

WCJC President's Report to the Community

2014-2015



2014-15 WCJC Presidential Scholars



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Junior College**

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**Current 2015-16*

**Current 2015-16*

Message from the President



Wharton County Junior College shines bright along the Texas Gulf Coast as we provide our more than 7,100 students with opportunities to reach their highest potential. Success and excellence were ever-present among students, programs, faculty and staff in 2014-15. We highlight these accomplishments, as well as our service to, and our interaction with, the larger community in this report.

People define success and excellence in various ways. One way is when our students realize their dreams really are possible. Never has this been more evident than in my interactions with WCJC Presidential Scholars. This extraordinary program, which I am so very proud of, provides selected students with deep insights and connections into the world around them and the confidence to achieve great things. For our students to understand that they can be as successful as the high-ranking business and legislative leaders they meet with is incredibly inspiring (pages 2-3).

Success is our students receiving national and regional recognitions. Featured in this report are hardworking scholar-athletes, vocalists and rodeo team members who achieved at the highest levels, bringing light upon their talents and WCJC.

Success is BestColleges.com recognizing WCJC as the No. 1 community college in Texas. Our business partners have long known of our program excellence. This is why they depend on us for skilled employees.

To meet their needs, and to provide our graduates with promising career opportunities, we expanded current programs and developed new ones in 2014-15. Our Richmond campus saw the addition of our successful process technology curriculum and an expansion of its EMS program (page 9). Our Bay City campus saw the introduction of a new manufacturing technology program, thanks to the support of industry partners (page 13).

WCJC's success stems from our dedicated and caring faculty and staff. We shine the light on a few of them on pages 16-19. These unsung heroes engage students in learning essential skills and discovering their talents. These unsung heroes, sometimes unknown to students, make possible a myriad of important support services every day. I am so thankful for the commitment of these wonderful men and women.

WCJC's success also comes from those who believe in our mission and provide us with important financial and advisory support. Thank you to our trustees, advisory boards, business and industry partners, taxpayers, legislators and donors who continue to make student success possible and enable WCJC to shine bright along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Sincerely,

Betty A. McCrohan

Contents

2
Shining Bright in
**Student
Success**



8
Shining Bright in
**Program
Excellence**



14
Shining Bright in
**Student
Support**



16
Shining Bright in
**Teaching
Excellence**



20
Shining Bright in
**Athletic
Achievements**



24
Shining Bright in
**Artistic
Accomplishments**



28
Shining Bright in
**The
Community**



32
Shining Bright in
**Financial
Matters**



36
**WCJC by the
Numbers**



Shining Bright in
**Student
Success**

**"I realized that
with hard work
and dedication, I
could make similar
achievements.
That could be me
up there working
at the Capitol."**

LARA RAMIREZ
Wharton Student



WCJC Presidential Scholars and WCJC President Betty McCrohan met with Georgetown University Dean Chester Gillis during their trip to Washington, D.C. They include Tallon Canaris, McCrohan, Rachel Scott, Lara Ramirez, Jacob Medina, Gillis, Tabitha Myers, Kristin Afzaal, Jamonique Florence and philanthropist Dr. Stewart Morris Sr.

Presidential Scholars Traveled to Washington, D.C.

Meeting with Congressional leaders, touring Washington, D.C., landmarks and attending a Congressional hearing were just a few of the exciting opportunities afforded the first class of Wharton County Junior College Presidential Scholars.

The new program, which kicked off in Fall 2014, provides selected students much more than a traditional college education. The educational-based group takes field trips, attends dinners, meets with local and national leaders, and volunteers at college functions. Dr. Stewart Morris Sr. provided underwriting support for the program.

Thirty students qualified to apply for

membership in the inaugural class of Presidential Scholars, with these 10 students selected following an interview process:

Kristin Afzaal, Sugar Land
Angel Becerra, Wharton
William Blanchard, Bulverde
Tallon Canaris, Eagle Lake
Jamonique Florence, Wharton
Darius Glover, Houston
Jacob Medina, El Campo
Tabitha Myers, Wharton
Lara Ramirez, Wharton
Rachel Scott, Rosenberg

Ramirez had an epiphany on the Washington, D.C., trip when she realized



that despite the power welded by Congressional leaders and successful business owners she met, they are not so different from the average person.

"They showed me that nothing is impossible and that the most important thing is to never give up on your goals and dreams," she said. "I realized that with hard work and dedication, I could make similar achievements. That could be me up there working at the Capitol."

WCJC Presidential Scholars Coordinator Catherine Shoppa was elated that Ramirez had such a pivotal experience since the trip was designed to provide the scholars with a broader perspective on life, careers and the possibilities that exist with a positive attitude.

During the trip, students met with legislators and business leaders including U.S. Rep. John Culberson of Texas, Commander Tim Winter, Dr. Timothy Shah of Georgetown University, John Benziger of DTZ Real Estate, David Foster of Norton Rose & Fulbright, Dr. Aaron Salzburg from the Department of State, Dr. Chris Holmes from the U.S. Agency for International Development and Christy Walika of the American Bankers Association.

The scholars also toured Georgetown University, Mount Vernon and the Library of Congress.

Myers, who had previously visited Washington D.C. to see family, said traveling with the Presidential Scholars was an entirely different, and phenomenal, experience.

Both Myers and Ramirez credited Houston philanthropist Stewart Morris Sr. with providing the group with VIP treatment. In addition to helping to underwrite the program, Morris traveled with the group to Washington D.C., using his personal contacts to make the experience extraordinary for the students. (see story, next page)

Myers' plans include finishing at WCJC and then transferring to Houston Baptist University, where she plans to major in international business. She said

the trip intensified her desire for a more unique career.

"You realize you don't have to put yourself in a box," she said. "The trip really broadened my perspective on everything."

Ramirez's future includes a bachelor's degree in sociology. She said coming to WCJC – and getting involved with the Presidential Scholars – was one of the best decisions she has ever made.

"If I had gone straight off to a four-year university, I wouldn't have had these opportunities," she said.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan also attended. She said the trip was beneficial in several ways.

"Our main purpose was to demonstrate the vast opportunities available to our students if they continue in their education and never forget the value of setting and achieving goals," McCrohan said. "Our Presidential Scholars gained a unique insight into the inner workings of global business and the legislative system and made contacts that could prove invaluable down the road."

Our Presidential Scholars gained a unique insight into the inner workings of global business and the legislative system and made contacts that could prove invaluable down the road.

BETTY MCCROHAN
WCJC President

WCJC Presidential Scholars had the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with WCJC President Betty McCrohan, far right, during their trip to Washington, D.C. They include Tallon Canaris, Rachel Scott, Kristin Afzaal, Tabitha Myers, Jacob Medina, Lara Ramirez and Jamonique Florence.





Philanthropist Dr. Stewart Morris Sr. (left), who helped fund the Washington, D.C. trip for WCJC Presidential Scholars, was inspired by Dr. Kay Shoppa (right) to establish an endowed scholarship at Houston Baptist University to benefit Wharton area students.

Morris Endowed \$1 Million Scholarship to Benefit Wharton Students

Dr. Stewart Morris Sr., Chairman Emeritus of Stewart International, a leading provider of real estate services, announced a \$1 million endowed scholarship fund in early 2015 to benefit students from Wharton County. The scholarship will enable qualified transferees from Wharton County Junior College and high school graduates of Wharton Independent School District and surrounding small towns to pursue an undergraduate degree at Houston Baptist University (HBU).

The Stewart Morris Endowed Scholarship was inspired by Dr. Kay Shoppa, former superintendent of the Wharton Independent School District, whose lifelong career has been dedicated to the education of Wharton-area youth.

With his trademark candor and wit, Dr. Morris summed up his reason for supporting students pursuing a quality college education.

“If you go bankrupt, they can take your car and your house, but no one can take away your education,” said the Wharton philanthropist, who was instrumental in the establishment of HBU and currently serves on the HBU President’s Development Council.

