Lone Star College-North Harris is entering 2009-2010 on a very positive note and in wonderful shape. While much work remains to be done to an aging facility, much of the troublesome components that plagued the college before and after Hurricane Ike have been replaced.

The technology at North Harris is superior. Nearly every classroom at all sites have been mediated and/or upgraded. By now, all faculty and staff should have computer equipment that is less than four years old and meets all essential office-, class-, and technology-based needs.

Budgets are in excellent shape. The college was able to insure that most of the requested budgets were “fully funded” last year and for 2009-2010. The underlying strategy for budget allocation is to guarantee that divisions and departments are funded based on reasonable expectations of expenditures. We do not assume that funds will be available from other sources. In addition, many of the budget categories are being formularized so that the budget grows proportionally. For example, the college has allocated one percent of its approximately $36,000,000 operating budget for furniture and equipment, one percent for marketing and advertising, and one percent for professional development. A college budget team is in the process of reviewing other budget categories in order for administrators and others to reasonably predict budgets and minimize some of the historical angst in lobbying for funds.

As North Harris continues to serve more students and expand locations throughout the service area, determining a sound budgeting philosophy and carefully allocating appropriate funds will be critical in insuring our students and employees have an excellent education and work environment, and that the college has funds for innovative and creative endeavors that make the difference in keeping the organization vibrant, dynamic, and inventive.

Lone Star College System was recently recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of “The Great Colleges to Work For.” The selection of colleges was based on exceptional work environments as well as trends in compensation, benefits, and other employment issues. LSCS was recognized in the following categories: facilities, security, and workplace; professional and career development program; and supervisor/department chair relationship.

As we strive for excellence, let us continually reflect on what it takes to be one of the “Great Colleges.”

To read more about the “Great Colleges” program, please visit:
www.chroniclegreatcolleges.com
ENROLLMENTS AND RETENTION: SETTING NEW RECORDS

While the Lone Star College System grew by almost 7,400 students from fall 2008 to fall 2009, North Harris increased a record 16 percent or 1,900 students! This number is remarkable considering that 80 percent of North Harris students come from low income families and are first generation in college.

Below is the fall 2009 official day enrollment information for the Lone Star College System. For a detailed report, please visit: LoneStar.edu/institutional-research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Day</th>
<th>Fall 08</th>
<th>Fall 09</th>
<th>Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LSCS</td>
<td>51,483</td>
<td>58,844</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CyFair</td>
<td>13,202</td>
<td>15,175</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingwood</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>9,293</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>9,666</td>
<td>10,962</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Harris</td>
<td>11,659</td>
<td>13,549</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomball</td>
<td>8,761</td>
<td>9,865</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the past year, marketing, outreach, and recruitment efforts included more than 500,000 direct-mail pieces sent to homes and 25,902 personal phone calls made to prospective and current students. In addition, 8,552 automated phone calls were placed in an effort to provide students with information about financial aid, payment plan options, and registration deadlines. During the first two weeks of the fall semester, SOAR (Student Outreach and Recruitment Office) led by Leslie LaPres, telephoned more than 13,000 students to follow-up on their progress.

It is worth noting that data from the spring 2009 semester reveals that efforts to contact and retain students serve as benchmark indicators of success. The completion and retention rates for first-time-in-college students are markedly higher for those who attend an orientation session and meet with an advisor.

We are currently in the process of determining the impact of the enrollment increases on facilities, faculty, and staff. Additional temporary parking is a necessity for the spring 2010 semester, especially considering the impact future construction will have throughout the campus. The addition of 1,900 students led to additional class sections, adjunct faculty, and part-time staff. We were fully budgeted for this contingency and funds will be shifted to cover appropriate increased expenses for the future.

A series of informative reports will be sent to all employees once an overview and analysis by the North Harris office of research and institutional effectiveness is finalized.

