

# NEWS + UPDATES

**October 2024 Newsletter**

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# Note from the FC President...

Howdy!

The semester is flying by as the days are getting cooler. It is a great time to be teaching at Collin College, but it can also be stressful. I am looking forward to our next FC meeting on Oct. 25 where we will have a special presentation focused on **faculty mental health**. This past spring semester was particularly stressful to me, and I spent the summer reviewing the benefits resources that we are provided...for **FREE**...many of which I didn't realize were available to us. Building resilience is key to navigating the change and unexpected challenges that we encounter daily as faculty members. Taking care of our mental health is essential to maintaining our physical health, the success of our professional efforts, and the success of our students.

Take care,

Rebecca



# Convocation Highlights...

During the October 4 faculty convocation, updates were provided on issues that impact FT faculty. The convocation opened with an Introduction by District President, Neil Matkin, followed by a review of Faculty Council's Academic Freedom resolution led by FC President Rebecca Orr.

Craig Leverette, Vice-President, P-12 Partnerships and Districtwide Scheduling, emphasized the need to create a more streamlined and efficient way of scheduling classes to accommodate student needs and campus space. Faculty members will be given the opportunity to discuss schedule changes with their direct supervisor, who, if campus needs require, will inform the scheduling office of any requested tweaks. The new schedule is intended to optimize resources and minimize scheduling conflicts.

CFO Melissa Irby explained the faculty salary adjustments that took place in September. She outlined the process, highlighted the comparison institutions, and explained how the faculty salary adjustment number was determined. All FT faculty received a salary increase of \$3314 plus a 5% GPI. She also provided an update on changes coming soon to our ORPs. The number of providers will be dramatically decreasing in order to significantly reduce the fees associated with these accounts.

Finally, the topic of faculty rank was presented by SVPCO Abe Johnson. Dr. Johnson presented an overview of the recommendations made by the Faculty Rank Task Force. The ranking process and the benefits associated with each rank are currently being worked on by administration. The presentation was recently emailed to all FT faculty by the Faculty Council. Faculty can use the QR code on the final slide of the presentation to send in questions about the process. The administration committed to reviewing feedback and providing updates on these issues in the coming months. The convocation concluded with Dr. Matkin thanking faculty and the Task Force for their efforts in creating the faculty-rank proposal.

## Did you know?

Ever wonder how items of interest are chosen for the Cougar Review Dr. Matkin sends out? Sometimes there are no faculty accomplishments shared with the Cougar Review editors. Faculty should submit those accomplishments up through their ADs, Deans, or Provosts, but **Communications is glad to accept submissions directly from faculty.** As with all items submitted for Cougar Review, placement is based on news value and space availability, but the general rule is that Communications wants to share as much good news as possible with the college. If you have something to share, please email [Kirk Dickey](mailto:kirk.dickey@okstate.edu) by the second week of the month and specifically mention the President's Report to the Board so he'll know to file it with the other submissions!

## 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!

- 13-Sep Farmersville Campus
- 1-Nov 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

## New: Updated EARS form...

The Collin College Early Alert Referrals (EARs) program is a Student and Enrollment Services (SES) Department program designed to allow professors to enlist the help of SES team members with students of concern.

The EARs Referral Form provides professors with the means to get academic support for the student(s) they consider at-risk. Early identification of students who exhibit academic risk factors leads to intervention. This outreach effort is a partnership between professors and SES. Improvements have been made to the EARs referral form based on input from faculty.

The updated form:

- Allows professors to submit two or more students on the same form.
- Permits professors to leave responses blank if needed.
- Offers professors the ability to save a copy of their referral submission.
- Provides professors with an explanation of the process and a contact person to follow up with if needed.

Questions? Contact Dr. Bill Horstman, [bhorstman@collin.edu](mailto:bhorstman@collin.edu), x-1077

## 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!

## Adjunct Faculty Academy update...

Did you know the Adjunct Faculty Academy (AFA) has been re-launched starting fall 2024? The goal of the AFA is to provide manageable and robust programming that will meet the professional development needs of our adjunct faculty and foster connections with full-time faculty colleagues. Professional development opportunities are organized into two tracks, one focused on pedagogy and another focused on preparing adjunct faculty to apply for full-time employment. Please see the [2024-2025 Adjunct Faculty Academy](#) schedule for upcoming sessions!

## 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	CHEC 107	1-3:30

**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!**

## **Please donate in support of faculty-sponsored scholarships**

Did you know that Faculty, both Full-time and Adjunct, fund multiple student scholarships annually? We have been doing so for 17 years! Donating to the Collin College Foundation Faculty/Adjunct Faculty Scholarship fund offers an opportunity to support students in their pursuit of higher education.

Scholarships can be transformative, enabling students to focus on their studies without the burden of financial stress. By contributing to the Faculty/Adjunct Faculty Scholarship fund, donors help remove barriers to education, allowing more students to access resources and opportunities that lead to academic success and future career opportunities

Scholarships provide encouragement to students who have demonstrated a commitment to their education and future goals, offering them the tools they need to excel. Many students who benefit from these scholarships go on to give back to their communities, creating a positive ripple effect that extends far beyond the classroom.

