

# 2012-2013



*Wharton County Junior College*

President's Report to the Community



**Wharton County Junior College is a public, two-year, comprehensive community college offering a wide range of post-secondary 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 our society.**

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## Message from the President



The 2012-13 academic year was another year of significant achievements at Wharton County Junior College. Student enrollment increased. Dedicated faculty committed to mentoring and shadowing programs with the goal of improving classroom efficiencies. We

updated curriculum. We enhanced teaching materials and student labs. We added exciting new programs to help students find gainful employment and we added articulation agreements to make it easier for graduates to continue their education at four-year universities.

It was a banner day when we opened the STEM Success Center in January 2013. Made possible by a U.S. Department of Education grant, this new center provides academic and support services to students enrolled in STEM courses: science, technology, engineering and math. With an average of 2,000 student visits per month, this center is definitely the new hub of learning on the Wharton campus.

Infrastructure improvements during 2012-13 added wireless Internet to all four WCJC campuses. With this addition came more online resources for students, most notably *Career Coach*, an online career search tool. This tool joined *Scholar Select*, a one-stop application for

over 50 WCJC scholarships and *Financial Aid TV*, a free service of short video answers about paying for college.

All these program enhancements have one goal in mind: to increase student learning and success. As you read this report, I hope you are as pleased as I am about the accomplishments of our students and faculty. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not thank our faculty and staff. Their extraordinary dedication makes WCJC a special place, especially for our students. On every campus, students know they have advocates who want them to succeed and have their best interests in mind!

As we continue to ready students for the workplace, we need and value your support. Thank you to all who have supported higher education, whether with funding or time, to help our students succeed. We look forward to the tomorrows that lie ahead as we prepare our students for a future that far exceeds their most imaginable dreams.

Sincerely,

Betty A. McCrohan  
President  
Wharton County Junior College

STEM Success  
Center  
averages  
2,000  
student visits  
per month

# STEM



## Success Center

A photograph showing three people on the deck of a boat. The person on the left is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a white baseball cap, and a red life vest with 'TAMUG' written on the back. The person in the middle is wearing a blue t-shirt and a red life vest. The person on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt, a brown baseball cap, and a black life vest. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame. The background shows a body of water, a distant shoreline with buildings, and a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The boat's railing and a rope are visible in the foreground.

## **STEM Success Project Strengthened Student Achievement**

Knowing that employers need well-trained workers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), WCJC administrators applied for a federal grant to bolster student learning and success in STEM fields. The \$4.1 million grant was awarded to the college in 2011 through the U.S. Department of Education's Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM and Articulation program. *The STEM Success Project*, as the grant is called, targets Hispanics and low-income students.

*(continued on next page)*

*Incoming students to WCJC enjoyed hands-on learning courtesy of a research vessel from Texas A&M University at Galveston during Pioneer Connections Camp. The camp provided them with STEM-based learning opportunities and prepared them for success at WCJC.*

*STEM Success Project Strengthened Student Achievement (continued from previous page)*

The STEM Success Project consists of three integrated components:

- Providing academic and student support services at the STEM Success Center (see story at right), including STEM-specific materials and resources and supplemental instruction to help students with their coursework, and academic advising to help students transition to four-year institutions
- Revising and upgrading STEM courses including faculty development on STEM-related issues
- Increasing STEM articulation agreements between WCJC and four-year institutions

Dr. Dan Jones, director of institutional effectiveness who helped write The STEM Success Project, said the grant made substantial progress in 2012-13, the



second year of the five-year grant.

Marybelle Perez, Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM project director,

oversees the grant. She said, "WCJC STEM is influencing and strengthening a STEM culture at WCJC and identifying successful interventions needed to increase the success of Hispanic and low-income students in STEM fields."

**BELOW:** The STEM Success Project staff includes Brittany Miller, assessment and professional development coordinator; Mara Slinger Ustynik, success coach; Shayna Barker, specialist; Marybelle Perez, project director; Jessica Falcon, operations manager; Kristin Livingston, articulation liaison; and Chase Smolik, supplemental instruction coach. Not pictured are Veronica Garcia, success coach; and Annabel Chavez, clerk.







## STEM Success Center Opened in January

To support student learning and success in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, WCJC opened the STEM Success Center on January 17, 2013. The center is located in the J.M. Hodges Learning Center on the Wharton campus. Since opening, the center has averaged 2,000 student visits per month.

The center offers academic advising and student support services, including STEM-specific materials and resources to help students with their STEM-related coursework. Some of the initial resources provided at the center included 20 computers, 12 laptops, scientific and graphing calculators, anatomical models and charts. The center has also offered supplemental instruction and STEM club meetings.

During the center's inaugural year, STEM faculty utilized the center to host their classes and often referred students for academic advising and supplemental instruction (see *Supplemental Instruction Coaches Went Above and Beyond* at right). The inviting environment has encouraged students to work in groups, using white boards and scientific models.

STEM success coaches, pros at building relationships with students, shared career planning advice, as well as information about degree plans, college procedures and common issues encountered by new students. They also highlighted services of the STEM Success Center while increasing awareness of STEM career fields and programs. Collaborative trainings and meetings between WCJC's Academic Advising department and STEM success coaches strengthened the coaches' work.

**ABOVE:** Preparing to cut the ribbon to open the college's STEM Success Center were Georgia Kincer, WCJC trustee; Danny Gertson, WCJC board chair; Marybelle Perez, Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM project director; Betty McCrohan, WCJC president; and Merle Hudgins, WCJC trustee.

## Supplemental Instruction Coaches Went Above and Beyond

Supplemental Instruction (SI) debuted at WCJC in 2012-13, thanks to *The STEM Success Project*. Breaking from the traditional services offered by tutors, SI Coach Chase Smolik attended STEM classes in three subjects: chemistry, anatomy and physiology, and algebra. He modeled active learning by taking notes during lectures, developing a relationship with faculty members to emphasize key concepts and preparing review sessions.

