Rangerettes celebrate 85th anniversary *with busy schedule*

The Rangerettes are celebrating their 85th anniversary with a year full of remarkable events and performances that highlight their legacy as a world-renowned precision dance team. This milestone year is marked by their 75th consecutive appearance in the Cotton Bowl, participation in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and their annual Christmas shows (which were sold out).

They were was honored to collaborate with the legendary Rockettes during a special guest performance in New York City, and performed at the annual Dallas Charity Ball.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Rangerettes will represent KC on an international stage as they participate in London's New Year's Day Parade.

KILGORE COLLEGE Rangerettes 85 1940-2025

ABOVE: CBS-19's Dana Hughey featured the Rettes' 85th anniversary. *WATCH STORY*
BELOW: *The Rangerettes participate Dec. 8 in the Dallas Charity Ball.*

Belaski promoted to Lieutenant

Congrats to officer Andre Belaski on his promotion to Lieutenant at the KCPD.

Lt. Belaski served with the Lodi Police Department, in California, for 19 years prior to his relocation to East Texas.

During his tenure with Lodi Police Department, Lt. Belaski rose to the rank of Sergeant.

Lt. Belaski was a K-9 handler and a motorcycle patrol officer,

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management and is currently working on his Master's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice - Public Administration.

ABOVE: Chief William McPherson (right) presents Andre Belaski with a certificate showing his promotion to lieutenant.

It's time to apply for... INNOVATION GRANTS

Thanks to the KC Board of Trustees for approving $60,000 to foster innovative ideas at KC through Innovation Grants. The fillable KC Innovation Grant form is now available. Now is your chance to receive some "seed money" to fund your great idea, benefit our students and continue to move us forward! Grant awards may go to one or multiple applicants.

There is no application minimum or maximum, but KC will not award more than $60,000.

The Innovation Committee, chaired this year by Dr. Ginger Dennis, will select the grant recipients and look for applicants who propose new methods and ideas to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Applicants are encouraged to "think outside the box!"

The application deadline is Jan. 21, 2025.

Please read Dr. Kays' column on the next page to learn how to apply for the 2025 Innovation Grants!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

An exciting spring convocation is set for Jan. 6 in the Devall Ballroom. For more info on Opening Week 2025, visit:

www.kilgore.edu/opening-week

APPRECIATION, REFLECTION
and Innovation Grants!

Dr. Brenda Kays

As we approach the end of the fall semester, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible effort and dedication each of you has put into launching the Fall 2024 semester. We set a record enrollment, and along with the announcements, banners, photographs, and celebratory T-shirts, we also quickly recognized that we had grown by 1,000+ students who needed our support and attention! As has quickly become our norm, we adapted quickly and moved forward, but our Fall semester, as you know, was hectic. It took each individual working at this organization to make this happen, and you each have my thanks and admiration for taking care of our students and changing their lives through education.

As we approach the holiday break, I encourage you to take some well-deserved time for rest and relaxation. Your dedication throughout this semester is commendable, and I want you to know how much you are appreciated. May the holiday season bring you joy, peace, and quality time with loved ones. Looking ahead to 2025, I wish you all the best life has to offer. Your contributions significantly impact our students' lives, and I am confident that together, we will continue to achieve more great things in the coming year.

Attention all pioneers striving to advance KC through a creative idea, this newsletter article is for you! The KC Board of Trustees has approved a set-aside of $60,000.00 to foster innovative ideas at KC. The fillable KC Innovation Grant form is now available. The only "catch" associated with the grant is that interested faculty/staff members must complete a grant application to apply!

The Innovation Grant application is relatively simple to complete and may be accessed by following the following steps:

- Visit AccessKC
- Go to "Employees"
- On the left-hand side of the screen, under quick links, you will find the "Innovation Grant Application."

Now is your chance to receive some "seed money" to fund your great idea, benefit our students, and continue to move us forward! Grant awards may go to one or multiple applicants. There is no application minimum or maximum, but KC will not award more than $60,000.00. The Innovation Committee, chaired this year by Dr. Ginger Dennis, will select the grant recipients and look for applicants who propose new methods and ideas to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
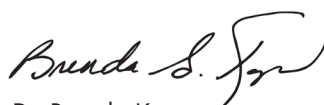Applicants are encouraged to "think outside the box!"

Get your creative juices flowing now, as there are some important dates to note. The application deadline is January 21, 2025. Awards will be announced during the first week of February 2025. Funds will be made available immediately and must be expended during the College's fiscal year ending August 31, 2025.

Awardees will be asked to do a short presentation during a Board of Trustees Meeting next Spring. What project do you want to launch to benefit our students?

Contact me with any questions. I look forward to reading about your innovative ideas. The Innovation Committee will select the recipients of these grant dollars, so don't wait—apply now!

Together, let's create a culture where innovation thrives and where the success of our students remains at the heart of everything we do.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Brenda S. Kays
Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FOLLOW DR. KAYS ON TWITTER!
@KCBrendaKays

KC boasts record enrollment, STAR Days scheduled

This semester, KC celebrated record-breaking enrollment of 7,288 students -- a testament to the college's strategic planning and its ability to attract and retain students through exceptional academic and workforce offerings, state-of-the-art facilities and a supportive campus culture.

KC also had an 11% increase in the total number of credit hours being taken this semester, compared to the same time last year – and a 36% increase of dual credit students since the last academic year.

