



THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Summer I Edition, 2020

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LIT CARES (COVID-19)

12 Months of Free or Reduced Tuition

For the first time in this region, a two-year college—LIT—is offering a long-term student engagement strategy to provide 12 months of continuous FREE and reduced tuition to recent high school graduates, the underemployed and unemployed in response to the COVID pandemic.

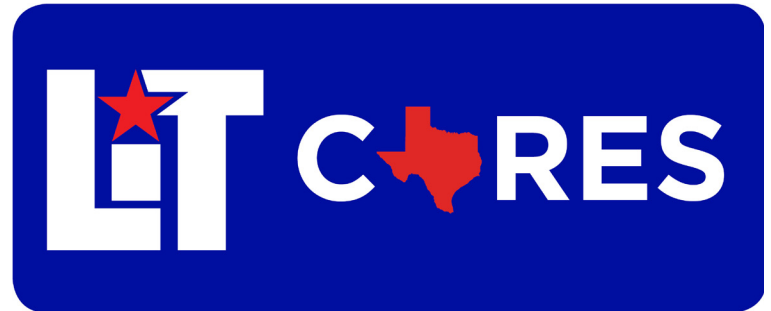
‘LIT Cares’, Dr. Howard’s vision, is named after LIT’s devotion to its students and community. The plan comes at a “crucial time when COVID-19 is impacting the region in ways that defy human understanding,” he said.

LIT cannot sit on the sidelines idly while the economic vitality of this community is threatened. Our college has always believed in supporting our local community by reaching out in times of need. Now is no exception.

This initiative, using multiple funding sources, allows students an even more time-and-cost-efficient way to earn a technical certificate or an associate’s degree at LIT. Students may enter the workforce faster in their chosen careers, as the Institute is now awarding college credit for work and life experiences.

All incoming students are also eligible to receive crucial wraparound services and aid, ranging from childcare, stress awareness/counseling, transportation assistance, technology, healthcare, etc., per the CARES Act.

Fall 2020 details are coming soon, but here’s how ‘LIT Cares’ will work:



FIRST-TIME-IN-COLLEGE (SUMMER 2020 STUDENTS)

Priority will be given to students attending college for the first time. Enroll this Summer semester. Capacity is very limited.

BENEFITS:

- Summer 2020: No tuition/no fees, small stipend for books;
- Fall 2020: 50 percent off tuition and 50 percent off fees.
- Spring 2021: Reduced tuition only.
- **NEW!** Get to work faster by receiving college credit for work and life experience.
- Enroll in classes part-time or full-time.
- Open admissions: everyone is welcome, and developmental education is available.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FASFA**) and be Pell Grant-eligible.
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.

RETURNING SUMMER 2020 STUDENTS:

BENEFITS:

- **NEW!** Attend this Summer or Fall for FREE with qualifying CARES Act funding.
- **NEW!** Some fees waived.
- **NEW!** FREE Wi-Fi on campus 24/7.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have started taking classes at LIT by the Spring 2020 semester or no later than March 2020.
- Complete FASFA and be Pell Grant-eligible.
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Registration is now open for Summer and Fall. To apply, visit bit.ly/3gtvhrK.

Financial aid or FAFSA questions may be directed to finaidoffice@lit.edu.

May & June BIRTHDAYS

5/3, Deborah Brown

5/4, David Mosley

5/5, William Ware

5/8, Monica Pier

5/10, Miranda Phillips

5/10, Timothy Storbeck

5/11, Gwendolyn Walden

5/12, Jimmy LeBoeuf

5/14, Tena Cobb

5/16, Carey Cuccia

5/21, Fadhili Tuguta

5/24, Alys Marken

5/25, Marlon Hartman

5/26, Dianne Deranieri

6/1, Anthony Davis

6/4, Leslie Harris

6/5, Kerry Mix

6/5, Karina Salgado Estrada

6/14, Stanley Spooner

6/16, Roger Vickery

6/20, Tanya Celestine

6/24, William Sizemore

6/26, Chelsea Hoke

6/26, Alicia Placette

6/27, Minus Hargrave

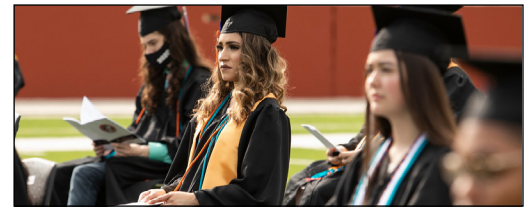
6/27, Sharon Jacobs

6/29, Angela Clark

6/29, Allison Martin

TRUE GRIT! Remarkable 93 percent of BISD ECHS graduates receive LIT degrees/awards

