

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar. 5, Clint Vannoy

Mar. 8, Wei Zhang

Mar. 13, Kathy Hawsey

Mar. 14, Pete Matak

Mar. 16, Lacey Stinebrickner

Mar. 17, Jason Bingham

Mar. 17, Michelle DeMoss

Mar. 17, Cindy King

Mar. 21, Roy Moore

Mar. 21, Dawna Whitmire

Mar. 24, Sheryll Snider

Mar. 25, Pat Calhoun

Mar. 26, Sha'Nelle Lawson

Mar. 27, Ebony Simpson

Mar. 28, David Hooker

Mar. 29, Shunetta Lewis

Mar. 30, Melaney Whiting

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

VOL. 2 • ISSUE 3

Enrollment increases again (7.4 percent)

The streak continues! Reversing past declines, every long semester since Dr. Howard has been at the helm, LIT enrollment has increased (sometimes near double digits). It has happened again for Spring 2019. Enrollment is up 7.4 percent compared to 2018.

When asked about this, Dr. Howard humbly said, "None of this is because of me. Rather, these increases are because of the efforts of our LIT Family. Our faculty and staff are among the 'best' that I have seen."



LIT takes bite out of Big Apple

Although 1,400 individuals attended the League of Innovation Conference in New York City, LIT still garnered significant attention. This international conference provides a forum for two-year college experts and thought leaders to present inventive ideas.

Dr. Howard presented his original 'post-doc' research intended to help faculty, staff and administrators advance their careers. His session was titled, "*A College President's Perspective: 5-Steps to Enter/Move-Up in Leadership.*" It was very well received; there was standing room only.

Additionally, the Institute had two 'Excellence Award' recipients. Sherry Kilgore (Executive Associate) as well as Dr. Kristina Mendoza (Dental Hygiene Faculty) were recognized for their amazing accomplishments.

Dr. Mendoza, a licensed dentist, organized an international humanitarian relief effort to the Philippines. She, along with college volunteers during their summer break, cared for countless adults and children by performing extractions, cleanings and providing needed dental education.

Kilgore developed a Facebook portal for the college to stay connected after Hurricane Harvey caused a loss of all communications. She also used this portal to collect water, toiletries and homebuilding supplies for families devastated by the tremendous flooding.

With 262 employees, these are only a few examples of the great talent and innovative minds at our college. When placed on an international stage, LIT took a bite out of the Big Apple (NYC).



Dr. Howard excelled during his presentation at the League of Innovation in New York City.



Sherry Kilgore, pictured with Dr. Howard, accepted her Excellence Award at the League of Innovation.



Dr. Kristina Mendoza, pictured with Dr. Howard, accepted her Excellence Award at the League of Innovation.

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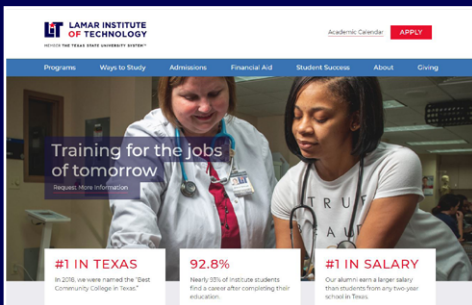


Dr. Kerry Mix (left) and Dr. Miranda Phillips (center) accept check from Texas Mutual's Craig Witherspoon (right).

LIT receives \$100,000 Texas Mutual Grant to further workplace safety

For the third consecutive year the Institute received the \$100,000 Texas Mutual Grant, which provides workplace safety courses for employers in our community, workers and the general public.

The grant has funded courses in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification, American Heart Association CPR/First Aid, forklift and aerial lift operation. Since 1999, Texas Mutual has awarded \$7.6 million in safety education grants, and more than 30,000 students have attended free safety courses offered at various colleges.



Marketing Moment: March 2019

Our website has received a total redesign, making it mobile and search engine optimization-friendly for future students and current users. Kentico, the content management system, will eventually allow content owners to submit updates directly to the website for approval, increasing productivity.

State of Texas CTE Signing Day: Highlights Students, TWC, \$4,000 Presidential Scholarship

State Rep. James White for the 19 District (Hardin, Jasper, Newton, Polk, and Tyler counties) has a passion for Career and Technical Education (CTE). March 5, 2019 marked the first-ever CTE Signing Day in Texas for two-year colleges, which showcased LIT by a reading of a resolution on the House floor and being recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).



Nicholas Walker, Savanna Mitchell, Seth Carl and Jaalah Baaheth signed letters of intent and received \$3,000 each in scholarships.

It was an emotion-filled room when TWC Commissioner Julian Alvarez presented four deserving LIT students a total of \$12,000 in scholarships – \$4,000 of which Dr. Howard generously donated out of his own pocket.

In addition, representatives from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Education Agency, other two-year college representatives and local labor unions.

Karen Gordon: March 2019 Employee of the Month



Administrative Associate for Public Service & Safety Karen Gordon is credited with helping boost Workforce's non-credit student enrollment to 1,315 students, and contact hours for Quarter 1, 2018 to an amazing 97.7 percent and 96.1 percent, respectively, over Quarter 1 2017 data!

“Eighty percent of Workforce contacts come from her!” Nominator Dr. Miranda Phillips effused. “Millions of dollars in funding also come from her efforts.” It was those substantial numbers and Gordon’s “ability to form key relationships with TDCJ” that prompted Phillips to nominate Gordon for this honor, she said.

