

NEWS + UPDATES

January Dear Faculty Colleagues,

President: Rebecca Orr, rorr@collin.edu
Vice-President: Kimberly Harris, kharris@collin.edu
Secretary: Matthew Hamilton, mkhamilton@collin.edu
Treasurer: Mike Brucia, mikebrucia@collin.edu

Note from the FC President...

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope that you all had a restful and refreshing Winter Break.

Please make sure you have marked your calendar for the Faculty Convocation on Friday, February 7th at 1 pm at the Frisco Campus Conference Center. We will hear more details about Faculty Ranks, our 403(b) benefit, and updates on our ORP program.

This spring brings other changes to Collin College as well that are described in this newsletter. We are now in "hiring season" - please see the update on districtwide search committees. We also will have two spring graduation ceremonies - an update on Friday finals and faculty graduation attendance is provided.

I hope that your semester is off to a great start. The Faculty Council is working with administration to create a hybrid course language standard operating procedure (SOP), a student course reinstatement SOP, and a Canvas course visit SOP. We are also working to update the Discipline Lead expectations, the Late Registration timeline, and First Day Access procedures.

Please reach out to fc@collin.edu anytime. Hope to see you at the February FC meeting!

Best,

Rebecca

Time-saving tip:

Get a list of your embedded DC students...

Many faculty teaching general population courses wonder who might be dual credit (DC) as the semester starts. This helps faculty to anticipate who will need mid-term grades and plan accordingly. Did you know that the DC office will provide you a list of all DC students in each of your sections? All you have to do is email a request to dualcredit@collin.edu.

Search Committee Updates...

Approval has been given to begin several full-time faculty hiring searches for the next academic year. Please contact your supervisor if you would be interested in serving on a search committee. As a reminder, the latest Faculty Hiring Procedures is located in CougarWeb under Human Resources - Supervisors Toolkit -> Faculty Hiring Procedures (dated: 10/23/24). Even though we will follow these process guidelines, there are a few enhancements we are implementing during this hiring cycle that will hopefully provide more consistency across the district and foster more collaboration between hiring managers and committee members.

After the search committee has formed and all members have signed a confidentiality statement, the grids standardized by each discipline area and vetted through HR will be forwarded to the committee by Discipline Leads or Discipline Deans. These standardized grids allow for small additions to address campus-specific needs; hiring managers, search committee members, and HRCs should not need to make substantial changes to the grid categories or weight values. The committee will then determine if additional requirements or preferences need to be added to the requisition to better align with the grid. Once finalized, HRCs will post the requisition.

Lastly, a Canvas FT Faculty Search Committee training course was developed that will be required for all hiring managers and search committee members. For those interested, HRCs will also continue to provide in-person training to supplement the online training course.

Enrollment Update for Spring 2025

Some faculty have asked about how this spring's enrollment looks. Here is an update reflecting enrollment data as of 9:00 AM, 1/22/2025 (2nd day of Spring 2025):

- Overall credit enrollment is up 2,845 students, which is approximately 8% this spring.
- This includes strong growth at every campus and in dual credit.
- Notable jumps at Wylie, Tech, Frisco, and Celina highlight continued progression at our newest campuses.
- Our largest in-person campus this spring is Frisco, taking over first place from Plano last spring.
- Dual credit grew more than 1,100 students from last spring (+14.5%)
- Demographic growth is consistent across the board in every gender, ethnicity, race, and age group.
- We began tracking iCollin separately in the Fall of 2024, so there is no comparison data. The headcount for iCollin is 12,770, making it the largest campus.
- Our campuses other than iCollin also offer online classes to ensure faculty will have sufficient sections of online courses available. Please remember that course quality and expectations for non-iCollin online classes are exactly the same as those for iCollin courses.
- The Technical Campus has passed the 3,000 headcount.

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!

- 31-Jan Frisco Campus
- 7-Feb iCollin Virtual Campus (virtual meeting)
- 28-Feb Allen Technical Campus
- 4-Apr Wylie Campus
- 25-Apr McKinney Campus

Graduation and Finals Week News...