The sessions, interactive and engaging by design, incorporated study strategies, background knowledge for concept development and online resources. Students who attended SI sessions achieved, on average, more than half a letter grade higher than non-attending students. SI sessions were also offered during Summer 2013. Participating students achieved nearly half a grade point higher than non-attending students.



The grant funded Smolik's completion of the University of Missouri: Kansas City Supplemental Instruction Supervisor Certification Training. This concentrated training, based on a nationally recognized model, provided resources and guidance to set up WCJC's SI program. It also helped in the selection of competent SI leaders.

**ABOVE:** Supplemental instruction sessions were delivered by Chase Smolik.



## STEM Students Benefited From New Center



### David V. Galvan, Jr.

Hometown: Bay City  
High School: Van Vleck, Class of 2012  
Major: Biochemistry

*The STEM Center was always the go-to place when I needed to look up some quick information or print out a few pages for a report. There is always help available, from basic computer troubleshooting to calculus and every subject in between. I now work as an SI leader in chemistry, assisting students to surpass their expectations in the science field by offering work sheets, study help, visual/auditory examples, and even games to facilitate a relaxed study environment.*



### Andrew "Drew" Garcia

Hometown: Wharton  
High School: Wharton, Class of 2011  
Major: Computer Science: Computer Programming

*When I came into the STEM Center, I really did not have a solid direction for my education or career. Shayna and Jessica went through a few WCJC programs, telling me what kind of jobs and pay I could expect. I decided that computer science would be a good fit. Jessica created a degree plan, which we review every semester. She and Shayna also offered me the opportunity to participate in the Pioneer Connections Camp, which gave me valuable field experiences and educational tools to prepare me for the rigor of college coursework.*



### Joe S. Garza

Hometown: Bay City  
High School: Bay City, Class of 1997  
Major: Electronics Engineering Technology

*I currently take part in SI for algebra and electrical engineering. I also utilize the STEM Center for assistance in proofing and editing my work. The center gives me access to computers, printers and models for studying and reviewing.*



### Eryn White

Hometown: Rosenberg  
High School: B.F. Terry, Class of 2013  
Major: AA degree with intent to transfer to 4-year university

*I attended chemistry SI sessions with Chase Smolik. He helped increase my understanding of the topics discussed in lecture and provided me with extra study materials. The STEM Success Center not only provided me with helpful leaders, but it also gave me access to computers and printers to work on assignments. Recently, I became the SI leader for college algebra. I create problems similar to those used in class to provide additional resources to students outside the classroom.*



## Summer STEM Program Gave Incoming Students New Skills and Confidence

Another exciting program, made possible by *The STEM Success Project*, was a project-based summer learning program for incoming freshmen to WCJC. A two-week Pioneer Connections Camp was launched in Summer 2013 for 15 students, providing them with STEM-based learning and preparing them for success at WCJC.

Campers participated in two field-based experiential excursions, visiting a marsh and a beach. Students compared and contrasted the two environments, carrying out investigational studies on board a research vessel docked at Texas A&M University in Galveston. Students also worked with aquatic robotics, thereby gaining exposure to computer programming and careers in engineering and robotics.

During the camp, participants selected and researched a topic, then created a presentation





to report their findings and conclusions. This enabled them to use reading, writing, math, science and many other skills taught during the camp. Pioneer Connections Camp participants gained newfound confidence and skills, which were evident in their testimonials and quality presentations.

The camp was developed in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success (PASS) grant staff; the Southeast Regional T-STEM Center, based at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; and Texas A&M University at Galveston. Dr. Robin Nealy and Ava Humme developed the curriculum for the reading and writing workshops. Becky McElroy developed the student success skills lessons.

**ABOVE & BELOW:** Incoming students to WCJC participated in the Pioneer Connection Camp, which included learning activities in Galveston. The camp provided them with STEM-based learning and prepared them for success at WCJC.



## Curriculum Updates Gave Students an Edge

New materials and software continued to be purchased in 2012-13, and curriculum was written to revise and upgrade STEM courses as part of *The STEM Success Project*. During 2011-12, year one of the STEM grant, chemistry and biology courses were enhanced with the addition of scientific models at every WCJC campus. This increased student interaction and engagement with course material. Previously, a single scientific model was often shared by 24 students.



During 2012-2013, year two of the grant, the WCJC Computer Science, Physics, Engineering Design, Geology and Electronics Engineering Technology programs received curriculum updates.

Many of these upgrades laid the foundation for articulation agreement discussions with Texas universities. In addition, the biology program received additional scientific models.

Some of the upgrades included:

- **Electronics Engineering Technology:** Addition of three industry-standard labs. Two labs enable students to work on electric circuits and projects in individual and group settings. A third fabrication lab allows students to practice soldering and rework skills.
- **Computer Science: Digital Media:** Addition of industry-standard software including Adobe Creative Suite® and Adobe Muse.®
- **Computer Science: Computer Simulation and Gaming:** Curriculum written for this new program that prepares students for entry-level employment in industries such as healthcare, law enforcement, military, advertising and others. New software and hardware purchased, including 8-camera motion capture system.
- **Geology:** Addition of scientific models and display boxes for rock and mineral samples for the labs at three campuses and the STEM Center.

The total amount invested in curriculum updates for 2012-13 was nearly \$260,000.

Additionally, a mentoring and shadowing program, designed with input from WCJC faculty, provided coaching opportunities to improve classroom effectiveness. The program was designed in collaboration with the Southeast Regional T-STEM Center, based at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston. UTMB staff observed WCJC faculty in the classroom and provided feedback designed to increase student engagement. UTMB collaborated with Brittany Miller, STEM assessment and professional development coordinator, for the grant.

