KC announces most outstanding faculty, staff

KC honored Most Outstanding Employees at the virtual convocation Aug. 17. 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; and Faculty.

KC employees who go “Above & Beyond”

Will Massey

“Kudos to Will Massey for orchestrating and providing an awesome virtual conference for the Texas Academic Advising Network (TEXAAN) East Region! As the East Region chair, Will took on the daunting task of planning and presenting a conference that had to be moved to a virtual format due to COVID-19. He not only gave an incredible opening address, but provided a slate of panelists and speakers that were top-notch and provided information on topics and issues from which every advisor could benefit.

He even provided an online DJ with the best music to make the conference even more entertaining! The experience was like none I have ever had at a conference, but was the most enjoyable and informative one I have been to in a long time!

Way to go Will – you made KC proud!!!”
- Melissa Dobbs, KC-Longview Counselor

Review symptom checklist each morning before coming to work

The Office of Human Resources reminds all employees to remain diligent in using the “symptom checklist” every morning prior to coming to work.

“It is easy for all of us to get complacent over time, but this is not a routine that you can neglect,” said Tony Johnson, HR director. “Your coworkers are depending on you to keep them safe, so please take that responsibility seriously.”

Every morning KC employees are required to take temperatures and scan the checklist for any of the listed symptoms. If a temperature is 100.0 degrees or above and any symptoms are present, please do not come to work. Instead, call Tony Johnson for directions at (903) 983-8102.

If you are in a private office, a face covering is not required, but that only applies if you are alone. If someone enters the office, put your face covering on immediately and make sure that the person entering also has his/her mask on.

Tumey named Interim Director of Adult Education & Literacy

Congratulations to Charmyn Tumey who has been named the Interim Director of Adult Education & Literacy.

“I appreciate her eagerness to step up to fill this role,” said Richard Crutcher, Dean of Business & Information Technology. “I look forward to working with Charmyn to continue the valuable service that this department provides to KC, and in particular, to the students in the program.”
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at KC

A KC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force started working in earnest at the college this afternoon. Jake White chairs the task force. Joining Jake are Dr. Reggie Brazzle, Chief Heath Cariker, Addie Lees, Portia Scott, Ashley Mason, Willie Gooden, Manny Almanza, Alex Knox and Ronda Lee.

The first goal of the task force is to create a diversity/equity/inclusion statement. The statement, published on the KC website, will be by nature aspirational and aimed at promoting diversity/equity/inclusion at KC. The statement will serve as the foundation for all other actions/recommendations to follow at the college.

The task force will also be responsible for making recommendations to college cabinet members to further foster a culture at KC that reflects the tenets of radical hospitality for all students, faculty and staff. Depending on the breadth and depth of the recommendations that are made by the DEI Task Force, KC may believe that a need exists to establish a standing committee to provide ongoing dialog and activity.

The work of the DEI Task Force will be grounded in both quantitative and qualitative data. Dr. Staci Martin’s office has provided the group with myriad of data points reflecting how well the college achieves its equity goals. However, the task force will also be gathering qualitative data through surveys and focus groups.

Overall, the group will be compare and contrast what they learn about the college and perform a gap analysis. The gap analysis will guide the task force recommendations.

I will keep the entire college community posted on the DEI Task Force outcomes/recommendations as they become available.

Until then, please join me in supporting the work of the task force.

Enjoy your Labor Day Holiday!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

Congratulations to KC retirees!

Tim Bright, HVAC Instructor, effective Aug. 31, after 15 years and two months of service
Raymond Caldwell, TSS Director, effective August 31, 2020 after 48 years of service
Jackie Hobbs, ADN Instructor, effective Aug. 31, after eight years of service
Karen Johnson, Reading Instructor, effective Aug. 31, after 38 years of service
Joel Laws, Auto Body Repair Instructor, effective Aug. 31, after 12 years of service
Ingo Stoehr, English Instructor, effective Aug. 31, after 29 years of service

President’s Perspective by Dr. Brenda Kays

Congratulations to Jase Graves, Department Chair/Instructor of Language Development. TrueHumor.com named the month of August ‘Jase Graves Month’ and featured several of his humor columns focused on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coach Peter Hopkins reports that about 55 student athletes were on campus taking class in-person and working out during the Summer 2 term. KC football players finished the Summer 2 session with an overall team GPA of 3.0. The football staff thanks all KC employees who played a pivotal role in assisting its student-athletes to accomplish this milestone during these unprecedented times. Please reach out to the coaching staff if you have any questions or concerns with the student athletes.