Applications for the Stewart Morris Endowed Scholarship will be accepted beginning Spring 2016. First-generation college students will receive preference. In order to ensure applicants are qualified, they must be admitted to HBU before they can apply for the scholarship.

“Stewart Morris is a truly great and generous man,” said HBU President Dr. Robert B. Sloan, noting that Morris has supported Christian higher education for almost 60 years. “He has been a champion for students since the 1950s when he and others laid the philosophical and financial foundation for what would become HBU. Now this scholarship will enable many more young people from small towns like Wharton to receive the academically rigorous and distinctively Christian education we offer.”

“We appreciate Stewart Morris for his generosity and consideration in establishing this scholarship,” said WCJC President Betty McCrohan. “Many Wharton County Junior College students continue on to a four-year institution, but this scholarship will enable them to attend a very prestigious university.”



WCJC alumna Kirsten Machicek saved money for her goal of obtaining a physician assistant degree by taking her basic courses at WCJC.

Affordable Tuition, Strong Academics Propelled Machicek to P.A. School

Kirsten Machicek is one example of a student who easily could have attended a four-year university after high school, but instead chose Wharton County Junior College to take her basic courses. For the Louise High School valedictorian, this plan enabled her to save money while receiving a strong academic foundation.

After earning credits for her basic courses at WCJC, Machicek transferred to the University of Houston-Victoria and obtained a bachelor's degree in biology, taking the bulk of her classes at UH's Sugar Land campus. She then received acceptance to Texas Tech University's Health Sciences Center Physician Assistant Graduate Program and is on track to graduate in 2017.

"My goal when enrolling at WCJC was to continue my education and receive my master's degree as a physician assistant,

so I'd minimize my debt before I began P.A. school," Machicek said.

Along with the cost savings, Machicek appreciated the ease of transferring her course credits.

WCJC has a joint admissions program with UH (see story, page 14), plus transfer agreements with other colleges and universities. WCJC also uses the same course numbering system used by hundreds of Texas colleges and universities, providing better transferability of credit hours.

"WCJC offered most, if not all, of my lower-level classes that I needed for my biology degree, and the courses easily transferred to UHV," Machicek said. The transition from WCJC to UHV was seamless because I was well prepared at WCJC."

"WCJC offered most, if not all, of my lower-level classes that I needed for my biology degree, and the courses easily transferred to UHV."

KIRSTEN MACHICEK
WCJC Alumna

ROAR Academy Offers WISD Students Chance to Earn Dual Diplomas

"We couldn't do this without our partnership with WCJC," Davis said, "and this is an awesome opportunity for the students. It's critical for their educational success. We want to do all we can to provide higher education opportunities for everyone."

KING DAVIS
Former Wharton ISD
Superintendent

Twenty-eight Wharton High School freshmen comprised the 2014-15 inaugural class of Realizing Our Academic Reward (ROAR) Academy, a partnership between Wharton County Junior College and Wharton ISD where high school students can earn up to 60 college credit hours while attending high school. Ribbon cutting ceremonies for the program took place on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014, at Wharton High School.

ROAR Academy is similar to dual-credit programs as they both provide high schoolers with a jumpstart on higher education. Unlike dual credit, which is open only to high school juniors and seniors and limits them to six credit hours per semester, ROAR begins the freshman year and allows students to take up to 18 credit hours per semester.

This means high school students can earn enough credit hours to obtain a two-year degree from WCJC by the time they graduate from high school. Students take core classes together and choose various options for their electives. Because college credit is given, ROAR classes are more rigorous.

In addition to WCJC faculty, Wharton ISD teachers who hold the same credentials as college-level faculty, also teach ROAR classes. WCJC hosts additional instruction, such as the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Bootcamp held prior to the start of classes. The TSI is a state-legislated assessment of students' skills in writing, reading and math.

Former Wharton ISD Superintendent King Davis said his district is the only one in Region III, an 11-county area, to offer an early college program. There are 20 education regions statewide as established by the Texas Education Agency.



Davis praised the WCJC Board of Trustees for its use of grant funds to pay tuition and fees for ROAR Academy students. State guidelines require courses be offered at no cost to qualified students.

"We couldn't do this without our partnership with WCJC," Davis said, "and this is an awesome opportunity for the students. It's critical for their educational success."

WCJC President Betty McCrohan also praised the board, adding that education is key to the success of children and the community.

"We want to do all we can to provide higher education opportunities for everyone," she said.

Wharton ISD reported significant progress by the inaugural ROAR class on the state-mandated TSI assessment. In April 2015, a performance-blind, open-access lottery selected the second ROAR Academy class of 25 students.



WCJC Held 69th Commencement Exercises

Wharton County Junior College held its 69th Commencement Exercises in two ceremonies on May 16, 2015, recognizing 505 graduates for earning their Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Applied Science (AAS) or Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees.

Special awards presented to outstanding graduates included:

President's Award:

Rachel Marie Boettcher, Richmond

Outstanding Service Award:

Eryn Grace White, Rosenberg

Dean's Awards:

Scott Anthony Jasek, Flatonia;

Michael Miller, Bay City;

Uwe Meyer, Richmond



Rachel Marie Boettcher of Richmond received the President's Award.



Eryn Grace White of Rosenberg received the Outstanding Service Award.



Scott Anthony Jasek of Flatonia



Uwe Meyer of Richmond



Michael Miller of Bay City



Shining Bright in
**Program
Excellence**

BestColleges.com
rated Wharton
County Junior
College as No. 1
in its 2015
ranking of the
best two-year
colleges in Texas.



WCJC Ranked First in Texas by BestColleges.com

BestColleges.com rated Wharton County Junior College as No. 1 in its 2015 ranking of the best two-year colleges in Texas.

“WCJC is doing an admirable job of helping Texas residents continue their education and attain their future goals,” WCJC President Betty McCrohan said. “I credit the college’s faculty, staff and administration with putting in the time and effort needed to help students achieve their dreams.”

On its website, BestColleges.com noted that WCJC offers a wide selection of two-year degrees in the liberal arts and allied health professions.

BestColleges.com compiles its school rankings using the latest information from the Institute of Education Sciences and College Navigator databases, both of which are reputable sources maintained by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics. A proprietary algorithm draws information from the federal education databases and weighs key performance indicators such as acceptance, retention, graduation and enrollment rates. Additionally, BestColleges.com analyzes student loan default percentages as a measure of graduates’ success after college.



Process Technology and EMS Program Expansions Planned

Gary Bonewald and Willie Myles directed program expansions of the college's EMS and process technology programs at the Richmond campus.

During 2014-15, Wharton County Junior College prepared for the expansion of its process technology and emergency medical services (EMS) programs at the Richmond campus beginning in Fall 2015.

The expansions provide WCJC students with additional training opportunities in careers with excellent job growth. They also enable WCJC to partner with a wider array of businesses to meet their workforce needs.

"Expanding the WCJC Process Technology program to the Richmond campus makes it more convenient for prospective students living in Fort Bend County and southwest Harris County to obtain an education that has a very promising future and pays extremely well," said Willie Myles, WCJC process technology program director.

In addition to commanding great salaries, WCJC Process Technology program graduates normally find employment within 90 days of graduation. That number is expected to increase as older employees in the petrochemical and refinery industries reach retirement age.

The process technology program at the Richmond campus follows the model of the successful program that originated at the college's Bay City campus. The newest program has its own advisory board comprised of area business and industry representatives and its own teaching staff.

The EMS program expansion added six basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses and one advanced EMT class to supplement a basic-level EMT class. A dedicated classroom and lab space were set aside and a full-time staff member was hired to oversee and instruct the program expansion.



When the expansion was announced to the community, WCJC EMS Program Director Gary Bonewald said there were currently no colleges offering such training inside Fort Bend County. He added that because students would spend time training at a host of Fort Bend County hospitals and emergency care agencies, they would broaden and strengthen their skills.

