



*We will never forget.*

## KC Public Services will host 9/11 Ceremony Sept. 11

Kilgore College Public Services (Fire, Police and EMS) will host a combined "Honor, Respect and Never Forget Ceremony" in remembrance of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

The ceremony is set for 8:46 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Woodruff Adult Education Center.

The time of 8:46 a.m. is in remembrance of the approximate time that the first airplane crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City in 2001.

There will be speakers at the event and it will conclude with a tribute to the 343 firefighters who lost their lives with a traditional "engine push-in" and dedication of a fire truck (Engine No. 2) purchased by the college. Chief Eric Greaser, Smith County Fire Chief, and KCFA class No. 9 alumni will be present with others from Smith County Emergency Services District No. 2 to help with the push-in.

## RADICAL HOSPITALITY

*KC employees who go "Above & Beyond"*

### Beverly Betts, KC-Longview

"Hello, my name is Michael Gann. I transferred from the Vista College cosmetology program and earned an associate's degree with honors at Kilgore College in 2022. I have since started my journey into the culinary arts world here at KC, and I want to give accolades to Mrs. Beverly Betts of the KC-Longview financial aid office. Mrs. Betts has been essential in my educational journey. She has always been there for me when I needed her, even when I would just 'pop in' with no appointment. She has always showed me respect and authentic concern about my needs."



BETTS

*Submitted by Michael Gann, KC student*

## BUILDING AI AGILITY:

**EMPOWERING HUMAN FLOURISHING  
IN THE AI ECONOMY**

Kilgore College invites you to a complimentary event exploring the impact of AI on human potential and economic agility. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20  
8:30 AM - NOON**

Kilgore College Campus  
Dodson Auditorium  
901 Nolen Street  
Kilgore, TX 75662

## AI EXPERT TODD MCLEES TO SPEAK AT KC SEPT. 20

Todd McLees, a globally recognized keynote speaker and a pioneer in human-AI partnerships, has collaborated with more than 100 organizations globally, spanning sectors from higher education to banking.



MCLEES

He will present a free seminar from 8:30 a.m. to noon at KC's Dodson Auditorium on Friday, Sept. 20.

The seminar will also explore the impact of AI on human potential, economic agility and higher education.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn, connect and be inspired!

# ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY: AI's Future Impact



Dr. Brenda Kays

During convocation, I mentioned that KC would be hosting a community event on September 20 featuring Mr. Todd McLees from Human Skills.AI, who has presented at several meetings hosted by the Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Community College Association of Texas Trustees. Mr. McLees is not a doomsday prophet; he is a renowned thought leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and workforce development, with a strong focus on the human skills required to thrive in an AI-driven world.

With years of experience advising businesses and educational institutions, Todd brings knowledge on preparing current and future generations for the evolving job market. His expertise will provide attendees with practical strategies and insights into navigating the complexities of AI integration. This will be an exciting event focused on the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence on business, education, and the future workforce. Mr. McLees has designed an event to provide valuable insights for a diverse audience, including community members, business and industry leaders, Economic Development Corporations (EDCs), chambers of commerce, and educators from K-12 and post-secondary.

The morning will kick off with an engaging opening keynote that offers a broad overview of AI's current state and potential future impact across various sectors. This session is perfect for anyone interested in understanding the basics of AI and its growing significance in today's world. It will be followed by two back-to-back sessions that will further illustrate AI's impact on the future of work and how educators need to respond.

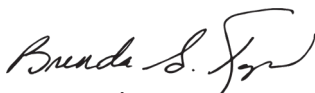
The first session, after the keynote, will delve deeper into AI's impact on business and industry, focusing on how AI technologies are reshaping the future of work. Attendees will gain insights into the opportunities and challenges AI presents to companies, from automation to advanced data analytics, and how industries are leveraging these technologies for competitive advantage. This session is particularly relevant for business leaders, EDCs, and chambers of commerce who want to stay ahead in a rapidly changing environment. It is appropriate for educators as we need to understand AI's impact on our economy and how we can help our students navigate their future by becoming AI-skilled.

