



# News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department • June 2024

The summer semester has begun and here is the latest news from Collin College.

## 1. Collin College Academic Alliance: New Degrees Coming to Collin County in Fall 2024

- Texas State University, The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), and Collin College have altered the look and feel of higher education with an innovative opportunity – the Collin College Academic Alliance.



## Academic Alliance

TEXAS STATE

UTD THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

- Students will soon be able to reap the benefits of this collaboration as they take Collin College and university classes.
- Alliance students will have an opportunity to earn an associate degree, transfer to earn a **bachelor's degree\***, and **save thousands of dollars**.



- Degrees offered with Texas State are **Bachelor of Science (BS) in Electrical Engineering**, **BS in Engineering Technology**, **BS in Computer Science**, and **Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science**.\*
- Degrees offered at UTD are **Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems & Technology** and a **BS in Business Analytics**.\*
- Students will have access to a central academic advisement office, career services, counseling, disability services, and enrollment services.

\*Pending approvals from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

## 2. Student Photography Featured in *Dallas Observer*



Photo by Jack Warren

- The **Dallas Observer** highlighted the food photography talents of Collin College student **Jack Warren** and alumna **Samantha Reynolds**.

- Warren, a commercial photography student, is building a strong food portfolio thanks to his **illustrative photography class**.
- Similarly, Reynolds honed her skills in the same class while at Collin and is now a successful Dallas-based food photographer, working with restaurants like Knife Italian across DFW.



Samantha Reynolds

- Read the article here: [www.dallasobserver.com/restaurants/how-dallas-food-photographers-capture-flavor-19398455](http://www.dallasobserver.com/restaurants/how-dallas-food-photographers-capture-flavor-19398455)



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### 3. Dream Realized: Collin College Alumnus Creates Wildlife Sanctuary



- **Collin College alumnus Simon McNeny** and his wife, Lindsay, are co-founders of **Window to the Wild**, a nonprofit wildlife education company in Texas.
- Their mission is to rescue birds, educate the community, and promote wildlife conservation. They have rescued **48 birds** and provided approximately **1,500 educational programs**.
- The couple has a three-acre property with more than 60 animals. Window to the Wild is a 501(c)(3) nonorganization.
- They partner with local rehabilitation centers and zoos to rehome birds.

### 4. Apprenticeship Programs Provide Credential Pathways for Collin students

- Collin College offers an apprenticeship program to help students earn a **Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential**.
- Bailey Swinney is the first graduate of this program, and she works at The Goddard School for Early Childhood Development.
- Apprentices benefit from working in the field while they complete online coursework outside of work hours. Mentors are available to guide apprentices.
- Collin College also offers an apprenticeship program in **Electronic Engineering Technology**.



(Pictured from left) Awards and Grants Coordinator Angelia Turquette, Apprenticeship and Employer Engagement Manager Jewel Coats, Mentor Morgan Winnubst, Apprentice Bailey Swinney, and Early Childhood Educator Lead Ann Butler.

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