Most students in the EMS program have job offers before they graduate or are already employed by an agency and are seeking additional certification. Bonewald said WCJC graduates have an impeccable reputation for excellence.

Expanding the WCJC Process Technology program to the Richmond campus makes it more convenient for prospective students living in Fort Bend County and southwest Harris County to obtain an education that has a very promising future and pays extremely well.

WILLIE MYLES
WCJC Process Technology Program Director



Virtual Campus Became Blueprint for Success

A five-year \$3.8 million Title V U.S. Department of Education grant ended with Wharton County Junior College's 2014-15 fiscal year, but not before improving student learning, expanding educational opportunities, creating and supporting online student services and improving infrastructure to create a virtual campus. The grant was a cooperative partnership between WCJC and Brazosport College, with WCJC serving as the lead institution and fiscal agent.

The grant created a paradigm shift at WCJC by training instructors in online teaching and course development. A training lab for faculty now provides a dedicated space for interactive professional development with access to current educational technology and software. Training in the use of media-rich course tools, such as discussion boards, online flashcards and audio clips, has helped instructors increase student engagement.

With a focus to improve course quality, faculty received coaching from Title V staff to assess the components of their courses, organizational structure, interaction and assessment. Now, established online course evaluation tools are the standard for new and existing courses under review and development.

The grant also helped WCJC redesign an online Associate of Science Degree in Health Information Technology to meet the new standards for course quality. This degree, accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Health Information Management Education (CAHIIM), is taught entirely online except for a one-hour, face-to-face practicum.

In addition, the grant helped to develop online student support services such as Smarter Select, a single online application for scholarships, as well as Financial Aid TV, a free service of short

The Title V grant has benefited all WCJC students by connecting student instruction, student services and institutional practices.

MARYBELLE PEREZ
Director of Grants Management



video answers about paying for college available at wcjc.edu. Online advising, orientation and access to numerous other resources afforded by the grant has increased the retention rate of online students.

Another critical component necessary for the success of the virtual campus was upgrades in infrastructure. The Title V staff, in collaboration with the college's distance education and information technology staffs, identified the needs and established a timeline for implementation. Wireless Internet access was added to all WCJC campuses, video conferencing hardware was upgraded and new software connected the college's learning management system and its student information system.

"The Title V grant has benefited all WCJC students by connecting student instruction, student services and institutional practices," said Marybelle Perez, director of grants management. "The grant provided critical funding that gave WCJC the ability to thrive in an online environment and expand the educational opportunities of our growing student enrollment."

First-Time Students Required to Attend Student Orientation

Following a pilot program showing first-time-in-college students at Wharton County Junior College who completed a New Student Orientation (NSO) achieved greater success, the college added a requirement to attend the NSO beginning with the Fall 2015 semester. The free, three-hour orientation can be completed in-person or online, while an in-person meeting with an academic advisor must take place in-person before registering for classes.



David Leenhouts, WCJC vice president of student services, helped coordinate the addition of various student support services afforded by the Title V grant, including orientation for first-time-in-college students.

"WCJC's data collected over a two-year period shows that students who complete the NSO have a higher first semester GPA, drop fewer courses and re-enroll at higher rates than student who don't complete the orientation," said David Leenhouts,

WCJC vice president of student services. "Participants in the NSO come away from it with a clear path to reach their academic goals."

Topics covered in the NSO include college expectations, student services, financial aid, degree plans and tips for achieving success in college. Incoming students also learn how to use MyWCJC (see story, page 15).





Czech Republic researchers Jan Varmuza and Michal Ptacek listen to WCJC Nuclear Power Program Director Rudolph Henry point out the details of a miniature power plant while WCJC Grant Writer Coordinator Bruce Kieler looks on.

As more nuclear power plants are planned for construction around the world, emphasis is being placed on nuclear power plant worker training in the various disciplines required to operate these plants.

RUDOLPH HENRY
WCJC Program Director of
Nuclear Power Technology

Nuclear Power Technology Program Continued to Garner Worldwide Attention

Educators, researchers and business leaders from around the world continue to visit the Wharton County Junior College Nuclear Power Technology program as the need for nuclear power plant operators grows. The WCJC program is recognized by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a “best practice” institution among two-year nuclear technology training programs worldwide.

“As more nuclear power plants are planned for construction around the world, emphasis is being placed on

nuclear power plant worker training in the various disciplines required to operate these plants,” said Rudolph Henry, WCJC’s program director of nuclear power technology. “These visitors come to WCJC to learn how we train students to become nuclear professionals to work in commercial nuclear power plants.”

Among the international visitors in 2014-15 to WCJC’s Nuclear Power Technology program at the college’s Bay City campus were two researchers from Brno University in the Czech Republic.



New Manufacturing Technology Program Planned

Building on an agreement between Wharton County Junior College, Tenaris and the Bay City Community Development Corporation that was signed in June 2014, planning took place to add a manufacturing technology program at the college's Bay City campus beginning in Fall 2015.

"The WCJC Manufacturing Technology program will prepare students with the expertise needed to work for Tenaris and other industries requiring skills like welding and machining," WCJC President Betty McCrohan said. "This is a great opportunity for area residents to obtain a set of skills that can be quickly translated into gainful employment."

"Tenaris partnered with WCJC to develop a sustainable program that would meet the needs of more than just our company," said German Cura, president of Tenaris-North America. "Our investment in this program will impact the community by providing them with an opportunity to achieve educational and career goals."

To support the program, a new mechanical laboratory building was constructed adjacent to the Center for Energy Development, which houses WCJC's Bay City campus. The roughly \$1.2 million structure was funded primarily by the Bay City Community Development Corporation.

This is a great opportunity for area residents to obtain a set of skills that can be quickly translated into gainful employment.

BETTY MCCROHAN
WCJC President

Officials from WCJC, Tenaris and the Bay City Community Development Corporation (BCCDC) tour the site where a mechanical laboratory was built on the Bay City Campus. The group included BCCDC Board Member Bill Cornman and WCJC Manufacturing Technology Program Director Rudolph Henry.





Shining Bright in
**Student
Support**

**If a student goes
two years to
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two years to UH,
they will obtain one
of the lowest cost,
Tier One degrees
in the nation.**

RICHARD PHILLIPS

UH System's Associate Provost,
Outreach and Community
Engagement



Standing in the foyer of the University of Houston Sugar Land branch campus are Richard Phillips, UH System's associate provost, outreach and community engagement, and Robert Wolter, director of the WCJC Sugar Land campus.

Partnership Makes Sugar Land the One-Stop Shop for Education

The University of Houston Sugar Land (UHSL) campus is a virtual one-stop shop for most students' educational needs, allowing them to take the basics, obtain an associate degree and then transfer to a university all in one place. Through a partnership between Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston, freshman and sophomore level courses are offered by WCJC while upper-level courses are offered by University of Houston System universities.

"Having both a junior college and four-year university system at the same site is of great benefit to students," said Richard Phillips, UH System's associate provost, outreach and community engagement. "Not only is it convenient, it's cost-effective."

Phillips said costs at WCJC are roughly one-third of those at UH for comparable freshman- and sophomore-level courses.

"Having a less expensive alternative to obtain a college degree is crucial for WCJC students since most hold down part-time jobs," said Robert Wolter, director of WCJC's Sugar Land campus.

Efforts are underway to make UH the sole university-level course provider at the Sugar Land campus. Once that occurs, the Sugar Land site can tap into UH's coveted Tier One designation.

"If a student goes two years to WCJC and then two years to UH, they will obtain one of the lowest cost, Tier One degrees in the nation," Phillips noted.

"Students who transfer from a two-year college to a four-year university have higher graduation rates than those who enter a four-year institution as freshmen," Wolter said. "The freshman attrition rate at major universities is very high."

