



Building out the Master Plan: Trustees call for bond election



Table Discussions
Q&A



Guided by input from the Collin College Committee of 100, the Collin College Board of Trustees called a bond election for Tuesday, Nov. 3 to facilitate the final phases of the college's master plan known as Destination 2030. The committee, co-chaired by community leaders **McKinney Mayor Bill Cox** and **Jenny McCall**, is named after the original group who were instrumental in forming the college more than four decades ago. With Phase I projects of the master plan nearly complete, the Board approved a \$600

million bond referendum on Aug. 7 to fund the completion of Phase II and Phase III projects. Next, Collin County voters will weigh in through a ballot referendum during the general election in November.

"In 2017, Collin County voters approved a bond program to fund the construction and expansion of campuses across the district, including projects focused on workforce education," **District President Dr. Neil Matkin** said. "Since that time, the college has completed all of those projects, expanding instructional capacity, workforce education programs, and access to higher education in communities throughout Collin County."

Since the passage of the 2017 bond, Collin College built four new campuses and developed nearly 100 new programs, including five bachelor's

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PHASE	PROJECTS	STATUS
	Districtwide Security Enhancements	COMPLETED
	Courtyard Center Workforce Expansion & Collin Higher Education Center Security Updates and Enhancements	COMPLETED
	Plano Campus Renovations & Workforce Expansion	Scheduled for completion in September 2026
	NEW Frisco Campus Health Sciences Center	Scheduled for completion in January 2027
	NEW Wylie Campus Workforce Building	Scheduled for completion in August 2027

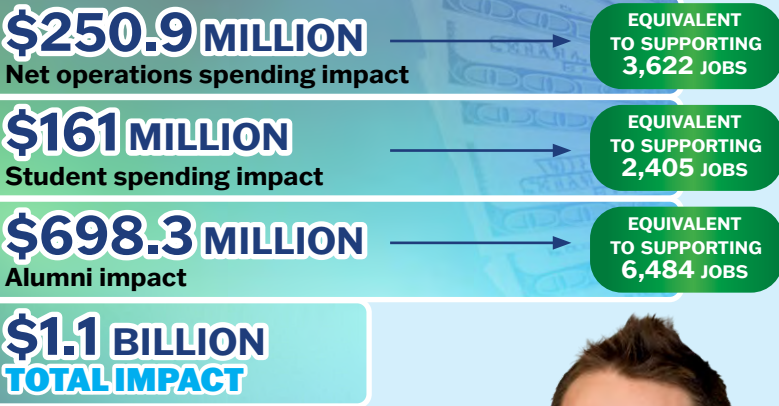
By the numbers: Collin College powers prosperity

Founded in 1985, Collin College has been creating partnerships and serving the community for 41 years. Thousands of students, whose lives have been transformed, have shared their stories over the years. But quantitatively, what is the college's impact on its communities?

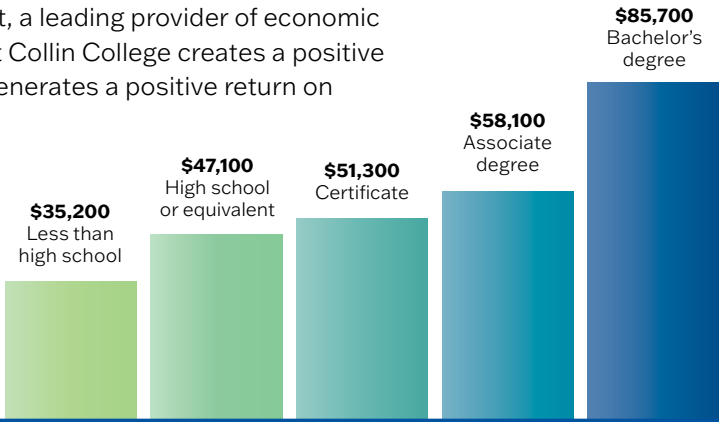
The college's total added income for the Collin County economy doubled over a 10-year span. A recent report, reflecting fiscal year 2023-24 data, revealed that operations and student spending of Collin College, together with the enhanced productivity of its alumni, generated **\$1.1 billion** in added income for the Collin County economy. This translates to supporting more than **12,500 jobs** annually.

