



LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 1, Angela Hernandez
- Oct. 3, Garrett Coya
- Oct. 3, Bryan Neal
- Oct. 4, Monica Cardenas
- Oct. 5, Shivinder Singh
- Oct. 7, Nicole Fant
- Oct. 7, Cynthia Landry
- Oct. 12, Shannon Burke
- Oct. 12, Lizzette Rivera-Estronza
- Oct. 13, John Randall
- Oct. 14, Larry Gregory
- Oct. 15, Schronda Clark
- Oct. 16, Lori Johnson
- Oct. 16, Gail Williams
- Oct. 17, Vicki Marshall
- Oct. 21, Lori Rogers
- Oct. 22, Connie Grass
- Oct. 23, Rekeisha Ross-Stewart
- Oct. 25, Darrell Grissom
- Oct. 25, Melinda White-Davis
- Oct. 27, Rhonda Mitchell
- Oct. 27, Steven Veron
- Oct. 27, Chancellor Brian McCall
- Oct. 27, Staci Waldrep
- Oct. 30, Walter Harder

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

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Record-breaking enrollment again

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) has done it again. With a strong commitment by staff and faculty to our Shared Vision, the college has had credit enrollment growth every long semester (even after Hurricane Harvey). With a record-breaking **10.3%** increase, this Fall 2018 is no exception.

With even more good news from our Continuing Education department, LIT's Quarter 4 non-credit headcount also increased an amazing **91.6%** as a result of the college's focus on adult learners. If these trends continue, the institution could be on pace to exceed the TSUS Vision 2020 enrollment targets some 2-years ahead of schedule.

When asked about our enrollment, Dr. Howard enthusiastically said, "Our staff and faculty; they get it! Yes, we're a LIT family...a team...but everyone has taken individual ownership and can see their role in achieving '10-in-10' (10,000 students enrolled by 2028)." Howard concludes, "I'm so proud of each employee. They're good people, and I applaud them for having the vision to create their own institutional legacy in shaping how LIT will look a decade from now."



Dr. Howard gives powerful Senate testimony in state capital

Dr. Lonnie Howard highlighted the unique partnership and success the college has enjoyed with Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) and Silsbee Independent School District (SISD) with its Early College High School programs, when testifying recently before a joint hearing of the Texas Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education

He told legislators about the dramatic impact that ECHS and dual enrollment has on Texas, and how it changes the lives of low-income families in Southeast Texas.

"Our high school is called the Austin Innovation Center. Cluster academies...focus on serving historically underrepresented students who otherwise might not have college on the radar," Howard said. "These students are directed toward high-demand careers. Upon graduating with their diploma, they are essentially job-ready."

He added, these programs help break the cycle of poverty and drive economic development.

Through LIT's Austin Innovation Center and the school's Teaching and Learning Center, dedicated to pairing college faculty with ISD teachers while providing "wraparound services," the innovative academy approach offers a "viable solution" to these issues, he said.



Dr. Howard at the Texas Senate Joint Committee meeting on Higher Education.

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LIT shares services with LSCO and LSCPA for innovative ACUE training

With matching funds secured by Dr. John Hayek, TSUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, LIT, LSC-Port Arthur, and LSC-Orange have joined forces with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) for select faculty to complete the online course in Effective Teaching Practices, guided by Dr. Angela Hill, LIT Executive Director for Teaching and Learning Center.

The course kicked-off at LSCO's new Shahan Events Center and quarterly face-to-face meetings are planned at different campuses to increase collaboration and engagement with our faculty. It will run through 2019 in ACUE's online learning management system.

LIT faculty started the nationally recognized Effective College Instruction cohort by ACUE, endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE) to help promote student success and the attainment of LIT's 60x30TX goals and TSUS Vision 2020 targets.

Marketing Moment: October 2018

The week of Oct. 17th will kick off the Spring 2018 Marketing Campaign. Display banners and e-blasts will retarget people who've searched online for anything college related or connected career-wise to any LIT program. Billboards run throughout the year. Smart device, Facebook and Instagram ads will target parents of students as well as adult learners. New to the mix are sponsorships with iHeart radio stations (15 spots per week). LIT banners will be in high-traffic common spaces in every high school in the Golden Triangle.