The audience might have been virtual for their LIT graduation, but these Beaumont ISD ECHS students' honors were very real and their extraordinary efforts, duly rewarded on June 3 when they crossed the high school stage during an in-person commencement ceremony. Social distancing remained in effect during the ceremony as well as other safeguards, as recommended by the state.



Beaumont ISD ECHS students practiced social distancing at commencement.

Present to witness the 40 students receiving their LIT degrees and awards; or a high school diploma—besides friends and family—were LIT's Executive VP/Provost Dr. Kerry Mix and Dean of Strategic and Workforce Initiatives Dr. Miranda Phillips. Thirty-one of the 40 graduates received an Associate degree.

Dr. Phillips said, "This was the first cohort of ECHS graduates. Ninety-three percent of these high school graduates would have also walked in LIT's commencement ceremony if we had held one (previously scheduled for May)." Dr. Phillips attributed the large number of graduates to a "really solid partnership between LIT and Beaumont ECHS."

"LIT faculty and chairs have truly embraced our ECHS partnerships with Beaumont and Silsbee and have gone above and beyond to create excellence," she said.

Dr. Howard offers area school districts valuable resources during pandemic

Dr. Howard penned a letter to area educational leaders of K12, pledging his personal, and the Institute's, support and help in specific areas. He said, as a "neighborhood college," LIT is happy to share resources (at no cost):

- **Video libraries:** In most general education subjects, particularly math for 6th grade—college algebra, statistics and calculus.
- **Slideshow presentation:** For online classes in all general education subject areas.
- **Additional learning resources:** Assignments, quizzes, web links, learning resources, and more.
- **Mental wellness resources:** This source could help students cope with mental stress and the lasting impact from COVID-19.
- **Instructional design for online learning:** Several faculty members trained in instructional design techniques can help ISD personnel convert their courses' class material to an online format.
- **College faculty/K12 teacher (peer-to-peer training):** Faculty in the following subject areas may be available: Math, English Composition & Literature, Psychology, Sociology, History, Speech, Government, Arts & Humanities, Philosophy and College Success Skills.



In 2019, Dr. Howard signed a historic dual credit agreement with six K12 partners in the Deep East Texas College & Career Alliance. Now he's providing assistance amid the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"I believe there's value in *neighbor helping neighbor*, and I want to forge an even closer working relationship with each of you—once this COVID-19 crisis is over. We'll get through this together."

— Dr. Lonnie L. Howard

LIT receives another honor



LIT was named one of 15 Best Trade Schools in Texas by the World Scholarship Forum. This honor comes on the heels of LIT recently being ranked **number five for Community Colleges in Texas**, and in the **Top 10 percent for Community Colleges in America** by national educational website [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) for 2020.

In this most recent ranking, our college was chosen as number eight, according to the selection criteria, because “these programs are focused on benefits offered and career outlook. We also considered the quality of education, average earnings of graduates, accreditation and several other relevant factors.”

Dr. Howard said, “We are truly humbled to receive this honor from World Scholarship Forum, especially at a time when all of us are looking for hope during the COVID-19 pandemic. As our list of honors and accolades swell at LIT, so does our pride.”

School offers help to students and employees

ENROLLMENT / REGISTRATION / STUDENT UPDATES

- Student advising and registration for May Mini, Summer and Fall were conducted virtually and by phone.
- Returning students may schedule an advising appointment with their program director or instructors.
- New students can contact Student Services advisors online at studentserv@lit.edu or call **409-880-8321**.
- After careful consideration, it was decided that May 2020 commencement be postponed to December 2020.
- May 2020 graduates will be able to receive their diploma after completing their degree requirements at the end of the semester.

