



News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department • June 2023

As summer classes continue, Collin College has some exciting positive updates to share.

1. Collin College students selected for All-Texas Academic team



Top to bottom (descending): Charlene Sunde, Yerassyl Dauletbaq, Gabriella Cisneros, and Rodrigue Kammagne Choula.

- Six Collin College students have been named to the **All-Texas Academic Team**. Sponsored by the **Texas Association of Community Colleges** and **The University of Texas System**, the All-Texas Academic Team recognizes students based on academic achievement and school and community involvement.
- Award winners are nominated by their institution and selected by **Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)**, an international honor society for two-year colleges. This year, there were only 187 honorees total from the 50 community college districts in the state.

- The six Collin College students chosen for the All-Texas Academic Team are: **Jonathan Hernandez, Jonah Weiler, Rodrigue Kammagne Choula, Charlene Sunde, Gabriella Cisneros, and Yerassyl Dauletbaq.**
- Each student received an All-Texas Academic Team medallion for their selection, and the students were honored at the Collin College Board of Trustees meeting in May.

2. Two Collin basketball players selected for NJCAA All-Star Weekend Event

- Collin College basketball players **Waiata Jennings** and **Mackenzie Buss** have been selected to participate in the **15th Annual National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Women’s Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Weekend** in Atlanta, Georgia, on **July 20-23.**
- The All-Star Weekend features the **top 40 NJCAA women’s basketball players** in the nation and will include an all-star game. Clayton State University in Atlanta hosts the college hoops experience. It is the only NJCAA-certified event for women’s basketball.



Waiata Jennings



Mackenzie Buss

- Buss and Jennings were part of the 2022-2023 Collin College Lady Cougars team that recorded an overall record of 29-3, setting a new mark for most wins at the college. The team also earned the college’s first-ever at-large invitation to the NJCAA National Basketball Tournament.



continued

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3. Collin College's student and enrollment services record 128 percent increase in virtual advising

- Collin College's Student and Enrollment Services (SES) has reported a districtwide increase of **128.44 percent** in **virtual advising** for the **2022-2023 academic year** compared to **2021-2022**.
- SES introduced a new virtual advising system after initially offering advising via Zoom, a virtual meeting platform.
- With this new platform, named **Virtual Advising**, students can access advising online with improved technology without any external software downloads. The system connects students and advisors via audio and video with fewer dropped calls. This improves efficiency throughout SES with faster service, more availability, and accurate live updates for students waiting in the advising queue.
- The success of the system earned Collin College an invitation to the upcoming **EDUCASE 2023 Conference** hosted by **Moderro Technologies'** parent company, **Cisco**.



4. McCarthy donates \$75K to sponsor construction safety lab and scholarships for Collin College Technical Campus



- In support of Collin College's efforts to educate next generation workers, **McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.** announced in May the company's **five-year, \$75,000 sponsorship** of the **construction safety lab** at the **Technical Campus**.
- As part of its sponsorship, McCarthy receives naming rights of the lab. **The McCarthy Safety Lab** will offer hands-on educational opportunities to students in the **construction management program**.
- The lab will serve to build a pipeline of talent for the construction industry and offer construction safety students real-world learning opportunities. McCarthy, who has been integral in the program's development, will provide guest lectures and demonstrations at the lab.
- McCarthy's gift will support the recruiting of students nationwide and yearly scholarships via the **Construction Management Excellence Fund**.
- McCarthy built the Technical Campus, which opened in **Fall 2020** and specializes in high-demand technical workforce education.



Collin College and McCarthy Building Companies come together to commemorate the dedication of the new Construction Safety Lab at the Technical Campus, marked by McCarthy's generous \$75,000 naming rights gift.

For more information on these stories and more, go to www.collincollegenews.com.

