

## KC wants your input!

Sign up to attend "listening sessions" in-person, virtually

### Strategic Plan

#### LISTENING SESSIONS

As KC prepares to retire its current Strategic Plan and launch the next iteration for 2024-2027, the college is hosting "listening sessions" for employees to attend. In these sessions, KC administrators will provide a quick overview of the proposed new plan and lead discussion time to hear employees' thoughts and insights. Each session has a focus group with both virtual and in-person opportunities to participate. Invitations to the virtual sessions will be sent to your KC email address.

## Bray named Dean of Health Science

Congratulations to **Jennifer Bray** who was named as KC's new Dean of Health Science.

As many of you know, Dean Bray came to KC a few years ago as the Director of Nursing and has been serving as interim Dean of Health Science since the departure of Dr. Larry Guerrero in October.

"(Jennifer) has been outstanding in both of those positions. We will transition a new Director of Nursing before the fall semester as well. Instruction is excited to have Dean Bray as part of the team," said Dr. Tracy Skopek, KC vice president of instruction.



Bray

## WORK IN PROGRESS: KC FACILITY UPDATES

### Health Science Education Center

All of the external hardscape is completed and work is being done on the irrigation and the softscape outside of KC's Health Science Education Center. Inside the center, all of the lighting fixtures, ceiling grids and flooring are being installed. The college is optimistic for a June 7 completion date.



### Demolition of The Quads

The Quads residence halls have been vacated and the college has received bids for demolition. Once a bid is accepted, demolition of the Quads will take place. The Quads were constructed in 1975 just south of Stark Hall.



### CDL Driving Academy

Concrete has been poured at the new CDL Driving Academy. To be exact, 750 cubic yards of concrete was poured for the new CDL training track, located at FM 349 – conveniently next to the Texas Department of Public Safety Commercial Driver's License Testing Office. Construction has begun on the building structures (warehouse and classroom) on the land next to the track.



### Student Support Building

The Student Support Building was built in 1941 and recently housed tutoring labs and the TRIO program. Over spring break, the hot water pipe feeding the building broke, causing great damage to the building. Staff/services in that building were relocated to other areas on campus. College administration will present the KC Board of Trustees in the near future with a final recommendation for plans for the SS Building.





# HB8 Inaugural Year... **CHECK!**



Dr. Brenda Kays

As the dust settles on Kilgore College's inaugural year under the outcomes-based funding model fondly known as HB8, an undeniable sense of exhilaration pulsates through our halls. We've navigated uncharted waters and emerged afloat (a.k.a: we lived to tell about it).

Kudos to our exceptional faculty, staff and administration. Your tireless efforts have been the driving force behind our successful navigation of the challenges of the outcomes-based funding model. Amid the chaos, your resilience and innovation shone through. We were building the plane as we flew it, and your dedication ensured a smooth flight.

Yet, as we celebrate our achievements, we must acknowledge that our journey of change is far from over. The pillars of the outcomes-based funding model loom ahead, demanding further evolution and alignment. We must unite as one cohesive team, pulling in concert toward a multi-dimensional and shared vision.

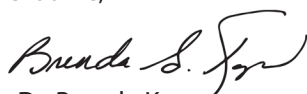
Undeniably, it is starting to resonate around the college, and we are beginning to believe that we now hold the reins of our financial destiny firmly in our hands. It is truly up to us where we go from here. We can no longer blame the state or the Texas Legislature if our funding is not where we want it to be or, in the worst-case scenario, we suffer funding cuts. This realization either leaves you exhilarated or causes you angst. I sincerely hope it is much of the former rather than the latter.

I understand that change can be scary and leave you feeling unsettled. The familiar routine is like a comfy set of pajamas that give us a sense of security. Change is not always comfortable. It can leave you wondering where I fit in? What will my work look like moving forward? Will I still perform the same tasks that I perform now? Will I still get to have lunch with my current friends? Uncertainty is not like a comfy set of pj's; it is more like having a pebble in your shoe and wondering with every step you take whether or not it will sting. I am asking each of you to adopt a growth mindset. We will get this figured out, and when we do, that pebble in your shoe will be stripped of its sting. I can tell you with certainty that there is a place for everyone currently at this college in this new reality. Yet, this "place" may look different than it looks today for all of us. It may mean a new reporting structure, office setting or being asked to learn a new technology or routine.