## Nuclear Power Technology Instructor Made Presentation at International Energy Conference

Rudolph Henry, department head of the WCJC Nuclear Power Technology program, presented "Preparing Technicians for the Nuclear Industry" at the 56th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in September 2012. Henry was invited to speak by the Nuclear Power Institute (NPI) as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce Industry Delegation.



Henry's presentation highlighted the college's nuclear power technology program, which garnered international recognition when the IAEA awarded it a "Best Practice Program" among two-year nuclear power technology training programs. The WCJC program offers three areas of specialization with its Associate of Applied Science in Nuclear Power Technology degree: Non-Licensed Operator, Electrical Technician and Instrumentation and Controls Technician.

During the past several years, NPI has brought several international visitor groups to tour the WCJC Nuclear Power Technology program, housed on the Bay City campus. WCJC is one of 34 two-year nuclear power technology training programs that are part of the Nuclear Uniform Curriculum Program led by the Nuclear Energy Institute, located in Washington, D.C.



## Gulf Coast Medical Foundation Awarded \$162,000 Grant to Allied Health Program

The Gulf Coast Medical Foundation (GCMF) awarded the WCJC Allied Health program a \$162,000 grant to purchase medical equipment. Among the planned purchases were a laparoscopic instrumentation system for the surgical technology program, ultrasonic equipment cleaners for the dental hygiene program and digital plates and other technology, including computational phantoms and models of the imaging process, for the radiologic technology program.

Allied health administrators also planned to add interactive iClickers to classrooms to increase student engagement and improve student outcomes. The equipment purchased by the grant will benefit every allied health program.

**ABOVE:** Robert Taylor, GCMF board member, and Mike Farrell, GCMF president, presented a generous gift to Betty McCrohan, WCJC president, along with Carol Derkowski, WCJC division chair of allied health, and Leigh Ann Collins, WCJC vice president of instruction.

## WCJC Theatre Students Won 12 Awards

Drama students won a Superior Rating in Dramatic Presentation, the highest possible award, for their production of *Anatomy of Gray* during the 2012-2013 Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association's Theatre Festival held at Lone Star College-Tomball from February 27 through March 2, 2013. Students also won 11 individual awards.

Serving as respondents, or critics, for the festival were Scott Shattuck, associate professor - acting/directing, Stephen F. Austin University, and Joe Angel Babb, director of education and community programs, Society of the Performing Arts-Houston. Their awards were based on observations of each college's performance. Directors from the participating community colleges also presented award based upon students' technical presentations.

Director's Choice awards were awarded to WCJC students as follows:

**Victoria Brun of Richmond:**

Superior, Costume Design

**Victoria Rutledge of Bay City:**

Superior, Makeup Design

**Sasha Andrade of Sugar Land:**

Superior, Props, and Superior, Stage Management

Respondent awards were awarded to WCJC students as follows:

**Sasha Andrade:**

Superior, Stage Management/Props

**Elle Shackelford of Wharton:**

Superior, Acting

**Katelyn Wood of El Campo:**

Superior, Acting

**Victoria Brun:**

Excellent, Costume Design

**Victoria Rutledge:**

Excellent, Acting

**Roy Becerra of Rosenberg:**

Excellent, Acting

**Kennon Yancey of Edna:**

Excellent, Sound Technician

Sam Smith, drama instructor, directed the play production. Greg McLarty, drama instructor, designed the set.

**BELOW:** Drama students from the award-winning production of *Anatomy of Gray* included Victoria Rutledge (foreground) and Bryson Baugus, Katelyn Wood, Elle Shackelford, David Hiebert, Victoria Brun, Isaac Cox and Whitney McClendon.





## STEM Essay Contest Brought Hundreds to Wharton Campus

More than 200 middle school students submitted essays, entitled "My Invention to Change the World," to the first WCJC STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) Essay Contest. Winners were honored during a celebration event on February 21, 2013, at the Pioneer Student Center on the Wharton campus. The students were joined by their parents, school science teachers and principals.

Part of the event was devoted to STEM career awareness. Representatives from *The WCJC STEM Project* presented a general session, as well as breakout sessions that showcased the college's STEM programs, and a tour of the STEM Success Center. Students also had the opportunity to participate in curiosity sessions relating to math and science.

The celebration concluded with the announcement of the essay contest winners. Prizes were awarded to the overall winner at each participating school and to grade-level winners at each school. Overall winners won the latest generation iPod nano, while grade-level winners won an iPod shuffle.

**ABOVE:** More than 200 middle school students attended the STEM Essay Contest celebration event.

Winners, by schools, were:

### **East Bernard Junior High School:**

Maddison Saihz, overall school winner; Hannah Chumchal, sixth grade winner; and Claudia Zapalac, seventh grade winner

### **El Campo Middle School:**

Mark Ortiz; overall school winner; Elyssa Smith, seventh grade winner; Wendy C. Cruz, eighth grade winner

### **Iago Junior High School:**

Allison Jedlicka, overall school winner; Justin Ray Morin, sixth grade winner; and Roxanne Pittman, seventh grade winner

### **Louise Middle School:**

Shelbie Hendrix, overall school winner; and Walter Lilie, seventh grade winner

### **Wharton Junior High School:**

Libby Olson, overall school winner; Duncan Hawk, sixth grade winner; Sarah Stransky, seventh grade winner; and Lauren Lathon, eighth grade winner

200+

## WCJC Honored Trustee Phyllip Stephenson, Amy Rod Sworn In

An appreciation reception honoring 16-year WCJC Trustee Phyllip Stephenson was held January 3, 2013, at the Hutchins Memorial Center. Stephenson submitted his resignation to the WCJC Board of Trustees after winning election to the Texas House of Representatives in November 2012.

During Stephenson's tenure on the WCJC Board of Trustees, he served as vice chair and, along with other board members, played an integral role in the opening of the Richmond and Sugar Land campuses.

Stephenson nominated Amy Rod of El Campo to replace him in Position 4. The WCJC Board of Trustees unanimously voted to accept the nomination and Rod was sworn in before the reception. The El Campo native is a board-certified attorney specializing in family law.



**ABOVE** Amy Rod was congratulated by Phyllip Stephenson following her swearing-in ceremony as the newest WCJC trustee.



**ABOVE** Susan Denman-Briones, director of academic advising and counseling

## Online Career Search Tool Launched

During the Fall 2012 semester, WCJC added *Career Coach*, a free online tool that allows students and community members to explore more than 800 potential careers.

Through a simple keyword search, students and visitors to [wcjc.edu](http://wcjc.edu) can see a simple description of the career, employment prospects, current salaries and real-time job postings in the region. Users also learn about the educational requirements for each career and are directed to appropriate WCJC programs. Additionally, they can search for careers based on WCJC's top training programs, as well as the program or major in which they are interested.

"*Career Coach* augments the face-to-face academic advising and counseling we provide students," said Susan Denman-Briones, director of academic advising and counseling.

Academic advisors and counselors make classroom visits and meet individually with students to explain MyPlan.com, an online career assessment tool. This tool directs students to careers based on their personality, interests, skills and values. After this is completed, academic advisors and counselors review the results of this career interest inventory with students and introduce them to *Career Coach*. This, in turn, leads to discussions about career planning and developing an academic degree plan.

"Students have found *Career Coach* very helpful since it enables them to research careers and real-time job opportunities when it is most convenient for them," said Denman-Briones. "*Career Coach* also helps student create a resume that highlights key skills and job experience for prospective employers."

Explore  
more than  
**800**  
potential  
careers  
with *Career  
Coach*

## Developmental Studies Department Camps to Promote Student Success

During the Summer 2013 semester, students who had received referrals to developmental studies participated in a one-week boot camp to concentrate on reading, writing, math and study skills. Students received the referrals if they were close to meeting minimum scores for college readiness, as measured by the ACT Compass® assessment and the newly instituted Texas Success Initiative (TSI) assessment.



Fifty-four students participated in one of two camps. The first camp was held July 22-26 on the Sugar Land campus. A second camp was held July 29 to August 2 on the Wharton campus.

WCJC offered these fast-track developmental education options in response to research that shows students feel overwhelmed by the requirement to complete developmental education courses.

“This initiative is important because students who start in developmental studies don’t tend to graduate,” said Dr. Robin Nealy, developmental studies department head and English instructor. “We need to give these students opportunities to get into credit-bearing courses as soon as possible in order to help them achieve their academic goals.”

About two-thirds of the participating students retested at the conclusion of the camp. Some moved into higher-level developmental studies courses and tested into credit-bearing courses.

**ABOVE:** Robin Nealy, developmental studies department head and English instructor, is eager to help students achieve their academic goals.



## Digital Media Degree Added to Computer Science Programs

A new degree program was added for the Fall 2012 semester: Associate of Applied Science in Computer Science-Digital Media. The two-year degree is designed to prepare students to work in industries that provide graphic arts, printing, publishing and electronic imaging services. Program graduates are eligible to transfer to the University of Houston to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Digital Media.

Students in this program have the opportunity to become proficient in the Adobe Creative Suite® software program. They can specialize in either technical services or web design.

WCJC developed the new program in partnership with the University of Houston-Victoria and the University of Houston.

**ABOVE:** Donna Schilling, head of the computer science department, along with David Kucera, division chair of technology and business.



# 100K

## Chevron Phillips Donated \$100,000 to Benefit Process Technology Program

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP's Sweeny Complex made a gift presentation of \$100,000 to WCJC in a July 23, 2013 ceremony on the Wharton campus. The gift purchased a state-of-the-art distillation training skid for the college's process technology lab.

The distillation column is a vital part of the learning process for students planning a career in the chemical industry. It provides valuable hands-on training as instructors create lesson plans using real-life scenarios of temperature and pressure relationships that program graduates may encounter in a chemical plant.

As the Chevron Phillips Chemical Sweeny Complex moves forward with its multi-billion dollar expansion project, it is anticipating numerous job openings due to the growth of the plant and projected retirements.

"Individuals with a process technology certification are key to filling those positions and sustaining the industry and Chevron Phillips Chemical," said Wayne McDowell, Sweeny plant manager.

"Industry involvement is important to enhancing our vocational programs," said Betty McCrohan, WCJC president. "Chevron Phillips Chemical's generous gift provides our students with a valuable hands-on learning opportunity. We are very grateful for this donation."

In addition to the \$100,000 gift, the Chevron Phillips Chemical Sweeny Complex awards yearly scholarships to students enrolled in the WCJC Process Technology program. The chemical company also offers a co-op program, which allows students the unique opportunity to gain on-the-job experience.

**BELOW:** Celebrating the \$100,000 gift to WCJC were Leroy Dettling, Wharton County Commissioner, Pct. 1; Willie Myles, WCJC Process Technology program director; Phillip Spenrath, Wharton County judge; John Roades, WCJC Foundation board member; Nate McDonald, Matagorda County judge; Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County commissioner, Pct. 2; Amy Rod, WCJC trustee; Betty McCrohan, WCJC president; and Wayne McDowell, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company Sweeny Complex plant manager.





### Student Athletes Honored

WCJC and the WCJC Booster Club honored the college's student athletic teams at the 50th annual athletic banquet on May 7, 2013.

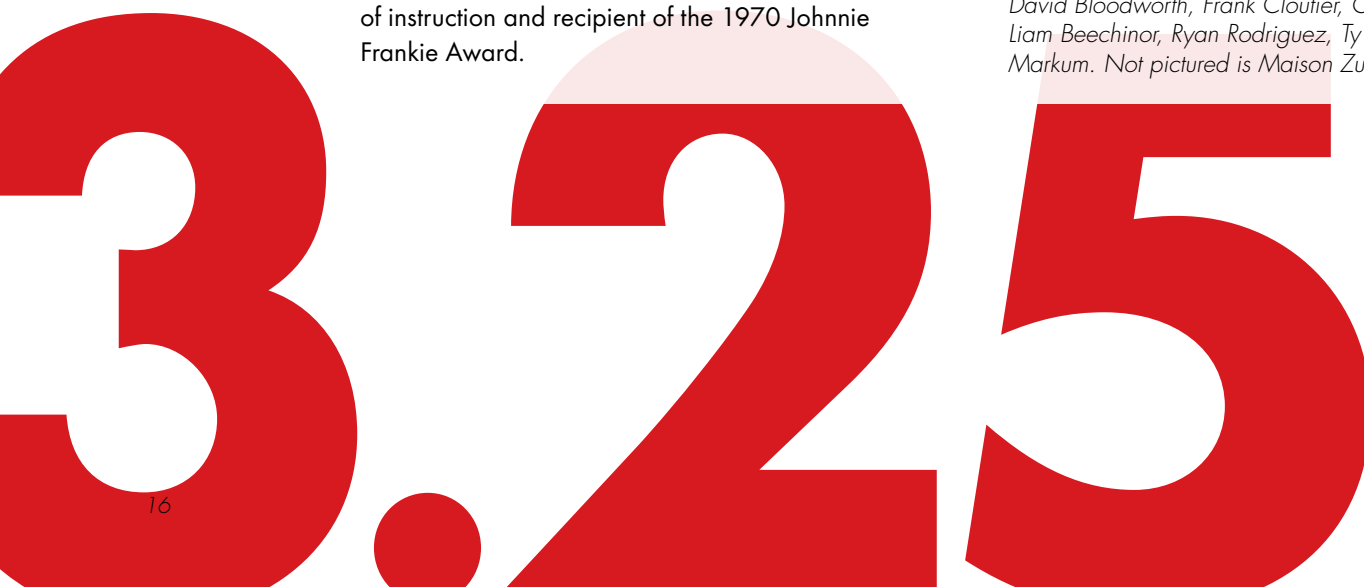
The Johnnie Frankie Award, honoring the best all-around athlete, was awarded to baseball outfielder Frank Cloutier of Shefford, Quebec, Canada. Jenny Banker, daughter of the late Coach Johnnie Frankie, presented the award, which was established in 1963. Frankie coached several WCJC teams from 1948 to 1960.

The Dr. Ty Pate Academic Award, honoring the student-athlete with the highest grade point average, was awarded to shortstop and second baseman Ryan Rodriguez of Granbury. The award, established after the death of Pate in 2011, honors the college's former vice president of instruction and recipient of the 1970 Johnnie Frankie Award.

Academic All-Conference awards for 2012-13 were presented to student-athletes with a minimum 3.25 grade point average and 36 semester hours of completed coursework who had been enrolled for at least three semesters. In addition to Cloutier and Rodriguez, other recipients included Chelsi Arnold of Ranger, rodeo; Liam Beechinor of Austin, baseball; David Bloodworth of Lake Highlands, baseball; Kyle Markum of Hamshire, baseball; Ty Morgan of Cameron, baseball; and Maison Zuber of Cuero, rodeo.

Most Valuable Player honors went to Glenn Sparkman of Ganado, baseball; Morgan O'Brien of Cleveland, volleyball; and Taylor Broussard of Esterwood, LA, rodeo.

**ABOVE:** Academic All-Conference athletes included David Bloodworth, Frank Cloutier, Chelsi Arnold, Liam Beechinor, Ryan Rodriguez, Ty Morgan and Kyle Markum. Not pictured is Maison Zuber.



## Title V Grant Continued to Expand Online Courses and Services

During the third year (2012-13) of its five-year \$3.8 million Title V federal grant, WCJC continued to develop and enhance online courses and student services. The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), is a cooperative partnership between WCJC and Brazosport College with WCJC serving as the lead institution and fiscal agent. The grant has created a paradigm shift at WCJC. In addition to adding courses, instructors are intentionally prepared to teach online and to outline a roadmap for online course quality.

The third-year focus of the grant was to continue providing faculty with online and face-to-face training and to pilot online course evaluation tools. Training was expanded to incorporate interactive media, such as discussion boards and other tools proven to increase student engagement. A total of 526 instructors at both colleges were trained in the fundamentals of these new tools. At WCJC, this work was accomplished in collaboration with the distance education department, under the leadership of Michele Betancourt.

Infrastructure improvements were also completed that added wireless Internet access to all WCJC campuses. Upgraded software now enables

WCJC's learning management system to interact with its student information system. A comprehensive plagiarism assessment system has reduced the time that instructors spend in reviewing students' work. At the same time, this system is helping students learn how to maintain their original voice in written work while properly citing sources.

The grant has continued to support online student services that were implemented in year two, such as Financial Aid TV, a free service of short video answers about paying for college; Scholar Select, the one-stop application for more than 50 WCJC scholarships; and a variety of library resources.

This grant, entitled *Developing a Virtual Campus through Technology-Assisted Distance Learning Programs and Services*, was awarded through the USDE's Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program. In 2012-13, through this Title V grant, the college invested \$170,945 in its virtual campus. As a result, all WCJC students have benefited with a virtual campus that connects instruction, student services and institutional practices.

WCJC  
invested  
\$170,945  
in its virtual  
campus

**BELOW:** The Title V HSI Virtual Campus staff includes Candi Hollier, educational technologist; Sandy Barnett, secretary; Marybelle Perez, grant manager; Karen Cotton, operations manager; Sara Fira, online academic advisor; and Richard Lauterbach, technical specialist.



## WCJC, UHV Signed Joint Admissions and Reverse Transfer Agreements

Administrators from WCJC and the University of Houston-Victoria signed three agreements in July 2013 that allow students to seamlessly obtain their associate degree from WCJC and their bachelor's degree from UHV.

"These agreements demonstrate how WCJC and UHV work together to encourage students to move to the next level of their education goal and to maximize the return on their educational investment," said WCJC President Betty McCrohan.

"These agreements not only strengthen our partnership with WCJC, but also make it easier for students in the Coastal Bend area to graduate with two degrees and get out in the workforce earlier," said UHV President Phil Castille.

Details of the three agreements are as follows:

- **Joint Admissions** – Qualified WCJC students who complete their associate degree are guaranteed admission into UHV bachelor's degree programs. In order to gain admission, students must submit a Joint Admissions Contract during the first 30 hours of course work at WCJC, finish their associate degree, and remain in academic, financial and disciplinary good standing.
- **Reverse Transfer** – Eligible students can transfer certain course work from UHV to WCJC to complete requirements for an

associate degree at the same time they are working on their bachelor's degree. Students enrolled at UHV who previously attended WCJC, or who are enrolled at WCJC and took a minimum of 24 semester credit hours, will be eligible. There is no additional cost to students to receive an associate degree.

- **2+2 Articulation** – Students can complete an associate program at WCJC and then transfer to UHV to complete their bachelor's degree without a loss of credits or a duplication of course work. WCJC students must earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade-point average, complete at least 60 credits and meet all UHV admission requirements in order to participate in the program.

The three agreements will benefit students taking courses at any WCJC campus and UHV students taking classes online, at the UH System at Cinco Ranch and at the university's main campus in Victoria. The agreements are particularly helpful to WCJC students at the college's Sugar Land campus since that campus is housed on the UH Sugar Land campus where UHV offers so many programs.

"Students don't even have to leave the building to earn their associate degree at WCJC and their bachelor's degree at UHV," said Leigh Ann Collins, WCJC vice president of instruction. "It can't get any easier than that."

**LEFT:** Signing joint admissions and reverse transfer agreements at the WCJC main campus in Wharton were WCJC President Betty McCrohan (seated left) and UHV President Phil Castille (seated right). Signing the 2+2 articulation agreement were Leigh Ann Collins, WCJC vice president of instruction (standing left) and Jeffrey Cass, UHV provost and vice president for academic affairs (standing right). Joining the group was Allison Wen, friend of higher education and co-chair of the Global Initiatives Committee for the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council (standing center).



## Geology Emphasis Added to Associate of Arts Degree Plan

In the Summer 2013 semester, students registering for the fall semester had the option to add a geology emphasis to their Associate of Arts degree plan. Courses transfer to four-year universities for students who want to earn a bachelor's degree in geology.

"Now is a great time to major in geology given the high worldwide demand for petroleum," said Danny Glenn, geology department head. "Working



in geology is a good career that's lucrative and it provides the option to travel if that's something you want to do."

Glenn said most geology majors enjoy spending time outdoors and are interested in the

environment. His own career began as a petroleum pipeline geologist in South America where he conducted rock surveys for right-of-ways and created topographical maps of the pipeline's pathway.

Energy exploration and mining are just two industries where geologists are employed. Other jobs include working as seismologists in earthquake-prone areas, as earth science teachers and as museum paleontologists.

WCJC offers classes in both physical and historical geology at its Wharton, Richmond and Sugar Land campuses. Two courses are also offered online. Instructors currently work, or have worked, in the field of geology so they can connect the classroom experience and the workplace. Laboratory facilities allow students plenty of "hands-on" geology through the investigation of mineral and rock specimens, fossils, and geological maps.

"Our lab facilities are excellent – as good as or better than many four-year universities," said Glenn, noting the extensive collection of fossils and rocks at all three WCJC campuses.

**ABOVE:** Danny Glenn, geology department head, holds a replica of a saber-toothed tiger skull similar to remains found along the banks of the Colorado and Brazos Rivers.



**ABOVE:** Representing WCJC at the event and accepting the Minority Education Innovation Award were Rebecca McElroy, department head of psychology and sociology and instructor of psychology; Robin Nealy, developmental studies department head and instructor of English; and Ava Humme, instructor of humanities and English.

## WCJC Received Minority Education Innovation Award

WCJC was awarded the Minority Education Innovation Award during the July 2013 EVERY STUDENT CAN Developmental Education Course Redesign Summit hosted by the *Texas Higher Education Journal* and the P-20 Institute for African American Student Success. WCJC had some of the highest numbers in the state of Texas for minority students who begin in developmental education and complete certificate and/or degree programs.

During the two-day summit in Austin, attendees from Texas institutions of higher education discussed recent changes to developmental education and heard presentations on best practices from several institutions. WCJC developmental studies staff, including Robin Nealy, Ava Humme and Rebecca McElroy, shared student success initiatives the college began in 2009.

Among the many initiatives the college has in place to boost student success are seminars where students gain valuable advice on study skills, test taking, note taking, time and stress management, how to create a degree plan, career options and more. Additionally, staff from WCJC's academic advising, career and counseling office visit freshman classes to introduce students to the services their department offers, as well as the college's Learning Assistance Centers, STEM Success Center, online tutoring and other valuable resources.

WCJC also offers new student orientations for incoming freshman. Instructors can also quickly alert a designated staff member when students are struggling academically. This allows for personalized contact with students to offer appropriate help early in the semester.

## Dr. Anna T. Harrison Dental Hygiene Clinic Was Named

More than 100 people celebrated the August 22, 2013 dedication ceremony honoring Anna T. Harrison, DDS, and the official naming of the WCJC dental hygiene clinic in her honor. Dr. Harrison was instrumental in establishing the college's dental hygiene program in 1969 and served as its first director.

stepped down as director to instruct the most difficult courses. She retired from WCJC in 1996.



Today, Harrison's legacy of excellence lives on in the WCJC Dental Hygiene program. The nationally accredited program has a waiting list for admission and graduates consistently earn a 100 percent pass rate on national and regional board exams.

The clinic serves more than 1,200 patients annually

Dr. Harrison was the first female graduate of the University of Alexandria in Egypt, her native land. She completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Texas School of Dentistry.

Harrison joined WCJC with the understanding that the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners would provide full funding for the state's first junior college dental hygiene program. That funding was later withdrawn. Undeterred, the college

secured Army surplus dental chairs to start the new program. The college's first class of dental hygiene students graduated in May 1971.

Harrison was the sole faculty member during the program's first year, assisted by local dentists who volunteered to teach. As the program grew, she

The Dr. Anna T. Harrison Dental Hygiene Clinic is located on the first floor of the M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Health Occupations Building on the Wharton campus. Annually, the clinic serves more than 1,200 patients, providing low-cost dental services, while giving WCJC's dental hygiene students valuable hands-on experience.

**ABOVE:** Anna T. Harrison, DDS.

**BELOW:** Members of WCJC's first class of dental hygiene students who attended the dedication ceremony included Rebecca "Bejo" Gadeke, Alice Manning, Mary Anne Harmer, Gwen Williams, Alice Faye Christopherson and Penny Amon. They are joined by Linda Turk Parks, far right, the first dental hygiene instructor hired by Harrison.





## WCJC Held 67th Commencement Exercises

Associate degrees were awarded to 249 of the 295 eligible WCJC graduates during the college's 67th Commencement Exercises on May 17, 2013. Along with the awarding of diplomas, which included Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Arts (AA) and Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degrees, three students and two instructors were also honored.

Matthew Lukas of Richmond won the Outstanding Service Award, presented to the graduate who best exemplifies the spirit of service to the college and the community. Erin Courtney Ryman of Bay City and Debbie DiCesare Marin of Sugar Land won the Dean's Award for the highest grade point average, on a 4.0 scale, within their respective degree programs. Ryan was the AAS degree recipient and Marin was the AA degree recipient.

Erma Hart of Katy, program director for paralegal studies, and Kimberly Raun of El Campo, department head for biology, received the WCJC Excellence in Teaching Award. Presented annually to one or more full-time instructors, this award is given to faculty members who embody WCJC's mission to build dreams and transform lives by making a difference inside and outside of the classroom.



**LEFT:** Clockwise from top: Matthew Lukas was presented with the Outstanding Service Award by Victoria Schultz, instructor of human services. Debbie DiCesare Marin was awarded the Dean's Award among AA degree recipients. Leigh Ann Collins, vice president of instruction, presented Erin Courtney Ryman with the Dean's Award among AAS degree recipients. Kimberly Raun received the WCJC Excellence in Teaching Award. Erma Hart received the WCJC Excellence in Teaching Award.

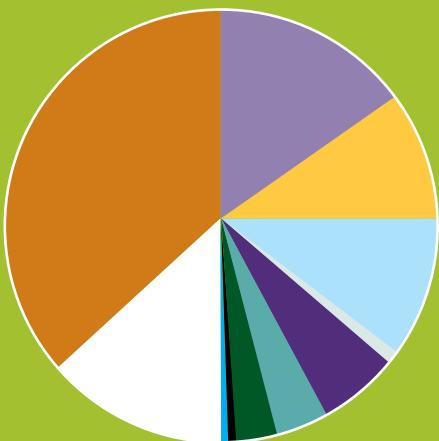


# 295

2012-2013  
Revenue Sources



2012-2013  
Budget Expenditures



## 2012-2013 Revenue Sources

Total Revenue		\$47,709,392
○ Tuition & Fees	\$18,007,715	38%
● State Appropriations	\$10,745,011	22%
● Grants & Contracts	\$11,633,618	24%
● Ad Valorem Taxes	\$5,227,590	11%
● Income Investments	\$352,766	1%
● Other	\$859,301	2%
● Auxiliary	\$883,391	2%

## 2012-2013 Budget Expenditures

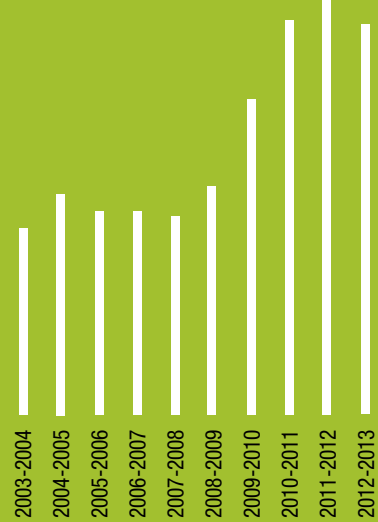
Total Expenditures		\$45,243,615
● Instruction	\$16,763,453	37%
● Instructional Support	\$6,743,552	15%
● Operations/Maintenance	\$4,904,723	11%
● Academic Support	\$4,313,204	10%
● Scholarships	\$5,845,448	13%
● Student Services	\$2,740,223	6%
● Public Service	\$1,878,312	4%
● Depreciation	\$1,210,204	3%
● Auxiliary Expenses	\$733,717	1%
● Interest	\$106,871	<1%
● Other	\$3,908	<1%



## Pell Grant Awards

	Total Number	Amount
2012-2013	2,701	\$7,823,855
2011-2012	2,525	\$8,378,517
2010-2011	2,331	\$7,999,971
2009-2010	1,861	\$6,324,197
2008-2009	1,306	\$3,582,189
2007-2008	1,203	\$2,903,431
2006-2007	1,210	\$2,722,016
2005-2006	1,206	\$2,579,383
2004-2005	1,303	\$2,839,403
2003-2004	1,113	\$2,574,275

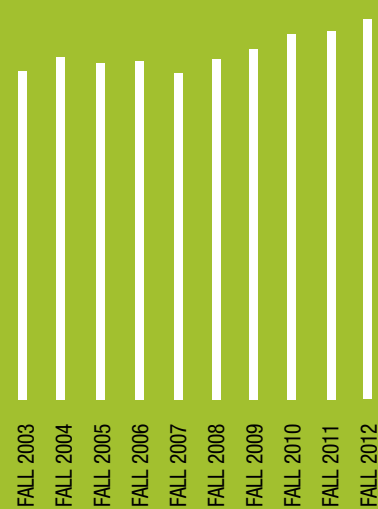
Pell Grant Awards



## Credit Enrollment History for Fall Semesters

Fall 2012	7,407
Fall 2011	6,998
Fall 2010	6,922
Fall 2009	6,622
Fall 2008	6,115
Fall 2007	5,892
Fall 2006	6,089
Fall 2005	6,029
Fall 2004	6,100
Fall 2003	5,906

Fall Semester Credit Enrollment



# 2880

## Making Education More Affordable

### 2013-14 Tuition & Fees

Average based on 15 credit hours in both fall and spring

	In-District/ Resident	Out-of-District	Out-of-State/ Non-Resident
<b>WCJC*</b>	<b>\$2,880</b>	<b>\$4,260</b>	<b>\$5,220</b>
Texas Public Universities	\$7,650	N/A	\$18,323

Source: College For All Texans, [www.collegeforalltexas.com](http://www.collegeforalltexas.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.

### Grant Funding

One thing that keeps student tuition reasonable is WCJC's ardent pursuit of grant funding. Each year, the college undergoes 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 2012-13, WCJC realized revenues of approximately \$4,727,327 in grant funding for these program areas:

#### Adult Basic Education/English as a Second Language

- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act / Workforce Investment Act: \$642,000
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: \$246,491

#### Allied Health

- Gulf Coast Medical Foundation: \$162,000

#### Community Service Programs

- Senior Citizen Programs in Wharton County & Colorado County: \$398,000

### Distance Education

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

### Financial Aid for Students

- Carl Perkins Act: \$221,065
- ConocoPhillips/Sweeny Refinery: \$12,000
- George Foundation: \$125,000
- Johnson Foundation: \$200,000 for students in health fields
- Johnson Foundation: \$300,000 for scholarship endowment fund
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission: \$120,000 for students in nuclear studies
- U.S. Department of Education: \$25,000 (waiver of matching funds)

### Nuclear Power Technology

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission: \$199,280
- Texas A&M University/Texas Engineering Experiment Station: \$20,000

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM Disciplines)

- U.S. Department of Education, Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions/STEM Program: \$875,000

### Student Services

- Houston Endowment/Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success: \$200,000

### Grant applications submitted and approved, but awaiting Congressional budget approvals

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission: \$150,000 for scholarships and \$156,280 for curriculum development

Total Unduplicated Credit Students for Fall 2012

## WCJC at a Glance

All figures for Fall 2012 unless noted

**Total Unduplicated Credit Students** 7,407

**Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment** 1,035

**Distance Education (Internet/ITV)** 1,700

**Approximately 1,653 students attended more than one campus.**

**Annual Unduplicated Credit Enrollment** 10,701

### Other Unduplicated Noncredit Enrollment Academic Year 2012-2013

Youth Activities 1,577

Continuing Education (Workforce) 1,153

Continuing Education (Adult Avocation) 324

Adult Basic Education

GED 483

ASE/GED Prep 47

ESL 323

### Student Ethnicity

White/Non-Hispanic 3,380 45%

Hispanic 2,341 32%

Black/Non-Hispanic 905 12%

Asian/Pacific Islander 713 10%

Indian/Alaskan Native 54 1%

International 10 <1%

Unknown 4 <1%

### Student Age

Under 20 3,535 47%

20-24 2,208 30%

25-29 655 9%

30-39 591 8%

40-over 418 6%

### Student Gender

Women 4,223 57%

Men 3,184 43%

### Student Residency

Texas Residents 7,197 97%

In-District Residents 1,484 20%

Out-of-District Residents 5,617 76%

Exemption 96 1%

Outside Texas/Foreign 210 3%

### Faculty Characteristics

Total Faculty 305

Full-Time Faculty 163 53%

Part-Time Faculty 142 47%

Average Age 51

Minority Faculty 68 23%

Student: Faculty Ratio 24:1

### Full-Time Faculty Educational Attainment

Doctorate 25 15%

Master's 106 65%

Bachelor's 12 8%

Associate/Certificate 19 12%

### Full-Time Faculty Length of Teaching Service

5 Years or Less 49 30%

6-10 Years 45 28%

11-15 Years 41 25%

16-20 Years 7 4%

More than 20 Years 21 13%

407



*Wharton County  
Junior College*

WHARTON | SUGAR LAND | RICHMOND | BAY CITY | PALACIOS | EL CAMPO

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
TO THE COMMUNITY  
2012-2013**

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