



LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Sept. 7, Dennis Hunt
- Sept. 7, Marvin Sibley
- Sept. 8, Joanna Darkins
- Sept. 9, Judy Hoffpauir
- Sept. 9, Justine Pina-Russell
- Sept. 11, Thomas Day
- Sept. 11, Luouida Newbold
- Sept. 12, Kara Booth
- Sept. 14, Richard Griffin
- Sept. 16, Kimberly Challie
- Sept. 17, Melissa Mann
- Sept. 17, Johnny Pousson
- Sept. 18, Andrew Garza
- Sept. 19, Brian Hurlbut
- Sept. 19, Debbie Polk
- Sept. 23, James Welch
- Sept. 24, Drew Garner
- Sept. 24, Steve Sims
- Sept. 25, Lonnie L. Howard
- Sept. 28, Stacy Taylor
- Sept. 29, Mary Linn
- Sept. 29, April Smith

# THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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## Innovative Fall 2018 Convocation (Opening Day) kicks off semester

Faculty and staff experienced a Fall Convocation unlike any other held on the LIT campus. Exciting, fun and more interactive changes were promised, and they were delivered. It all started with the theme of Teamwork and Success. Employees were encouraged to wear their favorite sports team apparel and jeans in a casual atmosphere.

Ice breakers, in which each table was able to come up with team names and mascots, set the mood for Dr. Lonnie L. Howard's State of the College address. He focused on the college's achievements, which ranged from improving enrollment every long semester to being ranked the No. 1 two-year college in Texas. His emphasis on how each member of the LIT Family played a role in the Institute's accolades reinforced how important teamwork is in relation to organizational success. Taking that mindset to the next level, Dr. Howard shared the Texas State System's 2020 Vision Targets. In the spirit of collaboration, he invited Lamar State College – Orange President Dr. Thomas A. Johnson to the podium. Dr. Johnson's inspirational story on how individual moments, teachers, and connections can change a person's life for the better rallied LIT faculty and staff.

Dr. Kimberly McLeod of Creative Energy, LLC led exercises that promoted team building and challenged LIT to think critically about diversity. Lamar Police Department's Corporal Jarrod Samford coordinated the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Training, which included a life-like active shooter scenario, the first of its kind at LIT's campus.



Dr. Thomas Johnson, LSCO President and LIT President, Dr. Lonnie L. Howard share a laugh in their throwback Astros jerseys.



Ken Mason during active shooter scenario.



LIT employees enjoy interactive training.



Dr. Kimberly McLeod of Creative Energy, LLC.



GEDS Dept. Chair Dawn Katz.



HVAC Program Director Henry Gaus.

## Preliminary Fall 2018 head count increase shows growth

There has been a shift in the culture at Lamar Institute of Technology, with a focus on improving through our shared vision of growth and excellence, working towards increasing enrollment to 10,000 students by the year 2028 (10-In-10). We are one step closer to our goal with preliminary (2nd Class Day) Fall 2018 enrollment of 3,340 students which is a 12.9 percent increase when compared to the same point in time for Fall 2017.

Teamwork and accountability will continue to be pivotal in our success. We have the potential to see growth in each department and program, and I encourage all faculty and staff to work together to help LIT reach its goal.



## LIT Foundation to honor “Real American Heroes”



LIT Foundation will honor Southeast Texas' first responders during Hurricane Harvey when it hosts the 17th annual LIT Salute to the Real American Heroes event on Thurs., Sept. 6, at 6 p.m. in Wesley United Methodist Church, 3810 N. Major Dr., Beaumont. **W. Nim Kidd**, Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, is the featured speaker.

All proceeds will go to the LIT Salute to the Real American Heroes Scholarship Endowment, which provides scholarships for LIT students majoring in Criminal Justice, Emergency Medical Technology, Regional Police Academy, Regional Fire Academy and Homeland Security.

For tickets, information on sponsorships available, or to make first responder/military reservations, visit <http://www.lit.edu/foundation/Salute> or call 409-880-2379.



Students learn crime scene investigation.

## New Crime Scene Technician Certificate offered for Fall 2018

Anyone interested in becoming a Crime Scene Technician is only 24 quick, semester credit hours (SCH) away, thanks to our new certificate program. This program is also an efficient way for law enforcement professionals to brush up on crime scene techniques.

Our two year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Crime Scene Technician is 60 SCH. The certificate is a subset of the degree program. Certificate coursework provides an overview of the criminal justice system and investigative techniques. It also includes training on processing and preserving evidence.

