To continue Kilgore College’s emphasis on the Guided Pathways model, employees will have the opportunity to attend a Guided Pathways workshop led by Achieving the Dream coaches.

The workshop, designed for all faculty (both full-time and part-time), administrators and student development personnel, is set for 2-4 p.m. Monday, March 6, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom.

Achieving the Dream coaches Dr. Martha Ellis and Dr. Jan Lyddon will delve deeper into pathways through the interactive workshop. Faculty who attend will receive two hours of professional development credit.

The idea behind Guided Pathways is that college students are more likely to complete a degree in a timely manner if they choose a program and develop an academic plan early on, have a road map of the courses they need to take to complete a credential and receive guidance and support along the way to stick with the plan.

The new Guided Pathways model is unlike most community college’s “cafeteria” models which allow students to choose from an abundance of disconnected courses, programs and support services. Students often have difficulty navigating their choices and end up making poor decisions on what courses to take and when to ask for help.

Guided Pathways workshop for KC employees: March 6

Kilgore College’s Betsy Rodriguez was recently named Support Specialist of the Year by the Texas Association of Literacy and Adult Education (TALAE).

Rodriguez, a support specialist for the KC Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program since 2010, was one of three award-winners from KC at the association’s annual conference Feb. 2-4 in San Antonio. Rodriguez was nominated for the award by Bobbie McGee-Benson, KC’s AEL program director.

“I was very excited Betsy received this honor considering there are at least 66 programs across the state and all programs have at least one administrative assistant,” McGee-Benson said. “Without a conscious effort, she is the personification of what TALAE represents.”

Other award-winners included ESL student Veronica Hernandez, an ESL student from Gilmer who won an ESL Persistence Award and $500. Hernandez, who attends classes taught by KC’s Maria Roy, has only missed one ESL class since 2001.

Student Armando Pegueros of Mount Enterprise won the GED scholarship award and $1,200. Pegueros attended GED classes taught by KC’s Dianne Lyle at the Boys and Girls Club of Rusk County in Henderson. He was salutatorian of the GED class that graduated last June.

AEL director McGee-Benson retiring at end of month

Kilgore College’s Bobbie McGee-Benson, director of Adult Education and Literacy, will retire at the end of the month after a 45-year educational career.

A retirement reception for McGee-Benson is set for 1-3 p.m. Friday, March 24, at KC-Longview’s Hendrix Building.

In her 45-year career, McGee-Benson has taught public school, served as the education specialist for Oklahoma Historical Society and worked as manager of training and development for a Fortune 500 corporation.

She said her most valued time, however, has been spent working in Adult Education and Literacy at KC where she was first hired to start an Adult GED class in 1983.

The GED class began with only five students but grew over the next 13 years by adding more teachers, locations and content under McGee-Benson’s direction.

In 1996, McGee-Benson was promoted to full-time director of the program that had expanded from one GED class to a program offering literacy, ABE, GED and ESL classes.

The KC AEL program provides classes in three counties, holds classes at 26 sites including correctional facilities, churches, community buildings and public school facilities – as well as KC’s facilities in Kilgore and Longview.
President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

Caffeine & Conversations...
LET’S TALK ABOUT NEWS OUT OF AUSTIN

Kilgore College’s student contact hour reports were successfully submitted last week to the THECB (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board) for use in calculating our projected budget for the next biennium. Special thanks to Chris Gore for accomplishing that milestone for us as we move toward the new funding cycle.

Since those numbers have been finalized, I expect very shortly to receive some funding estimate updates from TACC (Texas Association of Community Colleges). Of course, we still have a long way to go until the 85th Legislative session is over. We all understand that a lot can develop and change between now and then.

Current data indicates that more than 4,745 pieces of legislation have been introduced thus far. Some pieces of legislation will die in committee and others will eventually reach Gov. Gregg Abbott’s desk for consideration.

Probably none of the proposed pieces of legislation will impact the college more than SB 1/HB 1—the budget bills from both sides of the aisle.

I mentioned during convocation that I would do my best to keep you posted regarding the news coming out of Austin. Hence, I have scheduled two “Caffeine and Conversations” meetings to share the news that I have to date, field any questions that you might have and ultimately take advantage of being in the same place at the same time to just have an informal conversation over a Coke or cup of coffee.

As your schedule permits, I hope that you will be able to join me for one of these sessions:
1. Kilgore Campus Caffeine & Conversations on March 21st from 2 – 3 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Admin Building
2. Longview Campus Caffeine & Conversations on March 22nd from 2 – 3 p.m. in the Special Events Room

Coffee, Cokes & water available—sorry, no chocolate fountain this time!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

P.S. Don’t forget about the Guided Pathways workshop scheduled for Monday, March 6, from 2-4 in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. KC’s Achieving the Dream coaches, Dr. Martha Ellis and Dr. Jan Lyddon, will help us delve deeper in pathways. A perfect follow-up to our Data Summit. Everyone is welcome!

