

GIRLS BREAKING NORMS set for March 24 in Kilgore

Girls Breaking Norms will be held March 24 on the Kilgore campus. This is a one-day conference where middle school girls can explore different career options. The conference will focus mostly on careers in science, math, engineering and technology. Women from various professions will be on hand to discuss these careers with the students.

Are you interested, or know someone who is interested, in presenting at the conference?

If so, please [fill out this online form](#). Presenters will speak with two groups of middle school girls. As a presenter, you will be able to provide these girls with information on what it's like to work in your career.

For more information, email [Kyla Sather](#), career coach and academic advisor.



girls breaking
norms

Wayne inducted into Texas Dance Educators Hall of Fame for 2022

Shelley Wayne, assistant director and choreographer of the Rangerettes, was inducted into the Texas Dance Educators



Association (TDEA) Hall of Fame for 2022. As a member of the Rangerettes (1985-87), Wayne was both a Rangerette Lieutenant and Swinger.

After KC, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University) in San Marcos.

After graduation, she returned home to Houston to direct the Westfield High School Lariettes for one year before being hired at KC in 1993 as assistant director and choreographer to Dana Blair.

Wayne earned a Master of Education in 2000 and teaches dance in the KC Department of Music and Dance.

She is a co-owner of Encore Creative Productions, a lifetime member of Rangerettes Forever and is the co-director of the Rangerette Summer Dance Camp.

In 2013, Wayne was also the recipient of a TDEA Lifetime Achievement Award.

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

KC employees who go "Above & Beyond"

Nicholas Simpson

Professor Nicholas "Nick" Simpson (biology) always goes above and beyond with his students. He is a pioneer of multimodal instruction and will meet with students to help with coursework and lab work on their schedule. He is so creative with his assignments! Our student success policy at KC states that we should help students get to where they want to be, and Simpson does this on a daily basis.

Students are successful in his courses because Professor Simpson encourages and celebrates diversity of learning. He has analyzed data to discover the days and times students are most likely to be on Blackboard and working on coursework, and he makes sure to be virtually available to them. It is a privilege to work with Professor Simpson and learn from his experience and instruction style.



Simpson

- by Cori Holden-Williams, sociology instructor

Pruitt, Gooden honored by Kilgore Men & Women of Alliance



FROM LEFT: Victor Boyd (accepting on behalf of Coach Gooden); Courtney Pruitt; and presenter Michael Moore.

Congratulations to **Courtney Pruitt** and **Willie Gooden**, who were honored by Kilgore Men and Women of Alliance Jan. 21 at its annual MLK Jr. Day Celebration. The KMWA celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. each year by honoring local residents who strive to make the city a better, more unified place to live. Pruitt was honored for her work as KC's first female African-American athletic director, and Gooden was honored as KC's first African-American head football coach.

KC students go to Austin!

On Jan. 26, more than 800 students traveled to Austin to participate in Community College Day at the Capitol. Kilgore College was well-represented at this convening.

Despite it being a chilly morning with temperatures hovering between 32-35 degrees, spirits were high on the south steps of the capitol. The capitol grounds were filled with students and college personnel representing most of our state's 50 community colleges! Rep. Gary VanDeaver kicked off the morning programming, and after some rallying cheers to build excitement, the students were turned loose to interface with local representatives.

KC was well-represented in Austin. Eight students made the trip to the Capitol: **Sam Cook, Miller Kerr, Dalah Montgomery, Viviana Reyes, Tyree Roberts, Audrey Stanley, Philip Suarez** and **Shawn Williamson**. We had the opportunity to meet with Senator Brian Hughes and Rep. Travis Clardy. Rep. Jay Dean was not in his office that day, but we met with his chief of staff, and one of our students, Rangerette Captain Miller Kerr, had her picture taken while sitting in Rep. Dean's office chair (photo below)! Last Friday, Representative Dean tweeted a copy of a group picture taken in his office and referenced our students as "impressive."

We spent about 30 minutes with both Sen. Hughes and Rep. Clardy. During each visit, a student spokesperson shared their KC story and advocated for the passage of the funding recommendations issued by the Commission on Community College Finance. Our students were very well-spoken and passionate. They made an excellent impression on each of the legislators we visited. Each student sported a matching blue KC button-down, and we received many comments on how sharp they looked and how well they represented the college.

This trip to Austin would not have been possible without planning and execution.

Kudos and many thanks to:

- Dr. Staci Martin and Terence Mathis for recruiting outfitting & transporting the students.
- Karen Scibona for scheduling all of our meetings with the legislative staff members.
- Faculty member Kate Yglesias Houghton (government Instructor) for briefing the students before the trip on the "do's and don't do's" associated with legislative visits.

