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

KC collaborates with AWS

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.
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-On-Boarding, On-Boarding, 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
Tracy Skopek Kristen Stovall
Staci Martin Brandon Walker
Terry Hanson Becky Johnson
D’Wayne Shaw Jennifer Bray
Marilyn Holmes Manny Almanza
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-On-Boarding: Mike Jenkins, Chair
On-Boarding: 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,

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER! @KCBrendaKays

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC President
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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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!

Looney certified as ProChef II

Kenn Tellman, Aramark food service 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.

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