In the latter part of May, we will have our preliminary figures from the state, and analyzing that data will provide more certainty about our "next steps." We will use that data to coalesce and hone our path forward. We'll navigate these uncharted waters together, forging a path toward optimal benefits under this new funding model. It's a challenge requiring us to be **one extra-large team** like never before. But if this past year has taught us anything, Kilgore College is more than up to the task.

First, let me end with a plea to participate in one of the strategic planning sessions that Dr. Plott and his offices have scheduled. We've had a couple of great sessions already, and I want your voice to be heard. Second, I sincerely hope you will allow yourself time for rest and relaxation this summer to recharge your batteries and be ready to face August head-on.

Until next time,

  
Dr. Brenda Kays  
KC president



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

## College News

# Dual credit center opens in White Oak



In partnership with White Oak ISD, KC has established a dual credit center connected to White Oak High School. To promote a collegiate environment for students, it has been named the Kilgore College Higher Ed Center at White Oak and various signage has been installed over the last several months. Currently, White Oak, Gladewater and Union Grove high schools have students enrolled in academic transfer courses and health science courses. While in high school, students can earn at least 24 hours in academic transfer courses. Within the health science pathway, students have the potential to earn various industry certifications in phlebotomy, EKG and patient care technician. KC hopes to increase the number of academic transfer courses offered and provide other career and technical education pathways in the near future.

## Faculty & Staff Reports

# Solley selected for art show

KC art professor **Lori Solley** was one of six artists selected to display her art in the Rogers Nursing & Health Sciences Center on TJC Central Campus.

"The Beauty of Art and Medicine VII" reception and viewing was held on April 11. Her work will be displayed for one year on the Vernon & Amy Faulconer Floor. KC students are fortunate to receive instruction and guidance from such an accomplished working artist.



Solley

## RangerPRINT wins four national awards

KC's RangerPRINT – the one-stop-shop for all printing needs – was recently awarded four awards for printing excellence as part of the nationwide In-Print™ 2024 contest.

The contest, co-sponsored by IPMA and In-Plant Impressions, is the only printing contest exclusively for in-plants from all industry segments. With 384 entries received, a panel of judges selected the award-winners.

RangerPRINT was awarded three Silver medals and one Bronze medal:

- Silver Medal: Wide Format, Rigid or Specialty Substrates (Forevermore Butterfly Gate)
- Silver Medal: Wide Format, Extra Large Installations or Wraps (East Texas Oil Museum Derricks)
- Silver Medal: Small Shop, Wide Format (KC Fire Academy Vintage Helmet Display)
- Bronze Medal: Wide Format, Extra Large Installations or Wraps (KC Brick Wall)

[READ MORE](#)

