



# News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department • February 2024

Love is in the air at Collin College, where new partnerships, recognitions, and sports are blooming! Keep reading to discover the exciting developments taking place at our college.

## 1. Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College: Quality Education, Major Cost Savings

- Texas A&M University and Collin College announced the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College on Feb. 14 at the Technical Campus located in Allen.



Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp and members of his leadership team joined Collin College Trustees and District President Dr. Neil Matkin for the ceremonial launch of the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College.

- This innovative, co-enrollment program addresses the state’s growing need for engineers.
- Qualified students are admitted to the Texas A&M College of Engineering and complete up to their first two years of coursework at Collin College, where Texas A&M faculty will teach the engineering courses. Students then transition to Texas A&M to complete their degrees.
- The first cohort of students at Collin College will start the program in **Fall 2024**.

## 2. Collin College Cybersecurity Program honored with 2023 Academic Awards from EC-Council

- The Collin College Cybersecurity program was honored with the **2023 “Academia Circle of Excellence”** and the **“Academic Instructor Circle of Excellence”** awards by the EC-Council.
- As an internationally acclaimed cybersecurity technical certification body, the EC-Council annually honors outstanding achievements in cybersecurity training and education across global academic communities.
- The 2023 “Academia Circle of Excellence” award, highly valued by the EC-Council and cybersecurity community, is awarded to only five recipients in North America annually. Criteria include commitment to cybersecurity education, student feedback, engagement, certification attempts, student volume, and program development.



Dr. James Freedle

- The 2023 “Academic Instructor Circle of Excellence” was awarded to Cybersecurity professor **Dr. James Freedle**, recognizing his profound impact on teaching, instructional assessment, student experiences, leadership, and engagement with the cybersecurity community.
- Collin College has been a frequent award recipient of the EC-Council, previously honored with distinctions such as **“Innovator of the Year”** and the **“Instructor of the Year.”**



continued

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### 3. NJCAA approves Collin College plan to offer golf, esports, volleyball teams

- Collin College will expand its athletics offerings over the next two years to include **golf, esports, and volleyball**.
- The request to add the new team sports has been approved by the **National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA)**, the governing body for two-year college sports.
- In January, the Collin College Board of Trustees voted to add **men's and women's golf and esports** for the **2024-25 season**. **Women's volleyball** will follow in **2025-26**.
- Collin College competes at **Division I** level of junior college sports in basketball and tennis. The golf and volleyball teams will also compete at the DI level.

### 4. Collin College Law Enforcement Academy Director selected for international police advisory board



Scott Donaldson

- **Scott Donaldson**, director and chief administrator of **Collin College Law Enforcement Academy**, has been selected to serve on the **International Police Academy Advisory Board (IPAAB)** for the **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)**.
- As a board member, Donaldson will collaborate with law enforcement partners to enhance global policing standards, benefiting our training programs and beyond.
- This role fosters professional growth in curriculum design, adult learning methods, international opportunities, and academy management. The board is comprised of a diverse group of world specialists.
- Donaldson stated that his board selection would enable Collin College Law Enforcement Academy to develop and implement strategies to become a national and international exemplar in program and student outcomes.



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