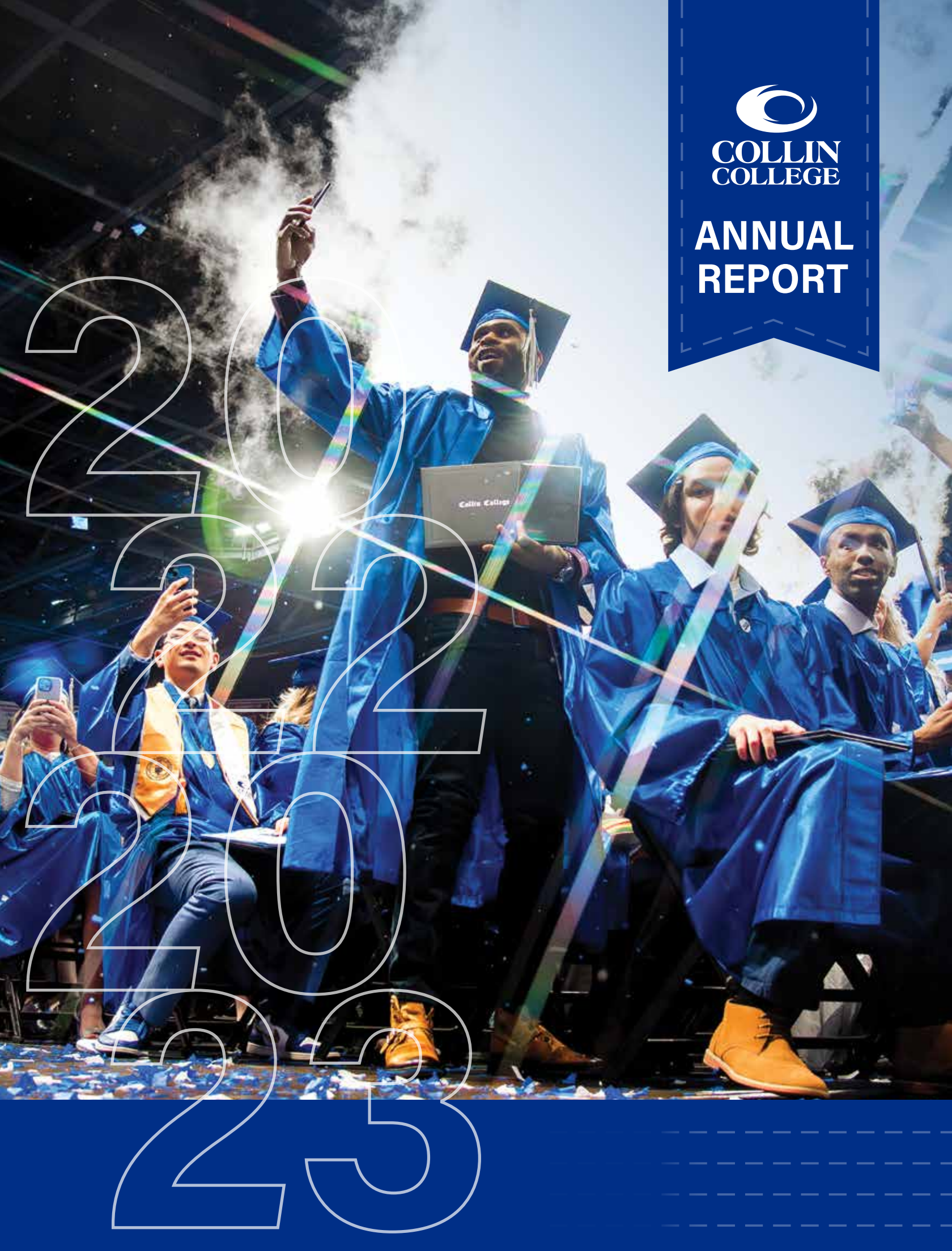




**COLLIN  
COLLEGE**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2023







INTEGRITY LEARNING SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT CREATIVITY & INNOVATION

**COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

EXCELLENCE

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**FOUNDED 1985**

DIGNITY & RESPECT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Collin College Leadership.....	2
Board of Trustees .....	3
President’s Welcome.....	4-5
Collin College Growth.....	6-9
College Expands Bachelor’s Degree Options.....	8
Hidden Gems: Unique Learning Opportunities Abound for Collin Students.....	8-9
Campus Life and Student Life .....	10-11
From Dual Credit Student to Collin College Graduate: The Pathway to Success .....	12-13
Unveiling Potential: A Transformative Journey at Collin College .....	14-15
Successful Alumna Praises Collin’s Commitment to its Students .....	16-17
From Addis Ababa to Award-Winning Filmmaker Mente Bezuneh’s Path Through Collin College.....	18-19
Connected to Our Vibrant Community.....	20-23
Financial Overview .....	24-25
Collin College Foundation.....	26-27
Service Area Map .....	28-29



Collin College fulfills its mission of being a student- and community-centered institution committed to developing valuable skills, strengthening character, and challenging the intellect, and has done so since offering its first classes in area high schools in 1985. Through its core values of learning, service and involvement, creativity and innovation, academic excellence, dignity, respect, and integrity, Collin College is an essential educational provider in Collin County and surrounding communities.

Leadership at Collin College vigorously works to continue achieving a profound standard of excellence impacting students, faculty, and staff. The college's Leadership Team consists of the President's Cabinet, Campus Provosts, and other college leaders.

## CABINET

- Dr. Neil Matkin, *District President*
- Melissa Irby, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Dr. Abe Johnson, *Senior Vice President, Campus Operations*
- Dr. Bill King, *Executive Vice President*
- Steve Matthews, *Senior Vice President, External Relations*
- Mary McClure, *Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships*
- Floyd Nickerson, *Special Assistant to the District President*
- Monica Velazquez, *J.D., General Counsel*

## PROVOSTS

- Dr. Mary Barnes-Tilley, *Plano Campus Provost*
- Dr. Diana Hopes, *Frisco Campus and Celina Campus Provost*
- Dr. Mary McRae, *Wylie Campus and Farmersville Campus Provost*
- Dr. Brenden Mesch, *Technical Campus Provost*
- Dr. Mark Smith, *McKinney Campus Provost*
- Dr. Sarah Lee, *iCollin Virtual Campus Provost*

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In addition to Collin College's Cabinet, Board of Trustees, and Campus Provosts, the following members are part of the Leadership Team:

- Dr. Jay Corwin, *Chief Student Success Officer*
- Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis, *Chief Human Resources Officer*
- Christopher Eyle, *Vice President, Facilities/Construction*
- Dr. Jon Hardesty, *Vice President, Academic Affairs*
- Scott Jenkins, *Chief of Police*
- Dr. Tom Martin, *Vice President, Institutional Research*
- Dr. David Stephens, *Chief Information Officer*
- Ali Subhani, *Director, Internal Audit*
- Dr. Albert Tezeno, *Vice President, Student and Enrollment Services*
- Lisa Vasquez, *Vice President, Advancement*
- Craig Leverette, *Vice President of Dual Credit and Districtwide Scheduling*





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Pictured left to right: Greg Gomel, Megan Wallace, Dr. J. Robert Collins, Dr. Raj Menon, Andrew Hardin, Jay Saad, Jim Orr, Stacy Anne Arias, Cathie Alexander.*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Collin College is led by the nine-member elected Board of Trustees listed below, along with the District President.

