KC announces most outstanding faculty, staff

KC honored Most Outstanding Employees at convocation in August. Each year, KC employees vote for peers who they think are “most outstanding” at what they do.

- Faculty: Brandon Walker, math instructor
- Executive/Management/Supervisory: Dr. Mike Turpin, former VP of instruction
- Professional/Technical/Support: Susan Hughes, IT System Support Specialist
- Administrative/Office Support: Emily Hammett, former professional support assistant

Guerrero named dean of Health Sciences

Dr. Larry Guerrero has begun duties as dean of Health Sciences. Guerrero last served as vice president of academic affairs at Seminole State College and brings a wealth of knowledge in budgeting, accreditation, planning, administrative duties, personnel and creating a positive working environment.

Prior to SSC, Guerrero served as executive vice president of academic affairs/provost at University of the Southwest in Hobbs, NM.

He graduated from Oklahoma City University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Education and a Master of Education in Secondary Education. He also earned a Doctor of Education in Applied Educational Studies from Oklahoma State University.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

“A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Fire Academy for sending me cadets; and to Jacob Dubois, Monica Smith and her student-workers for their help unloading 195 mattresses. It was very much appreciated. They accomplished in a little over an hour what would have taken much longer without their help.

- by Betsy Hansard
  Procurement Services Manager

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

PLEASE MASK UP.
**President’s Perspective** by Dr. Brenda Kays  

**Innovation Grants!**

During our fall convocation, I announced that the KC Board of Trustees had approved and increased a set-aside of $25,000 to foster innovative ideas at KC! The only “catch” associated with the grant is that interested faculty/staff members must complete a grant application to apply.

The Innovation Grant application is relatively simple to complete and may be found by visiting [www.kilgore.edu/innovation-grants](http://www.kilgore.edu/innovation-grants).

Now is your chance to receive some “seed money” to fund your great idea, benefit our students and continue to move us forward as a college! Grant awards may go to one or multiple applicants. There is no application minimum or maximum, but KC will not award more than $25,000. The Innovation Committee will select the grant recipients and look for applicants who propose new methods and ideas to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Applicants are encouraged to “think outside the box!”

The application deadline is Nov. 1, 2021. Funds will be made available on or before Dec. 1, 2021, and must be expended during the college’s fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 2022.

Awardees will be asked to do a short oral presentation during the January 2022 convocation.

Contact me with any questions. I hope that your semester is off to a great start, and I look forward to reading about your innovative ideas. The Innovation Committee will select the recipients of these grant dollars -- don’t wait, apply now!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays  
KC president

---

**KC will receive $1.16 million to help displaced, underemployed adults continue higher education**

The U.S. Department of Education announced that Kilgore College will receive a federal Educational Opportunities Center (EOC) grant of $1,160,250 to help unemployed workers, low-wage workers and returning high school and college students enter or continue a program of postsecondary education.

This is the first EOC grant awarded to KC and it will assist 850 adult learners per year in Gregg, Rusk, Upshur and Harrison counties to find their path to higher education.

EOC provides counseling and information on college admissions and services to improve participants’ financial and economic literacy.

KC currently has two additional TRIO Programs, Student Support Services and Upward Bound.

For more information, please call Bindy Tice, director of TRIO student support services, at (903) 988-7590.

Click for more info

---

**FACULTY & STAFF REPORTS**

**Ferguson serving as chair of TCOLE curriculum committee**

Michael Ferguson (department chair, instructor Public Services Department) is serving as chair of the current Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) legal update curriculum committee. The committee researched and wrote the legislatively mandated legal update that will be used by the approximately 79,000 peace officers in Texas after this latest regular legislative session.

---

**NETHealth**

**COVID-19 Vaccines**

**Next vaccination clinic set for Tuesday, Sept. 21**

KC is hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the community in the fitness center. Remaining dates are Tuesday, Sept. 21, and Monday, Oct. 11. 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](http://www.NETHealthCOVID19.org), or by calling (903) 617-6404.