## Naghshpour hired as new director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research

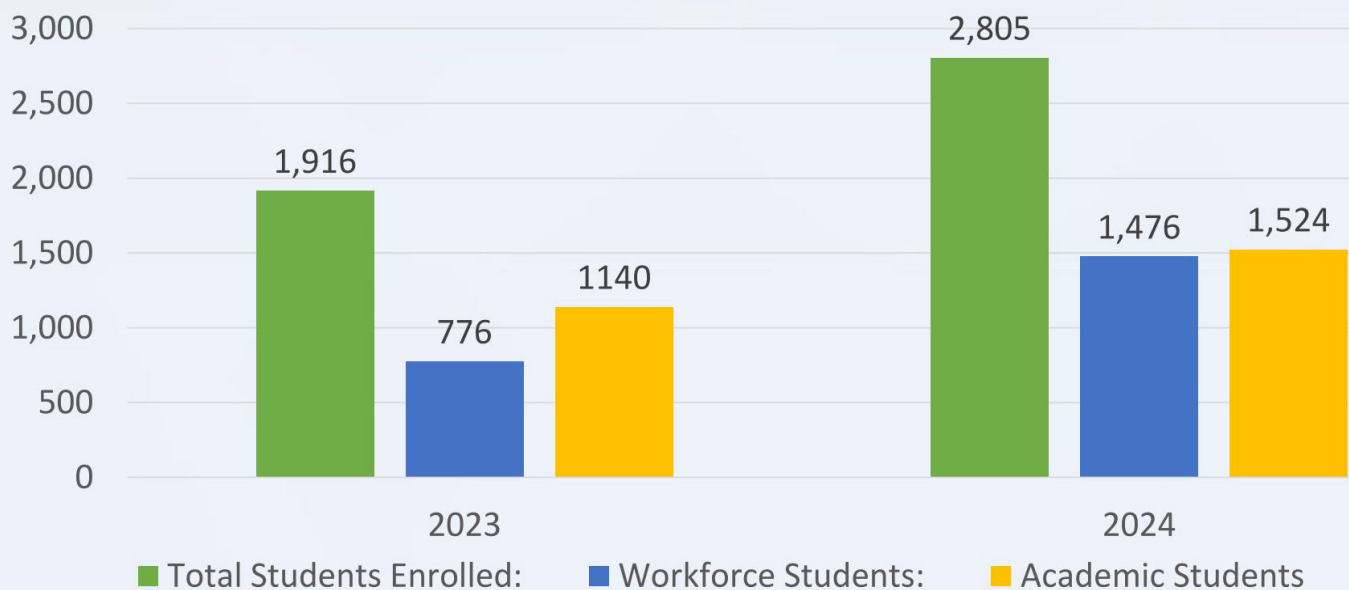
KC welcomes **Parisa Naghshpour** in the new position of Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Research. Her career in institutional research, planning, and effectiveness began at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) shortly after graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi's Executive MBA program.

She holds a baccalaureate degree in business administration with a major in marketing from the University of Southern Mississippi, has 3 children, and her first grandchild on the way.

Parisa's office is located in the second floor of the McLaurin Administration Building and she can be contacted at (903) 983-8291 or [pnaghshpour@kilgore.edu](mailto:pnaghshpour@kilgore.edu).

## DATA: Did you know?

### Dual Credit Enrollment Continues to Rise



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

## Fire Science online program named top-in-state, No. 3 in nation

Kilgore College has been recognized by Intelligent.com as having the top-ranked online Fire Science degree program in the state of Texas. The student-focused comprehensive research guide is based on an assessment of 1,280 accredited colleges and universities, with KC's program ranked at No. 3 in the nation.

Each program was evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment.

"To say we're proud is an understatement," said D'Wayne Shaw, executive dean of Professional and Career Education.

"This is a testament to our outstanding faculty and staff who strive every day to have the best, student-friendly program in the state – and

their efforts have paid off big dividends for our program and the students we graduate who enter the fire profession."

The 2024 rankings were calculated through a unique scoring system, which includes student engagement, potential return on investment and leading third party evaluations.

The ranking methodology uses an algorithm, which collects and analyzes multiple rankings into one score to easily compare each institution's degree program.

Intelligent.com analyzed 88 schools, on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 38 making it to the final list.

[Access the complete rankings](#)

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

MAY 2024

- |                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5/1 Jimerson, Caitlyn    | 5/12 Gale, Bonnie       |
| 5/4 Moore, Olivia        | 5/13 Doyle, Craig       |
| 5/4 Puckett, Dorothy     | 5/14 Davis, Donna       |
| 5/5 Carnes, Zachary      | 5/20 Dilday, Karen      |
| 5/6 Ellgass, Kimberly.   | 5/20 Whitfield, David   |
| 5/7 Robbins, Jason       | 5/21 Cruz, Jenna        |
| 5/8 Henry, Michael       | 5/22 Martin, Mary       |
| 5/9 Betts, Beverly       | 5/22 Williams, Jennifer |
| 5/9 Quattlebaum, Michael | 5/23 Sharman, Kara      |
| 5/10 Plott, Richard      | 5/24 Byrd, Robert       |
| 5/11 Cook, Lori          | 5/29 Moore, Travis      |
| 5/11 Poe, Charlotte      |                         |