The results of the study created by Lightcast, a leading provider of economic impact studies and labor market data, show that Collin College creates a positive net impact on the Collin County economy and generates a positive return on investment for students, taxpayers, and society. Highlights of the study are depicted here.

Added income created by Collin College in Fiscal Year 2023-24



Average county earnings by education level at a Collin College student's career midpoint



Creating a Collin County college:

Visionary leader retires

When **Dr. J. Robert Collins** joined the inaugural Collin College Board of Trustees in 1985, he was motivated by a desire to continue serving the community he loved. After completing terms on the Plano City Council and the Collin Central Appraisal District board in the 1980s, he joined the college's Board which led to more than four decades of service to Collin College. From the beginning, Dr. Collins had a clear vision for what the new institution should become.

"We didn't want to be a Plano college or a McKinney college," he said. "We wanted to be a Collin County college. We were not trying to become the best college in the county. We wanted to be the best college in the nation."

That philosophy shaped many of the Board's decisions. Rather than concentrating growth in one city, the college acquired property throughout the county and planned for future expansion. Dr. Collins is proud of that foresight and the fact that the college is now home to five baccalaureate degrees, all offered at the college's low tuition rates. One of Dr. Collins' favorite memories is the college's first commencement ceremony at the McKinney Campus where 13 students graduated.

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Dr. J. Robert Collins

UNT OnePath
THROUGH COLLIN COLLEGE

Co-enrollment program offers a new pathway to success

Starting Fall 2026, students can earn their associate degrees at Collin College while simultaneously starting their bachelor's degrees at the University of North Texas (UNT).

The two institutions have partnered to launch **UNT OnePath through Collin College**, a new pathway that will allow qualified students to earn their associate and bachelor's degrees in business or biology in Frisco at a fraction of the cost of attending a four-year university.

Students in OnePath will be co-enrolled at both institutions, following a structured degree plan that aligns coursework and student support services. They can choose from two new pathways to pursue associate degrees aligned with UNT's business or biology bachelor's degrees.

Through the business pathway, students can take courses online or on the UNT at Frisco campus where Collin College will offer select business classes. The biology and health professions pathway allows students to complete foundational coursework at any Collin College campus before transitioning to UNT classes which will be taught at the Collin College Frisco Campus.

"As this partnership grows, it will create more opportunities for students to move seamlessly through shared coursework as they work toward UNT degrees," said **Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president**. "This partnership combines the strengths of both institutions in a single, coordinated pathway."

Co-enrolled students will have access to academic support, career services, and campus resources across both institutions while progressing toward bachelor's degrees at UNT.

"Every qualified student who commits to learning with us deserves a clear path forward — and this partnership makes that possible from day one," said **Dr. Harrison Keller, UNT president**. "This is exactly what it looks like when institutions work together to create enduring value for the public good."

The co-enrollment model simplifies the transition from associate to bachelor's degree, reducing transfer barriers and expanding access to in-demand programs that support workforce needs in Collin County and across the North Texas region. The program will significantly benefit students like **Miranda Ames**, who plans to enroll in the OnePath program this fall and pursue the business pathway.

"As a student balancing a career, a nonprofit, and a family, uncertainty is the biggest hurdle," she said. "OnePath replaces 'what if' with a roadmap, allowing me to progress toward a bachelor's degree at UNT with total confidence. Whether someone is a nontraditional student like me or younger, that kind of support can make a huge difference."

For more information about OnePath, visit www.collin.edu/academics/onepath.

STRONGER TOGETHER: Collin College and UNT

UNT continues to be a valued partner in helping Collin College strengthen educational opportunities across North Texas.