---

**COLLEGE NEWS**

**Artwork by Lorianne Hubbard on display in Turk Fine Arts Gallery**

The Kilgore College Visual Arts Department presents “After Solomon” by artist Lorianne Hubbard through Sept. 22 in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery on the Kilgore campus.

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](mailto:lkitchen@kilgore.edu).
DATA: Did you know?

Degrees and certificates awarded during the 2020-21 academic year:

• Academic Transfer Degrees (AA, AS, AAT): 402
• Workforce Degrees (AAS): 313
• Certificates: 532*

*includes 261 Police and Fire Academy Certificates

Data provided by the
KC Office of Organizational Effectiveness & Excellence

KC partnering with UT Tyler to offer classes in Longview

Kilgore College is excited to partner with UT Tyler to offer several evening classes this fall to serve the Longview community. Classes including government, biology, psychology, history and art will be offered this fall at the Longview University Center, located at 3201 N. Eastman Road in Longview. For more information on these classes, call (903) 983-8185 or (903) 983-8122.

OPEN AUDITIONS
THURSDAY, SEPT. 2ND
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
VAN CLIBURN AUDITORIUM FINE ARTS CENTER

September Birthdays

9-2 Cori Holden
9-3 Krystal Bridwell
9-3 Nancy Lamouroux
9-3 Michelle Sullivan
9-4 Holly Davis
9-4 Stephanie Laszik
9-5 Kelsie Jones
9-5 Ricky Moser
9-9 Estonia Graves
9-9 Coy Lothrop
9-12 Melissa Dobbs
9-14 Trevis Croft
9-14 Karla Mojica
9-15 Sonya Olvera
9-15 Matthew Simpson
9-18 Christopher Brandt
9-18 Starla Lumpkin
9-19 Betty Longacre
9-19 Tony Means
9-20 Luz Cervantes
9-21 Melonie Bonner
9-23 Jessica Copeland
9-24 Falecia Halton
9-24 Meredith May
9-24 Sammy Wagner
9-25 Ebony Allison-Dennis
9-26 Darrell Smith
9-27 Chris Craddock
9-27 Bekcy Hamilton
Fall 2021 marks the beginning of the third year of the five-year implementation of Write Your Future, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Kilgore College. Kilgore College designated three strategies to accomplish this goal of enhancing student writing:

1. Implementation of a Grammar Boot Camp integrated into all sections of English 1301
2. Establishment of Writing Studios, concrete and virtual, staffed by professional tutors to coach developing writers
3. Presentation of professional development and support to faculty to hone already embedded and contextualized writing assignments throughout the core curriculum

The following is the schedule for courses to be phased-in to the QEP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Semesters</th>
<th>Courses Included in QEP Rollout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fall 2019/Spring 2020</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fall 2020/Spring 2021</td>
<td>Language, Philosophy, Culture, EDUC 1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fall 2021/Spring 2022</td>
<td>History, Economics, Geography, Sociology, TECA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fall 2022/Spring 2023</td>
<td>Government, Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fall 2023/Spring 2024</td>
<td>Creative Arts, Life and Physical Sciences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to this schedule, during the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters, instructors of the highlighted courses will be provided professional development regarding writing assignments.

The students in all courses from Years 1-3 will have access to the Writing Studios on both KC campuses, as well as free use of the online tutoring service, Tutor.com. Please note that students will only have free access to Tutor.com by accessing it from the link in their qualifying Blackboard courses.

While all other courses are not yet included in the QEP rollout, all KC faculty and students can access the printable resources available on the Writing Studio webpage at any time. Another resource designed to assist faculty in sharing ideas regarding writing strategies is available in Blackboard. Write Your Future – QEP was established as a repository for faculty to document best practices and lessons learned. This site may be accessed through any faculty Blackboard account under Organizations. Faculty members may contribute to this forum by emailing the director at the address below.

Please refer to the QEP webpage for any questions regarding the QEP, or contact Karen Dulweber, Director of the QEP and Writing Studios, at kdulweber@kilgore.edu.
In an occasional feature, KC Marketing Interns will feature a KC employee so fellow employees can learn more about them.