Ecstatic students awarded scholarships at Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration

LIT marked Hispanic Heritage Month with our own celebration on Wed., Sept. 26 in the Paul and Connie Szuch Multi-Purpose Center. Four students (Juan Alvarez, Karla Contreras, Yessica Lopez and Isrrael Lugo) were awarded inaugural Hispanic Heritage Scholarships. Event entertainment included a mariachi band, Dancers of the Mexican Heritage Society and Westbrook High School's Color Guard, with traditional Mexican food provided by Elena's.



Hispanic Heritage Scholarship recipients Juan Alvarez, Karla Contreras, Yessica Lopez, and Isrrael Lugo.

Dr. Juan Zabala, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the Lamar University Foundation, told attendees his story of success. Zabala, who has over 25 years of experience in administration, university development and alumni relations, was formerly Dean of the University of Texas' School of Law. KFDM Channel 6 news anchor Tiffany Murphy was Master of Ceremonies.



Vickie Seymour from LIT's Foundation office.

LIT Foundation's Vickie Seymour named Employee of the Month

LIT Foundation Development Manager Vickie Seymour was named Employee of the Month for October. Her efforts in awarding scholarships played a crucial role in keeping students enrolled at LIT past drop dates and our enrollment increase. In addition to her principal duties, she played a key role in preparing and managing two major fundraisers that provide scholarships to students in need.

"I'm just grateful," Seymour said. "I like what I do. I like helping students more than anything. That's why I'm here."

The Salute to Real American Heroes was a success. The September 6th event, held at Wesley United Methodist Church, raised money for the scholarship endowment for students in the Public Service and Safety Department. Her work on the 2018 LIT Foundation Charity Golf Tournament sponsored by ExxonMobil will raise over \$70,000 for LIT student scholarships.

Employee Highlight: Tiffany Johnson

Meet Tiffany Johnson. She's more than the administrative coordinator for the IT Department. Johnson is a talented professional photographer, a small-business owner, an inspirational speaker and a student at LIT. Her T-shirt company, Jay Michaels But God Collection, combines her sense of fashion with her strong faith in God, which she said is the No. 1 thing that defines her.

She began her career in higher education 14 years ago at Lamar, but her story doesn't end there. "Dr. Howard once told me don't focus on what you didn't do, but what you are doing now," Johnson said.

She plans on graduating with an AAS in 2019 and then plans to earn a BBA. This wife of 16 years and mother of five said she plans on aligning her education with her experience to become a force of greatness.



THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



Orange Mayor Larry Spears, Dean of Student and Academic Success Dr. Miranda Phillips, and Coordinator of Continuing Education Angela Clark.

Dr. Miranda Phillips and Angela Clark nominated for Beaumont's 40 Under 40 Awards

We congratulate two of LIT's finest —Dean of Student and Academic Success Dr. Miranda Phillips and Coordinator of Continuing Education Angela Clark for their nominations for these annual awards sponsored by The Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Texas Young Professionals Organization and SoutheastTexas.com. The organizations honor the best and brightest young professionals under age 40 for their academic achievements, professional success and community involvement.

Emphasis is placed on community involvement and leadership in business, law, real estate, non-profits, education, healthcare, arts and entertainment or other industries. An independent panel of judges selects the honorees.

Candidates must be based out of Jefferson, Orange or Hardin County and be 39 years old or younger as of Aug. 13, 2018. Phillips, Clark and other nominees will be honored at a reception on Thurs., Nov. 8, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Jefferson Theatre.



CTE Teachers' Lunch and Learn to be presented on Oct. 12

“Excellence In Career and Technical Education” will be the topic for LIT Educators Week's Career and Technical Education Teachers' Lunch and Learn on Fri., Oct. 12, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Paul and Connie Szuch Multi-Purpose Center Conference Room, 802 E. Lavaca St.

Participants will: learn strategies for closing the technical and vocational employment gap, discover helpful tips for encouraging students to explore technology careers, focus on work-based learning methods that ensure student success and lifelong learning, learn about opportunities between LIT and high school CTE classes, collaborate with regional professionals in CTE teaching cluster and explore innovations in seamless K-12, college and career pathways.

A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. Register here: <https://www.lit.edu/CTEday> by Oct. 5. Or for information contact Christopher Williams at 409-839-2044 or cwilliams2@lit.edu.