The second session will address the crucial need to prepare our educational systems and current workforce for an AI-driven future. This session will explore strategies for integrating AI education into K-12 and college curricula and discuss the importance of upskilling and reskilling the current workforce to meet the demands of the future. Educators, business leaders, and workforce development professionals will find this session invaluable for fostering a culture of continuous learning and adaptability.

This is a unique opportunity for all attendees to engage with experts, network with peers, and gain actionable insights into the role of AI in shaping our future. No matter your role at KC, the sessions are tailored to deliver relevant and impactful information that can help you navigate the AI landscape more effectively.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of a conversation that is shaping the future. I look forward to seeing you there!

Until next month,

  
Dr. Brenda Kays  
KC president



FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!  
@KCBrendaKays

## The ANNUAL CAMPAIGN For STUDENT SUCCESS

### Foundation annual campaign underway

As we gear up for the year ahead, employees are encouraged to consider donating to the 2024-25 Annual Campaign for Student Success. Help make a real difference in the lives of our students. Your support means the world to KC and the students we serve.

There are five giving opportunities, but if you have a specific passion for an area not mentioned, you can designate your own. | [DOWNLOAD GIVING FORM](#)

## FACULTY & STAFF REPORTS

### Wade, Tagg honored by NISOD with Excellence in Education awards

Over Memorial Day weekend **Janine Tagg, Natalie Wade** and **Kim Ellgass** attended the NISOD Annual Conference in Austin.

Tagg and Wade were honored as **2024 NISOD Excellence in Education Award Recipients**.

The NISOD Excellence Awards were established in 1991 to provide NISOD member colleges with an opportunity to recognize individuals doing extraordinary work on their campuses and who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

Each Excellence Award recipient receives a unique silver medallion engraved with The University of Texas and NISOD insignias and adorned with a burnt orange ribbon.



Tagg



Wade

### Three KCPD employees honored at Giants of Law Enforcement banquet

In May, the Longview Centurion Club hosted the annual Giants of Law Enforcement Banquet at Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Complex.

This annual event features a dinner, awards and a presentation recognizing law enforcement officers and agencies in Gregg County. A very moving officer memorial service concludes the event.

KCPD personnel honored at the event were:

- **Officer of the Year:** Freddie Chaline
- **New Officer of the Year:** Andre Belaski
- **Civilian of the Year:** Kenneth Struggs, Campus Safety Officer



Chaline



Belaski



Struggs



## 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 DeRoven](#) so she can add it to the online calendar.

## Birthdays

## SEPTEMBER 2024

<b>2-Sep</b>	Laura Field	<b>15-Sep</b>	Matthew Simpson
<b>2-Sep</b>	Cori Holden-Williams	<b>15-Sep</b>	Russell Thompson
<b>3-Sep</b>	Jason Jones	<b>18-Sep</b>	Christopher Brandt
<b>3-Sep</b>	Michelle Sullivan	<b>19-Sep</b>	Betty Longacre
<b>4-Sep</b>	Stephanie Laszik	<b>23-Sep</b>	Jessica Copeland
<b>5-Sep</b>	Brandy Lachney	<b>23-Sep</b>	Rosa Hopkins
<b>6-Sep</b>	Brandon Edney	<b>24-Sep</b>	Falecia Halton
<b>7-Sep</b>	Bridget Hunt	<b>24-Sep</b>	Meredith May
<b>9-Sep</b>	Estonia Graves	<b>25-Sep</b>	Ebony Allison-Dennis
<b>9-Sep</b>	Derrick Logozzo	<b>25-Sep</b>	Hope Cox
<b>9-Sep</b>	Coy Lothrop	<b>26-Sep</b>	Darrell Smith
<b>10-Sep</b>	Amber Stewart	<b>26-Sep</b>	Amber Williams
<b>15-Sep</b>	Sonya Ciochon	<b>27-Sep</b>	Chris Craddock
<b>15-Sep</b>	Remona Harvey		