JUNE 2024

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 6/1 Jackson, Miecha    | 6/17 Johnson, Tanton  |
| 6/2 Herrick, Trisha    | 6/18 Ansley, Kelly    |
| 6/3 Cantu, Mario       | 6/18 Sledge, Janet    |
| 6/3 Wade, Natalie      | 6/19 Ponder, Quinn    |
| 6/4 Darden, Danny      | 6/19 Skopek, Tracy    |
| 6/5 Fernandez, Cynthia | 6/19 Struggs, Kenneth |
| 6/5 Kirchhoff, Joe     | 6/21 Phillips, Kelsey |
| 6/5 Lewis, Joseph      | 6/24 Cooper, Angela   |
| 6/5 Zackary, Johnny    | 6/24 Hamlet, Taylor   |
| 6/6 Reese, Schlunda    | 6/24 Yglesias, Kate   |
| 6/7 Dodd, John         | 6/26 Hall, Amanda     |
| 6/8 Solley, Lori       | 6/27 Freed, Stephanie |
| 6/10 Kleinig, Kristi   | 6/27 McDonald, Jackie |
| 6/11 McLean, Odysa     | 6/30 Wright, Tammy    |
| 6/14 Stanglin, Jeff    |                       |

JULY 2024

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 7/1 Delgadillo, Teleka | 7/16 Bills, Alana      |
| 7/1 Kwiatek, Shaunda   | 7/17 Berglund, Jason   |
| 7/3 Harvey, Stephen    | 7/17 Bethune, Yvonne   |
| 7/4 Leamon, Elizabeth  | 7/17 Romano, Robin     |
| 7/5 Bryant, Natalie    | 7/17 Shaw, D'Wayne     |
| 7/5 Jamison, David     | 7/17 Yellott, Susan    |
| 7/6 Gauthier, Andrea   | 7/19 Ellington, Rhonda |
| 7/6 Nicks, Forester    | 7/19 Furlow, Hannah    |
| 7/8 Bray, Jennifer     | 7/20 Collard, Jordan   |
| 7/8 Silvey, Reagan     | 7/23 Morris, Hannah    |
| 7/9 Thomas, Jeremy     | 7/24 Campbell, Jana    |
| 7/10 Fleet, Taylor     | 7/25 Magness, Jaclyn   |
| 7/10 Hardy, Erika      | 7/26 Addie, Tony       |
| 7/10 Kruger, Cole      | 7/27 Peters, Fred      |
| 7/13 Metcalf, Deborah  | 7/27 Pruitt, Courtney  |
| 7/15 Charvis, Shannon  | 7/30 Colville, John    |

Two longtime employees retire

Congratulations to **Becky Johnson** and **Chris Gore** on their upcoming retirements at the end of the semester.

Johnson has worked at KC in numerous academic and administrative roles for 38 years, most recently serving as the dean of Arts & Sciences since 2014.

Gore has worked at KC since 2013, serving as director of new student relations, director of admissions and registrar, dean of enrollment management and student success - most recently serving as the dean of students.

We wish both of them a happy retirement!



Johnson



Gore

Fitch honored as Mix 93.1 Teacher of the Week

Radio station Mix 93.1 and White Oak ISD are honored to recognize **Heather Fitch**, English instructor, as the Mix 93.1 Teacher Of The Week.

She was nominated by one of her peers who said, "Professor Fitch is passionate about helping her students. She goes out of her way to make sure that they are learning and understanding the material by making classes fun and interesting. She is an inspiration and shows up each day with a smile on her face. She gets excited about what she is teaching and it is infectious in the best way." [READ MORE](#)



Fitch

In Memoriam

**Brenda Stapleton**, of Overton, passed away peacefully at age 63 on March 26 after a battle with cancer. She was a longtime employee at the Kilgore College Print Shop. After she retired from Kilgore College, she was employed with FedEx in Tyler.

[View full obituary](#)



Stapleton

**Dr. Galen "Mac" McBride**, age 85, passed away on Jan. 12 in Roswell, GA, following a short illness. He was a longtime instructor at KC, working at the college from the 1980s to the early 2000s.

[View full obituary](#)



McBride