- Andrew Hardin, *Chair*
- Jay Saad, *Vice Chair*
- Jim Orr, *Secretary*
- Dr. Raj Menon, *Treasurer*
- Cathie Alexander
- Stacy Anne Arias
- Dr. J. Robert Collins
- Greg Gomel
- Megan Wallace



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to share Collin College's second annual report with you. This edition focuses on bachelor's degrees, the college's vibrant student life, community connections, fiscal year 2023 financial information, and articles about our most prized individuals — our students.

So many amazing things have happened at Collin College this year, not the least of which was the addition of our new Bachelor of Applied Science in Clinical Operations Management degree which started in Fall 2023. We are proud to offer four bachelor's degrees, all at the college's exceptional tuition of \$62 per credit hour, the lowest in-district cost in the state. You can learn more about each of our bachelor's degrees in the pages that follow.

This institution of higher education stands apart from the rest with award-winning faculty and students and accolades such as receiving the "Great Colleges to Work For®" designation for six years, the "Best for Vets: Colleges" distinction for 11 years, the gold-level status of the Veterans Education Excellence Recognition Award (VEERA) from the Texas Veterans Commission for the third consecutive year, and being named a Military Friendly® School for the seventh year in a row.

Thanks to the leadership of our Board of Trustees, the college was able to offer savings to our taxpayers during this time of rising property taxes with a new local homestead tax exemption rate, returning more than 9.1 million to residential homeowners this fiscal year.

At Collin College, we strive to be the hub of communication and innovation for our communities. The core of that commitment is rooted in partnerships with our stakeholders. This past summer, the college partnered with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to host the Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner Conference which drew more than 100 attendees from five counties. This fall, the college brought more than 300 area leaders together to explore regional issues of interest and upcoming policy changes at our second Collin Leadership Policy Summit. To ensure that our students are ready to enter the workforce, the college works with more than 550 advisory

board committee members represented by business leaders who advise, recommend, and review program courses and procedures to ensure quality academic program planning and implementation. The college also partners with 16 independent school districts and serves more than 10,500 students in the dual credit program. Expanding dual credit opportunities, Collin College and the Plano Independent School District recently signed an agreement to create the Wildcat Collegiate Academy which will offer Plano ISD students a streamlined pathway to earn an associate degree and a high school diploma at the same time beginning in Fall 2024.

I wish you could join me for a tour of the 11 campuses and centers across our district to see the thousands of students hard at work pursuing their dreams. Our online students are also busy with classes via the iCollin Virtual Campus. I am happy to report that Collin College is continuing to grow and has so much to offer with more than 200 areas of study, associate and bachelor's degrees, certificates, and transfer courses. In fiscal year 2023, the college's total unduplicated enrollment topped 58,000 students. In 2024, the college will inaugurate additional academic pathways for students through our new Collin College Academic Alliance. Students can seamlessly earn baccalaureate and graduate degrees in Collin County through partnering universities including Texas A&M, Texas A&M Commerce, The University of Texas at Dallas, and Texas State University.

Until we meet in person for that tour, enjoy learning a few highlights about this fantastic college and all it has to offer. You'll discover why I tell everyone I meet that there is no place I would rather be than at Collin College.

Thank you for your support!

In gratitude,



H. Neil Matkin, Ed.D.  
District President  
Collin College

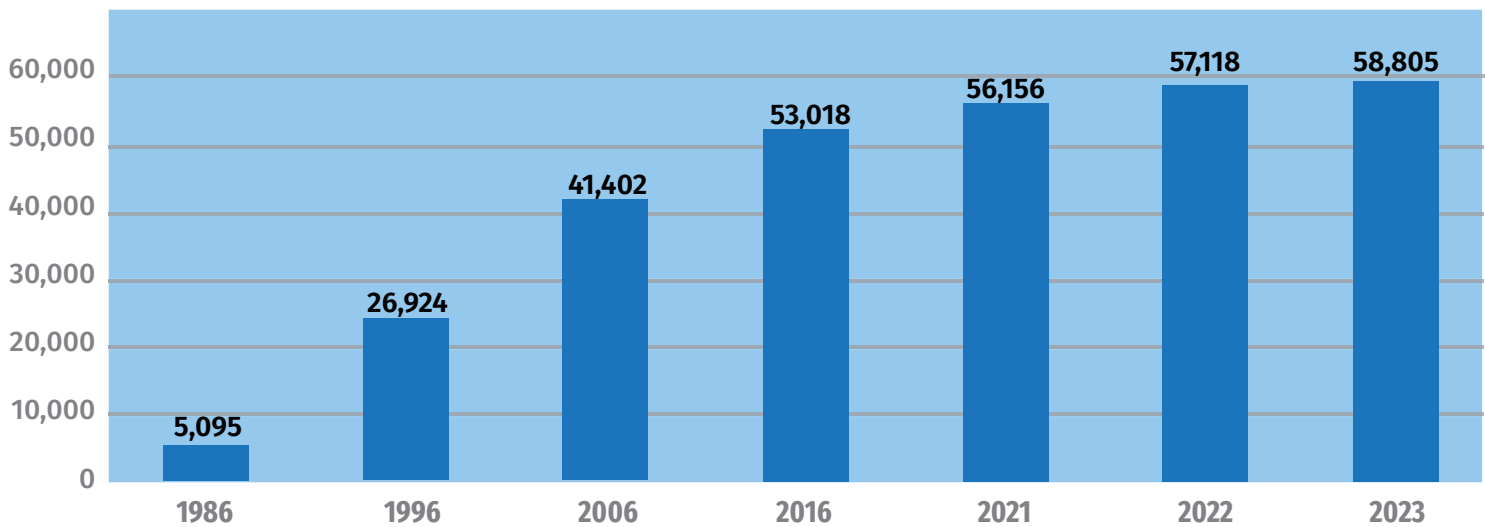


H. NEIL MATKIN, Ed.D., DISTRICT PRESIDENT, COLLIN COLLEGE



In 1985, Collin College embarked on its educational journey with just 45 faculty and staff, occupying leased office space and high school classrooms. Today, after 38 years of remarkable growth, the college has burgeoned to encompass more than 2,800 dedicated faculty and staff members, catering to the academic needs of nearly 60,000 students spanning Collin County. With seven physical campuses, a virtual campus, and four centers, Collin College has become a beacon of educational excellence, continually expanding its programs and services. And enduring commitment to growth and innovation ensures that Collin College remains an unyielding force in the realm of education, shaping a promising future for all who attend the college and experience a transformative journey.

## ENROLLMENT NUMBERS THROUGH THE YEARS, 1986-2023





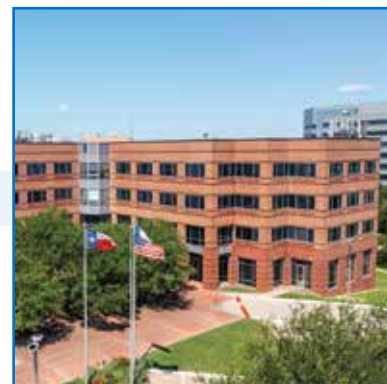
# CAMPUS OPENINGS



**1986** McKinney Campus



**1988** Plano Campus



**1993** Courtyard Center, Plano



**1995** Frisco Campus



**1999** Rockwall Center



**2010** Collin Higher Education Center, McKinney



**2018** Public Safety Training Center, McKinney



**2020** Technical Campus, Allen



**2020** Wylie Campus



**2021** Farmersville Campus



**2021** Celina Campus



**2021** Collin College launches iCollin Virtual Campus



## COLLIN EXPANDS BACHELOR'S DEGREE OPTIONS



In the fall of 2023, Collin College launched its fourth bachelor's degree program, a Bachelor of Applied Science in Clinical Operations Management (BASCOM). As with the other bachelor's degree programs introduced since the spring of 2020, the program provides exceptional education in a critical workforce area.

