

Kilgore College names NISOD Excellence Award recipients

Kilgore College has selected three faculty members to receive the 2026 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards.

The honorees are **Stacie Smith**, business instructor; **Curtis Ivory**, biology instructor; and **Meghan Potter**, theater instructor. NISOD Excellence Awards recognize men and women each year who demonstrate an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. The program began in 1989 in connection with a University of Texas at Austin national study of teaching excellence. The response to that first ceremony led NISOD to establish what has become the largest annual recognition program for community and technical college faculty, administrators and staff.

"These three instructors represent the very best of KC," said Donny Seals, vice president of instruction at KC. "Their dedication to student success, innovative teaching and service to the college community make them truly deserving of this honor. We are proud to see their work recognized on a national level."



Stacie Smith



Curtis Ivory



Meghan Potter

Jimmerson new AEL director

KC has named **Dr. Nicole Jimmerson** as its new director of Adult Education & Literacy, marking the relaunch of the program following a brief pause due to a lapse in federal funding.

Jimmerson brings extensive experience in public and adult education to the role, including prior service as coordinator of instructional support in KC's AEL program. Under her leadership, the college reopened GED courses at KC-Longview in January.



Dr. Nicole Jimmerson

Preview Day set for April 17

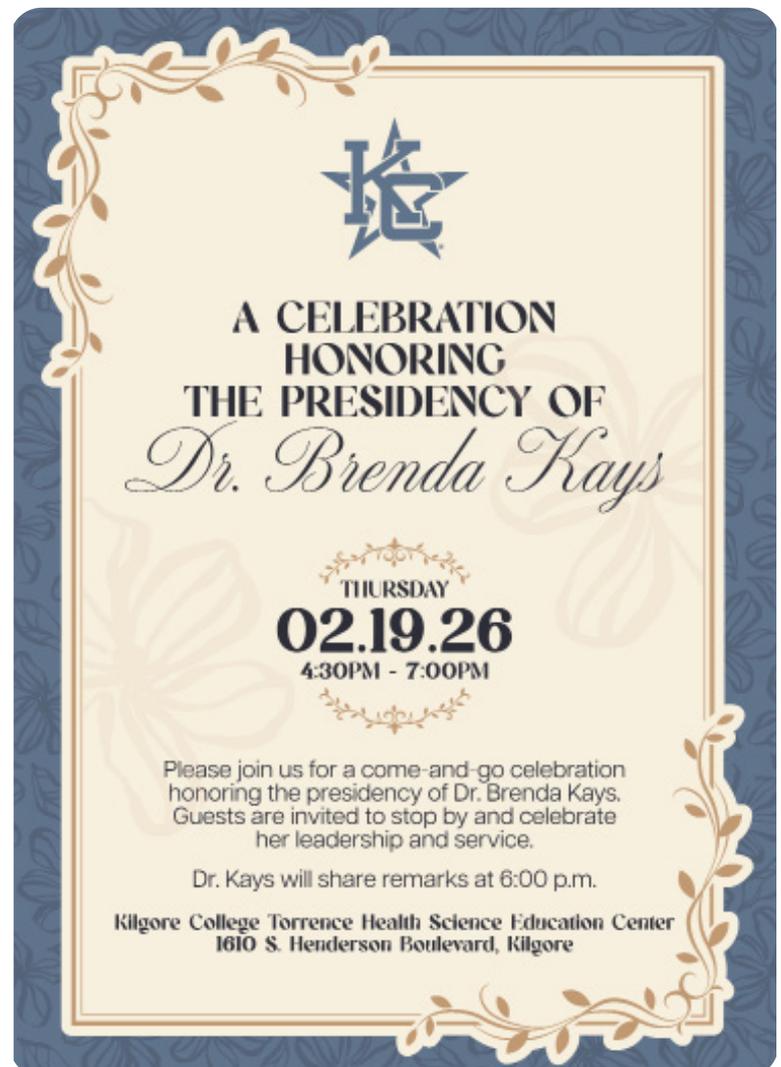
KC will host its annual Ranger Preview Day on Friday, April 17, offering prospective students a closer look at the academic programs and campus life at the college. Attendees can meet with instructors, explore the campus and enjoy a free lunch in the Ranger Café. For more info, visit www.kilgore.edu/previewday.



