

NEWS + UPDATES

February 2025 Newsletter

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,

The semester seems to be flying by - it is hard to believe that Spring Break begins in two weeks! I hope that you are enjoying your students and their learning journeys.

The Faculty Council is hard at work advocating for you and working with administration to ensure that we have clear procedures for everyone that are consistent district-wide. Faculty and administrative liaisons have worked together to create a Canvas Course Visit Standard Operating Procedure that outlines the expectations for administrative Canvas drop-ins for everyone. This was discussed and passed with revisions at last week's Faculty Council meeting. It will be presented to the Academic, Governance, and Strategic Planning Council (AGS) in April for final approval. The Faculty Council has also been engaged in giving feedback about policy changes for faculty ranks, soliciting feedback about Workday feature needs, and continues to host campus Town Halls to gather feedback and answer questions.

The election for Faculty Council officers is coming soon! We encourage new representatives to get involved, as your experience and leadership is valuable. The Council should represent diverse viewpoints and experiences to be effective in representing "the faculty."

Finally, mark your calendars for Friday, March 28. The Faculty Council will host Dr. Matkin in the CHEC Boardroom at 1 pm. Bring your appetites and your questions! Lunch will be served (first come, first served) beginning at 12:15 pm.

Have a great weekend,

Rebecca

Questions for Dr. Matkin?

Dr. Matkin will be coming to speak to the Faculty Council on March 28. To make this a valuable use of your time, **[we have created a survey for you](#)** to submit questions for him. This survey will be open through 5 pm on March 7, and will allow you to submit and resubmit if questions arise during that time.

The FC meeting on March 28 will be at 1 pm in the CHEC boardroom (CHEC 139). Lunch will be served beginning at 12:15 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Have you ever wondered...

How do I find the CRASE training schedule...or the schedule of eLC events...or when the next Board of Trustees meetings is? Check out the **[CougarWeb events calendar](#)**. You can customize your view and be truly “in the know” about all of the events going on at Collin!

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 |
| • 1-Nov | Celina Campus |
| • 8-Nov | Plano Campus |
| • 31-Jan | Frisco Campus |
| • 28-Feb | Allen Technical Campus |
| • 7-Mar | iCollin Virtual Campus (virtual meeting) |
| • 4-Apr | Wylie Campus |
| • 25-Apr | McKinney Campus |

Dual Credit Updates...

Starting in Fall 2025, we will offer dual credit courses during Frisco ISD's second period. The new staffing strategy will initially occur on the Frisco Campus and will eventually expand to include sections at FISD high school campuses.

Celina ISD has agreed to move the vast majority of its dual credit offerings to Collin's Celina Campus beginning in Fall 2025.

Plano ISD Health Science Academy students will now take BIOL 1406 and 1407 on our Plano Campus. The move ensures adequate meeting times for labs.

To address the challenges posed by the rotating block schedule in Prosper ISD, we will implement a "co-seating" approach for History and English classes. This means that students will register for both classes, in the same semester, allowing us to eliminate the need for rotating meeting days each week. History and English classes will meet on either Mondays and Wednesdays (MW) or Tuesdays and Thursdays (TR), similar to traditional college schedules.

We have begun taking advantage of large classroom capacities on some high school campuses along with our own campuses by scheduling double sections.

More to come on other new initiatives that are currently in the works!

Dual Credit Final Exams...

Final exams for dual credit courses will be administered over two days during Collin's scheduled final exam week. These two days will either be Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, depending on the regular meeting days of the course section. Sections that meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will hold their final exams on Monday and Wednesday. For dual credit classes held on the Frisco Campus, the published final exam schedule from Collin will apply.

For science lab courses, final exams (lab practicals) will follow the traditional schedule, taking place the week before Collin's official final exam week.

Workforce testing varies across programs, so please continue to follow the guidance of the program director.

Any changes due to extenuating circumstances must be coordinated with the faculty member's supervisor.

Spring 2025 Graduation Info...

