

## Wharton County Junior College



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2008–2009

#### **WCJC Board of Trustees**



P. D. "Danny" Gertson, III



Vice-Chair



Jack C. Moses Secretary



Oliver W. Kunkel, Jr.



Georgia Krenek



Gerald R. Donaldson



Phyllip W. Stephenson



Gary P. Trochta



Lloyd M. Nelson

#### Wharton County Junior College's Mission Statement

Wharton County Junior College is a public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of postsecondary educational programs and services including associate degrees, certificates, continuing education courses, cultural affairs, and leisure-time activities for the benefit of the community and a population of students that varies in age, background, and ability.

The college affords opportunities for individual growth and expression and promotes the development of the total person through scholarly and creative activity and the application of knowledge for the good of society. Its curricular and co-curricular activities lay a foundation for lifelong learning and involved citizenship and encourage the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, experimentation, and excellence in human endeavor. It prepares students for entry-level positions, for advancement in various occupations and professions, for a broad understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, and for transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions.

Wharton County Junior College is an institution that emphasizes personal attention to students, innovation, and flexibility in its credit and noncredit offerings, and responsiveness to the diversity of communities it serves. The college is dedicated to providing an educational environment that recognizes individuality, stresses the importance of human relationships, and reflects the democratic values of society.



#### President's Message



Betty A. McCrohan WCJC President

Dear friends,

There have been many significant accomplishments at Wharton County Junior College over the past year.

First of all, let me say that it is with great pride that we can announce that WCJC received confirmation from the Southern Association of Community Colleges and Schools (SACS) that the college had been reaccredited for another 10 years. The reaffirmation of accreditation took years of planning on the part of every office at the college. Our faculty and staff are to be commended for the fine work they did over the last four years that resulted in this important outcome.

Then in June we celebrated the opening of the WCJC campus at Sugar Land at its new location on the campus of the University of Houston System at Sugar Land. WCJC began teaching courses at the new facility in summer 2009, and I am pleased to report that our enrollments at the new campus are continuing to increase each semester.

For the first time in the college's history, WCJC sought approval in a special election referendum for an \$18 million bond issue to support important projects in the college's master plan. Although it was disappointing that a majority of voters in our tax district did not support the bond proposal, we learned a great deal from the process, and we will take the lessons that we learned and apply them in future endeavors regarding the master plan.

We look forward to an exciting 2010 for the WCJC educational community. We may face several challenges due to the current downturn in the U.S. economy and because of proposed reductions in state funding, but I am sure that all of us at WCJC will continue as best we can to offer high quality and affordable educational opportunities to all the communities we serve in the WCJC service area.

With warm regards,

Betty A. McCrohan

Betty a. Mc Crohan

President

# WCJC gains reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS





After an extensive four-year process of self-study by WCJC and peer reviews, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmed WCJC's accreditation for another 10 years.

"This reaffirmation of accreditation is extremely important to our students because it gives them access to federally-subsidized financial aid and it ensures their courses and degrees are recognized by other educational institutions," said President Betty McCrohan. "This news also confirms the critical role of our faculty and staff who dedicate so much time to our students' success."

The SACS reaffirmation also included the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to support first-year students who lack reading readiness. Piloted in spring 2009, the "Get in Gear for a Great First Year" program addresses success strategies for studying, note taking, time management, and communication. In addition, advising is required for students who do not achieve required minimum reading scores on admissions and placement tests. Free tutoring is also offered through Learning Assistance Centers at the Wharton, Sugar Land, and Richmond campuses.

Thousands of man-hours went into the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation process that was under the direction of a 10-member SACS Leadership Team. Also contributing to the reaffirmation effort was a 20-member SACS Compliance Team and dozens of small task groups from the college.





# Sugar Land campus relocates to expanded facility next to UHSSL

WCJC President Betty McCrohan, center, is pictured at the UHSSL Brazos Hall and WCJC Sugar Land campus grand opening with, left to right, UH Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator, City of Sugar Land Mayor James Thompson, WCJC Board of Trustees Chair P.D. "Danny" Gertson, III, and UH System Board of Regents Chairman Welcome Wilson, Sr.



Students enrolling for the Summer I term were the first to experience WCJC's expanded Sugar Land campus, which was relocated from Julie Rivers Drive to the University of Houston System at Sugar Land (UHSSL). The new campus is located at 14004 University Boulevard, near the intersection of U.S. Highway 59.

