Attending Lamar Institute of Technology and the Lamar State Colleges is now more affordable than ever, thanks to an across-the-board, 25 percent tuition decrease by The Texas State University System (TSUS) for the 2019-20 school year. It was made possible by the efforts of TSUS Chancellor Dr. Brian McCall, Representative Dade Phelan, Texas Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen and the rest of the system staff. The tuition drops to $1,995, while the TSUS Board of Regents also reduced the fee for dual-credit courses ranging from $75 to $110 per semester credit hour, to $50 per credit hour.

Dr. Howard enthusiastically endorsed the move. He shared the story of a young man named Eric, who was ashamed he could not afford college while working hard to take care of his family. Dr. Howard explained the good news of tuition cuts with Eric. The young man expressed excitement at the opportunity to eventually attend college once his situation improved.

He added, the decrease only bolsters the affordability of pursuing “the American Dream, which is alive and well at the Institute for hundreds of students who might not ordinarily have the opportunity financially to be able to attend college and ‘Get a Degree that Works.’”

LIT Summer Enrollment increased for the second consecutive year, up 10.5 percent compared to 2018.

LIT’s Summer I enrollment increased 15.7 percent compared to 2018 numbers, according to the latest point-in-time comparison. The double-digit increase is reflective of summer bridge offerings to dual credit students and the college’s concerted recruitment and retention efforts. Summer II showed an increase of .6 percent, bringing the cumulative summer enrollment increase to 10.5 percent.
Every two months Roy West, host of local News-Talk KLVI-AM 560, will feature our programs as the subject of several of his weekly radio shows. The first show airs August 11, taping on August 6 and includes Business Technology Department Chair Lauri Arnold-Calder and Pharmacy Program Director Shunetta Lewis in the Allied Health and Sciences Department.

Arnold-Calder will be discussing her department's programs, and Lewis will discuss the Pharmacy Tech program and various award programs. The next planned interview will be held in October with HVAC Program Coordinator Henry Gaus.

The Marketing Department hopes this free publicity brings more recognition to these highlighted programs.
Rhonda Mitchell named August Employee of the Month

Staff member Rhonda Mitchell was named the Employee of the Month after accepting a temporary full-time role to fulfill graphics and writing requests.

“Rhonda went above and beyond, taking on assignments out of her comfort zone to make sure we could promote LIT and meet the continuing needs of faculty and staff,” Marketing Director Chris Elliott said.

The institute received $1.1 million in funding for its Professional Truck Driving Academy for use starting September 1, 2019, after it was approved by the Texas Legislature. Representative Phelan led the effort.

Over 54,000 job postings were listed for truck drivers in Jefferson, Orange, Hardin and Newton counties from 2015-2017, according to an EMSI economic modeling data set. With a median salary of $45,000 a year and the cost of a Class B license class starting at just $1,500, the return on investment should be a selling point for potential students.

If you know someone interested in this career and attending our Truck Driving Academy, visit workforce.lit.edu

New programs offered

A new certificate and degree in Graphic Design is just one of the innovative awards offered.

Also slated is a 17 hour Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) in Process Technology, along with the 60 hour degree program. In Continuing Education, two new Spanish courses are on the board.

In Public Service & Safety, new classes include Principles of Basic Emergency Management, Leadership and Effective Communication and Managing Mass Casualty and Fatality Incidents.

ECHS Summer Bridge Program students gather at LIT

If you were on campus in late July, you probably spotted groups of “younger” students—soon-to-be area 9th graders, and participants of our Beaumont ECHS Summer Bridge program. This is our “Innovative Academy,” one of the first 18 in the state of Texas.

Students learned about college life, online learning and how to be successful at LIT and beyond. The two career paths we currently offer for this academy are Process Operations and Instrumentation. On Friday, officials from Total Medical Care, Bridge City, talked to the students about medical technology careers.

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.
Three new Department Chairs are announced, as farewell and thanks are bid to former chairs

EMT Program Director James Allen Welch has been appointed the new Allied Health and Sciences Department Chair, replacing R. Peter Whittaker. Tiffany Williams-Parker, Technology instructor, has been appointed the new Technology Department Chair, replacing Pat O’Connor. Dr. Mary Sizemore has been appointed the new General Education/Developmental Studies Department Chair, replacing Dawn Katz.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to Peter Whittaker, Pat O’Connor and Dawn Katz for their seminal academic leadership. We are excited about our three new dynamic leaders.”
- Kerry K. Mix, Ph.D.

Marketing Moment
LIT will take a new approach to its marketing strategies beginning in Fall 2019. After securing a new Google partnership and working with an advertising firm, Net Natives, that focuses specifically on higher education, the Marketing Department will be able to gauge its return on investment and quantify its key performance indicators by tracking target audience members.

With access to more efficient analytics that is only available through exclusive Google partnerships, and improved digital media monitoring and reporting, the Institute will be able to be more efficient in its media placement based on current trends.

Thanks to input from a diverse selection committee, which included a current department chair, the faculty senate president, the student government association president and members of the president’s cabinet, the marketing department was able to make an informed decision through a collaborative effort.

If you would like your pictures placed on the President’s Wall send selfies, cute pet moments and photos from your unique vacations. Thanks for all you do!