Phillips said WCJC students, in particular, have proven to be well prepared for upper-level coursework.

"WCJC instructors are highly qualified and teach core curriculum to the standards of a Tier One university," Phillips said. "By the time they [WCJC students] transfer to us, they are proven students."

The UH System and WCJC have implemented joint admissions programs to help make the transfer seamless. Under these arrangements, WCJC students receive guaranteed admission into participating UH System universities provided they have completed an associate degree, are in good academic and financial standing and have submitted a Joint Admissions Contract within their first 30 semester credit hours of coursework at WCJC.

Baseball Team Got Up-Close Look at Pro Ball



State Rep. Phil Stephenson hosted sophomore members of the WCJC Pioneers baseball team to a glimpse of what their future might look like during a Sugar Land Skeeters game. The athletes received VIP treatment as they watched the Skeeters take on the York Revolution from an air-conditioned skybox at Constellation Field in Sugar Land. They also walked onto the field and into the locker room and received a personal introduction from Skeeters Manager Gary Gaetti. Some of the group paused at the Wharton Baseball Field for a photo before leaving for the game, including Joe Lyall, Jacob Burkholder, Jordan Lucks, Bailey Darden, Luke Meza, Austin Zillweger, Cole Hicks, WCJC Coach Keith Case, Cade Whitfield, Dallas Johnson, State Rep. Phil Stephenson, Soke Agbolakwu, Mason Mize, Will Blanchard, Fernando Martinez, JT Jakubik, Anthony Reed and Conner Parker.

MyWCJC Portal Added for Simpler Access to Data

The new MyWCJC portal went live in April 2015, providing Wharton County Junior College students and employees with access to important data in a single system. Users can access everything from grades to class schedules to compensation records, eliminating the need to memorize multiple passwords for multiple software systems.

MyWCJC allows students and employees to access the Blackboard learning system, as well as their college emails, and to receive emergency alert message.

Students can also access registration, class schedules, transcript order forms, online tutoring and advising and many other services through the portal.

MyWCJC allows students and employees to access the Blackboard learning system, as well as their college emails, and to receive emergency alert message.



Shining Bright in
**Teaching
Excellence**

We as faculty are open to review students' resumes and help assist them in any way we can. We keep in contact with area industries and a lot of them want to hire WCJC graduates.

DAVID KUCERA
WCJC Electronics Instructor



David Kucera, electronics instructor, is known for going the extra mile in helping his students find jobs after graduation.

Kucera Inspires Students

When it comes to his students, Wharton County Junior College electronics instructor David Kucera has made it his personal mission to help students find rewarding careers after they leave his classroom.

"We as faculty are open to review students' resumes and help assist them in any way we can," Kucera said. "We keep in contact with area industries and a lot of them want to hire WCJC graduates."

As chair of WCJC's Technology and Business Division, Kucera stays abreast of the ever-changing landscape of electronics-based careers, as well as other business-related jobs. Programs offered in his division include everything from office administration to electronics engineering technology to computer simulation/game development.

Kucera said many companies send job applicants to WCJC to obtain specific skills prior to employment. After graduation, these students have a job waiting for them.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan credits Kucera with building a highly regarded electronics program.

"The electronics program he helped build prepares students for competitive wage jobs with firms that require a high command of electronics engineering knowledge," McCrohan said.

Kucera earned his associate degree in electronics from WCJC before earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston-Victoria. Prior to joining WCJC, he co-owned an electronics communications business.



Bonewald Adds Cutting-Edge Technology to EMS Program

WCJC EMS Program Director Gary Bonewald raised the bar on training by adding modern technology such as a full-size ambulance simulator and several lifelike mannequins.

Gary Bonewald knows what it takes to be a successful paramedic, having spent 34 years with emergency medical services (EMS). He joined Wharton County Junior College as a full-time EMS instructor in May 2014. He was later named program director.

Bonewald's practical experience includes stints with several EMS providers, including 12 years as a full-time paramedic with the City of Wharton. He holds an associate degree from WCJC and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Houston. In addition to teaching part-time at WCJC in the 1990s, he taught at Galveston College and Houston Community College.

Since becoming program director, Bonewald has raised the bar on training. Students now test their abilities on such devices as a full-sized ambulance simulator, lifelike mannequins and the latest defibrillators and monitors. They also perform clinical rotations at area emergency and operating rooms.

Bonewald's expertise and attention to detail is a draw for students who come from across southeast Texas. In Spring 2015, one student made the 160-mile round trip from Yoakum to attend classes.

"When I learned WCJC had these new instructors, I knew this was the place to be," said Rosenberg resident Josh Flores, an EMT who enrolled at WCJC for additional certification. "Gary and the other instructors are very thorough and take the time to make sure we know the material."



Carolan Retired

He had a unique gift of teaching math in a way that students could understand it. He never seemed to be in a hurry and would take time with students and teach them in a way that was never condescending. He was always an encourager.

GLORIA CROCKETT
Director of WCJC's
Bay City Campus

After 56 years of teaching an estimated 20,000 students and, in some cases, three generations of family members, James "Jim" Carolan retired from Wharton County Junior College in May 2015. He was a virtual icon at the college as an instructor, girls' basketball coach and founder of various college organizations.

Carolan joined the 34-member WCJC faculty in 1959 to teach history. Over the years, he branched out to teach other subjects, including accounting, Spanish and mathematics. The last subject was where he made his mark.

"He had a unique gift of teaching math in a way that students could understand it," recalled Gloria Crockett, director of

WCJC's Bay City campus. "He never seemed to be in a hurry and would take time with students and teach them in a way that was never condescending. He was always an encourager."

Carolan was also a favorite among faculty who took his night classes in business and finance. WCJC Athletic Director Gene Bahnsen recalled Carolan as a whiz with numbers who had a penchant for smart investing.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan was equally impressed with Carolan's dedication to his students, commending him for his ability to explain difficult concepts in an understandable way.

WCJC recognized retired instructor Jim Carolan, far right, by naming a learning center after him. At the August 28, 2015 ceremony, the Jim Carolan Learning Center in Room No. 100 of the FJL Blasingame Science Building on the Wharton campus was formally dedicated. WCJC President Betty McCrohan, second from right, recognized Carolan, as well as his grandson Oliver Strnadell, far left, and his wife Lillian Carolan, second from left.





Recipients of the 2015 NISOD Excellence Awards were Eddie Vandewalker, former instructor of music; Kelly Eldridge, instructor of psychology; Allyson Matheaus, instructor of radiologic technology; Jon Loessin, instructor of sociology; Jo Ann Shimek, instructor of engineering design; and Johnson Cherukara, instructor of biology.

Instructors Recognized for Teaching Excellence

The National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) recognized six Wharton County Junior College instructors for teaching excellence at the NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership held May 23-26, 2015, in Austin, Texas.

WCJC honorees included:

Johnson Cherukara
Instructor of Biology

Kelly Eldridge
Instructor of Psychology

Jon Loessin
Instructor of Sociology

Allyson Matheaus
Instructor of Radiologic Technology

Jo Ann Shimek, Instructor of Engineering Design

Eddie Vandewalker
Former Instructor of Music

“Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their colleges’ mission is something we look forward to doing each year,” said NISOD Executive Director Dr. Edward Leach. “The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for the communities in which they live and work.”

Additionally, Shimek received the WCJC Excellence in Teaching Award during the 69th Commencement Exercises in May 2015. The award is presented annually to one or more full-time instructors who embody WCJC’s mission to build dreams and transform lives by making a difference inside and outside the classroom.



Jo Ann Shimek received the 2015 WCJC Excellence in Teaching Award.



Shining Bright in
**Athletic
Achievements**

I'm really proud
of the amount
of work the guys
have put in.
They've grown
up around each
other and have
competed and
been successful
at every level.
They are all
top notch.

