scheduling info for the tournament in Jacksonville, click here.

Birthdays

3-01 Portia Scott
3-01 Donald Seals
3-03 Daniel Reigstad
3-04 Jeff Williams
3-08 Kristi Simpson
3-13 Evan Radulescu
3-13 Kenya Ray
3-14 Joseph Cassin
3-14 Curtis Ivory
3-14 Chris Jones
3-16 James Fultner
3-17 Brian Hoberecht
3-17 Matthew Wickes
3-19 Angela Aulds
3-20 Michael Ferguson
3-24 Mary Buckner
3-25 Tony Johnson
3-25 Monica Smith
3-27 Ginger Dennis
3-28 Michele Daniels
3-28 Melanie Magness
3-30 Jacob Dubois
3-30 Merlyn Holmes

Three job fairs set for March

The Career Services department at Kilgore College is hosting three job fairs in March for KC students, KC alumni and for employers looking to recruit future employees. The fairs, dates/times and registration links are listed below. All three events will take place in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. Contact Kyla Sather at (903) 983-8644 or by email at ksather@kilgore.edu.

Health Sciences & Protective Services Job Fair:
- March 22 from 2-6 p.m.
- Registration link

Technical Job Fair:
- March 24 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- MORE INFO CLICK HERE
- Registration link

Accounting, Business & Computer Information Job Fair:
- March 29 from 1-4 p.m.
- Registration link

Save the Date!

KC Data Summit 2022

“Dedicated to DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)” - 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, via Zoom
The Kilgore College Visual Arts Department presents "Nano Pop – A Remembrance," featuring artists Clayton Hurt, Nathan Porterfield and Lori Solley, through March 12 in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery on the Kilgore campus.

Nano Pop was an art movement these artists created in graduate school centered around the idea that there was truly no "wrong" way to create art. "It's an idea we continue to revisit 15 years later," Solley said. "We remember our fellow founder Alvaro Perez, who passed away in 2020 and we honor him with this exhibition. This work is about how we learn to diverge from our comfort and training to make our own work."

Hurt is a Dallas-based artist who works mostly as a sculptor. He received an MFA from Texas Christian University in 2007 and a BFA from the University of North Texas in 2005. Porterfield, a native of Clarksville, received a BFA with emphasis in printmaking from The University of Texas at Tyler in 2004, and an MFA in printmaking from Texas Christian University in 2008. He currently lives and works in Fort Worth.

Lori Solley, a native of Gladewater, is an adjunct instructor at KC and UT Tyler. She received a BFA in 2005 from UT Tyler in two-dimensional art and an MFA in 2007 from TCU in printmaking.

Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Larry Kitchen, gallery director, at (903) 983-8166 or lkitchen@kilgore.edu.

Ron Doss, 65, passed away on Feb. 1 in Longview. After graduating from Longview High School, KC and Texas A&M where he earned a Master of Civil Engineering, he worked for Eastman for 30 years. At the time of his death, he was the lead instructor for the KC Process Technology program.

Milton “Mickey” Lacefield, 76, passed away Feb. 7 in Bonham. He proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War as a helicopter pilot. He earned a Master of Arts in student personnel in higher education and was a guidance counselor at Kilgore College for a number of years.

Donate to Rangerettes’ Hit-the-Hat Campaign

The Kilgore Rangerettes Forever Foundation continues to focus on initiatives that champion, enhance and support the premier excellence of the Rangerettes while supporting Kilgore College and the East Texas Community.

The foundation is in the middle of the Hit-the-Hat Scholarship Campaign, and with your help, can raise its goal of $100,000.

So far, $18,604 has been raised, so please join the foundation to meet or exceed its goal by April 30.

All donations go directly to the Kilgore College Foundation making them tax deductible. To donate to Hit-the-Hat click here. Please help us by donating what you can. For questions, contact Maria Diaz Ritchie @ maria.d.ritchie@gmail.com.

Together we are keeping East Texas, Kilgore College and the Rangerettes strong!
Did You Know? 
Women’s History Month

• Miss Gussie Nell Davis created and delivered something special in 1940 — The World-Famous Kilgore College Rangerettes! The first assistant director of the Rangerettes was Peggy Crowder. Miss Crowder was a Rangerette in the 1940s, and later returned to Kilgore College as Dr. Peggy Coghlan, the Vice-President of Instruction and Chief Academic Officer. The creator of the “Stomp,” Dr. Coghlan retired from the college 1996 and lives in Longview.

• Dr. Brenda Kays appointed first female KC president in November 2015.

• Women’s History Month Timeline of Events https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/womens-history-us-timeline

• March was named for war — and lives up to its title, March Madness. It’s the best month for basketball (but worst for productivity).

• Beware the Ides of March (unless you’re a cat).

• March 2: NASA astronaut Scott Kelly returned to Earth after nearly one full year on the International Space Station, setting a new record for the longest uninterrupted trip to space.

• March 14: Pi Day celebrates the annual occurrence of 3/14 with math jokes, pi-reciting competitions, and (of course) freshly baked pie.

• March 17: St. Patrick’s Day turns the Chicago River green, among other festivities. And on this day in 1973, Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of The Moon” first hits the Billboard Top 200 chart at number 95. A mere 14 years later (736 chart weeks, to be exact), it finally leaves the top 200 for the first time, setting a still-unbroken world record. (You’ve got a long way to go, Adele.)

• March 20: The sun shines on the equator for the Vernal Equinox, giving us a near 50-50 split of day and night.

• March 21: The day Twitter was founded. Founder Jack Dorsey inaugurated the social media site with its profound first tweet: “just setting up my twttr.”

Information provided by the KC Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee