



News & Notes

October 2025

As we wait for the fall weather to settle in, here are some cool updates from Collin College to keep you in the know.

1. *D* CEO Magazine Names Collin College's Monica Velazquez as Winner for 2025 Corporate Counsel Awards

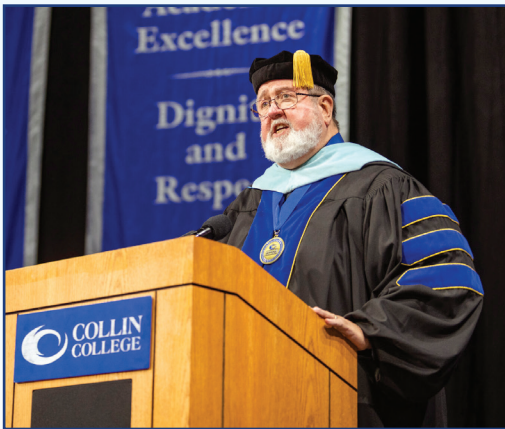
- *D* CEO, part of the monthly business magazine *D Magazine*, has named Monica Velazquez as the winner for the **General Counsel (solo)** category in this year's Corporate Counsel Awards.
- Out of 41 finalists, five in this category, Velazquez was revealed as the **winner at the 2025 Corporate Counsel Awards** exclusive ceremony held in late September.



- Now in its 16th year, the program recognizes the **best and brightest legal minds in the North Texas region** for their professional achievements and their impact on their communities.
- Velazquez has served as Collin College's **general counsel since 2019**. To view details on the distinct recognitions, visit www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-ceo/2025/september-october/winners-announced-d-ceos-2025-corporate-counsel-awards.



2. *Local Profile* Features District President Dr. Neil Matkin



- ***Local Profile***, a North Texas online news and magazine outlet, has published an article featuring Dr. Matkin titled "**A Decade Of Vision And Growth: Collin College President Dr. Neil Matkin Reflects On Putting Students First.**"
- The feature explores Dr. Matkin's leadership at Collin College while providing insight into exciting program offerings, the college's significant growth, and future plans in the works.
- To read the **full story**, visit www.localprofile.com/community/vision-and-growth-collin-college-president-dr-neil-matkin-reflects-on-putting-students-first-11309560.



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3. Collin College Participates in AVTECC Accreditation Program

- Collin College is one of four institutions in the nation participating in the **Advanced Vehicle Technology Education and Credentialing Coalition (AVTECC)** accreditation program.



- The performance-based, industry-recognized skills assessments will be applied to Collin College's **Automotive Technology** program curriculum.
- The assessments will be included in the **AVTECC certifications**, which will validate real-world skills in all areas of the automobile, emphasizing advanced technologies such as electric vehicle systems, advanced diagnostics, and advanced driver assistance systems.

4. Collin College Introduces New CollinWrites Series

- The **Collin College Frisco Campus** invites writers of all levels to join in on fun activities designed to spark creativity during the CollinWrites series held through Nov. 13.
- The new initiative, hosted by the Frisco Campus Writing Center and Library, encourages **creative writing** by building connections and community while providing tools and support to help writers explore their voices and pursue their writing goals.
- CollinWrites will host **fantasy author** and **game writer Kij Johnson** as keynote speaker to conclude the series on Nov. 13.
- View more event details at www.collin.edu/news/2025/10/collinwrites25.



For additional information on these stories and more, visit www.collin.edu/news.



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Dates to Know:

McKinney Chamber
State of the City

▼
Nov. 6



National First-Generation
Student Day

▼
Nov. 7



Collin College
Thanksgiving Break

▼
**All Campuses Closed
Nov. 26-30**



Dr. Bob Collins (right), Board of Trustees secretary, is presented with the Cox-McCall Founders Award by Collin County Judge Chris Hill (left) at the Committee of 100 Reception on Oct. 28.



Board Events:

**All Services Military
Appreciation Ball**

Saturday, Nov. 15
5:30-9:30 p.m. at the McKinney Campus
Conference Center



Trustee Highlights:

Trustees Cathie Alexander and Justin Adcock attend Paramedic Class 48 Graduation on Oct. 8.



Dr. Neil Matkin (left) presents the Innovation Excellence Award to Dr. Lori Rapp (right), Superintendent of Lewisville ISD.



Trustee Staci Weaver attends the Committee of 100 Reception.



Dr. Raj Menon (left), Board of Trustees vice chair, presents Troy Skidmore (right), head of human resources at Encore Wire, with the Community Champions Award at the Committee of 100 Reception.

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Congratulations

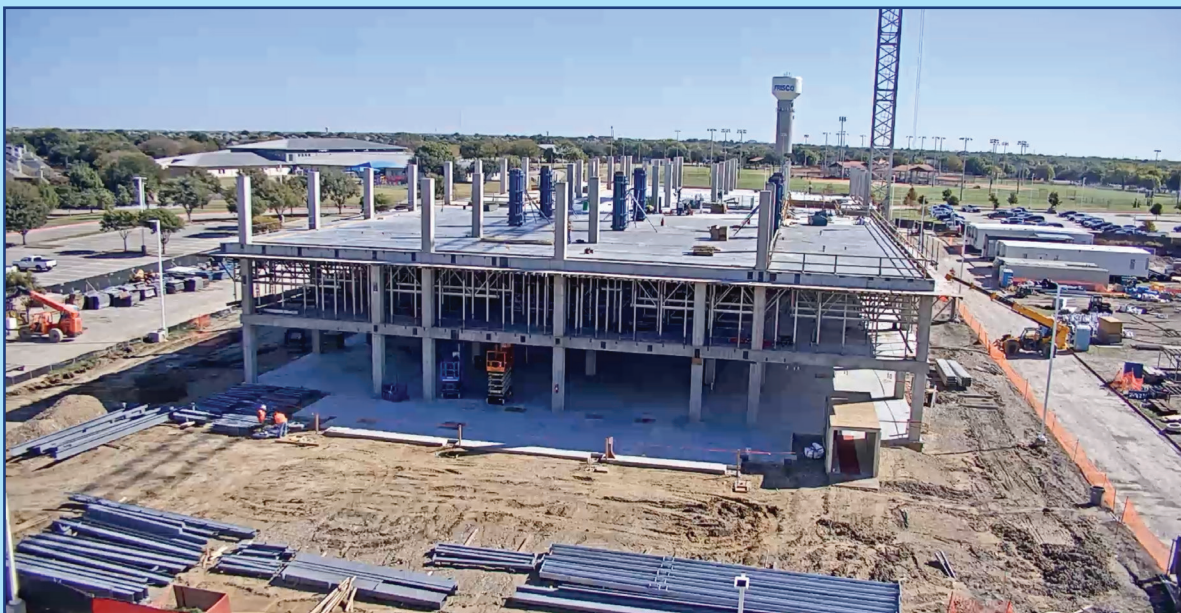


Chief Human Resources Officer
Allison Venuto

Welcome



Chief Innovation Officer
Todd Horkman



The **Frisco Campus** is getting a new **Health Sciences Center building**, and you can follow the progress. Watch live as the building takes shape.

Track the progress through the construction live feed at <http://oxblue.com/pro/videoRedirect.php?videoCamID=48c17e68846e4b1d809860541914c72c> and visit the Frisco Campus page at www.collin.edu/campuses/frisco for more information on the campus.