The 145,000-square-foot building includes 44 classrooms, five computer labs, nine science labs, a 150-seat auditorium, and a large multipurpose room. Also included are faculty offices, an exercise facility, a bookstore, and WCJC's enrollment services office. A School of Nursing suite is shared by both WCJC and UHSSL.

"This building is an admirable example of successfully embracing the collaborative spirit in higher education," said WCJC President Betty McCrohan.



Being housed again at the same site as UHSSL – which last occurred from 1996 to 2002 – means that WCJC students can more easily take advantage of the 2+2 Transfer Program between the two institutions. This agreement provides students with a seamless transfer from WCJC to bachelor degree programs offered by UHSSL.

Enrollment at the new Sugar Land campus hit a record 2,128 students for the fall 2009 semester. This was a 22 percent increase over the previous fall enrollment.



WCJC Sugar Land campus at Brazos Hall at the UHSSL.

### **Focus on WCJC Human Services program**

According to recent federal government data, job prospects for social and human service assistants are predicted to be excellent, particularly for individuals with appropriate education after high school.

"The number of social and human services assistants is expected to grow by nearly 23 percent between 2010 and 2018, which is much faster than the average for all occupations," said Victoria Schultz, WCJC Human Services Program director. "This projection is due to our aging baby boomer population as well as increased demand for mental health and substance abuse treatment."

Filling the tall order begins with specialized education in and out of the classroom. It's a daunting task but the 2008 WCJC Award for Excellence in Teaching recipient – who describes her position as a "perfect marriage" of educational theory and clinical background – tackles the challenge with gusto.



**WCJC Human Services Program Director Victoria Schultz** 

Schultz holds both undergraduate and master's degrees in psychology, sociology, and anthropology from the University of Alaska in Anchorage. A year after graduation, the Port Lavaca native taught and counseled graduate, undergraduate, and medical students on the same campus and at the Alaskan branch of California's University of La Verne. In 1992 Schultz accepted a part-time teaching position in the department of psychology with WCJC, which grew to full time by 2001. Prior to starting the WCJC Human Services program in 2005, she served on its advisory board.

In addition to teaching, Schultz's experience encompasses work in Alaska's largest mental health center, coupled with private practice dealing with adult family crisis intervention as well as children's units, senior services, and after-care of individuals with dual diagnoses. She has presented research papers at international, national, and state-level conferences and has published articles in a variety of research journals and textbooks.

Graduates of the WCJC Human Services Program enter the field ready to work in a variety of environments, such as psychiatric hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation programs, group home settings, recreational programs, and halfway houses.

The program enlists the aid of community partners, who welcome the opportunity to introduce students to different jobs. One such example is Mike Meade, the chief juvenile probation officer for the Fort Bend County Detention Center.

"Having the students here is a positive experience," Meade explained. "For one semester, students rotate through each division and experience many levels of services. They are all smiles and we feel fortunate to have them. Many find their niche in psychology or substance abuse counseling. Some decide to pursue their bachelor's degree."



### **Focus on WCJC Human Services Program**

Other practicum sites are the Richmond State Supported Living Center, the Special Victims Unit of the Fort Bend District Attorney's Office, the Texana Mental Health Center in Richmond and Wharton, and the Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse.

Hands-on opportunities also are fostered through the college's Human Services Club, which encourages students in the program to volunteer for special projects in the community and experience the role of human service providers.

The 37-hour Human Services Program certificate takes about a year to complete, while the 72-hour A.A.S. degree can be completed in two years. Classes are conducted at the Wharton and Richmond campuses, which are linked by interactive television.

#### **Employment opportunities:**

The field of human services offers a medley of possibilities for graduates, including:

- Case Management Aide
- Psychological Aide
- Client Advocate
- Gerontology Aide
- Life Skills Counselor

#### Successful program graduates include:

- Amy Greenhill (2007) Social Services Assistant, Harris County Child Protective Service
- Kasey Auld (2008) Continuing her education at the University of Houston
- Melinda Jacoway (2008) Continuing her education at the University of Houston
- Chantelle Pence (2009) Psychology Assistant at Brenham State Supported Living Center, continuing her education at Illinois-based Springfield College
- Barielle Joseph (2009) Social Services Assistant in New Orleans Salaries range from mid-\$19s to high \$20s.

