

KC collaborates with AWS



Kilgore College held a press conference Jan. 31 to officially announce its collaboration with technologists from Amazon Web Services (AWS) Skills to better align the college's tech programs to industry.

This collaboration addresses the skills gap in community college and university curricula to better reflect industry needs and prepare learners for careers in areas such as IT/cloud support, software development, and data analysis.

As part of this effort, our faculty works closely with AWS experts on a regular basis to plan Business and Information Technology classes, build realistic project work, and create a high-quality education experience for our students.

This collaborative approach to our programming strengthens student career readiness and equips learners with in-demand skills that open pathways to entry-level tech roles in a rapidly-evolving job market.

[READ MORE](#)

Registration underway for Kilgore College Fueling Fitness 5K & Fun Run

The KC East Texas Oil Museum will host the KC Fueling Fitness 5K and Fun Run set for April 27.

Cost to participate in the 5K (through Feb. 29) is \$30

for adults and \$24 for children ages 12 and under. On March 1, costs will increase to \$35 for adults and \$28 for children to participate in the 5K.

The cost to participate in the 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk is \$15 (through Feb. 29) and \$20 beginning March 1.

Proceeds from this family-friendly race will support the KC Excel Health Club at the Parks Fitness Center and the East Texas Oil Museum. [READ MORE](#)



RADICAL HOSPITALITY

KC employees who go "Above & Beyond"

Delinda Spencer

I want to recognize Delinda Spencer in the Business Office. She is a superstar in my book.

She goes above and beyond to help my staff when we are helping our EOC clients.

It might be placing a hold on an account to prevent the student from being dropped while they get their finances together or explaining the charges on a student account.

She demonstrates true Radical Hospitality through kindness and patience, even when exhausted or overwhelmed with daily work duties.

Thank you for allowing me to recognize her and the quality of care she provides to our students.

- by Rosa Hopkins, Manager, Educational Opportunity Center



SPENCER

KILGORE COLLEGE RangerPRINT

Your One-Stop Printing Solution

KC is thrilled to announce a convenient and user-friendly printing solution that will streamline your printing needs -- the [RangerPRINT Storefront!](#)

Simply log in using your KC username and password in the upper right-hand corner of the page. We encourage you to explore the Welcome Page, especially the "What You Should Know" section. It contains valuable information to help you make the most of RangerPRINT Storefront. With a simplified printing process, requisitions are no longer needed, you can easily track your orders and customize your print jobs to exact specifications including printing options, paper types and finishing touches.

If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to contact [Betsy Hansard](#).

IMAGINE...

Innovation, Motivation, Adaptive, Growth Mindset, Inclusive, Nurturing, Empowering



Dr. Brenda Kays

I posed several questions to you during my comments at our January convocation. I asked you: How will we meet the ever-evolving expectations of our Gen Z & A student population? How do we attract those, as well as other populations, to our organization? How do we keep pace with students' ever-evolving perceptions about post-secondary education?

The answer to all of these questions is IMAGINE.

We already have a blueprint in place for accomplishing herculean tasks at Kilgore College, which we followed to put our 8-week terms into existence. Utilizing that exact blueprint, I believe we can achieve anything we set our sights on....anything that we can IMAGINE.

Similar to the blueprint established for our 8-week conversion, we will employ a steering committee, have regular steering committee and workgroup meetings, and tap into our collective brain trust to shift what we see in our imagination into action and a new reality for our current students and those students yet to come.

Imagining the KC Student Experience is going to take a lot of work. We've heard from other colleges who have undertaken this level of transformation, and it is a process that can easily span 18-24 months. Specifically, our tasks will be to focus on the stages of the Student Experience: Recruiting, Pre-Onboarding, Onboarding, Retention, Completion, and Alums as life-long learners, and we will be doing that for the various student populations we serve, including dual credit, online, transfer, adult learners 25+, and matriculating students.

I am pleased to announce that IMAGINE- The Student Experience Steering Committee had its inaugural meeting on Monday, January 22. Please join me in recognizing the steering committee members for their passion and dedication to our students, as illustrated by their willingness to participate in this significant process improvement journey. The members you see on the list **highlighted in blue** indicate a member who has also agreed to chair one of the workgroups.

Members of the IMAGINE Steering Committee Include:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mike Jenkins | William Stowe | Ebony Dennis | Stephanie Arriola |
| Tracy Skopek | Kristen Stovall | Chris Gore | Charmyn Tumey |
| Staci Martin | Brandon Walker | Callie Blakely | Selena Rutherford |
| Terry Hanson | Becky Johnson | Jase Graves | Taylor Fleet |
| D'Wayne Shaw | Jennifer Bray | Brazy Sammons | Tracy Fletcher |
| Merlyn Holmes | Manny Almanza | Jackie Kelley | Richard Plott |
| Meredith May | | | |

Your opinions and ideas are still important, even if you don't see your name on the list above. This process improvement journey will seek to include, not exclude. No individual is or can be solely responsible for anything that happens at KC. IMAGINE will be a team approach.