History instructor Dr. Meredith May will be a featured guest lecturer this month during the Gregg County Historical Museum’s Free Summer Lecture Series. May will speak at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, at the museum on “Pine Resin in my Veins; East Texas Women’s History.” She will discuss Angelina County, the only county in Texas named after a woman. Each lecture is limited to 40 guests due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

KC face coverings available at bookstore

The KC Bookstore is open and is now selling KC face coverings. Employees can shop online by visiting the Business Office’s Procurement Services webpage in AccessKC and scrolling to the bottom to view a list of available supplies. Bookstore Manager Kenton Beal will be happy to take your orders by email, by phone at (903) 988-7517, or in person. Delivery is also available.

SEPTMBER 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  Kelle Jones
9-5  Rick Moser
9-7  Jimmy Rieves
9-9  Richard Crutcher
9-9  Estonia Graves
9-9  Coy Lothrop
9-9  Evelyn Graves
9-11  Dawn Jones
9-12  Melissa Dobbs
9-14  Ryan Cavel
9-14  Trevis Croft
9-14  Karla Mojica
9-15  Sonya Olvera
9-15  Matthew Simpson
9-18  Christopher Brandt
9-18  Richard Dugger
9-18  Starla Lumpkin
9-19  Betty Longacre
9-19  Tony Means
9-20  Jackie Hobbs
9-21  Melodie Bonner
9-23  Jessica Copeland
9-24  Falecia Halton
9-24  Meredith May
9-24  Sammi Wagner
9-25  Ebony Allison-Dennis
9-26  Reggie Brazzle
9-27  Chris Craddock
9-27  Becky Hamilton

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Ingo Stoehr
Joel Laws
Karen Johnson
Dr. Brenda Kays

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On-Campus Calendar

Sept. 4: Campuses close at 2:45 p.m.
Sept. 7: Labor Day holiday (campuses closed)
Sept. 9: Fall 16-Week (12th class day); official reporting day
Sept. 14: KC Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m., location TBD
Sept. 21: Fall 16-Week (20th Class Day), last day for refunds for 16-week classes (see refund dates in the Fall Registration Guide)

Application deadline Sept. 25 for board of trustees seat

KC is accepting applications until 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25, for one board appointment to fill the vacant seat of Cecelia Sanders who is retiring from board service. Sanders represents the South Zone, Voting Unit No. 1, Place 1. She has served on the board of trustees since 2015. The remainder of the term for this seat lasts until May 2021 when a regular election will be held for that seat. Voting Unit No. 1 includes Overton, West Rusk and Leverett’s Chapel school districts. Applicants for the seat will be reviewed by a board subcommittee that will recommend an appointment for consideration by the full board. Each member of the board must be a resident, qualified voter of the district and must take the proper oath of office before taking up duties of the board. Anyone interested in being appointed to serve in this vacant board seat may request an application from Nancy Law. To receive forms by mail or e-mail, contact Nancy Law at (903) 983-8101 or nlaw@kilgore.edu.

The following return-to-work protocols were emailed to employees Aug. 14:

IF AN EMPLOYEE HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOM(S)* BUT IS NOT DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19:

Employees must satisfy the following criteria before being allowed to return to work:

*At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
*Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

The employee may return to work earlier if the employee provides a medical release stating that the employee has a non-COVID diagnosis or provides a negative result of a test taken at least 48 hours after symptom onset. The employee must still satisfy the first two bullet points above before being allowed to return to work.

*Symptoms that are not normal for you

IF AN EMPLOYEE IS LAB-CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19:

Employees must satisfy these criteria before being allowed to return to work:

• At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; and
• At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (this period can be within the 10 days in the bullet above); and
• Other symptoms have improved.

Employees who never develop symptoms of COVID-19 may return to work 10 days after the date of their first positive test. CDC guidelines and KC’s infectious disease consultant stress ending quarantine based on symptoms instead of negative test results, as tests may show the presence of the virus for up to several months after the person is no longer contagious.

IF AN EMPLOYEE HAS CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE LAB-CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19

Close contact definition:

• Contact was for 15 minutes or more; and
• Contact was within 6 feet; and
• Neither person was wearing a face covering.

If exposure meets the definition of close contact above, employee must self-quarantine. If exposure is to someone within the employee’s household, then the employee may report to work once it has been 14 days since the criteria below have been met by the person he/she was exposed to, provided the employee has no symptoms:

• At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset; and
• At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (this period can be within the 10 days in the bullet above); and
• Other symptoms have improved.

If exposure was to someone not within employee’s household:

Employee may return to work 14 days from date of last exposure to that person, provided the employee has no symptoms.

Review of college’s COVID-19 protocols

DATA: Did you know?

Summer 2020 Course Success Rates:

A,B,C: 84%
D,F: 6%
W: 6%

Data provided by the KC Office of and Institutional Planning

Rangerettes select officers

Congratulations to the 80th line Rangerette officers. From left, they are: Right End Lt. Scarlet Walls; Right Middle Lt. Kali Rochford; Captain Elisabeth Eckles; Left Middle Lt. Ariana Hickman; & Left End Lt. Bailey Stark.