#### Graduate glides from sales to psychology

Halletsville High School graduate Chantelle Pence worked in retail for 16 years before she realized it was not her calling.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I enrolled at Wharton County Junior College," she said. "While taking core courses, I really enjoyed psychology and was excited to find out about the Human Services Program."

The 35-year-old received her A.A.S. degree in 2009 and was recently hired as a psychology assistant at the Brenham State Supported Living Center, where her responsibilities include helping psychologists with behavior modification classes.

"Now I look forward to going to work," Pence said.
"Being able to apply the skills I learned at WCJC in the real world is the best part of my job."

Pence will have another milestone to celebrate in December, when she receives a B.S. degree in psychology from Springfield College. The Illinois-based educational system's newest campus is conveniently located in Houston and allows Pence to attend classes every other weekend.



**WCJC Human Services Alumnus Chantelle Pence** 

#### **Focus on WCJC Police Academy**

Even before his selection as WCJC Police Academy coordinator and law enforcement instructor three years ago, Terry Lynch had already lived an intriguing life that many can only read about.

Born in Greenville, Texas, Lynch moved to Wharton in 1978. After graduating from Wharton High School in 1983 and serving four years in the U.S. Air Force, he returned home to pursue the specialized education that would launch his career. Lynch, whose father was a state trooper, graduated from the WCJC Police Academy in 1989. For the next 17 years – 14 as detective sergeant – he was a police officer for the City of Wharton. Because his duties entailed department training, Lynch earned instructor certifications in firearms, defensive tactics, TASER, pepper spray, and chemical munitions.

Accepting additional responsibilities, Lynch became the tactical team commander/team



**WCJC Police Academy Coordinator Terry Lynch** 

leader for the Wharton Police Department Emergency Response Team in 2001. The following year, he graduated from Leadership Wharton County and earned his A.A.S. degree in law enforcement from WCJC. A career highlight occurred in 2005, when Lynch was selected to and graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Lynch joined the WCJC faculty in 2006 to share his knowledge with students and continue the academy's reputation of producing exemplary job applicants. Even with his whirlwind schedule, he earned an A.A. degree in criminal justice from WCJC in 2008 and is completing a B.S. degree at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

The forecast is bright for WCJC Police Academy graduates. In the Texas Gulf Coast Region, career growth for police and sheriff's patrol officer positions is projected to reach almost 18 percent in the next six years.

"It's a calling to serve in law enforcement – the sheepdog against the wolves," said Lynch, who also serves as a Wharton city councilman. "We try to protect the flock. Those who complete the program want to take it to the next level. They experience a lot of positive events but in the same sense, they have to deal with negativity – an unfortunate fact in today's society. We try to be a positive, upbeat influence."

Since joining WCJC, Lynch has increased and then maintained the "first-attempt" pass-rate on the state exam for graduates, developed a stronger relationship with area law enforcement agencies, built up recruitment to raise enrollment, and diversified the corps of instructors to better reflect the area's law enforcement entities.

"I've surrounded myself with people who share the same mission," he said. "Our instructors are active duty officers who work with us in a part-time capacity. These officers want to have input, to be a catalyst for change. They have a vested interest in our chosen profession."

The WCJC Police Academy gets high marks from those who employ its graduates.



#### **Focus on WCJC Police Academy**

"About 75 percent of our new officers come from the academy," said Bay City Chief of Police Roger Barker. "We are very confident in the quality of their training and feel comfortable hiring these individuals even before they graduate."

The WCJC Police Academy offers day classes at the Wharton campus. Night classes are held at the Richmond campus. Upon completion of the 16-week training, graduates of the WCJC Police Academy certificate program take the state exam for certification. The certificate offers 20 credit hours towards the A.A.S. degree in law enforcement.

#### **Employment opportunities:**

WCJC Police Academy graduates are eligible to apply for a variety of jobs, such as:
• Municipal Police Officer

- Deputy Sheriff
- Deputy Constable
- School Resource Officer for an I.S.D. Police Department
- School Resource Officer for an I.S.D. Police Department
- Arson Investigator (combined with Fire Fighter Certification)

Successful WCJC Police Academy graduates include:

- Richard Coleman (1980) Assistant Chief, Wharton Police Department
- Scott Schultz (1991) Assistant Chief, Sugar Land Police Department
- Roderick Taylor (2007) Deputy Constable, Wharton County Precinct 2; Houston Fire Department
- Shannon Srubar (2008) School Resource Officer, El Campo Police Department
- Christopher Kahl (2009) Lieutenant, Richmond Fire Department

Starting salaries range from the high-\$30s to the mid-\$40s.

