



News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department ■ January 2023

A new year and the start of a new semester have arrived! See what's happening at Collin College.

1. Annual Power Leadership Breakfast celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Legacy

- For the first time in two years the annual **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Power Leadership Breakfast** returned to Collin College's Plano Campus Living Legends Conference Center on **Jan. 14**.
- This year's breakfast theme was "**Recharge, Reset, Renew Dr. King's Way.**" The breakfast included presentations and student performances sharing Dr. King's message, along with a panel of respected community leaders discussing how everyone can move that message forward.
- A business and information expo took place immediately following the breakfast.
- For those who were not able to attend the event, a livestream of the event is at www.facebook.com/collincollege.



2. Collin College partners with Rice University's OpenStax Initiative



- Collin College is now part of the **Institutional Partner Program** for **Rice University's** educational technology initiative, **OpenStax**.
- The free program provides higher education institutions with **open educational resources (OER)** to support their mission of improving educational access and learning for everyone.
- **OpenStax** is an online tool that publishes high-quality, peer-reviewed, openly licensed college textbooks that are completely free for students of institutional partners.
- Along with textbooks, they've developed low-cost, researched-based courseware that gives students educational tools such as lecture slides, secure test banks, and other support materials to be successful in the classroom.

3. ESL celebration marks student triumphs

- Collin College's **English as a Second Language (ESL)** program applauded the accomplishments of its students at a special celebration of achievement event recently.
- Students of all ages and experiences shared stories of their ESL journeys and their hopes for the future with their new language skills.
- In **Fall 2022**, the ESL program at Collin welcomed **125 students** from **15 countries** whose ages ranged from **17 to 59**.
- Mark Fischer, associate dean of academic affairs and workforce at the Plano Campus, said the students in the ESL program come from varied backgrounds, but they should all be commended on their work. The **ESL Celebration of Achievement** was started a few years ago to do just that.



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4. Collin College announces new administrative appointments

- Collin College recently announced the following leadership appointments: **Dr. Bill King** as the new **executive vice president**, **Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis** as the new **chief human resources officer**, **Dr. Brenden Mesch** as the new **provost** of the **Technical Campus**, and **Dr. Sarah Lee** as the **founding provost** of the **iCollin Virtual Campus**.
- These new appointments were effective as of **Jan. 9**.



Dr. Bill King



Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis



Dr. Brenden Mesch



Dr. Sarah Lee

5. Celina tree farm donates hundreds of trees to Collin College

- Collin College received a donation of **600 trees and plants** from **Chambersville Tree Farms** in Celina.
- The local business, owned by **Dean** and **Carol Oswald**, closed its doors last month. The remaining inventory comprised this donation which will be distributed to campuses across the district.
- The **18-year-old business** was a staple in North Texas, specializing in trees, shrubs, and plants native to the region.
- After the decision to sell the more than 250 acres of land where Chambersville Farms stood, the Oswalds began the process of delivering trees to Collin College's Wylie Campus where they will be cared for until planting begins.