Collin College will be holding two commencement ceremonies at 1 pm and 7 pm on Friday, May 16. Students will be assigned a ceremony based on the type of program they are completing. If a student is earning multiple credentials that fall into both ceremony categories, priority will be given to the programs included in the 7 pm ceremony.

1 p.m. ceremony:

- Associate of Arts
- Associate of Science
- Associate of Arts in Teaching

7 p.m. ceremony:

- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Applied Technology
- Bachelor of Applied Science
- Associate of Applied Science
- Certificates
- All dual credit students

Full-time faculty are required to attend one of the graduation ceremonies each year, with last names A-K assigned to December and L-Z assigned to May. Many of you attended the December ceremony and have already met your requirement. 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.

Beginning **7 AM Monday, March 3**, the RSVP form will be available for submissions. It is important to sign up as soon as the window opens if you have a strong preference.

Faculty Council Elections...

Nominations for the 2025-2026 FC President, Vice-President, and 15 vacant FC representative positions are now being accepted. To nominate yourself for faculty representative or to nominate a colleague for an officer position, please complete the [**nomination form**](#). The elections document includes a list of vacancies by division, the total number of reps by division, and the nominated candidates to date. [**Nominations**](#) may be submitted through 5:00 pm Friday, March 14, 2025. Please contact [**Rebecca Burton**](#) with any questions!

Note: Be sure to check with your colleague about a nomination for President or Vice-President. The faculty member needs to accept the nomination in order to be placed on the ballot. Review eligibility requirements and duties in the procedures manual. The procedures manual can be found on the Faculty Council website.

Dual Credit Time-Saving Tip...

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 dual-credit@collin.edu.

Missing WorkDay Features...

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 would like to begin 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. 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.

Upcoming Health & Safety Fair...

Collin College will host its 18th Annual Health and Safety Fair on Friday, March 28th, from 9 am to 2 pm at the McKinney Campus Conference Center. This event is open to the community and offers free health screenings including blood glucose, spinal alignment, blood pressure, and body fat checks. Blood donations will be taken on site for those considering donating. Representatives from dozens of local health care providers, wellness facilities, and Collin College health sciences programs will be available to answer questions and provide services. Plus, special prizes will be given to attendees. Please be sure to spread the word to all faculty, staff, and community members.

Book in Common News...

Mark your calendars! Please join the Book-in-Common committee as we welcome Emily St. John Mandel, author of *Station Eleven*, to Collin College. Mandel will be in conversation with Dr. Ryan Fletcher, the Book-in-Common Coordinator, on March 25 at 7 pm at the McKinney Campus Conference Center and on March 26 at 10 am at the Frisco Campus Conference Center. Book signings will follow each event. Please share this information with your students.

Adjunct Faculty Corner...

Exciting Adjunct Faculty Committee Initiative: We Value Your Input!

We are working on enhancing the Faculty Starting Line Canvas course by adding a new Adjunct Faculty widget. If you are not yet enrolled or are unfamiliar with the course, please use the link below to sign up:

[Enroll Here](#)

We'd love to hear from you to make sure this initiative is as helpful as possible. We've created a brief 2-question survey that will guide us in understanding what's currently working in the Canvas course and what could be especially beneficial for our Adjunct Faculty. Your feedback is invaluable, and we truly appreciate your time in completing the survey.

[Take the Survey](#)

Please submit your responses by Friday, March 7. If you have any questions, please reach out to Alyna Nathoo at anathoo@collin.edu or Katherine McKee at kmckee@collin.edu.

Thank you for your participation!

Future Faculty Council Meetings...

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

Student Support Activity...

We invite you to be part of an exciting opportunity to support our students and the greater music community by volunteering at DFW NATS on Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th! This event brings together talented singers, pianists, and adjudicators from the metroplex and Texas. Your involvement can make a meaningful impact.

As a volunteer, you'll help welcome and guide attendees, assist with competition logistics, and support our own Collin College singers as they compete. Your participation not only fosters a positive experience for all but also counts toward college service and student support.