FINANCIAL AID / PELL GRANTS

- LIT will receive an unprecedented \$1,836,000 from the federal CARES Act with half of the funds going to help with tuition, housing, childcare, etc.
- Students can also claim financial aid or scholarships for Summer and Fall 2020 semesters. To help us address the immediate needs of students and provide assistance, please complete the COVID-19 financial assistance survey [HERE](#).
- Contact the Scholarship Office with questions at **409-839-2956** or scholarships@lit.edu.

EMPLOYMENT

- Students can search for jobs through the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC).
- Students also may be eligible for unemployment benefits. Visit [setnetworks.org](https://www.setnetworks.org) to apply, with the possibility of being eligible for an extra \$600 of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation per week. Benefits last up to 39 weeks.

RETURNING TO CAMPUS

- LIT plans to resume face-to-face lecture instruction starting the Fall 2020 semester. However, in-person laboratories are being conducted during Summer 2020.
- If you have questions concerning the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, call LIT Human Resources at **409-839-2054**.
- Email additional COVID-19-related questions to covid-19@lit.edu for a 24-hour response time. Stay informed via our social media channels and lit.edu.
- To learn more about COVID-19, or if you have questions about CDC guidelines or updates, visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).



Grads get a sign of the times



Kudos to LIT's Radiologic Technology faculty! To make their Spring 2020 graduates feel special, faculty decided to purchase and deliver signs for all of the students.

Instructors split up, traveling from Jasper to Baytown. Only one student's sign had to be mailed because he was in Midland.

Awesome job, everyone; it was an extra effort that paid off, reaching over 5,500 people on Facebook alone and over 1,100 engagements—some of the highest numbers ever seen on social media!

May and June Employees of the Month (Facilities Department)



From left to right, Don Barlow, James Sorrells and Walter Harder, social distancing (six feet apart).

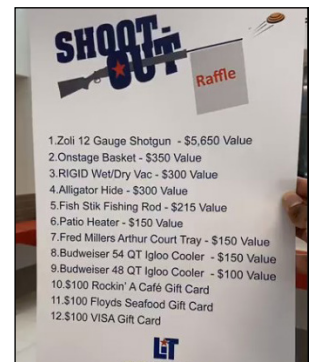
The LIT Facilities Department, including Director of Facilities and Risk Management James Sorrells and maintenance technicians Walter Harder and Don Barlow, are the May and June 2020 Employees of the Month.

They have been working on the front lines for LIT on campus daily, making sure the facilities are safe and clean for employees and students when they return. The department ordered sanitizing equipment and safety masks, placed social distancing markers in high traffic areas and initiated safety checks on essential employees.

Online raffle for the LIT Shoot-Out deemed successful



Mandy Clayton hosted the LIT Foundation's Shoot-out raffle on Facebook Live.



With the onset of social distancing and other constrictions surrounding COVID-19, came the necessary, unfortunate cancellation of the Foundation's 2020 13th Annual Shoot-Out Charity event, a fun clay shoot that benefits student scholarships. The raffle drawing was held via Facebook Live for tickets that had already been sold. Charlie Morgan came away with the top prize, a Zoli 12 gauge shotgun valued at \$5,600. To discover who the other winners are, click on the video link.

LIT partnered with ExxonMobil to provide gift cards to healthcare professionals



ExxonMobil Beaumont and GBCOC representatives contribute pledged scholarship money to help area hospitals and healthcare professionals.

LIT partnered with ExxonMobil Beaumont, the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce (GBCOC) and Beaumont ISD to provide care packages for healthcare professionals. ExxonMobil contributed \$7,000 of the \$15,000 sponsorship money originally pledged for the canceled LIT Foundation 2020 Shoot-Out towards gift cards. The cards are valid at local restaurants, with ExxonMobil also donating \$25 gas cards.

The packages/baskets were delivered

to area hospitals on May 4 and May 5. Remaining funds provided gas cards to the Southeast Texas Food Bank and Nutrition & Services for Seniors.

The GBCOC provided additional local restaurant gift cards. Other items included were:

- Snacks
- Pictures drawn by Charlton Pollard Elementary School students
- Masks