#### Student set to realize dream

A career in law enforcement was a goal that always interested Arif Vadsaria.

After graduating from Alief Hastings High School in 1992, Vadsaria enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. During the next six years, he rose to the rank of sergeant with tours of duty in Turkey and Italy.

Vadsaria started community college classes in Houston in 1998, but postponed his education to help his mother open a retail business in Florida.

"By 2008, the economy wasn't going very well and I decided to continue what I really wanted to do," the 35-year-old said. "I have quite a bit of family in southwest Houston and Sugar Land, and that was a big influence in my decision to come back and establish a home."

In October 2009 Vadsaria was hired as an officer recruit by the Sugar Land Police Department, which enrolls all of its new-hire, uncertified candidates in the WCJC Police Academy for basic peace officer training. Vadsaria's graduation from the academy in May 2010 will at long last fulfill his career aspiration.

"My anticipation is very high," he said. "I need to be topnotch to meet not only my own expectations but also not to disappoint the people who trusted in me and put me in this position."



**WCJC Police Academy Student Arif Vadsaria** 

#### Highlights of Academic Year 2008-2009

#### WCJC receives \$330,000 gift from Losack Estate



Wharton County Junior College President Betty McCrohan visits with James Losack, left, and Joe Losack as they look over family photographs. Their late brother Donald Losack left his estate to the college to fund scholarships.

Wharton County Junior College received a \$330,000 gift from the estate of Wharton County Junior College alumnus Donald Losack that will fund scholarships for deserving WCJC students.

Losack, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2006, received his Associate of Arts degree from WCJC in May 1959. He was the youngest of nine children – seven boys and two girls – born to John and Martha Losack. His gift established the Donald Paul Losack Endowed Scholarship Fund and the Martha V. Losack Endowed Scholarship Fund to also honor his mother.

Students whose families reside in areas served by WCJC, who have attended a Texas high school for at least two years and are U.S. citizens, are eligible for the scholarship. The student must be enrolled as

a full-time student and maintain at minimum C average. Prospective scholarship recipients may apply through the WCJC Financial Aid Office.

Donald Losack served in the United States Air Force after graduating from WCJC. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Lamar State College of Technology in Beaumont, Texas and worked as a designer/engineer for Tex Tool Company in Dallas. He also invested in Dallas area real estate, as well as sports memorabilia and other collectibles. After his retirement from Tex Tool, he moved to Caldwell, Texas, and built his dream home. There he continued to pursue his interests in selling antiques and trading and selling coins, as well as baseball and football cards and magazines. He also bailed and sold hay.

# WCJC and its college partners were awarded a U.S. Department of Labor grant

Wharton County Junior College and three of its partner colleges were awarded a community-based job training grant by the Department of Labor (DOL) worth more than \$1.8 million dollars. The project is a partnership of WCJC, Brazosport College, Victoria College, and Texas State Technical College-Waco. The grant will support the Nuclear Power Technology Program at each of the partner colleges.

The Department of Labor awarded only three community-based job training grants to Texas colleges, and only two nuclear proposals were funded nationwide.

WCJC's portion of the grant is \$496,386. These funds will be used during a three-year period (beginning February 15, 2009) to support and expand the new Nuclear Power Technology Program that is located at WCJC's Bay City campus. These funds will be used for personnel costs, faculty development, equipment, supplies, and contract services for the nuclear technology program.



### Highlights of Academic Year 2008-2009

#### ConocoPhillips supports WCJC Process Technology Program



On hand to present the \$20,000 ConocoPhillips check to Wharton County Junior College were Bay City Mayor Richard Knapik; Bay City Community Development Corporation Executive Director D.C. Dunham; WCJC Bay City Campus Director David Dunham; Bay City Community Development Corporation President Mark Ludwig; ConocoPhillips Plant Manager Tom Rich; Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald; ConocoPhillips retiree and founding sponsor of WCJC PTAC Program F.E. Pryor; and ConocoPhillips Public Relations Director Regina Slaydon.

ConocoPhillips Sweeny Refinery generously contributed \$20,000 to the Wharton County Junior College Process Technology Program located at the Bay City campus. The gift makes possible the addition of 40 computer simulation programs used in oil refinery training.