KC has several STAR Days scheduled to enroll students for the spring semester:

DECEMBER STAR DAYS

THURSDAY, DEC. 5, 2024
TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LOCATION: KC-Longview's Hendrix Building, Room 305

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 2024
TIME: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
LOCATION: Watson Library, 1st floor (Kilgore campus)

JANUARY STAR DAYS

TUESDAY, JAN. 7, 2024
TIME: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Watson Library, 1st floor (Kilgore campus)
& KC-Longview's Hendrix Building

THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 2025
TIME: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
VIA ZOOM: Pop-in anytime (no appointment needed)
Zoom Meeting ID: 833 9374 3492 & Passcode: 636bjF

SATURDAY, JAN. 11, 2025
TIME: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
LOCATION: Devall Student Center (Kilgore campus)

Enroll in TCCTA today!

tccta | Texas Community College Teachers Association

It's not too late to enroll in TCCTA, the largest organization of post-secondary educators in Texas. Membership extends to counselors, librarians, administrators and part-time faculty.

TCCTA is dedicated to "the pursuit of excellence in teaching and the advancement of education in the community, junior and technical colleges of Texas."

KC also reimburses a portion of the membership dues for full-time faculty ($15 of the annual $55 fees).

For more information, contact the KC representative for TCCTA, Stacie Smith.

To register for TCCTA, please visit this website.

Coming Attractions

VIEW ON-CAMPUS CALENDAR ONLINE

With the inception of the college's new website, all on-campus events can be underlined 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

DECEMBER 2024

2-Dec	Macdonald, Savannah	17-Dec	O'Connor, Shelby
4-Dec	McKinney, Sidney	18-Dec	Foote, Madison
4-Dec	Simpson, Nicholas	18-Dec	Wiley, Janet
4-Dec	Teel, Sandra	20-Dec	Wallace, Stephanie
7-Dec	Schutter, Gary	21-Dec	Estrada, Joel
9-Dec	Doss, Haley	22-Dec	Jackson, Amanda
10-Dec	Santiago, Jonathan	22-Dec	Whitehead, John
12-Dec	Deupree, Jennifer	24-Dec	Oden, Jayden
12-Dec	Gumm, Judy	26-Dec	Germany, Virginia
13-Dec	Raulston, John	29-Dec	Dehoyos, Megan
14-Dec	Stallard, Rachel.	31-Dec	Metcalf, Rebekah
16-Dec	Huston, Michael		
16-Dec	Jackson, Lillian		

JANUARY 2025

3-Jan	Stowe, William	16-Jan	McKnight, Holly
5-Jan	Moseley, Matthew	17-Jan	Gayetsky, Matthew
5-Jan	Snyder, Carrie	17-Jan	Sweeney, Elizabeth
7-Jan	Kasper, Brian	18-Jan	Burlingame, Sheri
8-Jan	Davis, Trevor	18-Jan	Watson, Alyssa
9-Jan	Challis, Cary	18-Jan	Wayne, Shelley
9-Jan	Harris, Collin	19-Jan	Belaski, Andre
9-Jan	Waggoner, Russell	19-Jan	Durham, Konner
11-Jan	Buchanan, Paul	21-Jan	Everett, Heidi
11-Jan	Hudson, Tanya	21-Jan	Hanson, Terry
11-Jan	Morris, Kendra	23-Jan	Gless, Lucas
12-Jan	Jacks, Jonathan	24-Jan	Ducote, Magen
13-Jan	Gillis, Sheri	26-Jan	Fletcher, Tracy
14-Jan	Carter, Lacey	27-Jan	Gramling, Vickie
14-Jan	Hatfield, Kathy	28-Jan	Tumey, Charmyn
15-Jan	Simmons, Shanetra	30-Jan	Webb, Julie
16-Jan	Byrd, Kenny		

DATA: Did you know?

88.3% of Fall 2023 first-time-in-college, full-time cohort of students returned in the Spring of 2024.

This is KC's highest Fall-to-Spring retention rate in 4 years!

Data provided by:
KC Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research

KC receives $350K grant from ATE/NSF to boost IT technician education

Kilgore College has received a $349,818 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant from the National Science Foundation to fund its "Reducing Barriers to IT Technician Education" (RBITTE) initiative.

The three-year grant will support efforts to increase the number of employable IT technicians in the region by addressing barriers to completion in the Computer Information Technology (CIT) program, expanding industry partnerships, implementing flexible course delivery and boosting student support.

"We are thrilled to receive our first ATE grant," said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. "This project aligns with our strategic goals and addresses the needs of regional employers for skilled IT technicians." MORE

Lady Rangers will host third annual Evelyn Blalock Classic Jan. 2-3

The new year will kick off with basketball action as the Lady Rangers will host the third annual Evelyn Blalock Classic -- named after the legendary coach for the Lady Rangers.

The classic will feature KC, Panola College, Tyler Junior College, McLennan College, Hill College and Odessa College. For more information on the classic, visit www.kcrangernation.com.

Darden named fellow of national STEM leadership program

Danny Darden, a professor of Computer and Information Technology at Kilgore College, has been selected as a member of the 2024-25 Fellows of The Community College Presidents Initiative in STEM (CCPI-STEM) project – funded by The National Science Foundation.

Darden is one of only five fellows nationwide chosen to participate in the initiative's third cohort, which aims to enhance leadership skills among doctoral students and candidates who serve as community college faculty and administrators while fostering growth and diversity in the STEM technician workforce.

Darden

Darden is currently enrolled as a doctoral student in the Human Resource Development program at The University of Texas at Tyler. MORE