



LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Weldon Jacobs (4/4)

Tracy Spencer (4/5)

Ira Wilsker (4/8)

Leigh Burks (4/11)

Cheryl Biksey (4/12)

Renee Celeste (4/19)

Bonnie Cobb (4/21)

Tiffany Williams-Parker (4/21)

Aronette Holmes (4/22)

Henry Gaus (4/26)

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

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TSUS' Legislative Visit

The Chancellor, system senior administrators, and component presidents traveled to Washington, D.C. in March. The goal was to strengthen relationships with legislators and discuss institutional needs. As a part of these activities, TSUS hosted an amazing Congressional & Alumni Reception at the U.S. Botanic Gardens. To further raise LIT's national profile, I spent strategic time with Dr. Walter Bumphus and his American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) staff.

Tri-Agency Meeting at LIT

About 150 educators, including representatives from Angelina Community College and Lufkin ISD, refinery plant managers and BISD Early College High School students promoted the Early College High School program at a meeting hosted by Educate Texas, LIT and BISD at LIT on March 26. The program helps youth receive career training and education while ensuring they are "career-ready." Those attending enjoyed a tour of the PATC building and watched high school students simulate various field tests.



Employee of the Month helps LIT gain NCCER

We are proud to award the first ever Employee of the Month for March to Bill Holton, Industrial Maintenance Program Director. His hard work helped LIT earn nationally standardized training accreditation in two areas from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).



Dr. Lonnie L. Howard and Bill Holton

Besides the honor, Bill was able to use my parking space on campus throughout March. Congratulations from all of us to Bill for his 14 ½ years of dedicated service and another job well done!

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



New for Fall 2018: Accelerated Process Operations degree

Now, anyone qualified wanting to earn a Process Operations degree can do so in one short semester! Starting Aug. 2018, LIT is offering an Accelerated Process Operations degree for completion in just four months. Deadline to apply is July 13. There are requirements. Applicants may email process@lit.edu for more information.



LIT student receives 2018 Kuempel scholarship

Jarrod (Tony) Rutledge recently received the 2018 Edmund P. Kuempel Scholarship of \$5,000. The scholarship was established by TSUS' Foundation. Rutledge, who is a second-semester student majoring in Computer Networking and Troubleshooting Technology (CNTT), said he will use the award towards his summer and fall semesters at LIT. He has a 4.0 GPA. Way to go, Tony!



ExxonMobil donates 9 end-of-life welding machines

ExxonMobil recently donated 9 end-of-life welding machines, valued at \$5,317.50, to our Welding Department. LIT is truly grateful for the company's generous gift. Currently the machines are being secured in a building next door to Welding. In photo (l to r): Welding student Shane Shrader and Welding Technology Program Director John McKeenan.

Golden Triangle Business Roundtable's March meeting

The Golden Triangle Business Roundtable (GTBR) met at LIT in March, where Texas Sen. Brandon Creighton (Dist. 4) discussed 2017 legislative session highlights, Texas economic outlook and future legislative initiatives.



61 students advance to state SkillsUSA competition

Sixty-one students are representing LIT in subjects from Welding to Architectural Drafting, and Extemporaneous Speaking to Job Interview Skills, when they advance to the state SkillsUSA competition from April 12-14 in Waco, TX. Awesome job, students! We wish you the best of luck.



Hobsons Starfish Enterprise Solutions training

LIT administrators, faculty and staff participated in a 2-day conference on campus hosted by Hobsons Starfish Enterprise Training Solutions. Led by nationally known and respected Starfish Strategic (education) Consultants Beth Davis and Dr. Andy Runyan, the group discussed ways to improve student success efforts and engage students by developing new processes.

Joanne Brown

Farewell... and thanks for your service!

As College President, I was asked what does it mean to see Joanne Brown, Exec. Director of College Development/LIT Foundation leave LIT. My immediate response was awe-inspiring: Although Joanne has never taught in the classroom here or worked in any of our student service-related areas, she has accomplished so much with her outstanding fundraising skills that have transformed countless students' lives. Given 64% of LIT first-time-in-college students 'cannot make it' without financial assistance, Joanne has been a real game changer! On behalf of our Foundation President, Dr. Shawn Oubre, the Executive Board, its members, her staff and our entire college family, we recognize the difference that she has made.



2009, amusingly recalls having inherited nothing but a job description and a half-used checkbook! Not comfortable talking about herself, she instead prefers to highlight all the people who surround her and have helped her make this resource development enterprise a huge success--including the overwhelming generosity of our community.

The LIT Foundation is literally transforming people's lives. As an example, Joanne mentions the story of a former student and U.S. military veteran who not only received a scholarship, but received welding equipment and a part-time job, courtesy of Coastal Welding Supply.

On behalf of all of us, Joanne, thank you for your service, dedication, and commitment.

In fact, Joanne, who began at LIT in



The checkbook Joanne inherited in 2009

ALUMNI Spotlight

Robert Crane

What kind of difference can LIT make in one man's life?

Robert Crane, 48, is living testament as a now-successful lineman and 2017 LIT graduate. Earning **\$23.00** an hour and poised for career advancement. His story is literally one of rags to riches. Robert's work comprised of a roller coaster ride of layoffs as an oil lease operator, due to oil and gas market fluctuations. On top of the uncertainty of income in 2016 came the unexpected news of him retaining sole custody of his two little girls, then ages 3 and 4.

Robert's unemployment benefits were exhausted, he was discouraged and felt defeated. "You have to understand, I



dropped out of school in the 7th grade," he explains. "I came from a broken home" and, like most parents, wanted to make life better for his children.

As of 2017, armed with a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) training scholarship, Robert enrolled in the utility lineman apprentice program. While attending he won two gold medals from SkillsUSA. "I did my research," he says. "There's growth in the field and there have been no layoffs in the lineman industry in several years. I found out LIT has one of the best programs. I can't say enough about the LIT program!"

"To have a certificate from a college in a trade gives any individual a sense of self-



worth. It gave me self-respect and a better outlook on life," Robert says. A sense of relief and happiness radiates from his voice and demeanor. Robert has since remarried, completed the program, "money's coming in faster than I expected, and no matter where I pack up and go," he can find work. Robert still stays in close contact with graduates of the program, many of whom he mentored in a tutorial program he established. Thanks to LIT, Robert says, "life really has changed for the better."

SEEN AROUND **CAMPUS**

MARCH 2018

THE
**PRESIDENT'S
NEWSLETTER**



Fox News highlights LIT's new vehicle extraction device

Fox News' Morning News Reporter Kelsey Borza featured LIT's new Sweet Extraction Training System (SETS) on her morning show on March 29th. LIT received the equipment through the federal Perkins grant. This equipment helps simulate vehicle accidents and teach students and first responders how to extract someone from an accident scene.

The story ran at 7:50 and 8:50 am, and showed Emergency Medical Technology Program EMS students demonstrating how SETS works. Watch the segments here: <http://kfdm.com/news/the-morning-show/lit-students-use-new-tool-for-extraction-practice> and <http://fox4beaumont.com/the-morning-show/ems-students-at-lit-use-new-tool-to-practice-saving-lives>.



BISD Superintendent Dr. John W. Frossard, BISD Principal Melanie Pharis, and Dr. Lonnie L. Howard



Texas Sen. Brandon Creighton



Golden Triangle Business Roundtable Executive Director Dennis Isaacs



Nick Lampson, former US Congressman (22nd and 9th Congressional District of Texas) visits LIT

Thanks for all you do!

Remember, if you have any shout-outs, feel free to send those directly to David Mosley or Rhonda Mitchell. We will do our best to get you or your event recognized.