May 2025 Graduations and Finals Week Updates

You may be aware that last May our graduation at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center was at maximum capacity. We had to move to a ticketing system and limit the number of guests per graduate (which was very disappointing for everyone). To better support our students, we will have two commencement ceremonies on May 16, 2025 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Students will be split by program types across both ceremonies. This will be published in early February to allow plenty of time for planning. We know this will impact several planned finals. If you intend to offer a final on May 16, please consider working with the student graduates if an alternative schedule is appropriate. Please note that if finals cannot be moved for graduates, they will be allowed to attend the other ceremony.

Full-time faculty are also required to attend one of the graduation ceremonies. Many of you met that requirement in December. The remaining faculty will have an option to select which of the two ceremonies on May 16 they would like to attend. Spots will be limited to ensure we have a robust representation at both ceremonies. It is important to sign up as soon as the window opens if you have a strong preference. Expect more information on this process and additional details from our registrar Jennifer Waits in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your support of our students and flexibility with this remarkable challenge of having so many graduates!

Future Faculty Council Meetings...

Day	Date	Location	Time
Friday	February 21	CHEC 107	1-3:30
Friday	March 28	CHEC 107	1-3:30
Friday	May 2	CHEC 107	1-3:30

You Can Help Improve WorkDay...

Now that we have all had a semester to learn what features Workday (WD) offers to faculty, the college would like your input as to critical features that you have found WD to be lacking. We only get two opportunities each year to request modifications, so FC is beginning the process of gathering faculty feedback now. Please email fc@collin.edu if you have found a gap in WD functionality or see an opportunity to improve a specific function. If possible, make specific, solution-based suggestions. Please realize that all of the recommendations may not be addressed by WD because the platform is a cloud-based platform that serves multiple clients. Once we send the upgrade list to WD, they will prioritize features that are beneficial to their clients.

iCollin Scheduling for Campus Faculty...

Full Time faculty summer assignments for iCollin courses will be made by Wednesday, Feb 5. Coursevite invitations will be sent to adjunct faculty beginning on Monday, Feb 10 and adjunct faculty can begin to accept invitations on Wednesday, Feb 12. Full time faculty with availability and interest in additional summer assignments should contact their supervisor on Feb 5.

Tentative assignments for fall 2025 iCollin assignments have been sent to faculty supervisors by iCollin and were based on the fall 2024 schedule. The review period for full time faculty fall assignments is now ongoing and will end on Monday, Jan 27. You should be communicating with your supervisor about your proposed iCollin schedule now. You can expect your iCollin assignments to be finalized by mid-February.

Also coming soon! Supervisors will be working to streamline faculty's opportunities to express their iCollin preferences.

New EdTech Tools Course in Canvas...

The eLC has developed a new self-paced course for faculty. Discover educational technology tools that can be utilized in the classroom or online. The tools are categorized on the homepage by topic or use. Tool details will include information about utilization, application, examples, and external resources. Do you know of a great tool that is not listed? Please complete the [EdTech Tools Update Form](#). Self-Enroll in [Ed-Tech Tools at Collin College](#).

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.

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.

Tech Support. Who Should I Call?

So you have a tech issue...who should you contact? Help Desk? The eLC? Web Services? Or maybe just to cover your bases, you'll decide to email all three! Well, good news...just pick one, and through our Fresh Service ticketing system, we will route your ticket to the appropriate department. Please do NOT email all three, as each email creates a separate ticket, and working that out can actually take us more time to resolve your issue. So just email your favorite, and we'll take care of the rest!

Help Desk: helpdesk@collin.edu

eLC: elc@collin.edu

Web Services: webservices@collin.edu

AI Professional Development Opportunity...

The Collin Organization for Artificial Intelligence Development, in conjunction with the eLC, has created Teaching and Learning with AI, a resource providing information and assistance in navigating the use of artificial intelligence in Collin classes. All current full-time and adjunct faculty will be added to the course in Canvas by February 1. The course will appear on your dashboard automatically, so look for it soon!



Adjunct Faculty Corner...