The Scholars for Teaching Excellence Program (STEP) marks the second major program offered through the institutions' partnership, building on a shared commitment to student success and workforce development.



Through STEP, also launching this fall, eligible instructors from partnering ISDs can earn a master's degree from UNT at no cost, funded by Collin College. The program supports teacher retention, professional growth, and instructional excellence while helping address regional educator shortages and expanding pathways for future faculty and educational leaders. To learn more about this opportunity, visit www.collin.edu/dual-credit/scholars-for-teaching-excellence.

Texas House Bill 8 reshapes funding for community colleges



Three years ago, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 8 (HB 8), providing a new way to advance higher education and support workforce needs. Signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2023, the bill is a transformative piece of education legislation that reforms the community college funding model, shifting the state’s approach toward an outcomes-based formula designed to reward student success and workforce alignment. Here are a few highlights about HB 8, including how it has reshaped funding for Texas community colleges and its long-term impact on the Collin College community.

What influenced the passage of House Bill 8?

The legislation is a response to calls for a system that better aligns education funding with student achievement and workforce needs. The bill was the culmination of months of work by legislators, community college leaders, and the business community. It expands upon the year-long efforts of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance, which studied ways to modernize the model to improve equity and economic impact.

How has the bill changed funding for community colleges?

Before HB 8, Texas community colleges were primarily funded based on enrollment — schools received funding as students progressed toward their degrees. HB 8 revamped the funding model and raised the stakes with an outcomes-based approach where colleges are now funded for awarding

degrees, certificates, and other credentials of value. This dynamic model enhances accountability, drives workforce-relevant programs, and expands opportunities for underrepresented populations. Collin College has always been outcomes-focused and has successfully adapted to this new funding model. The college has seen an increasing number of annual completions, becoming a national model for community college funding.

What counts as completion?

Under HB 8, community colleges earn funding for specific student outcomes — this includes completion of credentials of value, such as associate and bachelor’s degrees, certificates, and licensure-related credentials. Funding is also provided for the successful student completion of Dual Credit hours and for students who successfully transfer to Texas universities.

Community colleges receive additional funding for high-demand fields, economically disadvantaged students, academically disadvantaged students, and adult learners ages 25 and up.

How does this bill benefit Collin College students?

This funding model paves a new path where students can thrive in their educational journey and beyond. It puts high school Dual Credit students on pathways toward meaningful credentials, expands opportunities for adult learners, and can help eliminate economic barriers.

HB 8 raises the bar and advances higher education, providing resources to colleges that will help better prepare students for meaningful careers, which in turn strengthens the workforce in Collin County and the state of Texas.



Collin College’s Software Development bachelor’s program: A new pipeline for a growing technology hub

Collin College is addressing the tech industry’s rapidly changing landscape through its new Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Software Development program, equipping students with the skills they need to succeed.

James Vaughan, a Collin College student, always had an interest in programming. He built computers in high school and went on to earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Software Development from Collin College.



James Vaughan

When the college announced its new bachelor’s degree, Vaughan was eager to further his education.

“I’ve been coding for many years, and this felt like the right time to learn more,” he said. “I’ve already learned so much in the bachelor’s program.”

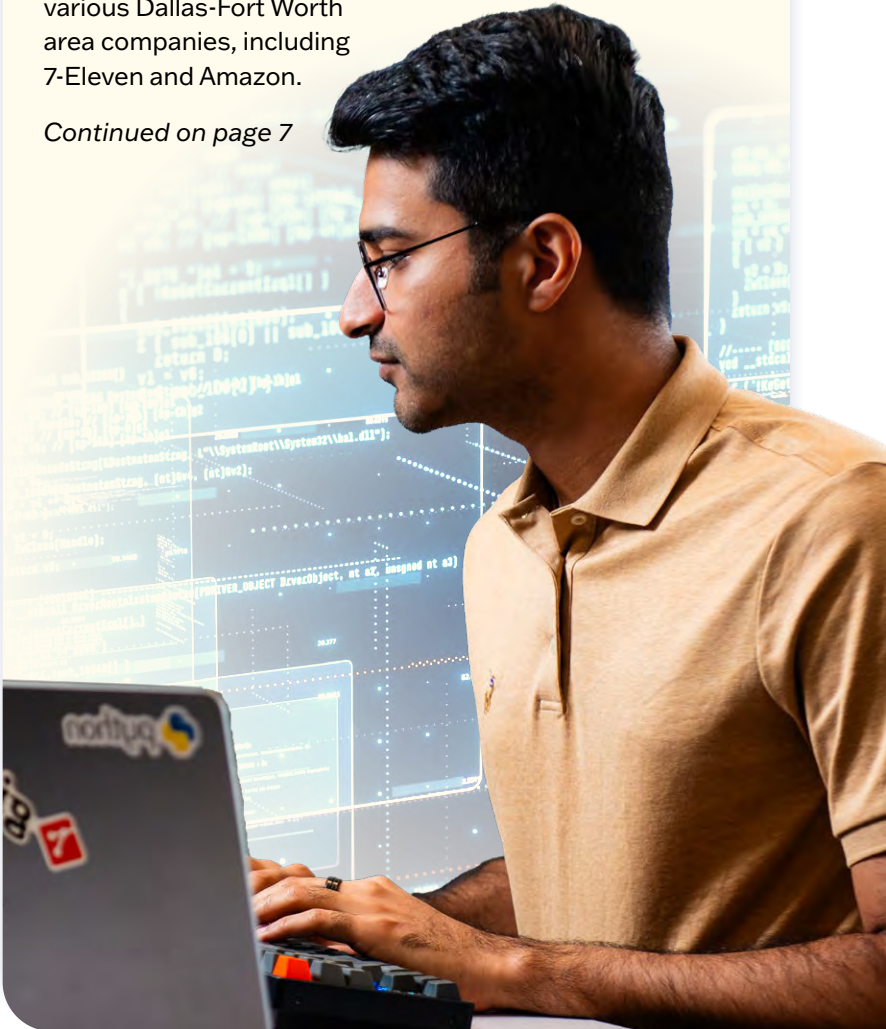
The BAT program launched in Fall 2025. Housed at the Frisco Campus, it is the fifth bachelor’s program offered at Collin College and builds upon the college’s current AAS degree.

Students gain hands-on experience with real-world software development practices, including Agile teamwork, collaborative tools, and modern programming frameworks. They also develop critical skills in project management and team collaboration.

“With the advent of new tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning, we are requiring a more skilled workforce,” said Shijon Das, discipline lead for the Software Development bachelor’s program. “That is where the bachelor’s degree becomes very handy.”

Adaptability is a major program component — new technologies such as artificial intelligence are integrated into the coursework, giving students the training they need to thrive in an evolving industry. The college also frequently consults with industry experts through the program’s advisory committee, which includes representatives from various Dallas-Fort Worth area companies, including 7-Eleven and Amazon.

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Collin College construction alumni and student carve career pathways as *industry partners*

Anna Hagan

Intern at Lee Lewis Construction

2024 Graduate — Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management

“

If there's one thing that can inspire someone to work in the construction industry, it is the extensive number of opportunities to find success as a professional. There is certainly no shortage of work to be done here in North Texas. As for my academic experience, no one could have predicted where I would end up. But I'm in good company; there are more than a few successful people I've met who found themselves in this industry and realized, 'I enjoy this!'

The Construction Management program was a launching point for me. Being able to enter the project management field with a foundation of the technical skills needed puts you in a position to flourish. The co-op program is what pushed me to seek out an internship. Internships are invaluable, especially for someone like me who didn't enter the industry with much on-the-job experience. Nothing can replace the learning opportunities associated with problem-solving in the field, having difficult conversations with different personalities, and working on a team with other professionals.

”



Anna Hagan

Nathan Bloomer

Assistant Project Manager at CORE Construction

2023 Graduate — Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management

“

I was excited to see the Construction Management program's continued development. Our industry is booming right now, and there is so much talent at Collin College, which is exciting to see. I enjoy coming back to speak to students in their classes and at career fairs because I was once in their shoes, and I can offer guidance with examples from my own experience that could help them on their journeys.

My dad has been in construction since I was a kid, and I've always been around it because of him. Having conversations with him throughout my upbringing really inspired me to pursue a career in construction.

I was hired as an intern at CORE and worked my way up to a full-time position by the time I graduated. The co-op classes helped because they demonstrated professional skills, such as creating LinkedIn profiles and other tools to help us connect with people in the industry.

”



Nathan Bloomer

Anna Hagan, Nathan Bloomer, Nathaniel Jones, and Steve Lares began their journeys at Collin College as students pursuing careers in the construction industry. Like many of today's students, they experienced the nervous excitement of career fairs, built relationships with industry partners, and discovered opportunities through internships, co-ops, résumé development, and active involvement on campus.

Today, they view the construction field from a broader perspective. They are now recruiters sharing their experience and knowledge as Collin College alumni, a second-year construction student, and industry partners.

Steve Lares

Construction Field Lead at Lithko Contracting, LLC
2026 Graduate — Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management

“

I was the nervous student looking for a job — who had no idea what I wanted to do with my life — until I was lucky enough to get an opportunity. I want to help the students who are like I once was. I understand their position tremendously. It is very hard, especially in today's economy, and I want to be able to give them a chance like I was given.

I worked at Primoris Service Corporation as a yard coordinator before enrolling in the Construction Management program at Collin College. I knew that Collin offered a four-year program in construction management. It was cost-efficient for a bachelor's program compared to a university's \$50,000 tuition. Because I wanted the opportunity to grow professionally, I enrolled in the bachelor's degree program.

Now a field lead at Lithko, I recently completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Construction Management. A piece of advice I have for students is to find their niche — where they think they'll thrive. Take every opportunity, and participate in competitions.

”



Nathaniel Jones

Construction Safety Specialist at ANDRES Construction
Junior in the Construction Management program

“

I'm a nontraditional student. I graduated from high school in 2007. I worked in the restaurant industry for many years while operating my own business. It wasn't until I was expecting my second child that I thought, 'I need to go back to school and have something a bit more stable.' I've done all types of maintenance, custodial, and residential construction. I felt like Collin College's Construction Management program was a familiar environment.

I have only been able to get to where I am thanks to the help of others in so many different areas. It's my responsibility to help as much as I can with both my company and my alma mater. Hopefully, this sentiment will spread, and Collin College's Construction Management program will become a revered name in the construction industry.

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To learn more about the Collin College Construction Management program, visit www.collin.edu/departments/constructionmanagement.

Building out the Master Plan

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degrees, to support high-demand fields throughout North Texas. In addition, over the past decade Collin College's credit enrollment has increased by 31%, and this growth rate is expected to continue.

"Collin County continues to experience significant population and economic growth, and the college's long-range planning reflects those trends," said **Jay Saad, Collin College Board chair**. "Collin College currently has the lowest tuition and the third-lowest tax rate among Texas community colleges and maintains a AAA bond rating. If approved by voters, the proposed bond would provide funding for projects identified through the college's master planning process to expand instructional capacity, workforce training, and campus facilities."

Phases II and III of the college's master plan focus on expanding workforce programs districtwide in fields such as aviation, automotive technology, construction, HVAC, and healthcare, to name a few.