FREE training course rescheduled for displaced workers

Qualified Jefferson County workers displaced by Hurricane Harvey may still attend two free training courses that have been moved to October.

The OSHA 30 class has been rescheduled for Oct. 8th-11th. Space is limited. About 260 workers will receive free training opportunities from LIT. Additional short-term, fast-track courses will be offered later in the plumbing and electrical fields, according to Dr. Byron Prince, LIT Harvey Grant Manager for Workforce Education.

If you know anyone who might be qualified and is interested, have them register first through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) at www.setworks.org or call 1-877-834-JOBS (5627).

Foundation's Oct. 5 Charity Golf Tournament still taking registrants



Area golfers still have a chance to support students-in-need while having fun on the green. Team registration and select sponsorships for the inaugural LIT Foundation Charity Golf Tournament sponsored by ExxonMobil are available for the event on Friday, Oct. 5 at the Beaumont Country Club, at 5355 Pine Street.

The tee time of 1 p.m. is available according to LIT Foundation Executive Director Pat Calhoun. Besides enjoying food from 13 food sponsors, fun and golf, participants will have a shot at prizes and a drawing for Rockets tickets. Calhoun said one lucky person could even win a new vehicle from JK Chevrolet with a hole-in-one.

The event, which was canceled last year due to Hurricane Harvey, benefits the community and its increasing demand for a skilled technical workforce through much-needed scholarships. Registration is available at www.lit.edu/foundation/golf/.

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.

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FREE football tickets for Preview Day registrants

The first 50 student registrants for Preview Day will receive a free ticket to the Lamar University football game! Each ticket comes with a food voucher. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with Preview Day activities, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and a fun Tailgate Party from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Game time is 3 p.m.

Please RSVP at lit.edu/previewday or call 409-839-2007.



Are you ready for retirement? Attend this Retirement Seminar

Learn how to transition with financial security at Lamar University's Human Resources Department's 2018 Retirement Seminar on Tues., Oct. 30, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at LIT's Multi-Purpose Center, 802 E. Lavaca St.

Topics of discussion presented will be the Social Security administration, Teacher Retirement System, estate planning and the Employees' Retirement System. RSVP here: <https://orgsync.com/135560/events/2463831/occurrences/5913098>.

Smith-Hutson Scholarship winners announced

Thirty-six recipients of the Smith-Hutson Scholarship were recently honored at a banquet where Robert Hutson spoke.

LIT is one of the five colleges in Texas to receive these scholarships.

Since its inception at LIT in 2014, the Smith-Hutson Scholarship Program has issued 274 scholarships to 107 LIT students for a total of \$867,600. Twenty four of those recipients have graduated in four years.



Recipients of the 2018-19 Smith-Hutson Scholarship.

Scholarship students for the Fall 2018 semester were: Karla Alonzo, Naamah Baaheth, Taylor Bell, Jahniqua Berry, Keely Breauz, Misty Burch, Anitra Cardenas, Lizeth Castillo, Oscar Castillo, Shirley Clary-Pura, Colton Collins, Dahlia Deldagillo, Madison East, Demetria Edison, Mariela Jessica Flores, Nahomi Flores, Leslie Fonseca, Brenda Garcia, Averis Hafford, Halle Madison Harmon, Elide Hernandez, Amy Hester, Alanna Huynh, Austin Isaacks, Oliver Lewis, Sonja McCauley, Landon Mitchell, Chelsea Moody, Alexis Mosby, Katelyn Richmond, Harrison Shipman, Christopher Smith, David Starcke, Amanda Stout and Wendy Valles.



Welding faculty recipients of national performance awards

Four Welding Program faculty members were recently presented with Quality Instructional Performance Awards for the Sabine Division of District 18 from the American Welding Society (AWS). District 18 includes all of Texas, the Lake Charles area and part of Mexico.

Recipients include: (pictured above left to right) Program Coordinator Rick McAnally, Adjunct Instructor Alex Lewis, and Instructors Jason Bingham and Maggie Noble. They were recognized for their contributions to the profession and for passing on their knowledge of their specific discipline, according to Technology Department Chair Pat O'Connor.

McAnally said only six total faculty members were awarded the honor locally. McAnally and Bingham are two-time winners. Congratulations to all for a job well-done!



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!