KILGORE COLLEGE
PREVIEW DAY! SPRING 2026
TOUR CAMPUS
MEET INSTRUCTORS
FREE LUNCH AT RANGER CAFE!

TO REGISTER VISIT
EVENTS.KILGORE.EDU

APRIL 17TH
9AM - 12PM





A CELEBRATION
HONORING
THE PRESIDENCY OF
Dr. Brenda Kays

THURSDAY
02.19.26
4:30PM - 7:00PM

Please join us for a come-and-go celebration honoring the presidency of Dr. Brenda Kays. Guests are invited to stop by and celebrate her leadership and service.

Dr. Kays will share remarks at 6:00 p.m.

Kilgore College Torrence Health Science Education Center
1610 S. Henderson Boulevard, Kilgore

Truman, Laszik take on new roles in Language Development Department

KC Dean of Liberal and Fine Arts **Jason Graves** has announced new leadership appointments in the Language Development Department.

Lori Truman is now serving as chair of the Language Development Department, while **Stephanie Laszik** has been named assistant department chair. Both bring years of experience at KC and have served in a variety of roles supporting student success and academic excellence.



Lori Truman



Stephanie Laszik

Whitfield retirement reception set for Feb. 25

Kilgore College will celebrate the retirement of **David Whitfield** with a reception on Feb. 25, recognizing his years of dedication and service to the college.

The come-and-go event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Devall Room. Snacks will be provided.

Hired in 2006, Whitfield has worked at KC for nearly 20 years and is currently a systems administrator for the Information Technology Department.

Faculty and staff are invited to stop by to share well wishes and congratulate Whitfield as he begins his next chapter.



David Whitfield

SFA school of theatre, dance named for Haden

In recognition of a career that has shaped the performing arts and inspired generations of artists, Stephen F. Austin State University officially renamed its School of Theatre and Dance to the **Denard Haden School of Theatre and Dance** in honor of Haden, celebrating a legacy of creative achievement and a deep, enduring connection to the university. In Kilgore, Haden made history as the first choreographer for the Kilgore College Rangerettes, working alongside founder Gussie Nell Davis to create the precision-based style that defined the world's first drill team. His choreography and original show themes became iconic, and much of the terminology he developed is still used by drill teams today.

The name change comes as a result of a transformative monetary commitment from 1959 alumna and Haden's niece, **Priscilla "Prissy" Abshier Sliva**. The generous commitment will enhance programmatic efforts and honor and commemorate the legacy of her uncle. [MORE](#)



Denard Haden



Wickes, Germany, Moseley take new roles in STEM



Matt Wickes



Gin Germany

David Rangel, dean of Business & STEM, has announced the appointment of three faculty members to leadership positions following service in interim roles. **Matt Wickes** is the new Department Chair of Mathematics, Engineering & Physics. **Gin Germany** is the new assistant department chair of mathematics and **Dr. Matthew Moseley** (no photo available) is the new assistant department chair of biology.

Spring professional development day, Data Summit set for Feb. 27

KC will hold its Spring 2026 Professional Development Day on Friday, Feb. 27, with activities scheduled throughout the day for faculty and staff.

The day will begin with arrival and breakfast from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. in the Devall Ballroom, followed by the Data Summit from 9:15 a.m. to noon, hosted by the Student Success Council.

Departmental programming will take place from 1 to 3:45 p.m. Employees should check with their managers regarding afternoon expectations. Annual Employee Training in Blackboard will be available on Feb. 27, and employees without other professional development activities in the afternoon should complete the training during that time.

Two Watermark training sessions will be offered via Zoom. Instructional programs and academic departments will meet from 1 to 1:45 p.m., while non instructional departments will meet from 2 to 2:45 p.m. These sessions are designed for department leaders and others responsible for entering assessment data for annual planning. A Zoom link will be sent to invited participants.

