



News & Notes

An update from the Communications Department • August 2024

Collin College is doing great things for its students and the community. Let's talk about a few.



Pictured cutting a ceremonial ribbon for the partnership are (from left) Collin College Board of Trustees Chair Andrew Hardin, Texas State University (TXST) System Chancellor Dr. Brian McCall, Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin, The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) President Dr. Richard Benson, TXST President Dr. Kelly Damphousse, and UT Dallas Provost Dr. Inga Musselman.

1. Collin College held a flag raising, ribbon cutting, and open house event launching the new Collin College Academic Alliance

- Representatives from **Texas State University**, **The University of Texas at Dallas**, and **Collin College** celebrated the start of an innovative partnership with a ribbon cutting and an open house on Aug. 12.
- Academic Alliance classes will officially begin in Spring 2025. Alliance students will have an opportunity to earn an associate degree, transfer to earn a **bachelor's degree**,* and **save thousands of dollars**. 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. Annual Collin College Art Faculty Exhibition is now on display at The Art Gallery

- This annual exhibition features artworks by art professors in the Fine Arts Division of Collin College.
- The show is a unique opportunity for students to learn about art courses offered at Collin, and for the public to view what the professors create in their own studios.

3. Collin College Professional and Continuing Education launches MyLearning

- Students can easily explore and enroll in non-credit classes.
- Visit www.collin.edu/ce to find classes and register.



4. New \$2.1 million grant expands adult education and literacy offerings

- Collin College has been awarded a **\$2.1 million** grant annually for the next two years from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to **expand adult education and literacy programs** across Collin and Rockwall counties.
- The grant will provide a variety of free services to adults including: literacy/education, workforce preparation and training, English as a Second Language (ESL) preparation and civics instruction, high school equivalency preparation, and career advancement services.
- The grant will also allow Collin College to launch a new training program specifically designed for justice-involved individuals at the Collin County Jail. This program aims to equip participants with the skills and knowledge they need to re-enter the workforce upon release.
- Collin College plans to **serve more than 1,500 unique students** through the grant in the coming year.

continued

News & Notes – August 2024

5. National Science Foundation grant funds robotic welding curriculum

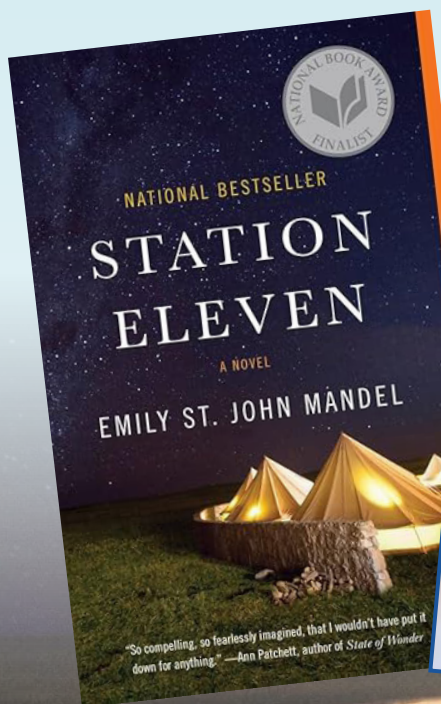


- Collin College has been awarded a three-year **\$446,852 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant** from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** to develop a robotic welding curriculum at the college's Technical Campus.
 - The NSF ATE grant will fund specialized faculty training and equipment purchases.
 - Other grant objectives include providing students with the opportunity to attain industry-recognized certifications and cooperation with industry experts who will review curriculum development and student projects to ensure alignment with industry needs.
- Professors Landon LaRocque and Cesar Lopez Maldonado, the primary investigators for the grant, believe the **new curriculum is key to supplying welding technicians with training** that meets tomorrow's manufacturing needs as companies shift toward greater automation.

6. The 2024-25 Book-in-Common book is *Station Eleven*

- **Book-in-Common** is a yearlong program in which students, employees, and the community are encouraged to read the same book and discuss its themes.
- ***Station Eleven*** is a dystopian novel going back and forth in time as a flu epidemic takes its toll on civilization. The novel discusses themes of art, culture, survival, relationships, health, and memory.

- ***Station Eleven*** was a finalist for the **National Book Award** and the PEN/Faulkner Award and won the 2015 Arthur C. Clarke Award and the Toronto Book Award.
- **Author Emily St. John Mandel** will visit Collin College from **March 25-26** as a part of the Book-in-Common lecture series.



Emily St. John Mandel