This important program focuses on leadership and managerial topics for current healthcare workers to prepare them for career advancement. The fully online program teaches business principles, talent management, project management, data analysis, and risk management. Graduates can step into fulfilling careers as clinical operations managers, healthcare administrators, department managers, or other roles in hospital administration.

The BASCOM program is Collin's second bachelor's degree in the healthcare field. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) introduced in Spring 2020 provides registered nurses (RNs) with additional leadership and technical training, preparing them to excel in a patient-centered career. With an ongoing nursing shortage and hospitals emphasizing the need for a nursing pipeline, the BSN program at Collin College is providing more opportunities for nurses to succeed in North Texas.

The college's Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity program also began in Spring 2020 and has exploded to nine times its initial enrollment. The hands-on program expands on, reinforces, and introduces students to a variety of cybersecurity topics, including penetration testing, defensive operations, basic cryptography, privacy, cybercrime, and cyber policy.

Both the BSN and the BAT were built off of nationally recognized existing programs. The National Security

Agency (NSA) recently designated Collin College as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD). And Collin College's nursing program has been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing by the National League for Nursing through 2024.

Likewise, the college's Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Construction Management program grew out of an associate degree program applauded by local employers for helping build the future leadership of the booming construction industry in Collin and Rockwall counties. The BAS in Construction Management focuses on management principles, scheduling, planning, and cost estimating for construction projects, the behavior of building structures/components, principles of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, project safety, and risk management.

The Texas Legislature has granted Collin College the option of offering up to five bachelor's degree programs. While the college continues to develop its fifth bachelor's degree program, one thing is certain — it will fill a need in the community and provide students with even greater opportunities to succeed.



## HIDDEN GEMS: UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR COLLIN STUDENTS

From successful small programs to unique degree and learning opportunities, Collin College is full of hidden gems waiting to be mined by its students. What follows are just a few of those opportunities.

The Construction Safety program at Collin College's Technical Campus is the first of its kind in the state of Texas. While other workplace safety programs around the country offer a broad-based approach to occupational health and safety, Collin's degree and certificate program is focused specifically on the construction industry, providing





students with an education laser-focused on that industry’s needs. An outgrowth of the college’s successful Construction Management program, Construction Safety benefits from significant community partner involvement. The college recently announced a \$75,000 naming rights donation by McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. related to a new construction safety lab that will be a linchpin of the Construction Safety program.

One building over from the Construction program offices, automotive students are getting first-hand experience with proprietary automotive diagnostic tools and learning manufacturer-specific guidelines en route to potential employment at Toyota, Lexus, Ford, Honda, Acura, Subaru, and Mercedes-Benz dealerships. Each manufacturer has partnered with Collin College for its technician preparation programs.

Toyota North America has gone even further by signing an agreement to provide Toyota Technician Education Network (T-TEN) programming at the Technical Campus. An expansion of its earlier partnership with Toyota, T-TEN includes paid internships for Collin students so that they are in the hiring pipeline sooner. The American Honda Professional Automotive Career Training (PACT) program offers similar benefits.



A short drive away at the McKinney Campus, the Respiratory Care program has been recognized for its success in educating lifesaving respiratory therapists. For more than a decade, the program has been awarded the Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation Respiratory Care (CoARC). Every year for the past 11 years, at least 90% of the program’s students have earned their Registered Respiratory Care credentials, and the program has met goals in job placement for its graduates.

At the Plano Campus, Collin is turning out the next generation of sign language interpreters in its Interpreter Training Program (ITP). Although it is a small program, it

makes a big difference in the lives of the Deaf community by opening up communication options and providing interpretive services that make life more enjoyable for the community’s members. The ITP’s American Sign Language Lab simulates a Deaf culture environment in which Deaf lab instructors assist students with language and culturally appropriate behaviors.

While the Cybersecurity program may receive the majority of the headlines coming out of the Frisco Campus, the Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Education is training students to be future restaurateurs and hoteliers in an ever more service-oriented world. In addition to creating delectable delights in the culinary program’s kitchens, each spring the college provides students with a capstone program called The Red Room. Years of study are tested in the simulated restaurant when students are tasked with creating a menu, overseeing the food’s preparation, and determining The Red Room’s atmosphere and presentation. The restaurant experience and exceptional edible fare are open to students, faculty, staff, and the public.



Wylie Campus students have opportunities to get back to nature with Collin’s Agriculture and Veterinary Technology programs. Shared with the Farmersville Campus, the Agriculture program touches on topics as broad as vertical farming, beekeeping, animal science, and hydroponics, and a degree in Urban Sustainable Agriculture blends a back-to-nature ethos with space-saving needs in a more metropolitan area. The Veterinary Technology program trains students in preventive and emergency care and the proper techniques for working with small and large animals. Students learn about medications, diagnostics, surgical assisting, and other vital aspects of veterinary medicine.

This list is by no means comprehensive. From Insurance Management and Biotechnology to Commercial Music and Biomedical Equipment Technology, the college offers programs that provide students with a foundation in what interests them, in addition to opportunities available only at Collin College.



# CAMPUS LIFE AND STUDENT LIFE

Collin College offers a vibrant campus life that caters to a diverse array of student interests. Students can personalize their college experience by engaging with a wide range of campus groups and organizations, including but not limited to:

- **Academics and Honors**
- **Community Service**
- **Hobbies and Social**
- **Identity and Cultural**
- **Intramural Sports**
- **National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Sports**
- **Performing Arts**
- **Politics and Social Action**
- **Student Government**
- **Religious and Spiritual**

These dynamic groups and activities create a rich tapestry of experiences, allowing students to connect, explore, and thrive during their time at Collin College. Here are some of the recognized student organizations:

## **Student Government Association**

Founded in 1985, the Student Government Association (SGA) at Collin College consists of all credit-enrolled students. SGA's primary role is to represent student voices, improve the quality of education, and undertake community service initiatives. Activities include monthly meetings, representation at regional and state events, voter registration drives, and hosting the Board of Trustees Candidate Forum every two years. SGA provides students with governance and leadership opportunities, fosters collaboration with other student organizations, and aims to enhance student engagement while effectively conveying student feedback to the college administration.

## **Phi Theta Kappa**

Established in 1987, the Collin College or Alpha Mu Tau chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society currently comprises 2,835 members dedicated to scholarship, fellowship, leadership, and service. With goals centered on these four pillars, the chapter significantly contributes to the campus experience and student life. PTK members' involvement ranges from organizing service events and fostering camaraderie through various activities to collaborating with college administrators on projects that enrich student life.



## Political Justice League

The Political Justice League (P JL) serves as the student organization supporting the Collin College Mock Trial Team and has been active since the late 2000s. Currently comprising seven members with plans to expand to 10-12, the team specializes in mock trial competitions, with students assuming roles as attorneys and witnesses, and competing against other colleges and universities. Beyond competition, the group offers students a welcoming environment to observe trials, enriching the campus experience. Its objectives include teaching soft skills, exploring the legal profession, building teamwork, and developing leadership, especially among team captains, to prepare students for future success.



## Accomplishments

Collin College has received various recognitions through the years from different entities showing that the college is a higher education institution of the utmost quality and offers great resources to not only students but to faculty and staff.