MOMENTUM MATTERS

Improving University Transfer

ANNUAL DATA SUMMIT

Friday, February 27th, 2026

ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

VIEW ON-CAMPUS CALENDAR ONLINE

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 2026

2/1	Madison Campbell	2/11	Alex Walker
2/2	Cindy Thurman	2/16	Stephanie Williams
2/2	Kathy Knighton	2/19	Kayla Cook
2/5	Rhonda Heinsohn	2/23	Amber Prestidge
2/5	Brandon Belken	2/23	Jason Rutherford
2/6	Dorothy Kenney	2/23	Susan Hughes
2/8	Manny Almanza	2/24	Mandy Key
2/8	Staci Martin	2/25	Karen Tutt
2/9	Annita Bates	2/26	Amber Brisendine
2/10	Sonja Moore	2/28	Mark Stephens

MARCH 2026

3/1	Portia Scott	3/20	Gerron Walker
3/1	Donny Seals	3/22	Lea Peninger
3/2	Ce'ara Latson	3/23	Shelby Ramirez
3/5	Kassi Gilliam	3/24	Mary Buckner
3/7	Ben Avedikian	3/25	Monica Brown
3/9	Michael Hegwood	3/27	Ginger Dennis
3/9	Raymond McMurrey	3/27	Jared Slaff
3/12	James Barlow	3/28	Michele Daniels-Cornett
3/13	Kenya Ray	3/30	Jacob Dubois
3/14	Curtis Ivory	3/30	Presleigh Gilbreath
3/14	Todd Ketchum	3/30	Merlyn Holmes
3/17	Ann Berryman	3/30	Maria Rosas
3/17	Matthew Wickes		
3/19	Angela Aulds		

APRIL 2026

4/3	Jackie Kelley	4/20	Michael Powderll
4/4	Micah Goodding	4/23	Pam Miller
4/4	Brenda Kays	4/24	Kat Jackson
4/5	Alexis Di Bella-Jones	4/24	Jennifer Rich
4/5	Sandra Murrell-Johnson	4/25	Heather Brenton
4/8	Ezekial Harber	4/25	Jessica Watson
4/10	Glenda Ford	4/26	Melissa Alvarez
4/10	Brian Johnson	4/26	Stacie Smith
4/12	Wesley Brasher	4/28	Laura Burrison
4/14	Jackie Rambo	4/28	Karen Scibona
4/15	Bria Hunt	4/29	Ryan Melton
4/16	LaRhonda Brooks	4/30	Alesha O'Steen
4/19	Derek Hunter	4/30	Claudia Phillips
4/20	Jason Graves	4/30	Jeanine Tagg

In Memoriam

Doris Johnson, 72, died Dec. 24 after a battle with cancer. She worked at KC for 30 years, retiring in 2023, where she served as the college's Coordinator of Instructional Support. [View full obituary](#)



Mary Grush, 88, of Kilgore, died Jan. 28. She was a Rangerette and worked at KC for decades in several positions. When she retired, she was secretary to the president. [View full obituary](#)



Shelly Gribble, 54, died Feb. 2 after a battle with cancer. Shelly devoted decades to Baptist Student Ministries, serving as the director of the BSM at KC for many years. [View full obituary](#)



Three KC employees finalists in ETX View contest



Meredith May



Shelby Ramirez



Amber Williams

Three KC employees have been named finalists in the 2025-26 ETX View 40 Under Forty awards, an annual program presented by the Longview News-Journal that honors young professionals making significant contributions to their communities and fields before age 40.

Meredith May (history instructor) has been selected for the community volunteer and education category, **Shelby Ramirez** (academic advisor) in the sports and outdoors category, and **Amber Williams** (softball coach) is a finalist in the sports category.

The 40 Under Forty awards highlight individuals who have achieved success, given back to East Texas and excelled in their professional areas. Winners and runners-up are featured in the annual ETX View publication.



KC honors service award recipients

KC recognized employees who reached service milestones of five years or more during the January Convocation, honoring their dedication and commitment to the college, with milestones ranging from five to 40 years. College leaders thanked honorees for their continued service and contributions to student success and the KC community.



ABOVE: Dr. Staci Martin, interim president, gives remarks during convocation. Photo by Rachel Stallard/KC

Service award recipients, by years of service:

40 years

Dana Blair

35 years

Michael Jenkins

25 years

Staci Martin

20 years

Cody Edwards
Jackie Kelley
Mary Stephens
David Whitfield

15 years

Judy DeRouen
Heidi Everett
Vickie Gramling
Deborah Metcalf
John Raulston
Schlunda Reese
Rachel Stallard

10 years

Brandon Belken
Jacob Dubois
Karen Dulweber
Heather Fitch
Joe Kirchoff
Brenda Kays
Fred Peters

5 years

Stephanie Arriola
Sheri Gillis
Reagan Silvey
Brigida Romano-Ryan
Cary Challis
Janet Collard
Russell Waggoner
Jordan Collard
Jenna Cruz
Jason Robbins