SEAN AMESTOY
WCJC Rodeo Coach



Six WCJC cowboys and their coaches attended the College National Finals Rodeo including Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy, Cole Dollery of Caldwell, Shane Semien of Beaumont, Mason Boettcher of East Bernard, Hudson Wallace of George West, Cade Goodman of Waelder, Ty Arnold of Midway and Assistant Rodeo Coach Casey Halderman.

Cowboys Named Southern Region Champions

The Wharton County Junior College Men's Rodeo team finished the regular season as the 2015 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Southern Region Champions. During the competition, six cowboys qualified to attend the 67th Annual College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) held in Casper, Wyo., in June 2015. The CNFR represents the best of the best in college rodeo, with competitors coming from junior colleges and universities across the nation.

Named as **NIRA Southern Region Champions** were:

- Ty Arnold**, Roping Heeler
- Mason Boettcher**, Roping Header
- Cade Goodman**, Steer Wrestler
- Hudson Wallace**, Tiedown Roper

Named as **NIRA Southern Region Reserve Champions** were:

- Cole Dollery**, Team Roping Header
- Shane Semien**, Bull Rider

At the CNFR, Goodman finished ninth in steer wrestling, while Boettcher and Arnold finished eleventh in team roping.

"Our team has just been fantastic all year long," said WCJC Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy. "I'm really proud of the amount of work the guys have put in. They've grown up around each other and have competed and been successful at every level. They are all top notch."

Amestoy credited his assistant rodeo coach, Casey Halderman, with helping to keep the team focused and competing at the highest level.



WCJC cowboys Mason Boettcher of East Bernard and Ty Arnold of Midway chased down a calf during team roping competition. The duo finished 11th in the nation following the College National Finals Rodeo. Photo courtesy of RM Photos.



Athletes Earned Academic All-Conference Awards

Six student athletes with a minimum 3.25 grade point average and 36 semester hours of completed coursework and who had been enrolled for at least three semesters were presented Academic All-Conference

awards. They include baseball players **Will Blanchard** of Bulverde, **J.T. Jakubik** and **Anthony Reed** of Missouri City, **Luke Meza** of Dickinson and **Austin Zillweger** of Houston, as well as volleyball player **MaKayla Lenamon** of Lolita.

Six student athletes were presented Academic All-Conference awards.

Earning Academic All-Conference awards were MaKayla Lenamon of Lolita (volleyball), J.T. Jakubik of Missouri City (baseball), Luke Meza of Dickinson (baseball), Austin Zillweger of Houston (baseball), Will Blanchard of Bulverde (baseball) and Anthony Reed of Missouri City (baseball).



Baseball Team Played Sugar Land Skeeters

The WCJC Pioneer baseball team sharpened its playing skills by taking on the Sugar Land Skeeters at Constellation Field in Sugar Land in April 2015. On this play, WCJC first baseman Charles Guillory of Port Arthur tagged out Sugar Land Skeeters' runner Delwyn Young during the hard-fought game in which the Pioneers fell short by a 3-1 score to the independent professional ball club.



WCJC volleyball players named to 2014 Region XIV All-Conference teams included Mariah Shaw, Shay Mitchell, Madison Taylor, Alexis Nettles and MaKayla Lenamon.



Having three players make the first team is really great for us. You have to excel and stand out in every area of the sport to receive the coaches' recognition of All-Conference.

BRIANNA FLORUS
WCJC Volleyball Coach

Volleyball Players Named to Region XIV All-Conference Teams

The Wharton County Junior College volleyball team finished its winning season with five players named to Region XIV All-Conference teams.

Named to the All-Conference First Team were **Madison Taylor**, a middle blocker from Centerville; **Mariah Shaw**, a libero from Sugar Land; and **Shay Mitchell**, a right side hitter from Lumberton. Making the All-Conference Second Team were **Alexis Nettles**, an outside hitter from Conroe; and **MaKayla Lenamon**, a setter from Lolita.

WCJC Volleyball Coach Brianna Florus was pleased that so many players made the All-Conference teams.

"Having three players make the first team is really great for us," said Florus. "You have to excel and stand out in every area of the sport to receive the coaches' recognition of All-Conference."

The Pioneers had a solid season, advancing to the Region XIV Tournament held at Lee College in Baytown in November.



**PIONEER
CREW**

THE FIERCE & LOYAL FANS OF WCJC ATHLETICS

Pioneer Crew Painted Sports Venues Red

Wharton County Junior College initiated the Pioneer Crew athletic fan attendance campaign during 2014-15. To build team spirit and increase game attendance, free T-shirts were offered on a first-come, first-served basis to students, employees and area residents prior to the games. Shirts were emblazoned with the slogan "Pioneer Crew: The Fierce and Loyal Fans of WCJC Athletics."



WCJC Pioneer Baseball players Timothy Blakeney of Yoakum and Ivan Garcia of Katy model the Pioneer Crew T-shirts.



Jacob Barfield of Pearland (baseball), Madison Taylor of Centerville (volleyball) and Reid Zapalac of Smithville (rodeo) received Most Valuable Player awards.

Achievements Celebrated at Athletic Banquet

Wharton County Junior College athletes were recognized for their achievements both on and off the playing field during the 52nd Annual Athletic Banquet held at the Pioneer Student Center in May 2015.

Austin Zillweger, a sophomore baseball player from Houston who signed to play at Houston Baptist University, received the coveted Johnnie Frankie Award from Jenny Banker, daughter of the late Coach Johnnie Frankie.

Anthony Reed, a sophomore baseball player from Missouri City who entered the United States Marine Corps Officer

Candidate School, was presented the prestigious Dr. Ty Pate Award by Leigh Ann Collins, WCJC vice president of instruction. The award was established in memory of the late Dr. Pate, a WCJC administrator and former athlete.

Jacob Barfield of Pearland (baseball), **Madison Taylor** of Centerville (volleyball) and **Reid Zapalac** of Smithville (rodeo) received Most Valuable Player awards.

Six student athletes also received Academic All-Conference awards (see story, page 21).



Austin Zillweger won the 2015 Johnnie Frankie Award as the outstanding athlete of the year, while Anthony Reed was honored with the Dr. Ty Pate Academic Award.



Shining Bright in

Artistic Accomplishments

This is the highest honor a college or community-based choral singer can achieve in the United States. It is rare for so many singers from one group to make the National Honor Choir, so this is a testament to these students' talents and training, and that includes the foundation that was set prior to their arrival at WCJC.

EDDIE VANDEWALKER
Former WCJC
Choir Director



WCJC Choir members named to the 2015 ACDA National Honor Choir were Tabitha Cook of El Campo, Lindsey Reeves of Wharton, Melody Jenkins of East Bernard, Lindsey Phillips of Palacios, Bryan Kelly of Richmond, Keny Melendez of Houston, Adrean Weaver of Bay City and Roddrinskee Johnson of Houston.

Singers Selected to Elite Honor Choir

Eight Wharton County Junior College Choir members joined an elite group of vocalists when they were named to the 2015 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Honor Choir.

Roughly seven percent of the 3,300 singers auditioning for the choir made the final cut including these WCJC students:

- Tabitha Cook**, El Campo
- Melody Jenkins**, East Bernard
- Roddrinskee Johnson**, Houston
- Bryan Kelly**, Richmond
- Lindsey Phillips**, Palacios
- Lindsey Reeves**, Wharton
- Adrean Weaver**, Bay City
- Keny Melendez**, Houston (alternate)

"Our students competed against college, university and community vocalists from across the nation," said former WCJC Choir Director Eddie Vandewalker. "This is the highest honor a college or community-based choral singer can achieve in the United States. It is rare for so many singers from one group to make the National Honor Choir, so this is a testament to these students' talents and training, and that includes the foundation that was set prior to their arrival at WCJC."

The seven regular members of the honor choir performed in three concerts – one with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir – during the 2015 ACDA National Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from February 25-28, 2015. The WCJC vocalists rehearsed with world-renowned directors and sharpened their talents with a total immersion into the world of choral music.