- Innovation of the Year Award Recipient – League for Innovation in the Community College for 2020-2021
- Veterans Education Excellence Recognition Award, Gold-Level Status for 2021-2023
- Best for Vets by Military Times for 2013-2023
- Center of Excellence in Nursing Education – National League for Nursing for 2011-2018; 2020-2024
- National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) by the National Security Agency (NSA)
- Seven Minnie Stevens Piper Professors
- Best and Brightest Companies to Work For 2017-2019
- Employer of the Year – Frisco Chamber of Commerce 2020
- Great Colleges to Work For 2019-2023
- Outstanding Business – McKinney Chamber of Commerce 2019





# FROM DUAL CREDIT STUDENT TO COLLIN COLLEGE GRADUATE: THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

## AARON SIMS

Collin College graduate **Aaron Sims** was once a junior at McKinney North High School with no desire to attend college. One day, that all changed after he noticed a sign-up sheet for dual credit courses at the Collin College Technical Campus.

“I was looking through the courses they had, and I saw they had dual credit welding,” Aaron said. “Looking at the course, I had seen a few YouTube videos on it, and I was like, ‘this looks kind of interesting.’ I signed up for it, and I just stuck with it because I thought it was a great campus and they had a good welding program.”

Aaron comes from a family of generational tradesmen. His brother is a mechanic, and his father and grandfather are general contractors.

“Many of my family members have worked in a trade, but none have done welding. I’m very happy that I pursued it,” Aaron said.

Despite his excitement as a dual credit welding student, Aaron had to adjust to the schedule that came with attending high school and college. However, he’d soon realize this challenge would set him up for his future success.

“It was a demanding schedule in high school, but it prepared me for the schedule I have now,” Aaron said. “I was going to school from 7 a.m. to noon, and then I had the dual credit class from noon to 4 p.m. At the time it was demanding but it got me prepared, and now I really enjoy it.”

Aaron credits everything he has learned, even the preparation of his résumé, to the Collin College Dual Credit program.

“In March, a representative from Dynacraft contacted me and said, ‘Hey, I saw your résumé. Could you come in for a welding test and an interview?’ I went in for the welding test and the interview, and if I hadn’t gone to Collin, I wouldn’t have passed the test at all.”

Welding Technology Professor Darrel Rochelle was very impressed with Aaron’s dedication and

diligence as both a dual credit and traditional college student.

“What impressed me about Aaron was that he showed up on time daily and met the requirements by staying on task,” Darrel said. “Aaron completed his first year in the program as dual credit, then took it upon himself to enroll as a traditional student. He maintained good academic standing and checked all the boxes to make himself very marketable to the industry. I often reference him in my classes as a great example of what is possible in our program if you show up, have a good attitude, and put in the work.”

Aaron accepted a position at Dynacraft, a global supplier of assemblies and services for trucks while still attending college. He graduated in Spring 2023 with an Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology. His advice to dual credit students is to be purposeful about their education and their future.

“In the dual credit program, I saw many students who did not take it seriously, but the ones who were dedicated and really wanted to learn, the professors saw that and were willing to help,” Aaron said. “I saw an end goal, and there was no point in stopping until I reached that goal.”

The Collin College Dual Credit program gives students an opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously for successfully completing the college course. Once completed, students can choose to continue their studies at Collin.

The college partners with 16 independent school districts and 11 private, charter, and homeschool co-ops. These partnerships provide students like Aaron an opportunity to establish a successful career pathway. To learn more about the dual credit program, visit [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/).







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# UNVEILING POTENTIAL: A TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY AT COLLIN COLLEGE

## SAMAR RAWAS

The higher educational journey of Collin College alumna **Samar Rawas** began with far more questions than answers. However, with a bit of guidance and a lot of self-determination, Samar looks back with much gratitude on the very journey that changed her life immensely.

Raised in a single-parent, low-income household, attending college was never a guarantee for Samar. The thought of leaving her family, and the concern of racking up tuition debt, kept her from planning too far after high school graduation.

“I wasn’t like the typical junior or senior who was studying for the SAT or ACT. I wasn’t even applying to four-year colleges,” Samar said. “My whole plan was to alleviate my mom from any financial burden, not create more.”

Working since the age of 16, Samar would soon find out that going to college wasn’t a goal too far out of reach.

“When I decided to attend Collin, I had friends who’d say? ‘Oh, well it’s just a community college,’ but I was beyond excited,” Samar said. “I needed to stay close by. I was my mother’s right hand, and I couldn’t just leave her.”

Keeping her close-knit family in mind, another significant concern kept Samar up at night — paying for college.

“Although Collin College is significantly affordable, to me, at that time, it wasn’t,” Samar said. “I knew I’d be dependent on financial aid to get me through college. That’s just the position I was in.”

It wasn’t long before Samar was attending every workshop she could to learn more about financial aid opportunities. She decided that applying for a scholarship through the Collin College Foundation was a chance she couldn’t pass up.

“To whoever read my application, thank you, because you really changed the trajectory of my life,” Samar said. “I got a Collin scholarship, and I was so ecstatic.”

Samar made it her mission to connect with professors and become as involved as possible. Her curiosity led her to student organizations that placed her in positions to make a change at Collin College.

“Not only did my education impact my life but so did all the staff members and professors

I crossed paths with at Collin College,” Samar said. “I began working with the Office of Student Engagement. There, they saw my potential, they saw my leadership and pushed me to be greater.”

Learning alongside leaders of Collin, she noticed some gaps of student body representation.

“I learned about the Student Government Association (SGA) and all its untapped potential. I wanted to grow this organization,” Samar said.

Samar became SGA president for two terms, and in that time, she focused on growing the organization to new heights. With the help of her new, growing team, Collin College SGA became recognized at the state and regional levels.

“It’s one of the most rewarding things I took from my time at Collin,” Samar said. “We won so many awards. It was so significant to me.”

Samar continued her journey at Collin with the end goal of transferring to a four-year college and eventually pursuing a postgraduate degree. Now a Southern Methodist University alumna, Samar is preparing for yet another venture in her educational journey.

“I went from someone who barely knew they were going to community college to getting accepted into two Ivy League universities, including Columbia and Cornell,” Samar said. “But now, my journey has brought me to Georgetown. My program will eventually take me abroad with the U.S. Agency for International Development.”

Samar often refers to her journey as a metamorphic one, trying to navigate through each phase and finding support through it all at Collin College.

“The staff members, the professors, my mentors, they found this caterpillar that was in the mud and didn’t know what it was doing with life,” Samar said. “They helped build up a cocoon for this caterpillar, and then I turned into this butterfly who’s flourishing now.”

Samar credits her time spent at Collin as the basis for each opportunity that allowed her to spread her wings.

“I really just want to let everyone know how grateful I am for Collin College,” Samar said. “There are so many students like me whose lives have been positively impacted because of what Collin offers.”







# SUCCESSFUL ALUMNA PRAISES COLLIN'S COMMITMENT TO ITS STUDENTS

## ALEXA ACOSTA

**Alexa Acosta** is driven.

A Spring 2014 summa cum laude graduate of Collin College who earned a full scholarship to Southern Methodist University (SMU), Alexa worked hard to get where she is. The youngest-ever marketing director for Clarity Benefit Solutions, Alexa has returned to Collin College a few times to extol the college's virtues and encourage the next generation of students to make the most of the opportunities it provides.

Alexa had not planned to attend Collin College or any community college. After moving to Puerto Rico with her mother at age 9, Acosta returned to Texas with the plan of attending SMU, her dream school. However, despite having spoken English as a child, most of her education had been in Spanish, and the university rejected her application based on language proficiency issues.

Although she was disappointed, Alexa knew she was ready for college and applied to Collin. She threw herself into refreshing and expanding her English language skills using resources such as the college's writing centers. She also got involved in extracurricular activities to develop her abilities and friendships.