Finally, I give praise and acclimation to our students for taking time out of their busy schedules to make the trip to Austin and actively engage with our local legislators. If you have any of the students listed above in a class or if you cross paths with them, congratulate them for their participation and willingness to participate in the Texas government process.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president



FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
@KCBrendaKays



LEFT: Students and KC representatives traveled to Austin Jan. 26 to participate in Community College Day at the Capitol. From left to right: Dr. Brenda Kays, Viviana Reyes, Audrey Stanley, Terence Mathis, Philip Suarez, Sam Cook, Shawn Williamson, Tyree Roberts, Dalah Montgomery, Dr. Staci Martin and Miller Kerr (seated).



Dr. Brenda Kays

Faculty & Staff Reports

KC team selected to work on application for NSF's Advanced Technological Education Program



ABOVE: Fred Peters, Kristen Stovall, Danny Darden & Dr. Ginger Dennis

KC has been selected by Mentor-Connect to participate in a program that will provide 11 college cohorts with mentoring and technical assistance to prepare proposals to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program.

Team members from KC who will participate in the program are **Kristen Stovall**, dean of Business and Information Technology; **Dr. Ginger Dennis**, professor and department chair of Business and Information Technology; **Danny Darden**, instructor of Computer and Information Technology; and **Fred Peters**, grant writer.

They will participate in a four-day workshop in New Orleans, Jan. 31 to Feb. 3 with a mentor, honing an application to the National Science Foundation to submit next October. The focus of KC's proposal, "Improving Higher Education Retention and Completion using Lifelong Employable Skills (iHERCULES)," focuses on recruiting and successfully graduating students in computer information technology pathways. For more information on Mentor-Connect, visit <https://mentor-connect.org/>.

College News

The KC Visual Arts Department presents selections by artist Laminda Miller - one of our very own adjunct professors - through Feb. 16 in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibition, "FACADE," features engaging, freestanding sculptural works in various mediums that speak to our human nature. A reception and artist talk by Miller will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, in the gallery. There will be light hors d'oeuvres available.



ABOVE: Two of Miller's works on exhibit in the Turk Fine Arts Gallery.

On-Campus Calendar

- 1, Basketball (W) vs. Panola, Masters Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
- 2, E.T. Police Academy Graduation, Devall Ballroom, 9:30 a.m.
Dallas Baptist University Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 2-4 p.m.
- 4, Basketball (M) vs. Paris, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
- 6-7, Innovative Inventions, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
- 8, Basketball (W) vs. Paris, Masters Gymnasium, 5:30 p.m.
- 10, East Texas Regional Science Fair, Devall Ballroom, 8 a.m.
- 11, ACT Testing, Old Main, 8 a.m.
Basketball (W) vs. TVCC, Masters Gymnasium, Noon
Basketball (M) vs. TVCC, Masters Gymnasium, 2:30 p.m.
- 12, Super Bowl Watch Party, Devall Ballroom, 4 p.m.
- 13, UT Tyler Recruiter, Devall Hallway, 10 a.m.
- 17, Professional Development Day, Dodson Auditorium, 8 a.m.
- 18, Basketball (W) vs. Blinn, Masters Gymnasium, 2 p.m.
Basketball (M) vs. TJC, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
- 22, Softball vs. Hill College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
- 24, Softball vs. Galveston College, Ballpark at KC Commons, 1/3 p.m.
- 25, Smash Ultimate eSports Summit, Dodson Auditorium, 10 a.m.
Basketball (M) vs. Bossier Parish, Masters Gymnasium, 4 p.m.
- 27, KC Board of Trustees Meeting, McLaurin Building, 6:30 p.m.

KC Foundation teams with AKA to offer scholarship

The KC Foundation is teaming up with Alpha Kappa Alpha International Sorority to offer a scholarship opportunity to pay full in-district tuition to a KC student beginning in the fall of 2024. AKA will provide ongoing mentorship to the selected student. The scholarship was announced at the AKA Founder's Day Luncheon in Tyler on Jan. 21.



Pictured above with AKA Chapter President **Dr. Takova Wallace-Gay** (center) are **Tracy Skopek**, VP of instruction; and **Kristen Stovall**, dean of Business & Information Technology.

Black History Month: Did You Know?

- **Phillis Wheatley** was the first African American to publish a book of poetry, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, in 1773. Born in the Gambia and sold to the Wheatley family in Boston when she was seven years old, Wheatley was emancipated shortly after her book was released.
- **"Bars Fight,"** written by poet and activist **Lucy Terry** in 1746, was the first known poem written by a Black American. Terry was enslaved in Rhode Island as a toddler but became free at age 26 after marrying a free Black man.
- **Clotel: The President's Daughter** was the first novel published by an African American in 1853. Abolitionist and lecturer **William Wells Brown** wrote it.
- **After years of remarkable work as an attorney, Thurgood Marshall** became the first African American to serve in the U.S. Supreme Court. Officially nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967, he served as a justice until 1991.
- **In 1854, John Mercer Langston** notably became the first African American lawyer in Ohio. He served as the dean of the law department and vice president of Howard University. He's also remembered as the first African American from Virginia to be elected to public office, specifically to the U.S. Congress.
- **Anthony Benezet**, a white Quaker, abolitionist, and educator, is credited with creating the first public school for African American children in the early 1770s.
- **After graduating from Oberlin College** in 1850 with an academic degree, **Lucy Stanton** became the first Black woman in America to earn a four-year college degree.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.** started as a freshman at Morehouse College at the young age of 15.