Student Art Show Featured Various Styles and Media

The hallways of the Wharton County Junior College Duson-Hansen Fine Arts Building on the Wharton campus featured a staggering array of artistic genres, from oil painting to paper cutouts to stained glass, during the college's annual student art show on December 1, 2014.

WCJC Art Instructor Dianne Curtis was pleased with the number of students who entered the show, as well as the various styles and media exhibited.

Students appreciated the diversity, too,

with Patricia Cortes of Richmond praising Curtis' leadership for helping her develop in unexpected ways. One of her pieces in the show used intricately cut paper and vivid colors to simulate a bowl of pasta.

"Ms. Curtis encourages me to challenge myself," said Cortes.

Scholarships were awarded to the top three winners of the art show to continue their pursuit of art-related classes at WCJC.

Ms. Curtis encourages me to challenge myself.

PATRICIA CORTES
WCJC Student

WCJC art student Alyssa Sanchez displayed her work to her classmates before entering it into the student art show.





WCJC Band Director Joe Waldrop, shown in his U.S. Navy uniform, was among the veterans and active military shown in a photographic salute during the Veterans Day concert presented by the WCJC Band.

WCJC Band Concert Honored Veterans Through Music and Photograph Display



The Wharton County Junior College Pioneer Band honored local veterans during a free Veterans Day concert in the Horton Foote Theatre on the Wharton campus. The concert included marches, up-tempo songs and other patriotic music designed to inspire attendees. The program's special touches included the projection of photographs of active and retired military shared by area residents.

WCJC Band Director Joe Waldrop, a Vietnam Navy veteran, said the concert was one way to honor and publicly thank military men and women.

A highlight of the performance was two slightly different renditions of the *Star Spangled Banner*, one for the public and other geared toward the military.



Trumpet player DeVaughn Hahn and fellow WCJC band members rehearsed for the Honor Our Veterans concert.





WCJC Drama Department students who volunteered to act for "Ghosts along the Brazos" included Lauren Rozner of Edna, David Hesse of Pearland, Isabella Nidever of Sugar Land, Kristi Callies of Rosenberg, David Arvizu of El Campo, Ellie Wright of Edna, Maggie McClendon of Wharton and Shanna Schroeder of Edna.

Drama Department Brought Ghost Stories to Life

Eight Wharton County Junior College thespians honed their outdoor acting skills as they competed with rushing wind, rumbling tractors and other background noise during *Ghosts along the Brazos*. This annual fundraiser for the Ammon Underwood House and Sweeny-Waddy log cabin was held in East Columbia in November 2014.

During the event, the WCJC students donned period costumes and shared historical narratives and ghost stories featured in the book entitled *Ghosts along the Brazos* by Catherine Munson Foster. Students learned not only how to project their voices, but also how to maintain eye contact with a more intimate audience.

WCJC students donned period costumes and shared historical narratives and ghost stories featured in the book entitled *Ghosts along the Brazos* by Catherine Munson Foster.



Shining Bright in
**The
Community**

Alumni and friends of the college had fun while raising more than \$19,000 to benefit the Wharton County Junior College President's Scholarship Fund and the Presidential Scholars program.



Landon McClain, part of the Prosperity Bank team, had a warm smile on his face while battling frigid temperatures during the 2nd Annual WCJC Invitational Golf Classic. WCJC President Betty McCrohan accepted a \$1,500 check from Wharton Lions Club President Leroy Dettling to benefit the 2nd Annual WCJC Invitational Golf Classic.

Golf Tournament Provided Day of Fun and Funds

Despite 40-degree temperatures and gusty winds, alumni and friends of the college had fun while raising more than \$19,000 to benefit the Wharton County Junior College President's Scholarship Fund and the Presidential Scholars program during the 2nd Annual WCJC Invitational Golf Classic. Ten dedicated teams participated in the four-hole scramble on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at the Wharton Country Club.

The Presidential Scholars program is a new initiative designed to provide a select group of students with more than a traditional college experience (see story, page 2). State Rep. Phil Stephenson and his wife, Barbara, stopped by the tournament to meet the Scholars, some of whom served as volunteers.

Awards were presented to the top three teams:

1st Place: Exelon Generation represented by Linda Gonzalez, John Gonzalez, Chris Bockholt and John Bockholt

2nd Place: Prosperity Bank represented by Landon McClain, Tom Miller, Danny Vonada and Jordan McClain

3rd Place: WCJC Alumni Association represented by Jerry Slaughter, Carlton Hudgins, Kelly Tant and Jody Domel

Numerous companies and individuals generously supported the event, including:

Title Sponsor:

Dr. Stewart Morris Sr.

Tournament Sponsors:

- Barnes & Noble College LLC
- Bass Construction Co.
- Ben's Chuck Wagon
- Bracewell & Giuliani
- Dr. John Cangelosi
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Sweeny Complex
- Direct Energy Business
- Exelon Generation
- The First State Bank
- Great Western Dining Service Inc.
- The Hunton Group
- McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen PC
- OXEA Corp.
- Will Parker
- Pfluger Architects
- Popek's Turf
- Prosperity Bank
- Shahji & Co.
- Stewart Title Co.
- Johnnie Svatek
- WCJC Alumni Association
- WCJC Board of Trustees
- Wharton Journal-Spectator
- Wharton Lions Club
- State Rep. John Zerwas



Exelon Generation team members celebrate their win in the 2nd Annual WCJC Invitational Golf Classic with WCJC President Betty McCrohan, second from left. They include John Gonzalez, Linda Gonzalez, John Bockholt and Chris Bockholt.



Service Area Expanded for Adult Education and Literacy Program

Waller and Austin Counties joined Wharton, Fort Bend, Colorado and Matagorda Counties to expand the service area of the Wharton County Junior College Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program in 2014-15.

Beginning in January 2015, the AEL program held orientation sessions in each of the six counties to provide an overview of WCJC's General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Students received assistance to assess their strengths and weaknesses in language acquisition and basic learning skills.

Dr. Cyrus Johnson, director of WCJC's AEL program, set a goal of increasing enrollment in the college's GED and ESL classes by 25 percent to 1,200 students.

"We believe everyone is capable of learning," Johnson said. "We want to provide adults with the option to come back into the learning process in order to be successful."

Johnson noted that the AEL program offers services that attract employers so students just need an open mind and willingness to work. GED and ESL classes are offered at no cost to students.

We want to provide adults with the option to come back into the learning process in order to be successful.

DR. CYRUS JOHNSON
Director of WCJC's AEL Program

Working on the expansion of the WCJC Adult Education and Literacy program are staff members Holly Eisel, Maria Guevara, Dr. Cyrus Johnson, Roweena Britton and Maria Alvarado.





WCJC Night Showcased College



WCJC Night with the Sugar Land Skeeters provided an opportunity to showcase the college at Constellation Field on May 7, 2015. Students, staff and supporters enjoyed reserved group seating to watch the Atlantic League ball club host the Somerset Patriots.

WCJC students opened the game by singing the national anthem and throwing out the first pitch. An on-field presentation recognized WCJC Athletic Director Gene Bahnsen for his many years of service to the college.

As attendees entered the stadium, Presidential Scholars presented them with Skeeters/WCJC promotional T-shirts. An

information table, manned by college recruiters, provided interested attendees with the opportunity to learn more about WCJC and have their questions answered.

The event also gave President Betty McCrohan and the WCJC Board of Trustees an opportunity to host community leaders and donors, along with their spouses, and share with them the latest activities at the college. A broadcast crew also interviewed McCrohan about WCJC.

Students and employees were eligible, on a first-come, first-served basis, for a pair of tickets, as well as vouchers for food and drink.





Film Showing Brought WCJC's Unique Heritage to Light



A documentary film produced by the Wharton County Junior College Office of Marketing and Communications premiered to a full house at the Horton Foote Theatre on the Wharton campus on January 29, 2015. The 40-minute film, called *Generations*, chronicles the college's early years through the recollections of 24 former students, staff and community leaders.