This month features Stephanie Laszik, eLearning faculty development specialist & English instructor.

Interview and photo by:
Adriana Cisneros Emerson

Stephanie Laszik kicks off the 2021-22 academic year from a video booth as she transitions into the role of eLearning Faculty Development Specialist, helping instructors develop the online portion of their web and hybrid courses. She will also continue teaching English Composition I and II classes to KC students – the job she has held since returning to Kilgore College as an adjunct instructor in 2015, and a full-time instructor in 2017.

Q&A with Stephanie Laszik...

Were you involved in any extracurricular activities at KC? If so, how did that come about?

“I was a KC Rah in 2005. Having cheered competitively and for my school my whole life, I thought I had surpassed my years as an athlete. Upon graduating high school and enrolling in Kilgore College, my close friend Jonathan Polk urged me to join the team and the cheer life again. Although it was a short-lived experience, it was an opportunity to do what I loved for Kilgore College.”

What’s your favorite memory from when you were a cheerleader?

“Pep rallies were always an amazing experience. We would work tirelessly daily to choreograph an entire performance and perform it with perfection. When we finally made it to the gym, having the student body there cheering us on as we tumbled and stunted felt great.”

At what point in your life did you realize the value a college education held? How do you think you are able to convey this information to your students?

“I’ve always felt that a college education was something I wanted and needed to obtain. I struggled throughout high school with the structure and authority associated with going to school. This led me on a path toward graduating high school in three years as a means to leave the school system behind. To accomplish that goal of being an early graduate, I had to make up for the year I spent miserable and not doing well in my classes. I took dual credit courses from Kilgore College during the summers between my sophomore and senior years, and I took what were called correspondence courses at the time from Texas Tech. Education has changed a lot in a relatively short amount of time. It was a difficult process for me to be given permission to be a three-year graduate, and my Texas Tech courses were actually assignments I completed and mailed in for submission via an envelope and stamp...true snail mail. Regardless of my feelings toward being in high school, I knew I was going to continue my education at Kilgore College. I loved learning and still consider myself a life-long learner, but going to college was on my own terms and in an environment that allowed me to grow socially and educationally. After moving around a bit and having my two daughters, it finally clicked in my head that I truly needed to reach my goals and obtain the degrees I wanted. At that time, 2009, I returned to Kilgore College as an online student.

I’ve always focused on being honest with my students. Most students, regardless of their age, background, experiences, really just want non-judgmental, authentic relationships with their instructors. It works out for me because I have no right to judge anyone for their past experiences. The important thing is that the student is there in that moment and their education is a priority. It is my job to support them, facilitate learning, and foster a safe environment for learning, making mistakes, and building knowledge.”

How did you realize you wanted to be an English instructor? What is your favorite part about it?

“I realized I wanted to be an English instructor as an undergraduate. I was lucky to have instructors at Kilgore College and UT-Tyler (for my bachelor’s and master’s degrees) who inspired me with a love for learning that paralleled my love for literature and writing. As I worked my way through more courses in English and my minor, history, I discovered that teaching was what I wanted to do with my degrees.”

What kind of genre do you enjoy the most when it comes to reading?

“Most enjoy reading poetry. To me, poetry has a wider scope than most people might initially consider. The poetry of Jim Morrison, James Franco, and Shu Ting are some of my favorites as well.”

What book do you think every one of your students should read and why?

“Maus because there are infinite levels of visual and textual elements that speak to all people regardless of geographical location or time.”

What is the most important thing students need to know before leaving KC?

“The most important thing for students to know before leaving KC is that every single person around them is full of infinite wisdom, experiences, and there is valuable in everyone. The beauty of Kilgore College is the student body. In any given classroom (physically or virtually) the culmination of life experience brought to the class by all of our unique students is a rich learning environment. I’d tell them: savor every moment, meet people, branch out, build a learning community, and thrive.”

Do you know of an interesting office on the Kilgore or Longview campus?

Email Rachel Stallard to let her know!