"Once I started attending Collin, my impression changed completely," Alexa said. "The caliber of education, professors, students, school culture, and resources Collin provided me was bar none."

Her professors encouraged her to excel, and the small classroom setting allowed her to create genuine relationships with students and educators alike.

"Every professor I had at Collin was deeply committed to me, my education, and my success," she said. "I always looked forward to attending class or working with them on different leadership

initiatives, which is one of the main reasons I was so involved during my time there."

Alexa found a passion for leadership as vice president of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and she spearheaded a nationally recognized leadership initiative for the college. She was named an All-USA Academic Team Scholar. Alexa wrote for the college's Communications Department student and employee newsletter and starred in a series of YouTube segments designed to help students navigate their educational pathways at Collin College.

"I was heavily involved on campus at Collin College, so it gave me an even deeper sense of the college's commitment to its students," Alexa said. "Specifically, my involvement with Phi Theta Kappa truly developed me as a scholar, a leader, and a professional. I was pushed in ways I had never been pushed before, and I met some of my favorite people to this day."

Her academic and extracurricular involvement led to a scholarship while at Collin College and ultimately to a full ride at SMU, a university that had rejected her just two years prior.

"I completely excelled in my studies at SMU because the education I received at Collin prepared me for the university level, something I cannot say for my classmates who had been there from their freshmen year," Alexa told the crowd at the 2023 Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast, where she was a featured speaker. "If it weren't for the preparation I had during my time at Collin College, the relationships I built here, and the overall experience, I am not confident I would have the same story."







# FROM ADDIS ABABA TO AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER: MENTE BEZUNEH'S PATH THROUGH COLLIN COLLEGE

## MENTE BEZUNEH

**Mente Bezuneh's** journey from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to the U.S. is nothing short of inspirational. Driven by a passion for storytelling, he founded the award-winning video production company Mentopia and became the senior video production manager at Axxess Technology Solutions. The impact of his success is rooted in his education at Collin College.

In Addis Ababa, Mente's early fascination with visual storytelling – capturing random life clips with a camera and crafting narratives from the seemingly ordinary – fueled his filmmaking dreams.

"In 2016, I took the next step, and I left Ethiopia to pursue my passion professionally," Mente said.

He secured a position at Axxess Technology Solutions as a videographer, a move that marked the beginning of his journey toward turning his vision into a reality.

Mente's passion extended beyond his day job, dedicating evenings and weekends to self-improvement. Discovering Collin College's Video Production program, he promptly enrolled in Fall 2017 classes because he recognized the program's perfect alignment with his aspirations.

His journey through Collin College was marked by passion and camaraderie.

"Although I already had a background in video and editing, Collin College offered me a chance to interact with like-minded individuals and professionals," Mente said. "We watched movies and analyzed them, made our own movies, wrote scripts, and got better as a team."

After graduating from Collin College in December 2020 with an Associate of Applied Science in Video Production, Mente founded Mentopia, his own

video production company. The company rapidly achieved acclaim, winning The Knot's Best of Weddings and The Couples Choice Award three times in a row, turning Mente's vision into reality.

While simultaneously working at Axxess Technology Solutions, Mente's dedication and talent stood out. Starting as a videographer, he progressed to senior videographer and eventually became the senior video production manager.

"For me, I was discouraged from doing what I wanted to do, that I was never going to be good enough. But I knew this was my passion, and it didn't matter whether I made money or not; I was going to pursue it. Being at Collin gave me the knowledge, the friendships, and the confidence I needed to pursue my passion. And I can't put a price on that," he said.

In Fall 2021, Collin College opened its new IT Center which includes a state-of-the-art video production lab equipped with the latest technology. Though Mente had already graduated by then, he said it shows Collin College's continued investment in cutting-edge facilities to ensure that students gain hands-on experience that would otherwise come at a significant cost.

Through Collin College, Mente said he found the support and resources he needed to transform his dreams into reality, becoming a shining example of what can be achieved when people relentlessly follow their passions.

His journey stands as a testament to the boundless possibilities that await those who dare to dream.

As Mente wisely puts it, "Anything can be taught, but you need to have that passion."







# CONNECTED TO OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY

You may have visited one of Collin College's campuses for a career fair, the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast, or to vote at an official polling site, but your local college has a multitude of events and community offerings that are available throughout the year. The following are just a few highlights.

## Service Learning: Serving the Community

Many students at Collin College participate in Service Learning initiatives. Service Learning pairs classroom objectives with community interaction, allowing students to engage in experiential learning through community engagement and service. Research, critical reflection, and meaningful service are core components of the Service Learning program. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/servicelearning/](http://www.collin.edu/academics/servicelearning/).



## Health & Safety Fair

Located at the college's McKinney Campus, the annual community health and safety fair is open to the public and offers participants a range of wellness activities, screenings, and educational opportunities to learn about healthy living choices. The fair typically includes safety demonstrations and blood donations and offers glucose, spinal, blood pressure, and hearing screenings as well as body fat checks. Representatives from local healthcare providers, wellness facilities, and the college's health sciences programs are available to answer questions and provide services. For more information, contact [HSF@collin.edu](mailto:HSF@collin.edu).



Designed for participants ages 55 and older, Scholars Active in Learning (SAIL) is a group of lifelong learners who participate in organized study, discussion, and social events through Collin College. Founded in 1996, the SAIL community includes talented instructors, college professors, and business leaders with categorical expertise in a myriad of subject areas. Noncredit classes are offered in fall, spring, and summer terms. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/sail](http://www.collin.edu/sail).

## Continuing Education

Collin College Continuing Education offers noncredit training for adults taught by industry experts, from GED earners to lifelong learners. It offers more than 70 industry-recognized, noncredit certification preparation training courses and certificate series in areas including, but not limited to, information technology, management, administrative, finance, logistics, health sciences, education, creative, entrepreneurial, service, and hospitality career fields. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/ce/](http://www.collin.edu/ce/).



## Dental Hygiene Clinic

Community members can visit the college's dental hygiene clinic for free screenings or reduced-cost oral prophylaxis (teeth cleanings) or sealants. Founded in 1997, the clinic is located at the McKinney Campus. Call 972.548.6537 to schedule an appointment.



For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/dentalhygiene/](http://www.collin.edu/dentalhygiene/) and click on "dental hygiene clinic services."



### Seed Library

Housed at the Wylie Campus library, the seed library is a repository of seeds kept for the community at large. Heirloom flower, fruit, vegetable, herb, and spice seeds can be checked out for free and planted in home gardens. After seeds have matured, new seeds can be harvested from the plant. While it is not required, individuals are encouraged to return some of the harvested seeds to the seed library. For more information, visit [collin.libguides.com/seedlibrary](http://collin.libguides.com/seedlibrary).



### Auteur Film Series

Collin College's Auteur Film Series is free and open to the public. The series presents classic, foreign, and independent films with brief educational introductions and faculty-led panel discussions after the films. Designed to challenge the intellect and encourage conversations that engage students in civil discourse, this year's Auteur Film Series theme is "Nothing New Under the Sun: Remixes and Remakes." For specific film information, visit [www.collin.edu/academics/auteurfilms/](http://www.collin.edu/academics/auteurfilms/).



### Career Centers

Navigate your future with help from a Collin College Career Center. Students, alumni, and community members enjoy a one-stop shop, career-preparation experience. Employers can post jobs and reserve on-campus recruiting tables or interview rooms. From personalized career advising to job fairs and everything in between, Career Center staff are ready to assist you. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/studentresources/career](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/career).