Anyone interested can register at [registration@lit.edu](mailto:registration@lit.edu) or contact [pbss@lit.edu](mailto:pbss@lit.edu) for more information.



**Debbie Polk,**  
Special Events Coordinator

## Debbie Polk named September Employee of the Month

Special Events Coordinator **Debbie Polk** was named Employee of the Month for the amazing work she displayed in organizing events in the MPC.

She put in extra hours and recruited others to ensure our innovative 2018 Convocation was a success. Her preparation leading up to the event was critical in making sure faculty and staff were greeted with an inviting breakfast, warm coffee and a decorated room with tables and chairs. It is the same kind of dedication Debbie displays each week (sometimes alone) to make sure events hosted in the MPC exceed expectations.

“The MPC is a portal to the community for LIT; Debbie’s role is vital,” Executive Director of Marketing & Communication and Polk’s supervisor **Chris Elliott** said. “I think her hard work was on full display for the entire campus to see for Convocation.”

Polk said, “I’m so honored to receive this award. It means a lot to be recognized by the president.”

## Two free training courses to be offered for displaced workers through Harvey grant

Thanks to a \$123,200, state-funded National Dislocated Worker Disaster Grant and the Texas Workforce Commission, LIT will be offering courses in HVAC and OSHA 30 for workers displaced by Harvey.



LIT's top of the line HVAC training facility.

Qualified Jefferson County residents can register for the HVAC training, which is held from Sept. 24th-Oct. 24th. The OSHA 30 class, runs from Sept. 17th-20th. Space is limited. Only 10 seats are available for OSHA and 20 for HVAC.

About 260 workers will receive free training from LIT through this grant. 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.

Those wanting to register should contact [www.setworks.org](http://www.setworks.org) or call 1-877-834-Jobs (5627). After registering with TWS, OSHA course applicants can register here: <https://bit.ly/2MwEeVL>. HVAC candidates can register here: <https://bit.ly/2wlFv7S>.

## Blood Drive set for September 4th and 5th

Your blood donation helps so many here in our community. Please consider giving blood on campus from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 4th or Wednesday, Sept. 5th through the LifeShare Blood Center. The LifeShare bus will be parked in front of the Cecil Beeson building.

For more information contact Debbie Polk, [dpolk@lit.edu](mailto:dpolk@lit.edu) or call 409-839-2980.



## College Connect to link struggling students

Do you know an incoming or present LIT or Lamar University student who struggles with being isolated? College Connect, a new support group, is open to these students this fall.

The group will help them advocate for each other, communicate with their professors and classroom peers, manage time, navigate the college campus and find their role here.

Meetings begin Sept. 12th and 13th from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m., for a 10 week period, on the LU campus in Rm. 171 of the Speech & Hearing Building. For more information contact **Melissa Armentor** at [mfarmentor@lit.edu](mailto:mfarmentor@lit.edu) or call 409-880-8853.



**Alexis Eberhardt** LIT alumni

## ALUMNI *Spotlight*

### Eberhardt's American Dream on display thanks to LIT

**Alexis Eberhardt** is living her American Dream. She graduated from Lamar Institute of Technology in May 2018 and within weeks received an offer from the Medical Center of Southeast Texas – Victory Campus as a Radiologic Technologist.

Working a full-time position in the field of her choice is something Eberhardt counts as a privilege. She acknowledges that her hard work combined with financial relief in the form of a scholarship from the LIT Foundation Charity Golf Tournament Sponsored by ExxonMobil were key factors in achieving her goal. This year's tournament, which is slated for Friday, Oct. 6th, will help students similar to Eberhardt looking for financial aid.

"My family was effected by Harvey," Eberhardt said. "I took it upon myself to pay for school. With losing a car, losing a house and things like that, it was so amazing and a blessing that I did get the scholarship. It did relieve some of the financial burden I had going to school... That scholarship meant so much to me"

The LIT Sonography Program is ranked No. 3 nationally and No. 1 in Texas according to [collegechoice.net](http://collegechoice.net); maintaining high grades for her final year while trying to work full-time would have been a difficult task.

LIT Executive Director of Foundation, Workforce Training, & Continuing Ed. **Patrick Calhoun** works with donors and sponsors like ExxonMobil to secure funds for students.