Gordon “takes an innovative approach to finding ways to increase training opportunities and has initiated several agreements with TDCJ that have afforded LIT opportunities to extend training in ways that no other community college in the state of Texas has been able to establish,” Phillips said. Gordon has worked for LIT for 22 years. Congratulations!

Spring Convocation rallies troops to march towards success

College employees rallied around the Spring 2019 Convocation theme Champions of LIT. The Institute was ranked as the No. 1 two-year college in Texas by Niche.com. However, Dr. Howard charged all employees with striving for more in the upcoming year, with a laser focus on achieving TSUS Vision 2020 goals and in concert making progress on 10-in-10.



Faculty and staff participate in a team-building activity.

“Learning and innovation go hand-in-hand,” Dr. Howard said, quoting William Pollard. “The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow.”

Speech faculty member Donna Burnside honored, KFDM's "Hometown Hero"

For the first time ever, an employee in higher education...and a faculty member at the Institute was honored with KFDM 6's coveted "Hometown Hero" award. Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communications faculty member Donna Burnside had a surprise visit from CBS affiliate reporter Kelsey Borza following a Tuesday morning class. She received the award and a plaque, sponsored by Conn's Home Plus.



Donna Burnside received a surprise visit from KFDM 6 Reporter Kelsey Borza following a Tuesday morning class.

Burnside was featured in a segment that aired on Thursday, Feb. 28, and Friday, March 1. Although she was visibly shocked to be honored, she said, "It's not about me. It's about my students, and making an impact in my students' lives."

Burnside was nominated by her colleague and English and Humanities faculty member Dr. Tracy Spencer. Just a few of the causes Burnside has championed within the past year both on campus and in the community include: depression, domestic violence and sex trafficking.



High school students compete in the SkillsUSA welding competition.

Students came from as far north as Shelby County, as far west as Burleson County, as far south as Chambers County and as far east as Newton County.

An awards ceremony followed the competition at the James F. Jackson Center for Performing Arts. Winners will move on to Nationals.

College president inspires Martin Elementary students

Dr. Howard provided inspiration for dozens of Martin Elementary fifth-grade students, sharing his story of triumphing over adversity to become the president at one of the top two-year colleges in the state.

"It doesn't matter where you start in life," he said to a room full of students with the potential for greatness.

Dr. Howard shared how he went on to earn five degrees after almost failing in grade school, and he also let them know that there are many other career options available to them with the right training and education. Combined with the fun college giveaways, Dr. Howard was a hit with the attentive crowd.



Dr. Howard speaks to a full house at Martin Elementary.

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Hill International Consultant Marcus Swayzer speaks with LIT drafting students about the Eagles' Nest for Student Success construction process.

Drafting class visits Eagles' Nest

Engineering students from Structural Steel Detailing, Electrical Drafting, Pipe Drafting, Civil Drafting and Architectural Drafting were given a tour of the new Eagles' Nest for Student Success building under construction by SETX Construction Corp. They were briefed on foundation processes, construction safety, budgeting, environmental concerns, scheduling, legal liabilities, and how steel structures are made plumb.

The tour was arranged by Hill International Consultant Marcus Swayzer. Swayzer noted much of the project's design came from the input of LIT faculty, staff and students. Computer Drafting Technology faculty member Brent Campbell attended, along with CDT Program Director Johnny Pousson.



**Do you want coverage of your event
or have a story you would like to see
in the newsletter?**

**Contact Chris at celliott@lit.edu or
Rhonda at rmitchell@lit.edu.**

CAMPUS



Faculty Spotlight: Stephen Hudnall

Faculty member Stephen Hudnall graduated from the Institute's Real Estate program in May 2005. He worked in the market and then returned to work part-time at the college.

"I fully expected to only be in the real world selling real estate after graduating from LIT, but when the opportunity to return as an instructor happened, I remembered my time and the instructors who impacted my financial future," Hudnall said. "I wanted to provide that same impact for LIT students by serving as their instructor."

In addition to his real estate sales license, he furthered his education by obtaining his real estate broker's license in October 2016. Hudnall joined the Institute August of 2013, and was a NISOD award recipient in May 2016. Hudnall worked with Blackboard, and after some initial hesitation about going fully online, he has experienced growth every year since adding online courses, including a 70.8 percent increase between Spring '18 and Spring '19.

Despite being fully online, Hudnall utilizes video from guest lecturers in the real estate industry so students can learn from the very professionals they aspire to be.

"Our guest lectures are always appreciated by the students, and our courses are very hands-on," Hudnall said. "LIT real estate students really do get full value for

Standing-room only audience enjoys festivities for Black History Month program

As part of a month-long celebration at LIT, Orange Mayor Larry Spears Jr. addressed a large crowd recently attending the Black History Month program. The theme was, "Remembering the Past & Celebrating the Future."

Beaumont United High School singers Voices United performed under the leadership of Brock Perry. Star Awards presentations and the announcement of Black History Scholarship winners were made.



Beaumont United High School singers Voices United wowed the crowd with their amazing vocals.



Mayor Spears speaks to a standing room only crowd at the Black History Month Program.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO



Above: Black History Scholarship winner Nicholas Walker was elated to receive his award from the scholarship committee.



Left: GEDS Ajunct Faculty member Christopher Bates sings Negro National Anthem.

Featured photo from the President's Wall.



Stephen Arnold's catch is bursting at the seams, similar to LIT's enrollment.



If you would like your pics placed on the President's Wall send selfies, cute pet moments and photos from your unique vacations.

Thanks for all you do!