College recognizes most outstanding employees

Kilgore College honored its Most Outstanding Employees at opening day ceremonies this year. Each year, KC employees vote for peers who they think are “most outstanding” at what they do. Categories include Executive/Management/Supervisory; Professional/Technical/Support; Administrative/Office Support; Physical Plant; and Faculty.

Dr. Bill Holda
Executive/Management/Supervisory

Kathy Knighton
Administrative/Office Support

Randy Callaway
Physical Plant

Terry Huckaby
Professional/Technical/Support

Brandon Walker
Faculty

Rangerettes select officers for new school year at Showoffs

The Rangerettes held the annual Show-Offs Aug. 22 in front of a packed Dodson Auditorium crowd. The new freshmen performed for the first time and 12 sophomore candidates tried out for the five new officer spots.

New ‘Rette officers from left to right: Right End Lt. Mary Williford; Right Middle Lt. Lainey Bergen; Capt. Brooke Luna; Left Middle Lt. Madeline Doerr; Left End Lt. Kelsey Moore.

Annual KC Kickoff set for Thursday, Sept. 3

Each year, Kilgore College celebrates the start of school with KC Kickoff which is an event for all KC students and employees.

This year’s kickoff is set for 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, in the parking lot adjacent to the old tennis courts.

There will be free food and music at the event. File photo at right by Randi Davis/The Flare

Live and Laugh Tour coming to Kilgore Sept. 19

The East Texas Oil Museum and the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation will present the “Live and Laugh Tour” featuring musicians Chad Prather and Cooper Wade this month.

Special guests The Purple Hulls will open up the concert.

The concert is set for 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, in Dodson Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

Advanced tickets are $23 or $25 at the door. VIP seating is $40. VIP ticket-holders will be able to meet Chad Prather and Cooper Wade as well as the Purple Hulls from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Dodson Auditorium. For more information, call 903-983-8295.
Guided Pathways, Cafeteria Colleges and HB5

For some time, a movement has been underway nationally to abandon the practice of allowing “undecided” majors that have no apparent end goal or path to a career. In their recent book, Redesigning America’s Community Colleges, authors Thomas Bailey, Shanna Smith Jaggars, and Davis Jenkins make the case for abandoning the “cafeteria college” for guided pathways. The guided pathways model involves redesign of academic program structure, new student intake, instruction and progress monitoring and support.

The authors cite the lack of completion, the excessive hours that students take without earning a degree or certificate, and the lack of motivation to simply “take your basics” with no end goal in mind. Certainly at Kilgore College, the students in our technical programs are more successful in completing after they have followed a very specific pathway to become employed in a specific career.

Enter HB5, the public school legislation that was passed in 2013, creating 5 endorsements or meta-majors (clusters) for public school students. Following 8th grade and before their freshman year, students and their parents meet with counselors to select a pathway. Realizing that many of them have absolutely no idea what career they will pursue, there is some ability to scale down from the more rigorous career goals to those that are specifically focused in less rigorous areas.

The goal is to create a more synchronized pathway for students from 9th grade through higher education. The recent strategic plan from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, “60X30TX”, will require that every degree include marketable skills. So as you can see, everything is coming together to support the guided pathway approach.

How will this look at KC? For one thing, we will have to coordinate much more tightly with the public schools on the clusters or meta-majors. Secondly, we will likely move to a very structured degree plan for each student and students will have to see an advisor to deviate from the plan. With the new changes in Pell and our software conversion, students will not be able to receive financial aid for courses not on their degree plan.

Gone will be the days where students go online and simply pick the courses they think they want to take. We will see a tightly regulated registration process with less flexibility than before. However, considering that most students today are taking some 90 hours to degree, these changes may assist students in the earlier achievement of a degree of certificate.

To stay in sync with the national and state trends and movements, changes will affect Kilgore College students, advisors and faculty. Stay tuned as these changes affect us.
SEPTEMBER

3, KC Kickoff, Tennis Courts E. Williams, 11 a.m.
Public Tax Hearing, McLaurin Admin. Building, 6 p.m.
4, Campus Closes, 2:45 p.m.
5, Football vs. GMC, Kilgore, TX, 1 p.m.
(Student Success will host pre-game tailgate party)
PTK District Meeting, ES 134, 9 a.m.
7, Labor Day Holiday (campus closed)
9, 12th Class Day
10, Kilgore Community Concert, “Presidio Brass,” Dodson, 7 p.m.
Service Fair, DSC Ballroom, 1 p.m.
12, Football at Texas A&T, Santa Fe, TX, 7 p.m.
Softball Ranger Invitational, Kilgore, TX, TBA
14, PTK Meeting, CA 104, 5:15 p.m.
16, Softball vs. Hill College, Kilgore, TX, 1&3 p.m.
17, MDA Lock Up Fundraiser, DSC Ballroom, Noon
19, Live & Laugh Tour, Dodson, 7 p.m.
Football vs. TVCC, Kilgore, TX, 7 p.m.
21, 20th Class Day-Last Day refunds on drops
Eastman Chemical Jobs, DSC Ballroom, 8 a.m.
21-Dec. 11, Excellerate Courses
23, Softball vs. Weatherford, Weatherford, OK, 1&3 p.m.
24, Eastman Chemical Jobs, DSC Ballroom, 8 a.m.
26, Football at Navarro, Corsicana, TX, 7 p.m.
TJCSCAA All-Star Softball Game, Belton, TX, TBA
27, Softball vs. LeTourneau, Longview, TX, 2&4 p.m.
28, PTK Meeting, CA 104, 5:15 p.m.

Use the Red Alert system to help at-risk students
The Student Success department reminds all faculty that it is very important to take advantage of using the Red Alert System for students you feel might be at-risk. The students will be directed to additional resources to help them be successful. For more information, email Kasey Nisbett.

Local Support: Kilgore Economic Development Corp. is pleased to support technology education in Kilgore with a $1,500 donation to Kilgore College for the Instructor Skills Conference VI of North American Process Technology Alliance in September 2015. KEDC is committed to workforce development. Improving the skills of Kilgore residents resonates with the goals and objectives of Kilgore Economic Development Corp.. Photo by Jon Vashey/KC

Library relocated to Whitten Building
With renovations underway at the Watson Library, the library has been temporarily moved to the M. Kenneth Whitten Applied Technology Center.

Specific library locations are as follows:

Circulation: ATC 104: Come here to check out books, read magazines, use computers or relax.

Bone Learning Center Computer Lab: ATC 103: Come here to type papers, do research or check email.

Technical Services: ATC 105: Here you will find Melanie Magness, Patty Waddell and Tashauna Morris. This is also where the copier is located. Purchase copy cards in circulation.

Closed Stacks: ATC 102: Come here to use the reference books. This is also where you will find Andy Tang.

ATC 102A: Library Instruction, Reference materials are located here.

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