In 1986, Collin College served 5,095 students, had 45 employees, and operated one campus. Today, the college serves more than 62,000 credit

and continuing education students, has more than 3,000 employees, and extends across 10 locations throughout Collin County, plus the iCollin Virtual Campus. In addition, the college offers more than 200 degrees and certificates and serves Dual Credit students in more than 50 high schools. Importantly, the college also offers bachelor's degrees in Nursing, Cybersecurity, Construction Management, Clinical Operations Management, and Software Development at an affordable cost, approximately \$15,000, including tuition, books, and fees from start to finish.

According to Mayor Bill Cox, Collin College's partnerships with employers, school districts, universities, and community organizations help align academic programs with regional workforce priorities.

"Collin College works closely with industry partners to connect students with career opportunities and develop programs that reflect local workforce demand," Cox said. "These partnerships continue to evolve alongside the needs of our growing region."

PHASE	PROPOSED PROJECTS (2027-29)
	McKinney Campus Workforce Building
	Wylie Campus Academic Building
	Plano Courtyard Center Workforce Expansion
	Allen Technical Campus Workforce and Academic Building
	Celina Campus Workforce Building
	McKinney Aviation Academy
PHASE	PROPOSED PROJECTS (2028-30)
	Frisco Campus Health Sciences Expansion
	Wylie Campus Workforce Expansion
	NEW Anna Campus
	Farmersville Campus Workforce Building
	NEW Royse City Campus



For more information about phases II and III of the Destination 2030 master plan, visit www.collin.edu/bond.

Visionary leader retires

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In contrast, more than 1,200 graduates walked across the stage at the college's May commencement ceremonies this year. Reflecting on that transformation, Dr. Collins said, "I am thankful. How many people have the opportunity to see that kind of growth in their careers?"

As he looks ahead, Dr. Collins remains optimistic about the institution he helped forge. "We've got to continue our goal to become the leading community college in the United States," he said.

Though he recently received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Congressman Keith Self and a state resolution from the Collin County legislative delegation, Dr. Collins' legacy extends far beyond the words of any document. It is a living, breathing contribution which can be found in decades of alumni who are making a positive impact in our vibrant community.

More than any building, campus, or program, Dr. Collins says the greatest reward has been the considerable impact education has on students.

"What I've enjoyed the most is knowing that Collin College has had a hand in educating thousands of students over four decades who have gone on to join the workforce and have had a profound effect in our communities and on our economy as a whole," he reflected. "I'm also thankful for those I've worked with who have helped build this lasting institution. We're blessed to be surrounded by outstanding supporters in this county."

To learn more about Dr. Collins' contributions, visit the college's newsroom at www.collin.edu/news/2026/05/foundingtrusteeretires to read a press release about this founding trustee.

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Collin College's Software
Development bachelor's
program

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"Employers are looking for software developers who are willing to learn new technologies and concepts and provide solutions to challenges," said **Ron Dagdag, R&D engineering manager at 7-Eleven and a Collin College advisory board committee member**. "Collin prepares students by teaching them the different skills needed for modern software development."

The fast-growing field and explosive regional growth create a higher demand for talent. Frisco is a destination for tech-focused corporations — there are more than 350 startups in the city, according to the Frisco Economic Development Corporation.

"Frisco is becoming a tech hub, and as the program grows, we want to connect students with area employers through internships, guest lectures, and more," Das said.

Vaughan said he has been able to apply what he is learning to his current role as a compliance advisor.

"The program is a lot of fun," he said. "The professors are amazing — they've been really helpful and communicative. I'm excited that Collin was able to offer it."

For more information about the program and to apply, visit www.collin.edu/departments/software-development.



Did YOU know?

Collin College Economic Impact Fast Facts

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Total income added in Collin County:

\$1.1 BILLION



Jobs in Collin County supported by Collin College and its students:

1 out of every 72



Source: Lightcast study

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

ALUMNI

- \$2 billion in increased earnings over their working lives
- 18.9% rate of return on tuition/opportunity cost

SOCIAL BENEFITS

- \$10.8 billion in future earnings, tax revenue, and private savings statewide
- \$171.1 million in savings related to crime, unemployment, and health costs



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