Your donation is tax deductible and goes directly to support Collin College students. In order to continue funding scholarships annually, we need your donation. Every dollar counts! Please consider donating. Use the QR code provided for your convenience. Thank you to everyone who has donated and for those of you considering a donation. Faculty Council representatives have the opportunity to meet the students who receive our scholarships. It is a rewarding experience getting to connect with those students who benefit from our support.

# Pregnant and Parenting update.....

Students who are pregnant, experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s), and/or parenting are now protected under Texas state laws, in addition to federal Title IX regulations. These students are now afforded early registration privileges and the ability to request a voluntary extended leave of absence. Additionally, students who are pregnant and/or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition(s) may be eligible to receive academic modifications if they request them and if the requested modifications are reasonably available. To qualify for parenting status, a student must be the parent or legal guardian of a child who is under 18 years of age, but the student does not have to be cohabiting with their child.

Faculty can access Associate Dean Throop's presentation on this topic on the [Fall Faculty Development Conference](#) website by following the link to the presentation provided in the agenda.

All faculty are encouraged to review the [Pregnant and Parenting Students' Rights and Resources](#) document and the [Pregnant and Parenting Students](#) webpage so that they may be well-informed regarding applicable definitions and understand these students' rights under both federal and state laws.

When a faculty member is made aware of a student's pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition(s), or parenting status, they are required to provide the reporting party with contact information for the Liaison Officer for Pregnant and Parenting Students and also inform the Liaison Officer using the [Pregnant and Parenting Students Information Form](#).

Amy Throop's contact information is as follows:

Amy Throop

Associate Dean Title IX Compliance

Liaison Officer for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Phone: 972.559.3126

Email: [athroop@collin.edu](mailto:athroop@collin.edu)

The table below summarizes the required protections for each group of students:

	Pregnant students	Students who are experiencing pregnancy-related conditions	Parenting students
<b>Early Registration</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Reasonable Modifications</b>	✓	✓	✗
<b>Leave of Absence</b>	✓	✓	✓



# Faculty Accolades...

- **Jenny Warren**, Communications Studies Professor, was chosen to be “2nd Vice President of the 2026 Convention Planning Team” for the Eastern Communication Association’s 2026 annual convention.
- Dance Department Professors **Meghan Cardwell-Wilson** and **Tiffanee Arnold** maintain professional activity with the professional dance company Full Circle Dance, which presented *The Sixth Turning* at Addison Theatre Centre on Sept. 27 & 28, 2024. Professor Meghan Cardwell-Wilson performed a solo, *The Cracks Only Appear from the Inside* and *HIVE*, both choreographed by Professor Tiffanee Arnold. Professor Meghan Cardwell-Wilson presented an original choreography, *Choose Your Weapon*.
- **Dr. Ryan Pettengill** (History, Wylie) will serve as a panelist and present a paper at the North American Labor History Conference on October 10th-11th, 2024, in Detroit, Michigan.
- Nursing Department Professors **Priya Gathings**, **Mary Rembert**, and **Heather Evarts** and 22 nursing students are serving the Collin County community by administering free flu shots through Texas Health Resources Faith Community Nursing clinic.
- Department of Music Professor **Casey L. Carter**, and Adjunct Professors **Natalie Arduino**, and **Brock Johnson** will be travelling with 14 students to compete at the 74th Texoma NATS Fall Conference and Auditions in November at Sam Houston State University. A student of Casey Carter’s will be the first community college student ever featured in a Texoma NATS Master Class with Albert Lee from Yale University. Prof. Carter serves as the Texoma Region Auditions Chair hosting and developing the annual conference, auditions, and events.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Matt.Hamilton@collin.edu). 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.

# Upcoming Events...

- This year's **Student Engagement's Halloween Spooktacular** event will be held at the Wylie campus in the Student Center Atrium from 5pm – 7pm on Tuesday, October 29th. This is open to students, staff/faculty, and families from the communities served by Collin College.
- This year's **Trunk-or-Treat** event will be held at the Frisco campus on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 6 to 7:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to help set-up, tear down, or judge Halloween costumes, please [click here to sign up](#). Also, please email [Randy Kinnett](#) to enter your trunk or tailgate in the event. October 21 is the deadline for registering.
- [Dance Fusion](#), Nov. 8-9 at 7 pm, John Anthony Theatre (<https://collincollege.ticketleap.com/dance-fusion-concert-2024>)
- [Auteur Film Series: "The Shawshank Redemption"](#), Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 7 pm, AMC – Stonebriar, Frisco
- [Keyboard Ensemble](#) concert, Nov. 13 at 7 pm, John Anthony Theatre
- [OneSound](#) concert, Friday, Nov. 15, 7 pm, John Anthony Theatre
- [String and Symphonic Wind Ensembles](#) concert, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 pm, John Anthony Theatre [Guitar Ensemble concert](#), Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7 pm, John Anthony Theatre
- ["Election Year, Screenthyme, and the Made"](#) exhibition, on view through Nov. 20, The Art Gallery
- [Chamber Choir and Honors Voice](#) concert. Nov. 21 at 7 pm, John Anthony Theater.
- [Fourth Annual Madrigal Feast](#), December 7, at 6 pm. Living Legends Conference Center in Plano. Enjoy a five course meal and a night of singing, dancing, and beautiful music to set the stage for the holidays. The program hosted by the singers of the Opera Workshop includes guest appearances by faculty in addition to a host of wonderful student musicians. Reserve your tickets [here](#).

Click on the event titles in yellow to reserve your tickets today!