Thanks in advance for signing up for a spot or four here: <https://signup.com/go/iP-vYxwM>

Where: Wylie Campus

When: Friday, March 7th from 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM and/or Saturday, March 8th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Join us in celebrating and uplifting young musicians while representing Collin College in this prestigious event. Sign up today and be a part of something truly special.

Need more information? Contact Casey L. Carter at ccarter@collin.edu.

Project-Based Learning Symposium...

Have you been curious about Project-Based Learning (PBL) but unsure how to integrate it into your courses or discipline? This is a one-day opportunity for you to learn from UNT PBL Faculty Mentors and try some hands-on activities. On Friday, May 2, 2025, the UNT Department of Multidisciplinary Innovation will host a [***Project-Based Learning Symposium***](#). This one-day conference will showcase numerous approaches to how **PBL Gold Standards** can be used in the classroom while allowing participants to workshop their own PBL-based solutions for their own classes and/or curricula.

Plenary sessions will demonstrate how the various academic programs within the department use PBL in different multidisciplinary contexts. Examples consist of including student voice and choice in a variety of learning environments and producing public-facing presentations in cohort-based programs. Poster sessions will include several examples of real-world PBL project designs that are used in individual classes, including various humanities courses, as well as STEM fields.

Faculty Hiring Process Update...

Full-time faculty hiring searches for the next academic year are ongoing. Please contact your supervisor if you would be interested in serving on a search committee. As a reminder, the latest Faculty Hiring Procedures document 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.

Discipline Leads, HR and Discipline Deans have reviewed and approved grids from over 50 subject areas, including the areas we are authorized to hire new faculty. 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. Course feedback is available and highly encouraged for those taking the course. For those interested, HRCs will also continue to provide in-person training to supplement the online training course. Here are the in-person training dates:

- Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at the McKinney Campus in room LA217 (Library) from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at the Technical Campus in room C117 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Upcoming Events...

- Faculty Graduation Ceremony Selection Opens, March 3
- NATS Chapter Spring Auditions, Wylie Campus, March 7-8
- **Stetson and Stiletto**, Plano Event Center, March 8
- **The Lightening Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical**, Plano Campus, John Anthony Theater, March 12-15,
- Spring Break, Campuses Closed, March 17-23
- Health & Safety Fair, McKinney Conference Center, March 28

Faculty Accolades...

- **Professor Melissa Johnson** recently presented “Pullman and the Golden Age of Rail Travel” for History Encounters at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.
- **Professor Tonya McMillion** won a cash prize in the Two-Year College/Scholastic Division’s Innovative Assignment Competition for 2024-25! This international competition, hosted annually by the Broadcast Education Association (BEA), recognizes outstanding and creative teaching strategies in media education. Tonya will present her winning assignment at the national BEA conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, this April as part of her achievement.
- **Professor Ryan Rynbrandt** successfully defended his dissertation proposal at The University of Texas at Dallas. He will be conducting an experiment on a light-touch intervention to boost flourishing and academic success among Collin students.
- **Jon Crissman**, adjunct professor of Collision Technology, was featured in [an article on Autobodynews.com](#) in December. The article talks about his years of experience and mentoring.
- **Angela Vandersmitte**, full-time Simulation instructor in the Simulation Department at the McKinney Campus, recently earned her Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Texas at Arlington.
- **Ava Redmond**, Surgical Professions adjunct faculty, was one of the first 10 graduates of the Bachelor of Applied Science in Clinical Operations Management (BAS-COM). Redmond achieved the President’s List, graduating with highest honors while also serving as a professor in the Surgical Assisting and Surgical Technology program.
- The Technical Campus held the **Collin College Regional Welding Event** as part of the Texas High School Welding Series (TXHSWS) on Dec. 13. The event drew **420 high school students** from Waco, Longview, Huntsville, and schools throughout Dallas-Fort Worth. The event tests and certifies high school students in various welding codes defined by the American Welding Society (AWS). Testing was carried out by certified welding inspectors **Landon LaRocque, Lucas Weatherford, Colby Craddock**, and **Cesar Lopez**, all of whom are educators with Collin’s Welding and HVAC programs.

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.