The short film painted a vivid history from WCJC's founding in 1946 to its current status as a four-campus institution serving thousands of students along the Texas Gulf Coast. Along with personal anecdotes, the film used historical photographs to document how things looked as the college grew in stature and outreach.

WCJC Internet Marketing Coordinator Amanda Heard directed "Generations," the 40-minute documentary film that chronicles WCJC's impact on the area.

Students Inspired by Elected Officials During Community College Day

Wharton County Junior College students obtained a behind-the-scenes look at state politics while giving state legislators a chance to see students from their districts during Community College Day at the Texas State Capitol on February 3, 2015.

SGA member Brittney Fuentes of Missouri City realized the importance each constituent plays in shaping the future of the state's political system.

"I never voted before but now I'm going to register to vote," she said. "The people really do have a say."

Student feedback after the event included: legislators are real people and quite down to earth; they truly want to help people; and you can achieve your goal while helping others along the way.



WCJC Presidential Scholars and members of the Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa met with state representatives, including State Senator Lois Kolkhorst, center, during Community College Day at the State Capitol in Austin. WCJC representatives included Jacob Medina, Tallon Canaris, Hammond Khan, Valentin Perez, Angel Becerra, Michael Payne, Jamonique Florence, Rachel Boettcher, Darius Glover, WCJC President Betty McCrohan, Tabitha Myers, Brittney Fuentes, Liz Rexford, Connor Jung, Rachel Scott, Lara Ramirez, Kristin Afzaal, Jeff Shine, Jazmine Walker, WCJC Vice President of Student Services Dave Leenhouts, Mara Johnson and Kimberly Zambrano.



Shining Bright in
**Financial
Matters**

The 2015
award winners
demonstrate
successful
approaches to
risk management
because they view
it as an ongoing
opportunity to
improve safety
and reduce costs.

BARBARA TATE
Chair of the TASB Risk
Management Fund
Board of Trustees



College Honored for Excellence in Risk Management

Wharton County Junior College received the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund Innovation Award during the organization's Risk Management Fund Members' Conference held March 29-31, 2015 in Austin. WCJC received a commemorative plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium for use in its risk management program.

Applications were rated on cost effectiveness, originality, transferability for use by other Fund members and the ability to address overall member needs.

"The 2015 award winners demonstrate successful approaches to risk management because they view it as an ongoing opportunity to improve safety and reduce costs," said Barbara Tate, chair of the TASB Risk Management

Fund Board of Trustees. "All of these programs and initiatives truly exemplify the definition of innovation."

The TASB Risk Management Fund, operational since 1974, is a self-insurance risk pool serving Texas school districts, community colleges and other education organizations. The Fund provides workers' compensation, property, liability, auto and unemployment compensation coverage to more than 1,000 members. The Fund is the largest provider of risk management services for Texas school districts and other members of TASB.



Report Showed College's Strong Economic Impact

A report released in 2014-15 showed that Wharton County Junior College added \$202.9 million in net income to the economy in fiscal year 2012-13 and that WCJC taxpayers saw a 20.5 percent return on their investment (ROI). Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) conducted the study.

The income created comes through operations spending, which includes payroll expenditures, student spending and contributions to the economy by WCJC students employed in the WCJC Service Area.

"This study clearly demonstrates that WCJC creates value from multiple perspectives," said WCJC President Betty McCrohan. "We inject millions

into the local economy with the trickle-down effect of our payroll and spending. We also give our students tangible work skills that enable them to achieve their dreams and earn the highest wages possible, thereby contributing to the local economy."

As for ROI, the study indicated that state and local taxpayers in Texas paid \$16.7 million to support the college's operations in 2013-14. Dividing benefits to taxpayers by associated costs, this means that for every \$1 of public money spent on WCJC, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of \$8.60 over the course of students' working lives in the form of higher tax receipts and public sector savings.

For every \$1 of public money spent on WCJC, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of \$8.60 over the course of students' working lives in the form of higher tax receipts and public sector savings.



Grant Funding Summary

One thing that keeps student tuition reasonable is WCJC's relentless pursuit of grant funding. Each year, the college undertakes the detailed process of applying for various grants to help generate additional revenue.

Grant funding provides student scholarships, instructional materials and equipment, capital improvements, student support services, curriculum development and support for a variety of programs. Funding sources include foundations, businesses and governmental agencies.

During 2014-15, WCJC realized revenues of approximately \$4,725,277 in grant funding for these program areas:

Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language

- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act/Workforce Invest Act: \$602,775
- Education Service Center Region VI: \$23,380

Allied Health

- Johnson Foundation: \$700,000 for renovation and expansion of Johnson Health Occupations Center
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board/Nursing Innovation Grant: \$6,000
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board/Nursing Shortage Replacement Program (Regular): \$67,458

Community Service Programs

- Senior Citizen Programs in Wharton County and Colorado County: \$379,924

Distance Education

- U.S. Department of Education, Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program: \$775,000

Emergency Medical Services

- Texas Health and Human Services Commission: \$14,070
- Trull Foundation: \$10,000

Financial Aid for Students

- Carl Perkins Act: \$283,634
- George Foundation: \$125,000
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Educational Programs: \$50,000
- Texas Hispanic-Serving Institutions Consortium: \$500

Manufacturing Technology

- Tenaris Bay City, Inc.: \$575,000

Nuclear Power Technology

- Texas A&M University/Texas Engineering Experiment Station: \$15,000

Physical Plant Maintenance

- TASB Risk Management Fund: \$3,000

Process Technology

- ExxonMobil Community College Petrochemical Initiative: \$5,000
- LyondellBasell: \$15,000

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM Disciplines)

- U.S. Department of Education, Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions/STEM Program: \$821,257

Workforce Development

- Texas Workforce Commission: \$298,352
- Texas Workforce Commission/Skills for Small Business Program: \$20,000

Other

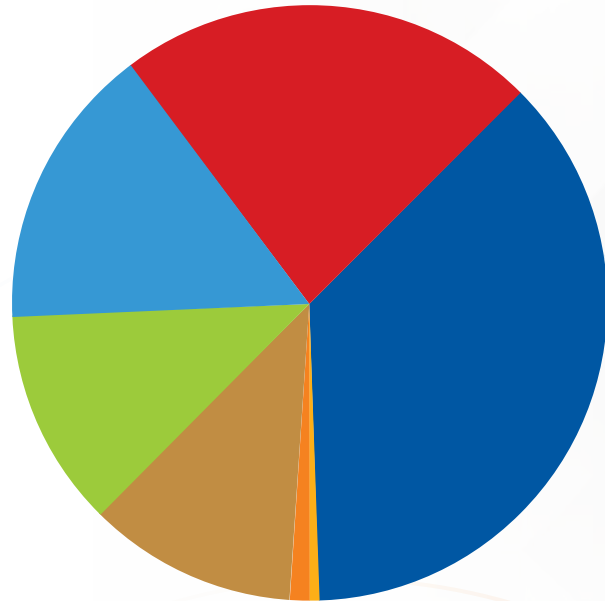
- U.S. Department of Education: \$30,000 as a waiver of matching funds



