

Graves named KC registrar

Kilgore College is pleased to announce that Estonia Graves has accepted the position of Registrar. Prior to working at KC, Estonia served in the U.S. Army and employed by BorgWarner, Inc. Now, in her twelfth year at KC, Graves' in-house accomplishments include supporting KC's transition of student information systems, migrating document imaging, various committee services, as well as serving as KC's principal designated school official for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program. Graves is an active TACRAO and NAFA member. She earned an associate's degree from KC and earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Texas at Tyler.



GRAVES

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

KC employees who go "Above & Beyond"

Tabitha Craker

"Tabitha Craker is a student worker in Devall Student Center who goes OUT OF HER WAY to be a smiling, welcoming forefront of KC. She not only meets everyone with a smile and helpful information in the student center, but she cleans the whole room each day, changes welcoming signs to match the days, and gets out and encourages students to participate in games. Her passion for help and kindness definitely shines through her actions and personality. I know students appreciate a smiling face and the warm welcomes she is exhibiting for our College!! She deserves the recognition for the wonderful and radical hospitality that she goes above and beyond to share!"



CRAKER

- submitted by Chris Foote, KC grant accountant

NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE! Groundbreaking set for January



ABOVE: Artist rendering of the new KC bridge over Highway 259.

KC will hold an official groundbreaking in January to celebrate the demolition of the remainder of the old pedestrian bridge and the construction of the new bridge. The groundbreaking is set for 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at the site of the old bridge. The bridge will be ADA compliant with elevators on both sides and will truly be a landmark for the college and the community. In September, the KC Board of Trustees awarded RLM General Contractors as the contractor to demolish what is left of the pedestrian bridge, and to build a new bridge. Costs associated with the pedestrian bridge project will be covered by insurance proceeds and college reserves. The demolition/construction of the new pedestrian bridge is expected to take nine months.



Ebony Dennis, director of Instructional Student Support, thanks all employees who sponsored a child for the KC Angel Tree. This year, 33 children of KC students will have a brighter Christmas morning thanks to your generous gifts!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

An exciting spring convocation is set for Jan. 9 in Dodson Auditorium. For more info on Opening Week 2023, visit: www.kilgore.edu/opening-week

Congrats, KC Faculty & Staff! for YOUR Rodeo Award!

KC was recently selected as a recipient of the 2022 RODEO award in Recognition Of your Dedication to Educational Outcomes (RODEO). Congratulations and sincere thank yous and recognition for ALL! This award is quite an accomplishment!

KC received this prestigious award at the November Pathways Convention in Dallas. According to Dr. Martha Ellis, KC's Texas Pathways Coach, "Kilgore College has been selected as a recipient of the 2022 RODEO award in Recognition of its Dedication to Educational Outcomes."

This award is based solely on our student success data. Due to your hard work and dedication to our students, Kilgore College stands out as an exemplar in seven key performance indicators associated with credential completion.

Notably, Kilgore College ranks in the top 10 colleges for incoming students who:

- Earn 15 or more college credit hours in Year 1
- Earn 30 or more college credit hours in Year 1, and who
- Persist from Term 1 to Term 2.

Specifically, KC excels in credit accumulation. Sixty percent of incoming students earned 15 or more college credit hours in Year 1, and 19% earned 30 or more in Year 1 (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2022). This early success enables students to stay on track toward their goals. KC ranks 8th in the state, with 77% of incoming students persisting from Term 1 to Term 2 (THECB, 2022). The bottom line, the commitment of KC to systems redesign and student success enables students to achieve their postsecondary goals.

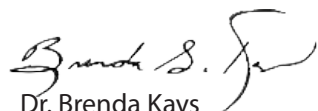
Pause just a moment to let that sink in and revel in this success. We rank in the top 10 out of 50 community colleges across Texas! That doesn't happen by accident—these results only come about when an entire college focuses on all things students and student success. We are changing students' lives and have the data to prove it.