Welcome New Employee!

The KC Business Office welcomes Magen Edmonson, KC’s new Purchasing/Accounts Payable Support Specialist. Edmonson will handle Office Depot, Walmart and gas card payables. Please send those receipts to her as well as any Office Depot packing slips you may receive. Her office is located in the Purchasing Office on the second floor of the McLaurin Administration Building and her extension is 8106.

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Dr. William Stowe, biology instructor, presented a workshop to KC employees on Active Learning Feb. 17 in the Canterbury Engineering and Science Building. Participants learned fun methods to use in their classrooms to blend educational resources, games and technology.

Edward Williams, director of housing, and Chris Craddock, coordinator of public & sports information, took eight students to represent KC at Community College Day at the Capitol in Austin. Students attended panels, toured the Capitol and visited with elected officials about the importance of increased legislative funding for community colleges.


Good News:

Congratulations to Wade Cates, admissions counselor, and his wife, Maria Rosales, on the birth of their son, Elijah Alexander Cates. He was born Feb. 24 in Mount Pleasant.

News & Reminders:

Gatton named Counselor of the Year

Pam Gatton, Kilgore College’s director of counseling and testing, was presented with the Counselor of the Year award at the Piney Woods Counseling Association’s spring meeting Feb. 22 at UT Tyler.

She has served as President, President-Elect and Parliamentarian of the Piney Woods Counseling Association.

Piney Woods Counseling Association, a regional chapter of the Texas Counseling Association, is an organization of Licensed Professional Counselors, professional school counselors and other mental health professionals in the East Texas area.

Gatton began working at KC in the fall of 1999 as Counselor with Disabilities Services and as Mental Health Counselor. She later moved from Disabilities Services to Academic Counselor and Mental Health Counselor.

She currently serves as KC’s Director of Counseling and Testing, a position she has held since 2009.

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Reigstad named Deputy Director of ETPA

Dan Reigstad has been named as deputy director of Kilgore College’s East Texas Police Academy, filling a vacant position left when Joe Cassin was named the academy’s director in February of 2016.

“The decision to fill the vacant position was because Kilgore College took over the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) training contract again, which increased our service area to the Red River,” said Randy Lewellen, KC’s dean of Business, Technology and Public Services.

Reigstad began his career in law enforcement in 1992 with the Longview Police Department after serving almost nine years in combat and combat training units throughout the world in the U.S. Army. While with the LPD, Reigstad served as a telecommunications operator, patrol officer, field training officer, uniformed crime scene investigator, senior physical evidence detective and senior latent print examiner.

He retired from LPD in 2015 with more than 20 years of experience processing crime scenes.

He began as a part-time Instructor with the ETPA in 2002 and became a full-time Instructor in 2015.

Reigstad has extensive training and has testified as an expert witness in crime scene processing and documentation, fingerprint processing and identification, forensic and night-time photography, shooting reconstruction and bloodstain analysis.

Reigstad holds numerous certificates including: TCOLE Master Peace Officer; Advanced Instructor; Firearms Instructor; and is a trained police emergency vehicle driving instructor through Texas A&M TEEX.

College enrollment up by nearly 7 percent

Kilgore College is pleased to announce that its enrollment has increased by nearly 7 percent since last spring’s certified enrollment.

Unofficial enrollment taken on the twelfth class day this semester was 5,354 students compared to 5,006 students certified for spring 2016.

“We’re extremely pleased with our enrollment numbers this semester,” said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. “I attribute the increase to the progressive vision of our board of trustees and a lot of hard work by our faculty, staff and administrators.”

Of the 5,354 students enrolled this spring, 1,484 are high school dual credit students.

Last spring’s dual credit enrollment was 1,288, marking a 15.2 percent increase in dual credit students since last year.

“Our hope is that this increase is also indicative of a growing number of students recognizing the necessity of post-secondary education to attain a degree and enter the workforce earning a family-supporting wage,” Kays said.

Technical, health job fairs this month

Kilgore College will host two job fairs this month -- one for health occupations and one for jobs in technology.

The Technical Program Job Fair is set for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. The technical job fair will include students from the following programs: Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology, Automotive Body Repair, Automotive Technology, Corrosion Technology, Diesel Technology, Drafting Design Technology, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Instrumentation & Electrical Technology, Occupational Safety & Health Technology, Process Technology and Welding Technology.

For more information, call Dewey Greer at 903-988-7414 or email him at dgreer@kilgore.edu.

The Health Occupations Job Fair is set for 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom (Kilgore campus).

Students from KC’s Radiologic Science, Physical Therapy Assistant, Surgical Technology, Associate Degree Nursing, Licensed Vocational Nursing, Certified Nursing Assistant & Emergency Medical Technician programs will all be on hand to visit with potential employers. For more information email Kristan Propes at kpropes@kilgore.edu or call 903-983-8204.