## OCTOBER 2024

<b>2-Oct</b>	Colby Gillette	<b>19-Oct</b>	Jamie Delgado
<b>2-Oct</b>	William McPherson	<b>20-Oct</b>	Karen Morris
<b>3-Oct</b>	Deanna Reavis	<b>21-Oct</b>	Elena Ignatchenko
<b>4-Oct</b>	Jessica Jones	<b>22-Oct</b>	Willie Gooden
<b>4-Oct</b>	Justin Willoughby	<b>22-Oct</b>	Jenny Melara
<b>5-Oct</b>	Jennifer Taylor	<b>22-Oct</b>	William Morris
<b>6-Oct</b>	Courtney Jenkins	<b>23-Oct</b>	Janet Collard
<b>7-Oct</b>	Kristen Fisher	<b>23-Oct</b>	Holly Foster
<b>9-Oct</b>	Jennifer Cross	<b>25-Oct</b>	Mary Shaw
<b>10-Oct</b>	Paul Burgos	<b>27-Oct</b>	Mary Stephens
<b>11-Oct</b>	Yulonda Boyd	<b>28-Oct</b>	Jessica Covarrubias
<b>14-Oct</b>	Betsy Hansard	<b>29-Oct</b>	Meghan Potter

## NOVEMBER 2024

<b>2-Nov</b>	Brazy Sammons	<b>14-Nov</b>	James Horton
<b>5-Nov</b>	Courtney Akvan	<b>15-Nov</b>	Carol Degrasse
<b>6-Nov</b>	Tracy Atkins	<b>17-Nov</b>	David Rangel
<b>6-Nov</b>	Mary Martin	<b>19-Nov</b>	Terence Mathis
<b>7-Nov</b>	Susan Black	<b>19-Nov</b>	Phillip Parnell
<b>7-Nov</b>	Rob Horn	<b>21-Nov</b>	Clydea Hale
<b>10-Nov</b>	Jennifer Halton	<b>21-Nov</b>	Traci Thompson
<b>11-Nov</b>	Sarah Santiago	<b>22-Nov</b>	Donald Baker
<b>13-Nov</b>	Destiny Foster	<b>30-Nov</b>	Freddie Chaline
<b>13-Nov</b>	Eric Good		

## KC Athletics Hall of Fame is Oct. 5

KC will once again honor former standout athletes, coaches and contributors at its annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 5.

To cap off the day, the Rangers will face Christian Community College, 3 p.m. R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium.

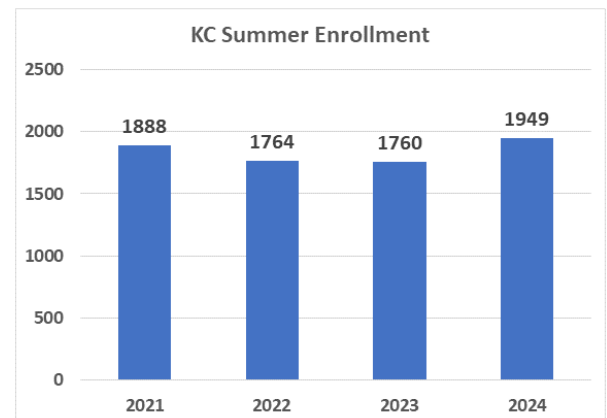


## REGISTER TO ATTEND THE HOF

- **Men's Basketball:** Nolan Johnson (1996 - 1998)
- **Women's Basketball:** Debra "Stretch" Williams (1985-1986)
- **Football:** Bo Adams (1991-1992)
- **Inaugural Softball Team:** (2012 - 2013)
- **Softball Player:** Molly Mackey Savell (2012 - 2013)
- **Contributor:** Jerry Grafton
- **Spirit of Excellence Award:** Kevin Everett

## DATA: Did you know?

Although summer enrollment dropped a bit in 2022, it is once again on the rise with the reported numbers for Summer 2024.