This type of accomplishment gets noticed because it is based on cold hard facts (a.k.a. data). It is noticed not just at awards ceremonies but also among those who are interested in investing in organizations that are moving the proverbial needle on student completion (a.k.a. KC). The T.L.L. Temple Foundation out of Lufkin, Texas, is one of those organizations. Earlier this week, KC received notification that the T.L.L. Temple Foundation was making a \$200,000 investment in student success at KC! These new grant dollars from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation will help qualified students with tuition, fees and emergency needs. More details will come, but our goal is to start distributing these dollars to students for the Spring 2023 semester.

Many thanks to those faculty and staff who participated in the Texas Pathways Institutes this year under the leadership of Dr. Tracy Skopek. Kilgore College was actively engaged in the fall and spring Texas Pathways Institutes, co-leading a pre-institute workshop and leading a concurrent session focused on our journey to scale 8-week courses. Throughout 2022, many administrators, faculty and staff at KC have coordinated closely with two other Leader Colleges to support 11 colleges across the state in implementing new 8-week terms for pathway transformation. Not only are we doing great things to help our students be successful, but we are also helping other colleges across the state to accelerate success and completion rates.

In closing, I hope that each of you has a wonderful break. The Fall 2022 semester has been hectic, and I know we are all ready for some downtime. I wish for you this Christmas to be surrounded by those you cherish the most while sharing the beautiful moments of the holiday season. Get some rest, and I will see you in 2023 as we again reach new heights at KC together!

Enjoy your break!


 Dr. Brenda Kays
 KC president



FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
[@KCBrendaKays](https://twitter.com/KCBrendaKays)



Dr. Brenda Kays

KC art instructors **Lori Solley** and **Frank Herbert** were honored earlier this semester for their outstanding artwork.

Solley's Art Exhibit, "Not. One. More. Word," was named in the [top-five art exhibits](#) in Texas by Glasstire, the oldest online-only art magazine in the country. The Exhibit was featured at the UT Tyler Fine Arts Complex Gallery from August through October. Herbert's "Live Oak Leaves" painting was named as a top-30 finalist (out of 500) for the [AASH \(Arcadia Art Show\) ARTISTS VOL6](#) – an international juried fine art show featuring painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and print-making. His artwork is featured at the Arcadia Theatre in Tyler.



Lori Solley
KC Art Instructor



Frank Herbert
KC Adjunct Art Instructor

Jennifer Quine, Substance Abuse Counseling Program Instructor, attended the Texas Association of Addiction Professionals State Conference in San Antonio in September. She was fortunate to hear presentations from experts in the field of Addiction Recovery, including Dr. Carl Anderson, founder of the Texas Tech Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery, and Jermain "Tall Cop" Galloway who teaches drug and alcohol prevention and enforcement nationwide. Along with gaining CEUs, she also met professionals from across the state with whom she will be able to network for KC online students who need internship sites.



Jennifer Quine
Substance Abuse Counseling Instructor

Librarians from 10 of the high schools that host KC dual credit classes met in September for the annual Dual Credit Librarian Meeting. They discussed changes to the library's electronic database, how to get help from the library and how to use the Watson Library's tutorials. **Susan Wilson**, KC's public services librarian, thanks the following departments for contributions to the "swag bags" that were handed out: Upward Bound; KC Student Nurses Association; Business, Entrepreneurship, & Information Technology; nursing department; athletics department; KC Bookstore; admissions & recruitment; East Texas Oil Museum, Educational Opportunity Center and the biology department. Pictured is Irena Hedrick, who won the door prize gift basket.



Irena Hedrick
Overton ISD - Door Prize Winner

On-Campus Calendar

- 5-7, Christmas Movies in Dodson Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
- 7, Basketball (Men) vs. Lamar State, Masters Gym, 7 p.m.
- 8, ADN Pinning & Graduation Ceremony, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m.
ADN Graduation Reception, Devall Ballroom, Noon
Cafeteria Closes @ 6 p.m.
Residence Halls Close @ 10 p.m.
- 9, Fall Graduation, Dodson Auditorium, 6 p.m.
- 10, Basketball (Women) vs. Angelina, Masters Gym, 2 p.m.
- 10-Jan.1, Christmas Holidays
- 12, KC Board of Trustees Meeting, McLaurin 2nd floor, 6:30 p.m.
- 12-15, Advising Session, Devall Conference Room, Noon
- 31, Basketball (Men) vs. Tribulation Prep, Masters Gym, 2 p.m.