2014-2015 Financial Overview

2014-2015 Revenue Sources

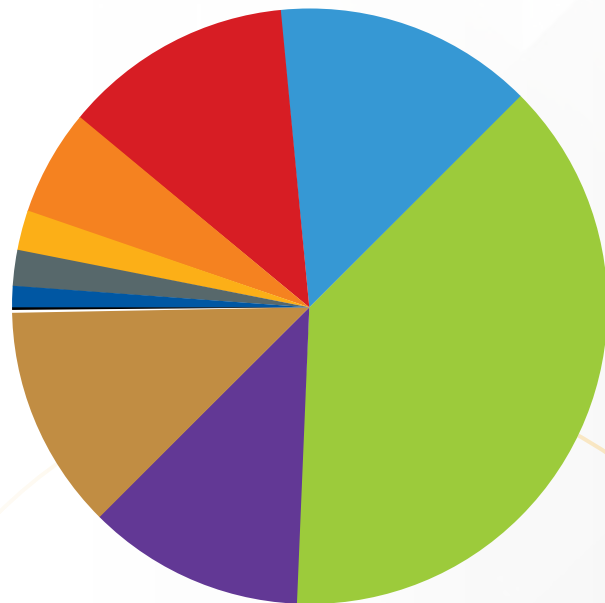
Total Revenue	\$52,673,751	
◆ Tuition & Fees	\$18,985,613	36%
◆ State Appropriations	\$11,860,568	22%
◆ Grants & Contracts	\$9,992,228	19%
◆ Ad Valorem Taxes	\$5,634,423	11%
◆ Income Investments	\$231,109	<1%
◆ Other	\$5,166,121	10%
◆ Auxiliary	\$803,689	2%



2014-2015 Revenue Sources

2014-2015 Expenditures

Total Expenditures	\$45,575,463	
◆ Instruction	\$17,867,480	39%
◆ Instructional Support	\$7,288,319	16%
◆ Operations/Maintenance	\$4,870,528	11%
◆ Academic Support	\$4,235,131	9%
◆ Scholarships	\$4,941,428	11%
◆ Student Services	\$2,845,609	6%
◆ Public Service	\$1,409,209	3%
◆ Depreciation	\$1,228,573	3%
◆ Auxiliary Expenses	\$786,876	2%
◆ Interest	\$80,704	<1%
◆ Other	\$21,606	<1%



2014-2015 Expenditures

Source: Wharton County Junior College District Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2015.

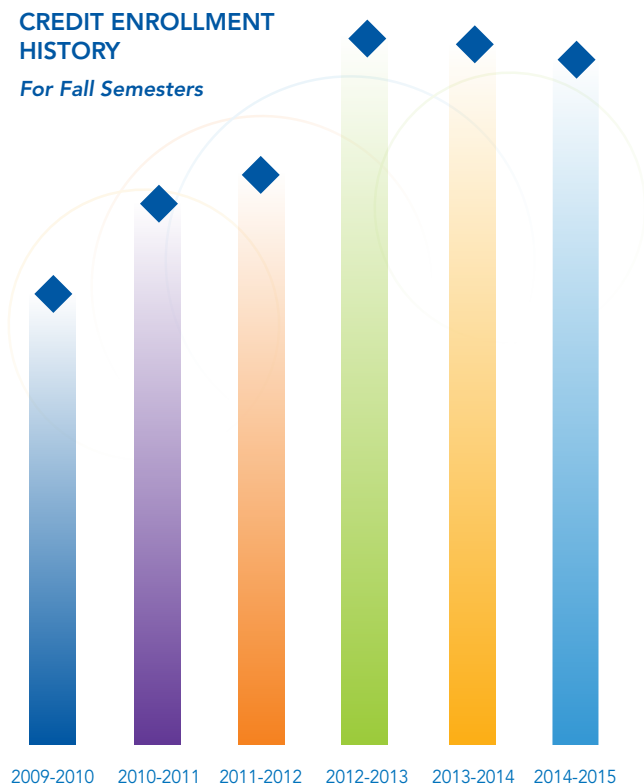
WCJC By the Numbers

All figures for Fall 2014 unless noted

Total Unduplicated Credit Students 7,152

CREDIT ENROLLMENT HISTORY

For Fall Semesters



An Affordable Education

2015-2016 Tuition & Fees

Average based on 15 credit hours in both fall and spring semesters

	In-District/ Resident	Out-of- District	Out-of-State/ Non-Resident
WCJC*	\$2,750	\$4,280	\$5,240
Texas Public Universities	\$8,319	NA	\$20,055

Source: College For All Texans www.collegefortexans.com

*Figures listed are estimates. WCJC reserves the right to change fees in keeping with the acts of the Texas Legislature or the WCJC Board of Trustees.

Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment 1,081

Distance Education (Internet/ITV) 1,704

Approximately 1,665 students attended more than one campus.

Annual Unduplicated Credit Enrollment 10,168

Other Unduplicated Noncredit Enrollment

Academic Year 2014-2015

Youth Activities	1,794
Continuing Education (Workforce)	811
Continuing Education Adult Avocation	124
Adult Education and Literacy	
GED	303
ESL	433



Degree/Certifications Awarded 9/1/14 – 8/31/15

Associate of Applied Science degrees	222
Associate of Arts degrees	322
Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees	6
Certificates	250
Total	800



WCJC By the Numbers

All figures for Fall 2014 unless noted

Student Ethnicity

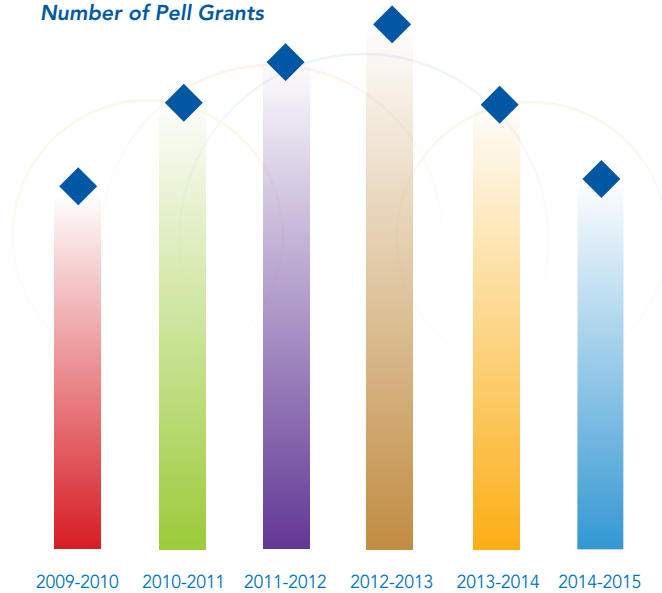
White/Non-Hispanic	40%
Hispanic	35%
Black/Non-Hispanic	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander	12%
Indian/Alaskan Native	0%
International	0%
Unknown	1%

Pell Grant Awards

2014-2015

	Total Number	Total Amount
2013-2014 Pell Grants	1,911	\$6,532,861

PELL GRANT HISTORY Number of Pell Grants



Student Age

Under 20	3,599	51%
20-24	2,178	30%
25-29	611	9%
30-39	452	6%
40-over	312	4%

Student Gender

Women	3,971	56%
Men	3,181	44%

Student Residency

Texas Residents	6,941	97%
In-District Residents	1,272	18%
Out-of-District Residents	5,558	77%
Residents with Tuition Exemptions	111	2%
Outside Texas/Foreign	211	3%

Faculty Characteristics

Total Faculty	291	
Full-Time Faculty	164	56%
Part-Time Faculty	127	44%
Average Age	52	
Minority Faculty	73	25%
Student: Faculty Ratio	25:1	

Full-Time Faculty Educational Attainment

Doctorate	24	15%
Master's	109	66%
Bachelor's	14	9%
Associate/Certificate	17	10%

Full-Time Faculty Length of Teaching Service

5 Years or Less	49	30%
6-10 Years	38	23%
11-15 Years	38	23%
16-20 Years	19	12%
More than 20 Years	20	12%



WHARTON SUGAR LAND RICHMOND BAY CITY

2014-2015 President's Report to the Community

Produced by the
WCJC Office of Marketing and Communications

Editor
Zina Carter

Contributors
John Dettling
Amanda Heard
Mary Koczanowski
Cheryl Machicek
Benjamin Sharp
The Mills Agency

For more information, call or write:
Wharton County Junior College
Office of the President
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, Texas 77488
1.800.561.WCJC
wcjc.edu