"It is stories like Alexis' that make this the best job at Lamar Institute of Technology," Calhoun said. "You get to see the difference our donors make in the lives of students when they graduate and go into their chosen careers. ExxonMobil has been one of our strongest with their continued commitment."

Eberhardt said she plans to eventually pay it forward. She understands working and going to school full-time can be stressful. When she is able to, Eberhardt wants to contribute in her own way to the LIT Foundation.

## Marketing Moment: September

This month's focus is direct mail. LIT targeted roughly 54,000 unschooled adults between the ages of 22-55 with a postcard. The web page on this postcard, [lit.edu/AL](http://lit.edu/AL), allows LIT to track and re-target those who visit the site, automatically sending a followup card in the mail and directing these Adult Learners to recruiter **Chris Williams**, who has collateral specifically for this age group.



**Chris Williams' knowledge about LIT's programs helps adult learners.**

## THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



**Rick McAnally and Pat O'Connor**

### Technology Department Chair Pat O'Connor aims to have fun!

Maybe it's an escape. Maybe it's an interest. But whatever you call "Cowboy Fast Draw," **Pat O'Connor** is all in, thanks to his cohort and friend Welding Technology Program Coordinator **Rick McAnally**, who introduced O'Connor about a year ago.

According to the website [cowboyfast-draw.com](http://cowboyfast-draw.com), the timed sport is the "newest and oldest shooting sport today, with members using single-action .45 caliber, Western-style six-shooters." The goal is to recreate the "romance and legend of the American West" of the late 1800s.

O'Connor says, "It's about safety, first; fun, second and competition, third. You have to concentrate 100% when you are on the line shooting; you forget about everything else in the world when you're out there." Cowboy Fast Draw Association (CFDA) adds, "It's about handshakes, camaraderie, a man's word, morality, friendship, fair play and honest competition."

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](mailto:celliott@lit.edu) or Rhonda at [rmitchell@lit.edu](mailto:rmitchell@lit.edu).



Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Committee

## Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Committee receives \$1,000 donation

Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Committee Chair **Dr. Tom Noyola**, college representatives and community leaders were on hand recently to accept a \$1,000 check from Community Bank of Texas Senior VP **Mike Hatton**.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 in the United States, and the scholarship was established Aug. 2018, Noyola said.

“Our goal this year is \$2,500,” he explained. “The committee is looking forward to awarding five-\$500 scholarships to worthy LIT students on Sept. 26, the day of the LIT Hispanic Heritage Celebration.”

LIT executives at the check presentation included: VP for Strategic Initiatives **David Mosley** and Foundation Executive Director **Pat Calhoun**. Representing the scholarship committee were: Math Instructor **Brian Hurlbut**, General Education and Developmental Studies Instructor **Donna Burnside** and Noyola.

Joining them were: Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce VP of Economic Development and Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas members **Ana Pereda**, and Coldwell Banker Realtor **Gabriela Carugno**, Gateway Mortgage Group Business Development Manager **Michael Perez**, Beaumont Independent School District Community Liaison **Alberto Iglesias**, Attorney and Republican Candidate for Jefferson County Clerk **Bailey Wingate**, Tacos La Bamba owner **Carlos Zuniga**, and **Mario Godoy**.



Police Academy class



Hanadi Hammad, student



Tami Browning - Radiology Adjunct Instructor teaching new students



Students in speech class



AC/DC Lab – Instructor Edgar Neely



Lacey Stinebrickner & Missy Mann, faculty



Marissa George, student & Jordan Propps, student



Meshawn Shaw, student; Carolyn Woodyly, student; Traci Hollenbeck, student



Elle Holtzman, student

## LIT faculty participate in ACUE training at LSCO

Congratulations go to LIT faculty **Shannon Burke, Bonnie Cobb, Regina Drake, Vicki Fruge, Andrew Garza, Dr. Vicki Marshall, Nicole Mitchell, Brian Parrack, Dr. Tracy Spencer** and **Stanley Spooner** for being selected to complete the nationally recognized Certificate in Effective College Instruction cohort by Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE).

TSUS 2-year colleges (LIT, LSC- Port Arthur, and LSC-Orange) have collaborated with ACUE for select faculty to complete the online Course in Effective Teaching Practices, facilitated by **Dr. Angela Hill**, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning Center. ACUE’s course launch will be held at LSCO’s new Cypress Center on Sept. 12 from 2-5 p.m. The development opportunity will help promote student success in line with LIT’s 60x30TX goals and TSUS 2020 Vision targets.

*Thanks for all you do!*