Each of the workgroup chairs is responsible for assembling their team. All steering committee members will be members of a workgroup. Additionally, the Chair of each group will recruit additional members. Members will include subject matter experts in a particular area and "external consultants" who will lend a fresh set of eyes and prevent "group-think!"

The workgroups are being formed around each stage of the KC Student Experience:

- Recruiting: Tracy Skopek, Chair
- Pre-Onboarding: Mike Jenkins, Chair
- Onboarding: Terry Hanson, Chair
- Retention: Jase Graves, Chair
- Completion: Staci Martin, Chair
- Alums as Life-Long Learners: D'Wayne Shaw, Chair

Please answer that call when asked to participate in a workgroup! If one of the workgroups piques your interest, contact the Chair to volunteer to help!

This newsletter article will not be the last time you hear about IMAGINE. Stay tuned for updates and a preview of the t-shirts crafted for the experience, including how to obtain one of your very own!

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC President



FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
[@KCBrendaKays](#)

Faculty & Staff Reports

Congratulations to **Jackie Rambo** (Student Success Librarian) who was part of the first class to graduate from the newly revamped U.S. Air Force Officer Training School – Victory. It's a 60-day rigorous training plan to prepare warrior-minded leaders of character for the leadership responsibilities required of an Air Force officer in an ever-changing military environment. She went there as an enlisted Technical Sergeant and graduated a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant.



RAMBO

Congratulations to **Ivonne Maldonado** (AEL Educational Assistant) was this year's featured student at the Literacy Council of Tyler's annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon. Maldonado moved from Mexico in 2016, learned English with ESL classes and earned an Associate's Degree at KC. Now she teaches classes at KC to adults like her in the AEL program. She is currently working on her bachelor's degree at UT Tyler as well. [READ MORE OF HER AMAZING STORY](#)



MALDONADO

College News

The college welcomes Ben Avedikian as KC's new Executive Director of Facility Services.

Ben comes to KC from Hallsville ISD and also has facility and business services experience from LeTourneau University, emergency management experience and higher education purchasing/central services experience.

He earned a BS in Emergency Administration and Planning from The University of North Texas and a MS in Industrial Management from UT Tyler.

Ben's office is in the McLaurin Building, Office 201. When you see Ben out-and-about, welcome him aboard!



AVEDIKIAN

VIEW NEW CALENDAR ONLINE

With the inception of the college's new website, all on-campus events can be [viewed online by clicking here](#). If you are sponsoring or hosting an event and it is not on the calendar, please [email Judy DeRouen](#) so she can add it to the online calendar.

Birthdays

FEBRUARY 2024

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2/1 Madison Campbell | 2/18 Amber Smith |
| 2/2 Cindy Thurman | 2/19 Kayla Cook |
| 2/2 Kathy Knighton | 2/23 Jason Rutherford |
| 2/5 Rhonda Heinsohn | 2/23 Susan Hughes |
| 2/6 Dorothy Kenney | 2/24 Sherri Morris |
| 2/8 Manny Almanza | 2/24 Mandy Key |
| 2/8 Staci Martin | 2/25 Karen Tutt |
| 2/9 Annita Bates | 2/26 Amber Kinsey |
| 2/10 Sonja Moore | 2/28 Mark Stephens |
| 2/11 Brandon Walker | 2/28 Savannah Allbritton |
| 2/16 Stephanie Williams | |

MARCH 2024

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3/1 Portia Scott | 3/14 Joe Cassin |
| 3/1 Donnie Seals | 3/14 Curtis Ivory |
| 3/1 Justin Rios | 3/16 Kenta Bell |
| 3/2 Ashlynn Smith | 3/17 Matthew Wickes |
| 3/2 Ce'ara Latson | 3/19 Angela Aulds |
| 3/3 Dan Reigstad | 3/23 Shelby Ramirez |
| 3/7 Ben Avedikian | 3/24 Mary Buckner |
| 3/8 Kristi Simpson | 3/25 Monica Smith |
| 3/9 Mark Johnson | 3/27 Ginger Dennis |
| 3/9 Michael Hegwood | 3/27 Dulce Venegas |
| 3/13 Kenya Ray | 3/28 Michele Daniels-Cornett |
| 3/14 Todd Ketchum | 3/30 Merlyn Holmes |
| 3/14 Chris Jones | 3/30 Jacob Dubois |

APRIL 2024

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4/3 Jackie Kelley | 4/22 Larry Brooks |
| 4/4 Micah Goodding | 4/23 Brooke Cates |
| 4/4 Brenda Kays | 4/23 Pamela Miller |
| 4/5 Richard Tabu | 4/24 Kat Jackson |
| 4/6 Dane Loomis Deen | 4/24 Jennifer Rich |
| 4/9 Kelley Connor | 4/25 Heather Brenton |
| 4/10 Glenda Ford | 4/25 Renee' Golden |
| 4/10 Brian Johnson | 4/25 Jesseca Watson |
| 4/12 Wesley Brasher | 4/26 Stacie Smith |
| 4/14 Jackie Rambo | 4/28 Karen Scibona |
| 4/18 Eva Cecil | 4/29 Peggy Bellew |
| 4/18 Jimmeka Mack | 4/29 Ryan Melton |
| 4/19 Derek Hunter | 4/30 Mary Hawley |
| 4/20 Jason Graves | 4/30 Alesha O'Steen |
| 4/20 Michael Powdrill | 4/30 Jeanine Tagg |