In making the gift, Tom Rich, general manager of ConocoPhillips Sweeny Refinery, said "According to recent national surveys, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find and retain employees with the process technology skills necessary to operate industrial plants. ConocoPhillips recognizes the success of tomorrow's workforce depends on our willingness today to invest in state-of-the-art facilities, such as the WCJC Bay City campus."

Graduates of WCJC's two-year Process Technology Program (PTAC) earn an Associate in Applied Science degree and generally start work as process operators at refining and petrochemical companies. Working with automated control systems,

they oversee the production of final products by ensuring the safety of the production operation, troubleshooting equipment and production problems, and optimizing the production process.

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald and Bay City Community Development Corporation Executive Director D.C. Dunham played a key role in the gift solicitation.

#### Solis named WCJC head baseball coach

With a lifelong love for baseball and a competitive spirit, Javier Solis took the reins as head baseball coach at Wharton County Junior College in 2009. Prior to joining WCJC, he spent the last six seasons as head baseball coach at Galveston College, leading his team to the regional tournament in 2007 and 2009.

Solis has coached at the collegiate level since the late 1990s, first as a graduate assistant while attending Hardin-Simmons University. He also coached while playing professional ball for the Lafayette (Indiana) Leopards and the Abilene (Texas) Prairie Dogs. Other college baseball teams coached by Solis include Texarkana College, Virginia Tech University, and Vernon College.



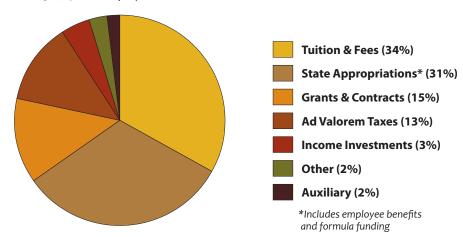
**WCJC Head Baseball Coach Javier Solis** 

While attending Hardin-Simmons University, Solis played shortstop and twice received All-Conference honors. Both of Solis's degrees, a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education, are from Hardin-Simmons University.

## **Funding and Expenditures**

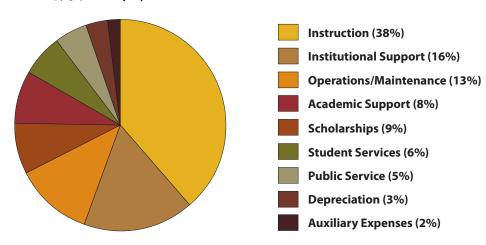
#### 2008-2009 Revenue Sources

TOTAL REVENUE	
Tuition & Fees	\$11,945,067(34%)
State Appropriations*	(31%)
Grants & Contracts	\$5,306,173(15%)
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$4,749,552(13%)
Income Investments	
OtherAuxiliary	\$800,909(2%)
Auxiliary	\$596,431(2%)



#### 2008-2009 Budget Expenditures

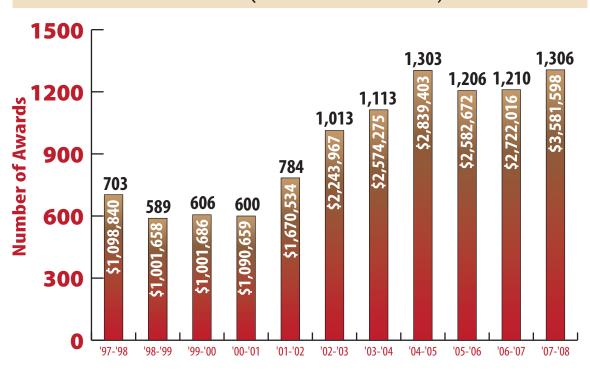
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$35,297	,403
Instruction	\$13,480,753	(38%)
Institutional Support	\$5,616,684	(16%)
Operations/Maintenance	\$4,717,671	.(13%)
Academic Support	\$2,868,287	(8%)
Scholarships	\$3,275,102	(9%)
Student Services	\$2,083,111	(6%)
Public Service	\$1,584,967	(5%)
Depreciation	\$1,003,674	(3%)
Auxiliary Expenses	\$667,154	(2%)