A working educational lab and Associate of Applied Science degree capstone course for Collin

College's culinary arts students, The Red Room opens its doors to the public for lunch or dinner once a week throughout the spring semester. Enjoy a variety of delectable dishes prepared and served by students. To make a reservation, email [redroom@collin.edu](mailto:redroom@collin.edu).



### Fine Arts

In addition to a variety of free art exhibitions at the Bill and Anita Collins Art Gallery located at the Wylie Campus and The Art Gallery located at the Plano Campus, the college offers a host of free dance and music performances throughout the year. Also, live

theatre is performed at the John Anthony Theatre and Black Box Theatre, both located at the Plano Campus. For details about the college's fine arts, visit [www.collin.edu/finearts/#Events](http://www.collin.edu/finearts/#Events). For information about The Art Gallery, visit [www.collin.edu/department/artsgallery](http://www.collin.edu/department/artsgallery).



### Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance

Located on seven campuses across the district, the Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance's mission is to provide free learning support to students and community members in a welcoming environment of integrity, dignity, and creativity. By offering professional tutoring services and educational resources for improving key skills related to various content areas, the center strives to empower learners to become independent thinkers, poised for success in college and beyond. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/studentresources/tutoring/](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/tutoring/).





# CONNECTED TO OUR VIBRANT COMMUNITY



## ASL Lab

The American Sign Language (ASL) lab offers students unparalleled support through practice with interpreting skills and access to highly qualified professional interpreters. In addition, specialized practice

opportunities and limited instruction is available for community members. For more information, visit [www.collin.edu/department/asliep](http://www.collin.edu/department/asliep).

## Libraries

Collin College libraries hold much more than books. They are hubs for collaboration, innovation, and enrichment. Collin County residents aged 16 or older can apply for a library card and check out up to five items, including DVDs, audiobooks, and books. Community members and students can also browse newspapers and magazines in the library. Learn more at [www.collin.edu/library](http://www.collin.edu/library).



## Collin Small Business Development Center

The Collin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, the State of Texas, and Collin College. The SBDC offers no-cost, confidential, one-on-one business development strategy consulting for startups and growing businesses in Collin and Rockwall counties. Thousands of small business owners, entrepreneurs, and managers are advised by the Collin SBDC on a variety of topics essential to small business success. Businesses also have access to exclusive SBDC business research databases to learn industry, market, and competitor trends. To connect with the Collin SBDC, visit [www.CollinSBDC.com](http://www.CollinSBDC.com).

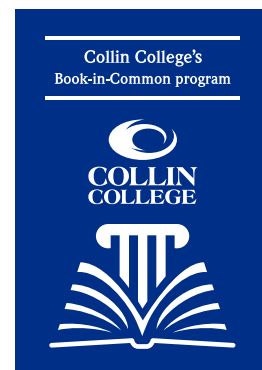
## Knowledge Is Power Lecture Series

Created in 2005, the Knowledge Is Power (KIP) lecture series is open to the public and held on the Frisco Campus. The series provides a forum where individuals can expand their knowledge of current issues and make informed decisions on

America's public policies. Topics range from literature and art in pop culture to space exploration. For more information, contact Dr. Sukanya Subramanian, professor of Biology, at [ssubramanian@collin.edu](mailto:ssubramanian@collin.edu).

## Book-in-Common

Created in 2006, the Book-in-Common program offers students and community members the opportunity to read and discuss the same book as a community-building exercise. The Book-in-Common program features books with broad curricular connectivity that are written by contemporary artists. Books are selected by a faculty committee, and participants can meet the authors when they visit the college at the culmination of the annual event. This year's selection is "Night of the Living Rez" by Morgan Talty. As a Native American writer from Maine and member of the Penobscot Nation, Talty's short story collection reveals life amidst the struggles of living on a modern-day reservation. Themes include race, gender, history, storytelling, social class, education, grief, survival, family, friendship, and addiction. This year's North Texas author is Collin College English professor Dr. LaToya Watkins, author of "Perish" and "Holler, Child." For more information, email Dr. Ryan Fletcher, professor of English and Book-in-Common district coordinator, at [rsfletcher@collin.edu](mailto:rsfletcher@collin.edu).



## The Dignity Initiative

The Dignity Initiative is a multiyear effort to educate the campus community about gender-based oppression and violence and to empower community members with specific actions to end gender-based oppression and violence. A variety of speakers and experts share information via presentations throughout the year. The initiative envisions a future in which everyone is treated with respect and honored as valuable members of cultures around the world. For details, visit [www.collin.edu/community/dignity/](http://www.collin.edu/community/dignity/).





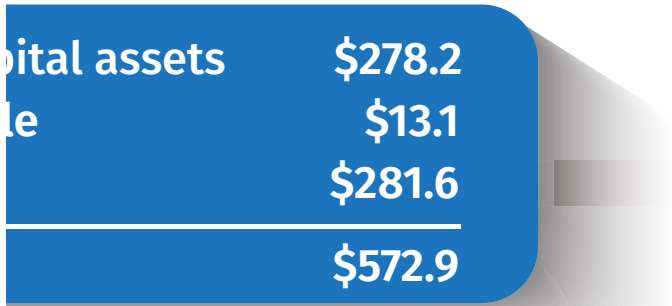


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**For the 26th time**, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded Collin College a certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

## Net Position

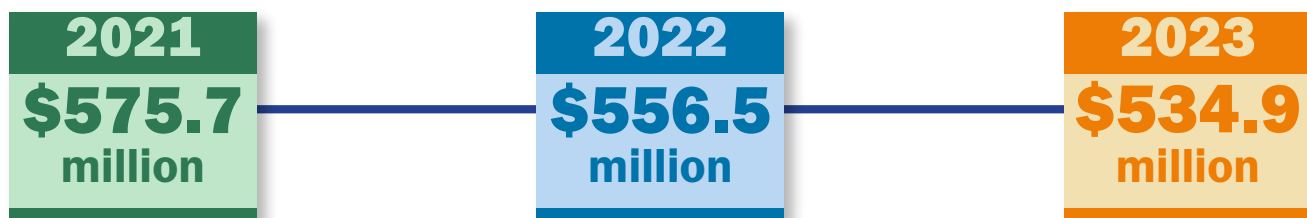
Even with the implementation of Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 68 (Net Pension Liability) in FY 2015 and GASB 75 (other post-employment benefits) in FY 2018, Collin College's net position has remained strong.



Amounts expressed in millions, audited data

## Total Outstanding Bond Debt

The taxpayers in Collin County approved a \$600 million bond referendum in 2017, allowing the college to fund the Facilities Master Plan. The district's long-range plan is to accommodate the projected population growth in Collin County over the next two decades.