We're pleased to introduce [**Alyna Nathoo**](#), [**Katherine McKee**](#), and [**Suzan Cameron**](#), your Adjunct Faculty Representatives! Of these, Alyna and Katherine serve as the chairs of the Adjunct Faculty Committee to discuss matters that concern adjunct faculty. This committee meets monthly via Zoom on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM CST. Our next meeting will take place on Monday, February 3rd at 6:00 PM CST. If you're interested in attending, please email Alyna or Katherine to request the Teams link and join the discussion!

The Adjunct Faculty Committee is working on several exciting initiatives, including enhancing the Faculty Starting Line Canvas shell—a dedicated space that will house essential adjunct-specific information. Additionally, beginning in Fall 2026, the Adjunct Faculty Committee will be open to all adjuncts who express interest in joining each fall. Adjunct representatives will then be elected from this group, ensuring that only active adjuncts are part of the committee and participate in elections. This approach will help maintain consistent representation within the Faculty Council while also offering more opportunities for adjunct faculty involvement.

Stay tuned for more updates in the Adjunct Corner—your go-to resource for everything related to adjunct faculty!

Teach Leadership in Your Course...

Faculty Council is forming an ad hoc committee to review and revitalize the student leadership program “Leadership Development Institute.” If you are interested in possibly serving on the committee, contact Judi Wohead at [**jwohead@collin.edu**](mailto:jwohead@collin.edu). All disciplines are welcome on the committee. If you have leadership and/or teams and groups content in your courses, this may be a great opportunity for you to learn about this fun student leadership program.

Faculty Accolades...

- **Dr. Leslie Richardson**, English professor at the Plano Campus who serves on the Collin College Mindfulness Committee, recently launched the college's inaugural urban sketching event. Urban sketching encourages participants to slow down and observe their surroundings carefully, promoting a sense of presence and awareness.
- **Stefan Ateek**, an adjunct professor of Social Work at the Frisco Campus, received the 2024 Most Valuable Person Award for the Arab America Foundation in October in Dearborn, Michigan. In announcing the award, a news release called Ateek "a respected leader in the academic and Arab American communities," especially in developing and managing criminal justice programs.
- iCollin Virtual Campus **Professor Courtenay Jauregui** continues to serve on two committees for Frisco ISD: the District Advisory Council and Anderson's Elementary Campus Improvement Team for the 2024-25 academic year.
- **Dr. Rajin Koonjiberry**, professor of Cybersecurity, recently completed his Doctor of Engineering degree from George Washington University with a dissertation titled "Impact of Adversarial Learning on XGBoost and Random Forest."
- History **Professor Dr. Bob Whitaker** completed a review of World War Two Simulated: Digital Games and Reconfigurations of the Past by Curtis D. Carbonelle.
- The Prairie Restoration Project at Melissa High School, under the direction of Environmental Science **Professor Bryan Beck**, was awarded a \$500 grant from the Blackland Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists (BPTMN) at the group's board meeting on Nov. 7. This project is a joint venture between Melissa ISD, Collin College, and the Texas Master Naturalists. The BPTMN will award this to the college to plant native prairie plants on the Melissa High School campus in the spring of 2025. The grant funding should allow the college to plant around 50 more plants to restore an acre of unused land into the Blackland Prairie.
- Geology **Professor Paul Manganeli** (iCollin Virtual Campus) participated in National Chemistry Week as a member of Collin College's Science Outreach Committee. He presented live demonstrations at the Fort Worth Science and History Museum.
- iCollin Virtual Campus **Professor Meena Beri** was invited to serve as a consultant on a two-part National Science Foundation (NSF) grant aimed at strengthening the teaching of economics.
- **Dr. Jessica Betik** (History, Frisco Campus) was elected an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in recognition of her contributions to history.
- **Dr. Jack Anderson** (History, Frisco Campus) was named Professor of the Month at The Colony High School for November of 2024.
- **Professor Mike Brucia** (HVAC, Technical Campus) earned his Certified Subject Matter Educator credential from the ESCO Institute in Technical Education in December 2024.

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](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...

- Faculty Convocation, February 7, 1:00-4:00 pm, Frisco Campus Conference Center
- [***Stetson and Stiletto Standoff 2025***](#), March 4, 5:00 pm, Plano Event Center