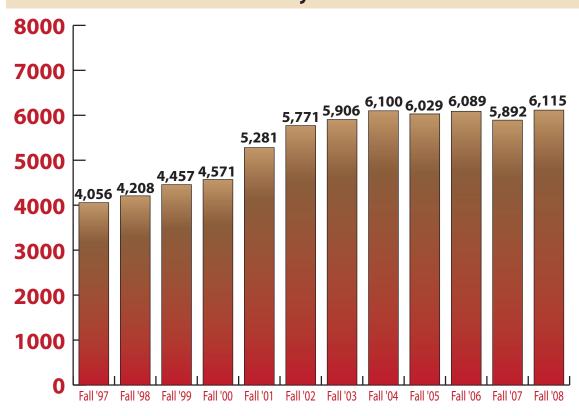


## **Funding and Expenditures**

#### Pell Grant Awards (total number and amount)



#### **Credit Enrollment History for Fall Semesters**



#### **WCJC** at a Glance

Unduplicated Credit Student Demographics (Fall 2008)	Fall 2008 Full-Time Faculty Educational Attainment
Fotal Fall 2008 Headcount 6,115  Unduplicated Enrollment by Campus and Extension Center (Fall 2008)	Doctorate
Wharton Campus	Fall 2008 Full-Time Faculty         Length of Teaching Service         5 Years or Less       39       27%         6-10 Years       60       42%         11-15 Years       12       8%         16-20 Years       13       9%         More than 20 Years       18       13%         Teaching Location         (full & part-time faculty)         Wharton Campus       113         Sugar Land Campus       81         Richmond Campus       88         Bay City Campus       19         Other Locations:       19         Distance Education       28
(Adult Avocation)141 Adult Basic Education1,080	Distance Education38  Dual/Concurrent High School 33
Adult Basic Education 1,080	Dual/Concurrent High School 33  Approximately 90 instructors teach at more than one campus.  Faculty Characteristics  Total Faculty
Adult Basic Education	Dual/Concurrent High School 33  Approximately 90 instructors teach at more than one campus.  Faculty Characteristics  Total Faculty
Adult Basic Education	Dual/Concurrent High School 33  Approximately 90 instructors teach at more than one campus.  Faculty Characteristics  Total Faculty
## Adult Basic Education	Dual/Concurrent High School 33  Approximately 90 instructors teach at more than one campus.  Faculty Characteristics  Total Faculty
Adult Basic Education	Dual/Concurrent High School 33  Approximately 90 instructors teach at more than one campus.  Faculty Characteristics  Total Faculty



#### A Program for Everyone

Associate of Arts degrees • Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees
Associate of Applied Science degrees
Certificate/certification programs • Distance Learning courses
Dual and concurrent enrollment

#### **Associate of Arts**

with emphasis of study in:

Agriculture

Art

**Behavioral Science** 

(Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology)

**Biology** 

**Business Administration** 

Chemistry

**Computer Science** 

Criminal Justice

Drama

**Engineering** 

**English** 

**General Studies** 

Kinesiology

**Mathematics** 

Music

Nursing (Pre-Baccalaureate)

**Physics** 

**Social Science** 

(History, Geography, Government)

Speech

#### **Associate of Arts in Teaching**

Plan A

**Grades EC-4** 

Plan B

Grades EC-4, 4-8, EC-12

(except Early Childhood Specialization)

Plan C

Grades 8-12, Other EC-12

## Associate of Applied Science Certificate Programs

Automotive Technology\*†

**Computer Science:** 

- CISCO Router Networking\*
- Computer Programming†
- PC Technical Support\*
- Network Administration†

Cosmetology\*

**Dental Hygienet** 

Early Childhood\*†

**Electronics Engineering Technology**†

Emergency Medical Technology\*†

- Paramedic\*
- Emergency Medical Services†

Engineering Design\*†

Fire Academy\*

**Health Information Technology**†

Heating, A/C, Refrigeration\*

**Human Services\*†** 

Law Enforcement†

**Nuclear Power Technology\*†** 

#### Nursing:

- Associate Degree†
- LVN-ADN Transition
- Vocational Nursing\*

Office Administration\*†

Paralegal Studies†

Physical Therapist Assistant†

Police Academy\*

Process Technologyt

Radiologic Technology†

Surgical Technology\*

Welding Technology\*

<sup>\*</sup> Certificate program

<sup>†</sup> Associate of Applied Science degree



## Wharton County Junior College

Wharton • Sugar Land • Richmond • Bay City Palacios • El Campo

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2008–2009

Produced by the WCJC Office of Marketing and Communications

**Editor:** 

Zina L. Carter

Designer: Kevin Farley

For more information, call or write to:

Wharton County Junior College Office of the President 911 Boling Highway Wharton, Texas 77488

1-800-561-WCJC wcjc.edu