## Collin College has the second lowest tax rate among Texas community colleges

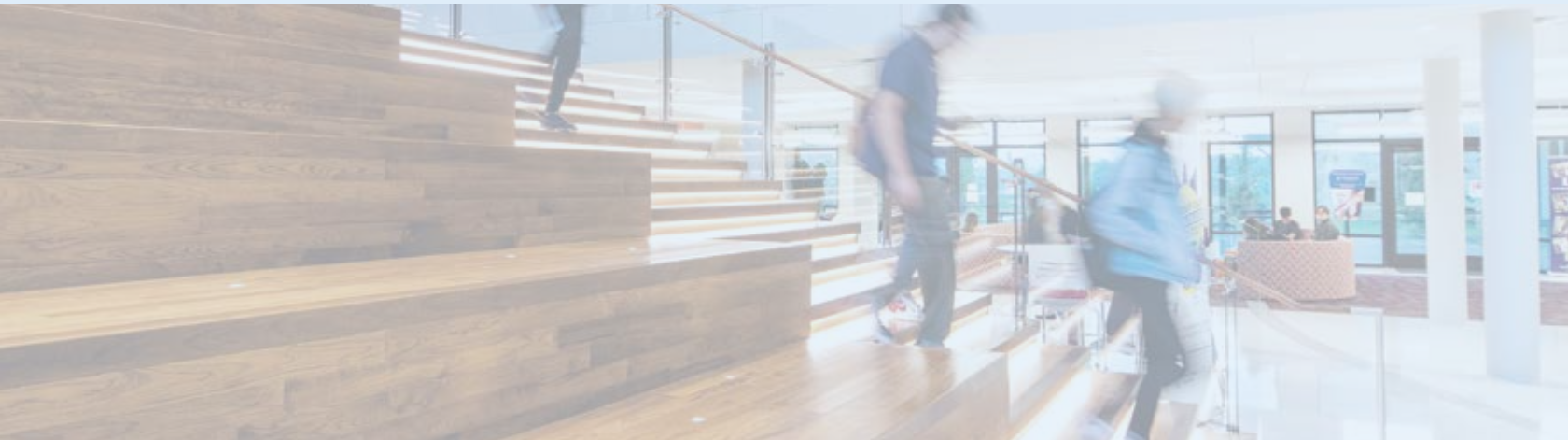
# TAX RATE IMPACT

ESTIMATED IMPACT TO HOMEOWNER	Tax Year 2022	Tax Year 2021	Change	% Change
Total Tax rate (per \$100 of value)	0.08122	0.081222	0	0
Average homestead taxable value	\$513,136	\$412,718	\$100,418	24.33%
Tax on average homestead	\$416.77	\$335.21	\$82	24.33%

Due to increased permanent local property tax exemptions approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2023, Collin College returned **more than \$9.1 million** to residential homeowners this fiscal year.

EXEMPTION TYPE	Tax Year 2022	Tax Year 2021
Over 65 or Disabled	\$30,000/\$20,000	\$30,000/\$20,000
Over 65 or Disabled Freeze	YES	YES
Homestead	1% (\$5,000 min)	1% (\$5,000 min)

Source: Certified Values TY 2022





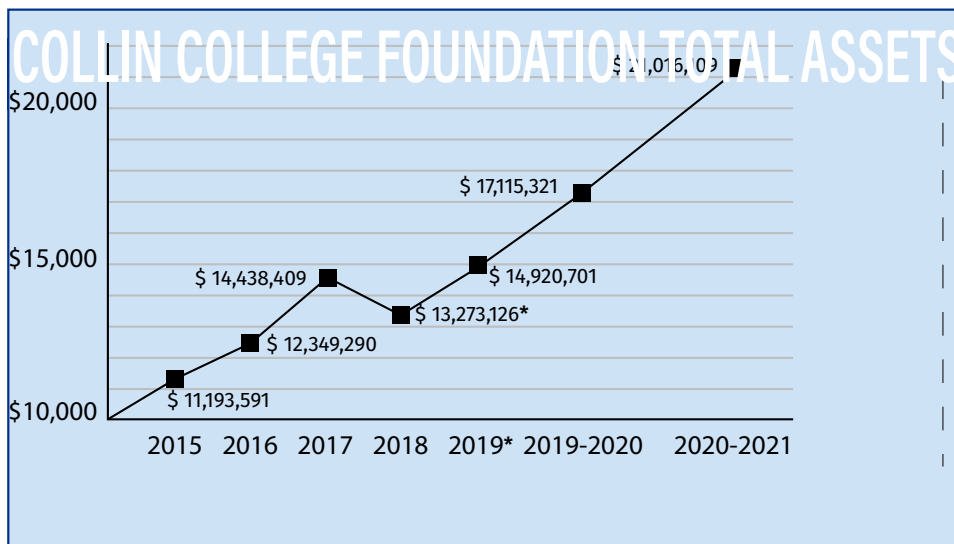
Founded on Sept. 23, 1987, the Collin College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to support and enhance Collin College through philanthropic support for student scholarships, critical capacity needs, and programs of excellence. The foundation's board of directors is proud to make college dreams come true for students through generous gifts from corporations, foundations, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and other donors.

Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than 12,000 scholarships and established more than 100 permanent scholarship endowments. In the 2022-2023

academic year, the foundation awarded \$1,360,071 in scholarships based on students' financial need, academic performance, and service to the community.

The foundation raised more than \$1.9 million in the 2022-2023 academic year thanks to the support of our communities and stakeholders, and also launched a new strategic plan to focus on scholarships, alumni, endowed gifts, board engagement, and community awareness.

The following chart tracks the growth of the foundation and increased support for student success and degree completion.



\*Tracking method changed to academic year reporting

## THE COLLIN COLLEGE FOUNDATION

- Raised more than **\$1.9 million** in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Awarded more than **\$1.37 million** in scholarships in 2022-2023 based on financial need, academic performance, and service to the community.
- Funded **16,000** credit hours for Collin College students on scholarships in 2022-2023.
- For just **\$1,500**, anyone can make a tax-deductible gift of a full scholarship for a student in need. Visit [collin.edu/foundation/give](http://collin.edu/foundation/give) for details.
- Reached endowments and investments nearing **\$21 million**, up from \$12.9 million seven years ago.
- Has more than 550,000 members of The Pride, the college's official alumni network of former students and graduates. It is called The Pride because alumni are the college's greatest source of pride.