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH



Source: <https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/a35181062/black-history-facts/>

LINKS: [Proclamation on National Black History Month, 2023](#) | [About Black History Month](#) | [African American History](#) | [Celebrate the Achievements](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

KC VIRTUAL DATA SUMMIT 2023

"ATTENTION TO RETENTION!" - 9 to 11 a.m. Friday, April 21, via Zoom



KC holds groundbreaking for new pedestrian bridge

KC held an official groundbreaking Jan. 12 to celebrate the commencement of construction of a new pedestrian bridge over Highway 259 on the Kilgore campus.

Speakers at the event included KC President Dr. Brenda Kays; Kilgore Mayor Pro Tem Harvey McClendon; and Gregg County Precinct 3 Commissioner Floyd Wingo.

The bridge will be ADA compliant with elevators on both sides and will have a 19-foot, 6-inch clearance – as opposed to the previous bridge's 16-foot clearance.

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.

The demolition/construction of the new pedestrian bridge is expected to take nine months. A 24-hour livestream of the bridge demolition and construction can be viewed during the duration of the project by visiting www.kilgore.edu/kc-bridge-cam.



ABOVE: KC stakeholders use shovels to break ground for the new bridge. [View more photos by Rachel Stallard](#)

KC accepting applications to run for board

KC will host three regular elections May 6 for expiring board terms. Applications to run for the KC Board of Trustees will be accepted until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, (excluding weekends). The regular election will include three expiring board terms:



- *Voting Unit No. 1, Place 1, South Zone (currently held by Travis Martin)*
- *Voting Unit No. 2, Place 2, North Zone (currently held by Gina DeHoyos)*
- *Voting Unit No. 3, Place 3, Central Zone (currently held by Lon Ford)*

An application for a place on the ballot can be picked up at Suite 100 of the McLaurin Admin. Bldg. or online at www.kilgore.edu/board.

Basketball Saturday featured on ESPN+

The basketball doubleheader Saturday, Feb. 11, versus Trinity Valley will be broadcast live nationally on ESPN+.



The Lady Rangers will tip off against the Lady Cardinals at Noon, followed by the Rangers against the Cardinals at 2:30 p.m. in Masters Gymnasium (*times subject to change*).

This is the first-ever ESPN broadcast of basketball games at KC.

ESPN will also be back on campus Feb. 18 to broadcast that day's basketball doubleheader.

All KC employees are encouraged to attend these games! Employees get in free (with college ID).

Birthdays

FEBRUARY 2023

2-1 Madison Campbell
2-2 Kathy Knighton
2-2 Cindy Thurman
2-5 Rhonda Heinsohn
2-6 Dorothy Kenney
2-8 Manuel Almanza
2-8 Staci Martin
2-9 Annita Bates
2-10 Sonja Moore
2-11 Alex Walker
2-12 Jennifer Quine
2-15 Jody Bush
2-16 Melanie Sullivan

2-16 Stephanie Taylor
2-17 Susan Wilson
2-19 Kayla Cook
2-22 Shannon Eschenfelder
2-23 Susan Hughes
2-23 Jason Rutherford
2-24 Mandy Key
2-24 Sherri Morris
2-25 Sarah Booker
2-25 Karen Tutt
2-26 Amber Kinsey
2-28 Cody McCoy
2-28 Mark Stephens

MARCH 2023

3-1 Justin Rios
3-1 Portia Scott
3-1 Donald Seals
3-2 Ashlynn Smith
3-3 Daniel Reigstad
3-4 Jeff Williams
3-8 Kristi Simpson
3-9 Michael Hegwood
3-13 Kenya Ray
3-14 Joseph Cassin
3-14 Curtis Ivory
3-14 Christopher Jones
3-14 Todd Ketchum

3-16 Kenwood Bell
3-17 Brian Hoberecht
3-17 Matthew Wickes
3-19 Angela Aulds
3-20 Michael Ferguson
3-24 Mary Buckner
3-25 Monica Smith
3-27 Ginger Dennis
3-27 Dulce Venegas
3-28 Michele Daniels-Cornett
3-28 Melanie Magness
3-30 Jacob Dubois
3-30 Merlyn Holmes

DATA: Did you know?

67% of KC's Fall 2021 first-time-in-college, full-time cohort of students returned for the Fall 2022 term or graduated before the Fall 2022 term.

This is an increase of 61% from the prior year.

*Data provided by:
KC Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research*