**TEXAS STATE TRAVEL GUIDE, MAP
FEATURE RANGERETTES**

The 2024 Texas State Travel Guide and Texas Official Travel Map covers feature the Kilgore College Rangerettes. The photos are the work of Bowie-based photographer Dave Shafer. The guide and map are annual publications of Texas Highways Magazine. [READ MORE](#)



**Purchase singing Valentine
from KC Connection**

The Kilgore College Connection will perform "Singing Valentines" for your special someone in their office or classroom on the Kilgore campus between 10 and 11:20 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14.



Cost is \$40 and includes an origami flower with the song. Payment can be made by card, cash or check to Kilgore College Choir. Contact Peter Cunningham at pcunningham@kilgore.edu for more info.

**Coach Byrd named
JUCO Coach of the Week**

Congratulations to first-year head men's basketball coach **Robert Byrd** who was named JUCO Coach of the Week by HoopDirt.com. With the honor, he is now eligible to receive the HoopDirt.com National Coach of the Year Award presented by Just Play Solutions which will be announced at the conclusion of the 2023-24 college basketball season. The Rangers (17-6, 7-5) are on a three-game winning streak with wins against TJC, No. 8 Trinity Valley and Navarro.



BYRD

Faculty & Staff Reports

Congratulations to **Bridget Hunt** (Accounts Receivable Manager) who was spotlighted during the East Texas Telethon of Hope: A Night in Paris. The annual telethon selects outstanding professionals each year to honor.



HUNT

KC Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival will present Romeo & Juliet

Kilgore College Theatre, partnering with the Texas Shakespeare Festival, will present the classic romantic tragedy, Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. The play is set for Feb. 28 through March 3 in Van Cliburn Auditorium on the Kilgore campus.

Play schedule:

- Wednesday, Feb. 28: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 29: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 1: 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 2: 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 3: 2 p.m.

Tickets for the play are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. They can be purchased at the KC Box Office in the Anne Dean Turk Fine Arts Center, or can be purchased online by visiting www.texasshakespeare.com. For more information, contact the KC Box Office at boxoffice@kilgore.edu, or (903) 983-8119.

KC THEATRE
& TEXAS SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PRESENT

Romeo + Juliet

Hudson named new Alumni Liaison

Welcome to **Tanya Hudson** who was hired recently as the new Alumni Liaison in the Institutional Advancement office.

Tanya is an alumna of Sabine High School and Kilgore College, where she was a KC Cheerleader and a Ranger Beauty.

She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from LeTourneau University.

Tanya comes to KC with many years of banking and mortgage lending experience but is ready for this new change in her career path.

Tanya and her husband Toby have been together for almost 20 years and have five-year-old twins!

Tanya's office is located in the M. Kenneth Whitten Applied Technology Center, Building 27, Office 110. Tanya can be reached at (903) 988-7531 or thudson@kilgore.edu.

When you see Tanya, please give her a warm KC welcome!



HUDSON

Looney certified as ProChef II

Kenn Tellman Aramark food services director at KC, is pleased to announce that Chef **Ben Looney** (KC chef manager) has completed training to be certified as a ProChef Level II. Tellman said he is very proud of Ben's accomplishment and the impact it will have on his team.



BEN LOONEY - Photo by Ella Byrd, Communications/Public Relations Intern

The CIA ProChef II Certification has rigorous requirements and is a testament to not only the culinary skills these new graduates all have but also their overall command & leadership in running an operation.

"Going forward, these chefs will be responsible for taking the knowledge from their hard work to improve culinary operations, provide training to their staff, and deliver overall culinary and operational excellence for their students, customers and clients," Tellman said.

"Thanks to the Culinary Institute of America whose continued partnership lends to Aramark Collegiate Hospitality's value proposition in the marketplace. Also, a huge thanks goes to the regional teams who supported our chefs and allowed them time away to prepare and participate in this significant certification experience."

DATA: Did you know?

29% of KC's 2020 first-time-in-college, full-time cohort of students transferred to a 4-year university within 3 years.

This is a 2 percentage point increase over the 2019 cohort transfer rate.

Data provided by:

[KC Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research](#)

In Memoriam

Nate Whitten, a dedicated educator and esteemed member of the academic community, died Jan. 5. Born on October 25, 1957, Nate's journey was one marked by a profound commitment to the field of mathematics and a passion for teaching. He taught math at KC for 28 years. [View full obituary](#)



Nate Whitten