Items needed for student food pantry

 Due to employees’ generosity, the Kilgore College student food pantry opened with the beginning of the spring semester. To date, 11 individuals have accessed the food pantry with 16 visits during January. Unfortunately, its supply and options have quickly dwindled.

To drop off items on the Kilgore campus, bring them by Dr. Mike Jenkins’ office in the Devall Student Center (across the hall, at an angle, from the bookstore). On the Longview campus, drop them off to Will Massey in the Hendrix Building.

Currently, we do not need any additional canned vegetables, boxes of macaroni and cheese or ramen-type noodles. For more information, call Mike Jenkins at 903-983-8189 or email him.

Items needed:

- Canned chili, soups
- Tuna
- Spaghetti (pasta) and sauce
- Hamburger Helper type items
- Packaged pasta & rice-type items
- Breakfast type items (Pop Tarts, instant oatmeal, boxed cereal, pancake mix, etc.)
- Baking mixes (Bisquick, Pioneer, etc.) and packaged muffin, biscuit or cornbread mixes
- Canned fruit
- Rice
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Peanut butter
- Cake, cookie or brownie mixes
Calendar

1. Graduation Application Deadline
   Presidential Scholarship Deadline
Basketball (M) vs. Navarro, Masters Gymnasium, 7 p.m.
Basketball (W) at Angelina, Lufkin, TX, 5:30 p.m.
2. Wind Symphony Concert, Dodson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
3. E.T. Regional Science Fair, Devall Ballroom, 7:30 a.m.
   Relay Rangers Potato Sale
4. Kilgore Legacy Foundation Ball, Devall Ballroom, 7 p.m.
   Softball vs. Navarro College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
   Basketball (W/M) at TVCC, Athens, TX, 2/4 p.m.
6. Guided Pathways Workshop, Devall Ballroom, 2 p.m.
   PTK Meeting, COMMA Building, Room 104, 1:45 p.m.
7. KCEOPA Meeting, McLaurin Building, 11:30 a.m.
7-11, Region XIV Basketball Tournament, Jacksonville, TX
8. Technical Job Fair, Devall Ballroom, 9 a.m.
   Softball vs. Angelina College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
10. Art Club Meeting, Fine Arts Building, 2nd Floor, 12:15 p.m.
    Campuses Close at 2:45 p.m.
11. Softball at Paris JC, Paris, TX, 1/3 p.m.
13-17, Spring Break
20-May 12, QUEST II Classes
22, Softball at TJC, Tyler, TX, 1/3 p.m.
23, KC Foundation Meeting, Devall Room, 11:30 a.m.
25, Softball vs. Trinity Valley, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
27, Softball at NETCC, Mount Pleasant, TX, 1/3 p.m.
29, Softball at Bossier Parish C.C., Bossier City, LA, 1/3 p.m.
   Health/Science Job Fair, Devall Ballroom, 1-3 p.m.
30, Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Drive, Devall Room
31, ADN Advisory Board Meeting, Devall Room, 11:30 a.m.
   PTK Induction Ceremony, Devall Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.

Grants workshop set for March 3 in library
Fred Peters, KC grants writer, will host a Grants Intensive Workshop on
Friday, March 3, in the conference room on the second floor of the library.

The following times are open:
8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

If you’re interested in searching for grant funding or getting help with a
proposal summary or logic model, let Peters know when you would like to
stop by. He can show employees web-based databases his office uses to
look for grants by topic and other helpful resources.

Peters can be reached at 903-983-8289 or fpeters@kilgore.edu.

IT: Please delete personal files from ‘Drive O’
The KC computer server is beginning to
run out of storage for employees’ “Drive O,” also referred to as your home folder
or “Documents” folder. Please take a few minutes to go through your
“Documents” folder and delete documents you no longer need.

Nominate deserving students to be honored by board
The KC Board of Trustees recognizes an outstanding student
at each of its board meetings. Please consider nominating a deserving student. To be considered for
this recognition, students must be nominated by a KC faculty or
staff member.

March birthdays
03-03 Dan Reigstad
03-04 Lara Pauley
03-04 Jeff Williams
03-09 Terri Peerenboom
03-10 Ruthie Benson
03-12 Deborah Miller
03-14 Joe Cassin
03-14 Chris Jones
03-15 Mike Ford
03-17 Brian Hoberecht
03-17 Jamie Maldonado
03-17 Matthew Wickes
03-17 Edward Williams
03-19 Angela Aulds
03-20 Michael Ferguson
03-20 Charles Hanks
03-20 Tracy Hicks
03-25 Nick Dobler
03-25 Tony Johnson
03-27 Ginger Dennis
03-27 Eva McClellan
03-28 Michele Daniels
03-28 Mary Kates
03-28 Melanie Magnes
03-29 Robert Butts
03-30 Jacob Dubois
03-30 Merlyn Holmes
03-31 Bobbie McGee-Benson

DATA: Did you know?
KC’s fall to spring retention rate for first-time in college, full-time
students has averaged 79% during the last five years.

Data provided by the
KC Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness