



Faculty Council

NEWS + UPDATES

September 2024 Newsletter

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Note from the FC President...

Welcome back, colleagues!

I hope that your fall semester is off to a great start. It is a busy time at the college.

*Our **SACSCOC visit** will be the week of **Monday, September 30**, and the **Faculty Convocation** for full-time faculty will be on **Friday, October 4**, so mark your calendars.*

The Faculty Council will have some guest speakers at the fall monthly meetings that I hope you will join us for:

- **James Wicks** will be at the September meeting to update faculty on the district's **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)** and answer any questions we may have.
- **Dr. Matkin and Melissa Irby** will also be at the September meeting to give faculty an update about the **faculty salary adjustment** for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- **HR** will be at the October meeting to discuss opportunities and programs provided by the college and ERS for **faculty mental health**.
- In November, we hope to have an update on the status of **district-wide hiring rubrics**, an initiative currently spearheaded by the discipline leads and Dr. Kyle Bellue.

I hope to see you all at the FC meeting on Friday, September 27 in the CHEC Boardroom!

Happy Fall!

Rebecca

Did you know?

- Substitute pay is available for ALL faculty who substitute for a colleague. Substitute pay is calculated based on the substitute hourly pay rate times the number of actual contact hours subbed.
- All faculty are eligible for the general pay raise UNLESS one of the following conditions exists:
 - The faculty member has less than 3 months of service as of August 31
 - The faculty member has received a Level 2 warning during the past academic year
 - The faculty member received an overall “Needs Improvement” on the previous year’s annual appraisal.

More information on compensation for the 2024/2025 AY can be accessed [here](#).

The Faculty Council is coming to you!

FC has been invited to host a Town Hall event at each campus this year. The agenda will vary, but we hope that you will join us for lunch, a general district-wide update, and time for a Q&A so that you can get your questions answered. Thank you, provosts, for inviting us!

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| • 13-Sep | Farmersville Campus |
| • 18-Oct | Celina Campus |
| • 8-Nov | Plano Campus |
| • 31-Jan | Frisco Campus |
| • 7-Feb | iCollin Virtual Campus (virtual meeting) |
| • 28-Feb | Allen Technical Campus |
| • 4-Apr | Wylie Campus |
| • 25-Apr | McKinney Campus |

SACSOC Updates..

Collin College submitted its Compliance Certification (i.e., self-study) with SACSCOC principles of accreditation at the end of February 2024. On May 11, 2024, the results of the SACSCOC Offsite Reaffirmation Review (phase 1 of our Reaffirmation Review) were received by the college. At this stage Collin College was found non-compliant with five principles of accreditation.

These five principles were

1. Principle 6.2a – Faculty Qualifications – Additional information was required and has been submitted for a small number of faculty (about 0.67% of the total number of faculty members employed by Collin College)
2. Principle 6.2b – Program Faculty – Additional information was requested and has been provided in support of the college having sufficient faculty assigned to teach in a few programs.
3. Principle 8.2a – Assessment of Student Outcomes for Educational Programs – Additional information was requested and provided on how Collin College sampled its educational programs and on whether Collin College’s assessment of educational programs meets all three requirements mandated in the principle.
4. Principle 8.2b – Assessment of Student Outcomes for General Education Competencies – Additional information was requested, providing examples of efforts to improve assessment results through curricular and pedagogical changes made by faculty.
5. Principle 11.2 – Library and Learning/Information Staff – Additional information was requested and provided that demonstrated that staffing is appropriate at each Collin College Library location to provide all services offered to students.

In the “Class of 2023” the average number of principles that institutions were found non-compliant with at the offsite review numbered 12.4, the minimum number of noncompliance findings at the offsite review phase in 2023 was 2, and the maximum number of noncompliance findings at the offsite review phase in 2023 was 36. Collin College was pleased to have only 5.

SACSOC Updates continued...

On August 19th, Collin College responded to the five findings of noncompliance to add to the record for the onsite review that will take place from September 30th-October 3rd of 2024. This started the second phase of the reaffirmation of the accreditation process. The Onsite Reaffirmation Review Committee will be visiting nine off-campus instructional sites on Monday September 30th (These will include the Celina and Farmersville Campuses as well as seven dual credit instructional sites). Then on Tuesday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 2nd the Onsite Review Committee will be holding a number of meetings with the QEP development and implementation teams, and with teams of administrators, faculty/staff, or students to address the five findings of non-compliance. Additionally, they will address a total of 20 principles that the Onsite Committee is required to review independently of the findings of the offsite committee per U.S. Dept. of Education regulations.

Reaffirmation of accreditation constitutes a thorough review of college operations from A-to-Z and the findings of the offsite committee reflect that Collin College is meeting a very high proportion of the standards that SACSCOC examines for all of the institutions it accredits. It is a testament to the efforts of every Collin College employee (full-time and part-time) that we have made such a strong showing so far in this reaffirmation of the accreditation cycle.

Call for Sunshine Fund Donations

The Sunshine Fund is maintained by the Committee for the Common Good (CCG) and relies entirely on the contributions of faculty like you. This fund pays for the mementos that retirees receive as a parting gift from the Faculty Council at the retiree celebration. The committee also uses these funds when sending flowers on behalf of the Faculty Council to express condolences or to support faculty through difficult times or grief.

Our coffers are almost empty, and our aforementioned initiatives won't be possible unless we receive more funds. We are humbly requesting you to open your hearts once again. Every contribution, however big or small, matters. If interested in contributing, please reach out to any CCG member (listed on the [FC website](#)), your FC representative, or anyone from the FC leadership.

Attention Offsite Dual Credit Faculty!

Your feedback is crucial! The P-12 Office has designed a [brief survey](#) to gather your insights on the access, facilities, technology, and resources available at your assigned high school sites. This information will help us better understand the conditions at offsite locations and guide our discussions with ISD partners as we review the start of the Fall 2024 semester. We would appreciate it if you participated in helping us improve the dual credit experience for everyone involved. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and share your valuable input. Thank you for your commitment and cooperation!

Faculty Handbook Edits, Fall 2024...

The Faculty Handbook Committee meets multiple times throughout an academic year to review and update that handbook so that it provides current, accurate, and clear information for faculty. The committee is composed of faculty recommended by the Faculty Council and administrators from various departments and campuses. The committee does not create the information found in the handbook, but instead works closely with all relevant departments to ensure that the information in the handbook is as current and accurate as possible. This past academic year, the committee made numerous edits to improve the organization of the handbook and update information to reflect recent changes at the College. Below is a short summary of this year's edits:

- The Auxiliary/Support Programs and Services section was split into Auxiliary Services and Student Support Services for improved organization of the content.
- Any references to Banner were updated to reflect the switch to WorkDay.
- Human Resources reviewed and updated the Benefits section to provide more information on Adjunct Benefits and Full-time Faculty Benefits.
- More information was included for Dual Credit grade reporting.
- Information was added about Board Policy FC(Legal) and working with students called up for military service.
- Information was added about adjunct faculty supervision and how the process is facilitated in WorkDay.
- Numerous hyperlinks were updated so that they linked to the correct webpage after the CougarWeb update went live.
- Links to appropriate Board Policies were fixed.

The Faculty Handbook can be found inside CougarWeb by clicking on Resources -> Faculty using the navigation panel on the left-hand side. Please contact Professor [Hannah Adams](#) or Professor [Mike Brucia](#) with any questions!

Please donate in support of the fulltime faculty sponsored scholarship using the QR code below!



Please donate in support of the adjunct faculty sponsored scholarship using the QR code above!



Board Policy Updates that Affect YOU!

- An important policy update about **reporting scholastic dishonesty** was passed in May 2024 by the Board of Trustees. The policy allows faculty to assign a temporary “O” when they submit a student incident report of scholastic dishonesty to the Dean of Students. This will notify students that a report was made and the hope is that the response time to the DOS will be faster. Make sure to check out the details including the updated information that will be added to the course syllabus.
- If you have ever been asked to speak/travel internationally, you may know that this has historically been limited to once every three years and only with the District President’s approval. The Board of Trustees **updated this policy** in April 2024 to allow the District President to approve international travel without a time constraint.

Faculty Accolades...

- **Professors Landon LaRocque and Cesar Lopez Maldonado**, were the primary investigators for a three-year \$446,852 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant awarded to Collin College from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop a robotic welding curriculum at the college's Technical Campus. The NSF ATE grant will fund specialized faculty training and equipment purchases. Other grant objectives include providing students with the opportunity to attain industry-recognized certifications and cooperation with industry experts who will review curriculum development and student projects to ensure alignment with industry needs.
- Collision Technology **Professor Raven Hartkopf** was featured in a story on Repairer Driven News, a website curated by the Society of Collision Repair Specialists. The story, "Texas Surveys Find Disconnect Between 'technician shortage' and Education Pipeline," is available [here](#).
- Professor of History **Dr. Ryan Pettengill's** research proposal was accepted, and he was awarded the Richard Strassberg Travel Grant through Cornell University's Kheel Center for Labor Management Documentation and Archives.
- **Karina Taylor**, professor of Veterinary Technology at the Wylie Campus, has been accepted to the inaugural class of the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) Fellows.
- **Chef Ron Reczek** was one of the presenters for the Adjunct Faculty Academy kick-off session held on September 11th, 2024, at the Frisco Campus. Chef Ron's passionate and enthusiastic presentation on Workforce Rapport was engaging and insightful.
- English Professors **Dr. Khimen Cooper** and **Dr. Sarah Fish** were part of a team this summer that helped to design the ENGL 1301: Composition I curriculum for the [Digital Design for Student Success \(D2S2\) Project](#). The D2S2 Project is a THECB initiative to provide a high-quality, OER-forward introductory course curriculum across Texas. They've been invited to continue with the project in an editorial and content design capacity for revising the ENGL 1302: Composition II curriculum.

Upcoming Events...

- Mark your calendars for the **Faculty Convocation** on Friday, October 4.
- **Book In Common Reads *Station Eleven***: Share your love of reading this year with your students. Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven* introduces students to themes of nature, survival, pandemics, Shakespeare, history, technology, and culture. It's a great way to create community and engage students with current issues. Emily St. John Mandel visited Collin College on March 25 and 26. The interdisciplinary Teaching Guide will be available in October. If you want to use the book in your classroom, please email **Professor Ryan Fletcher**. Desk copies are available.
- Richardson Civic Art Society 59th Annual Membership exhibition, Sept. 23 – Oct. 18, The Art Gallery (<https://www.collin.edu/departments/artsgallery>)
- Theatre production: "Moon Over Buffalo," Oct. 16-19 at 7:30 pm, John Anthony Theatre. Find more **here**.
- Theatre production: "Moon Over Buffalo," Oct. 19*-20 at 2:30 pm, John Anthony Theatre (*ASL interpreted performance)
- Auteur Film Series: "The Princess Bride," Oct. 23 at 7, Frisco Campus Conference Center. Find more **here**.
- The next Faculty Council meeting of the 2024/25 Academic Year will be held on Friday, September 27, 2024, in CHEC 139 (Boardroom) and via Zoom. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm, and the meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. Please join us to discuss faculty compensation, the district's Quality Enhancement Plan, and more.

Do you have news or photos to share with your colleagues or questions you would like answered?

Please send potential newsletter topics and questions that you think would be of interest to the faculty to **fc@collin.edu**. This newsletter is created by faculty, for faculty. The purpose is to make sure everyone is "in the know." If you have an accolade/shout-out for a colleague, please email **Matt Hamilton**. He will be including as many as space will allow. Admittedly, many of our colleagues have numerous accomplishments and accolades, but please send only one for any given faculty colleague so that we know which should be highlighted in the newsletter.

Future Faculty Council Meetings...

Day	Date	Location	Time
Friday	October 25	CHEC 227	1-3:30
Friday	November 22	CHEC 227	1-3:30
Friday	January 24	CHEC 107	1-3:30
Friday	February 21	CHEC 107	1-3:30
Friday	March 28	CHEC 107	1-3:30
Friday	May 2	TBA	1-3:30