# SERVICE



**CELINA CAMPUS**  
2505 Kinship Pkwy.  
Celina, Texas 75009



**FARMERSVILLE CAMPUS**  
501 S. Collin Pkwy.  
Farmersville, Texas 75442



**FRISCO CAMPUS**  
9700 Wade Blvd.  
Frisco, Texas 75035



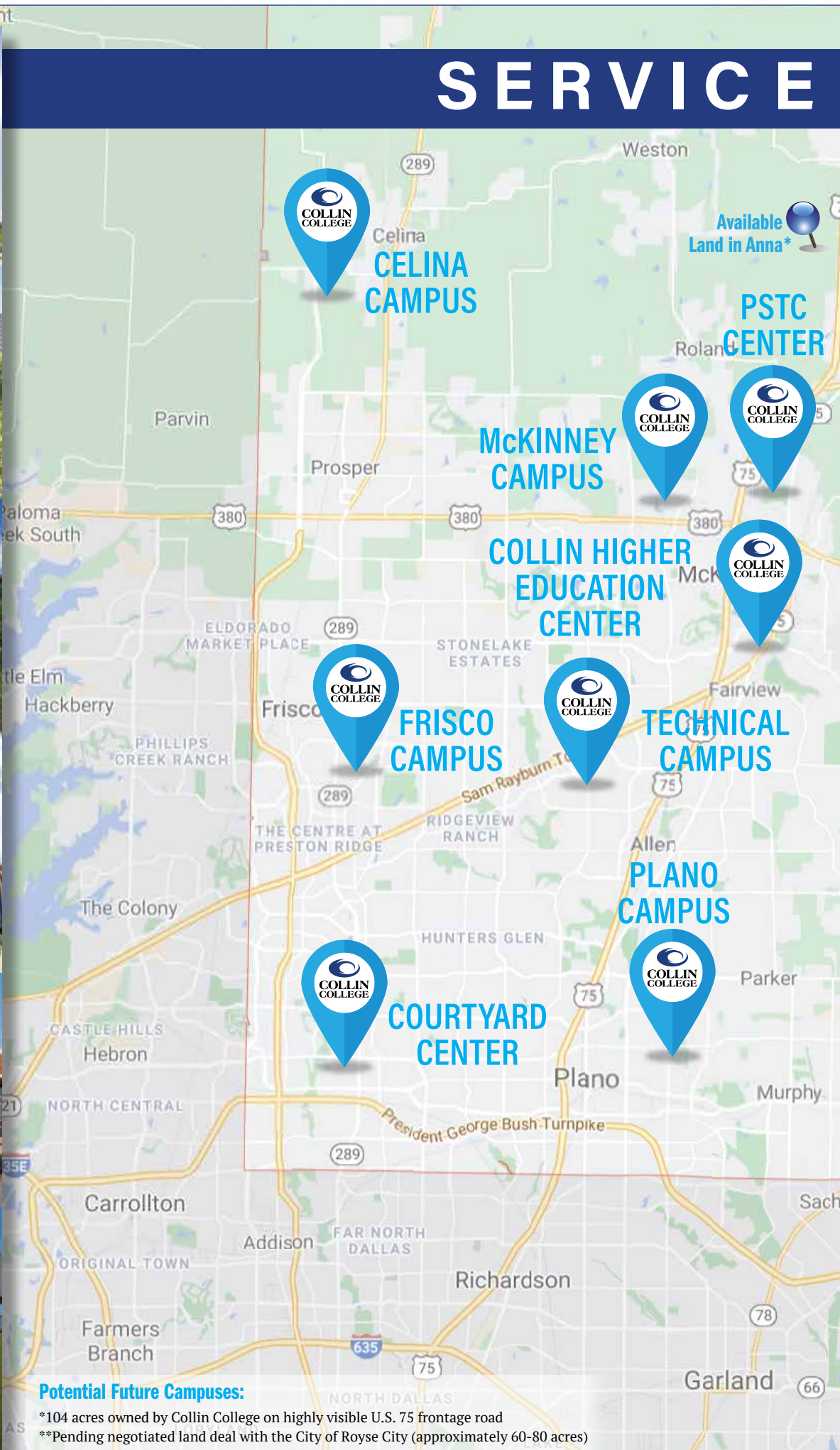
**MCKINNEY CAMPUS**  
2200 W. University Dr.  
McKinney, Texas 75071



**PLANO CAMPUS**  
2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy.  
Plano, Texas 75074

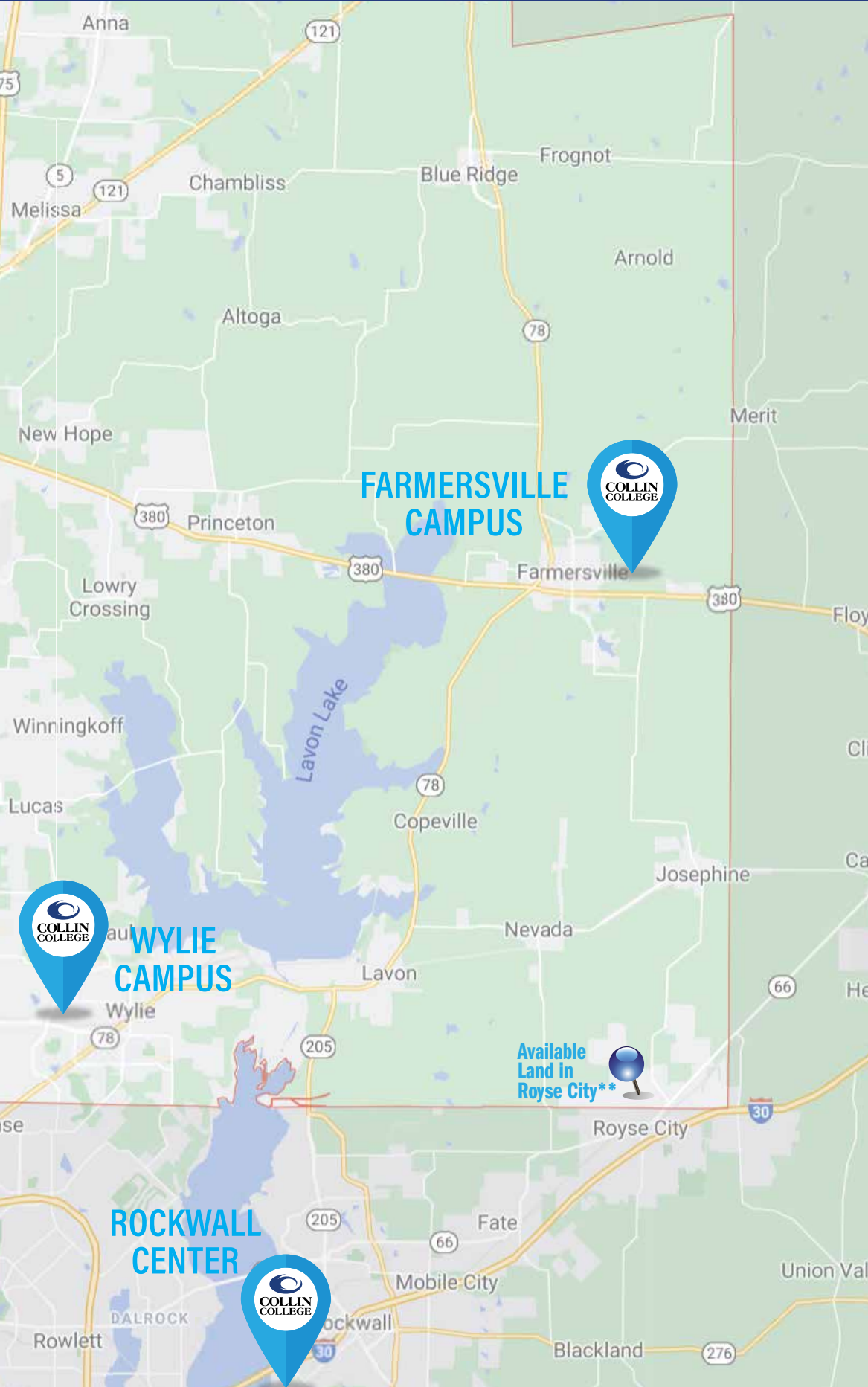


**TECHNICAL CAMPUS**  
2550 Bending Branch Way  
Allen, Texas 75013





# AREA MAP



**WYLIE CAMPUS**  
391 Country Club Rd.  
Wylie, Texas 75098



**COLLIN HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER**  
3452 Spur 399  
McKinney, Texas 75069



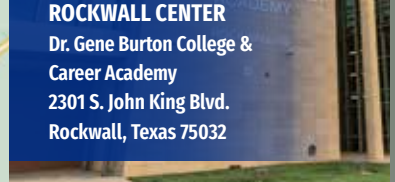
**COURTYARD CENTER**  
4800 Preston Park Blvd.  
Plano, Texas 75093



**PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING CENTER**  
3600 Redbud Blvd.  
McKinney, Texas 75071



**ROCKWALL CENTER**  
Dr. Gene Burton College &  
Career Academy  
2301 S. John King Blvd.  
Rockwall, Texas 75032



**iCOLLIN VIRTUAL CAMPUS**  
(administrative offices)  
3452 Spur 399  
McKinney, Texas 75069



# 2022

Collin College is a student- and community-centered institution committed to developing valuable skills, strengthening character, and challenging the intellect.



# 2023



*Collin College is an equal opportunity institution and provides educational and employment opportunities without discrimination on any basis protected by applicable law.*