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

KC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTING  
'ALUMNI & FRIENDS' GOLF TOURNEY OCT. 11

The KC Alumni Association will host the "Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament" Oct. 11 at Tempest Golf Club, located at 568 E. Wilkins Rd. in Gladewater. It will be a four-person scramble with prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, a putting contest, and a closest to the hole contest. Entry to the tournament is \$700 (four-person team) that includes range balls, cart fees, food & drink, two mulligans per player, one buy-a-drive per player and one putting contest per player. All proceeds will benefit KC. | [DOWNLOAD TOURNAMENT BROCHURE](#)



## Former KC Theatre student stars in blockbuster movie: 'Alien: Romulus'

Former KC Theatre student Trevor Newlin made a monstrous impression on the big screen this summer, playing the role of the Xenomorph in the blockbuster movie, "Alien: Romulus." Newlin, originally from Sabine, was in town recently to attend a premiere of the movie at the Four Star Cinema. He sat down with Communications & Public Relations Director Manny Almanza to talk about his rising career as a "suit actor" in Hollywood. To view the interview, [click here](#).



## New KC mascots will be sworn in at special ceremony Sept. 13



KC's four mascots for the 2024-25 school year will be officially sworn in at a special ceremony set for 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13, in the McLaurin Administration Building. This is the first year that KC will have four mascots: Drillbit the Horse, Ranger Brittnie, Ranger Keaton and Rowdy the Dog. *Photo by Lexi Allums/KC Communications Intern*

## KC holds two major grand openings

This summer, KC held ribbon cuttings to officially open the Torrence Health Science Education Center and the new KC Transportation Institute.

The [ribbon cutting for the Roy H. Laird Health Science Center](#), which encompasses the Torrence Health Science Education Center, was held July 11. KC's Torrence Health Science Education Center is a new teaching and state-of-the-art lab space which is home to KC's associate degree nursing, vocational nursing, physical therapy assistant and radiologic technology programs. [VIEW PHOTOS](#)

The [new KC Transportation Institute ribbon cutting was held Aug. 14](#).

It consists of a large driving training track, multi-classroom facility and warehouse training building as part of a major expansion of the college's CDL training program.

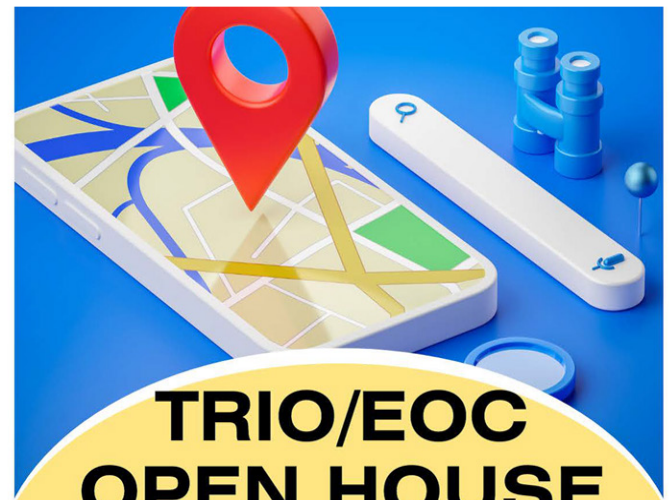
The new complex is located at 4931 FM 349 in Kilgore – next to the Texas DPS Commercial Driver's License Testing Office. [VIEW PHOTOS](#)



Torrence Health Science Education Center



KC Transportation Institute



## TRIO/EOC OPEN HOUSE

AT OUR NEW LOCATION

IN THE  
DEVALL STUDENT CENTER  
ROOM 110

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024  
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.



## KIBA looking for new members

**Gwen Winters**, former KC English instructor, is the secretary for KIBA (Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association) and invites KC employees to join the organization. KIBA meets the second Monday of each month at 1:15 p.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Building and is run 100% by volunteers with all profits returning to the community. If you are interested in joining KIBA, please [email Gwen Winters](#). Donations to KIBA are also greatly appreciated!



## In Memoriam

**Dearlyn Ann "Dee" Conway** passed away Aug. 25 after a lengthy illness. Dee was a pillar of the 19th Hole at the Roy H. Laird Country Club, Manager at Subway, owner of Dee Burger, and retired from KC in 2013 after serving as a custodian at the college for decades.

[View full obituary](#)



Conway