KC honors veterans with annual celebration

The annual KC Veterans Event was a huge success with KC Veterans VIP Advising faculty and staff enrolling about 35 students for the upcoming spring semester. **Christopher Bailey**, KC student and veteran who served 14+ years in the Army, was honored with a "Hero Award." He said he was thrilled to be honored by KC for his service and thanked faculty and staff of KC who he deemed exceptional by helping him with his educational success. **Jackie Kelley**, financial aid director, thanks everyone involved for the success of this event. **RIGHT: Dr. Staci Martin** presents **Christopher Bailey** with his **HERO Award**.



PHOTO BY Carrie Harris/KC

KC Theatre alum stars in commercial

The most recent Amazon Black Friday commercial features KC Theatre alum, **Trevor Newlin**, as the Yeti! Trevor has an exciting career as a creature actor in Los Angeles, Calif. Trevor's previous appearances include American Horror Stories on FX and The Walking Dead: Survivors. To get updates on Trevor, and other KC Theatre alumni, follow Kilgore College Theatre on social media.



DATA: Did you know?

5,241 students were enrolled in Continuing Education courses during the 2021-22 year.

This is a 25% increase over the prior year.

Data provided by:
[KC Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research](#)

Clark named new choral director

KC welcomes Lauren Clark as the college's new director of choral and vocal studies as she joins the Department of Music and Dance.

Lauren comes to KC from Florida and began work on Sept. 26. She has almost completed a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Southern Mississippi. Clark earned a Master of Music degree from University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.



CLARK

The Rangerettes' trip to New York City over the Thanksgiving break was quite eventful. Not only did they get to march and perform in their traditional red, white and blue uniforms (with their performance live on TV) and perform with Mariah Carey, but they were also featured in a full-color photograph on the cover of the Nov. 25 edition of the Wall Street Journal.



Birthdays 🎂

DECEMBER 2022

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12-02 Dawn Wilson | 12-18 Madison Foote |
| 12-04 Nicholas Simpson | 12-18 Janet Wiley |
| 12-04 Sandra Teel | 12-20 Chris Gore |
| 12-07 Crystal Pharr | 12-20 Stephanie Wallace |
| 12-10 Michael Willbanks | 12-21 Joel Estrada |
| 12-11 Monica Brock | 12-22 Halen Dorsey |
| 12-11 Laurie Kimball | 12-22 Amanda Jackson |
| 12-12 Jennifer Deupree | 12-22 John Whitehead |
| 12-13 John Raulston | 12-24 Gena Berry |
| 12-14 Rachel Stallard | 12-24 Jayden Oden |
| 12-16 Ada Duarte De Ortiz | 12-26 Virginia Germany |
| 12-16 Jude Dubois | 12-28 Michael Smith |
| 12-16 Patrick Hicks | 12-30 Kevin Powers |
| 12-16 Michael Huston | 12-31 Larry Dorsey |
| 12-16 Lillian Jackson | 12-31 Rebekah Metcalf |
| | 12-31 Katelyn Thompson |

JANUARY 2023

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 01-03 William Stowe | 01-17 Matthew Gayetsky |
| 01-04 Amber Furlow | 01-18 Sheri Burlingame |
| 01-05 Matthew Moseley | 01-18 Shelley Wayne |
| 01-09 Cary Challis | 01-20 Sarah Whitfield |
| 01-09 Collin Harris | 01-21 Heidi Everett |
| 01-09 Russell Waggoner | 01-21 Terry Hanson |
| 01-11 Paul Buchanan | 01-22 Emily Hammett |
| 01-11 Kendra Morris | 01-23 Lucas Gless |
| 01-13 Sheri Gillis | 01-27 Vickie Gramling |
| 01-15 Shanetra Simmons | 01-28 Charmyn Tumey |
| 01-16 Kenny Byrd | 01-30 Julie Webb |
| 01-16 Delicia Moccio | |