The excellent efforts of the entire faculty, staff, and administration at North Harris, Greenspoint and Carver Centers have made possible record gains and meaningful strides toward student success. I’d like to thank everyone for their continued support and dedication as we continue to make a positive impact and marked difference in the lives of our students and the various communities we serve.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES

Hispanic Heritage Month September 15-October 15
Hispanic Family Day October 17, (Student Center)
Tuskegee Airmen Visit October 29, (TBA)
Community Fall Festival October 31, (Courtyard)
"Honor our Veterans" Week November 8-13
Veterans Day November 11, (Courtyard)
Black Male Summit November 12, (Gymnasium)
Black History Month February 2010
Hispanic Male Summit April 8, (Gymnasium)
Recently, Lone Star College-North Harris was selected to be a part of Foundations of Excellence (FoE). More than a hundred universities and colleges have memberships to FoE. Their common bond is the desire to transform the way quality services are provided to first year students.

Our particular interest in partnering with these universities and colleges is so North Harris can benchmark itself against some of the very best institutions of higher learning in the nation. We at North Harris have the resources, the maturity as an organization, and the willingness to examine our strengths and weaknesses as we move into an elite group of high achievers. Our fundamental goal is to provide our students with the very best experience they can have in their formative first year at North Harris.

It is worth noting that the primary focus of FoE is directed toward academic excellence. We can best achieve and maintain high standards by providing our students with the strong foundation of support services in their first year. This includes our Achieving the Dream initiatives, our various student services, support through the Teaching and Learning Center, and the attitude and support of all our employees. The record enrollments this semester reinforce the need for action on our part.

A number of you have been invited to participate and others will have the opportunity to serve on various FoE groups (dimensions) that will make recommendations for improving college services. I am sensitive to the level of involvement employees have in the numerous initiatives at North Harris, so time commitment to FoE will only be 8-12 hours over the course of the semester. Your specific role will be threefold: 1) advise, 2) review data, and 3) make recommendations for improvement. It is important we have a broad representation from the various areas of the college and centers, institutional roles, multi-faceted backgrounds, and vast experiences. This involvement is considered important to the holistic success of FoE. It will definitely be worth your time and will give you an opportunity to work with fellow colleagues as together we strive to shape North Harris into a premier center of excellence.

I have appointed Dorothy Dixon as director of FoE. The steering committee members consist of Dorothy Dixon, Dorothy Reade, Leslie LaPres, Gary Clark, John DeLeon, Cher Brock, Johanna Boley, Bennie Lambert, and myself.

For more information about Foundations of Excellence, please visit: www.fyfoundations.org

NORTH HARRIS: A SAFER AND MORE SECURE PLACE TO BE

Several new safety and security measures have been implemented for North Harris, Greenspoint, and Carver Centers. The following are now in effect:

• Phones have been placed in every classroom that allow faculty and staff to contact either a LSCS Police Dispatcher or the LSCS Technology HelpDesk. These phones will not dial out and are programmed for communicating directly with a dispatcher.
• Security gates have been installed at North Harris to restrict entrance into the college after normal working hours. Please check with the Police Department if you have questions about the hours.
• An emergency texting service designed to contact employees in the event of inclement weather conditions, campus closings and openings, or emergency and crisis situations is now in operation. All employees are urged to take advantage of this service. Employees must opt-in to receive SMS text messages and texting charges may apply based on individual wireless service plans and agreements. Please visit www.lonestar.edu/12563 to enroll in this program.

An SMS texting system is now available for students through the “Text Dan” system. “Text Dan” provides students with updates and information about campus activities, payment deadlines, special offers, registration reminders and deadlines, and most importantly campus-related emergencies and closures.

In addition, other types of warning systems such as intercoms and sirens are being considered for implementation at all Lone Star Colleges.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: NORTH HARRIS CONTINUES TO BUILD ON SUCCESS

As enrollment continues on an upward climb, North Harris faces many challenges. One of these challenges, campus expansion, is a “good problem” to have and is being met through a well-thought-out planning process. Throughout the next year, you will witness many construction projects taking place that will affect campus space and utilization, especially classroom space and parking. Timing and logistics are of great concern while attempting to accommodate record enrollments. Please have patience as we enter this much needed period of campus expansion.

Construction projects include the renovation and remodeling of the Health Professions Building, construction of a new Student Services Building, renovation and remodeling of the Academic Building, expansion and remodeling of the Fine Arts Building, and expansion of the Applied Technology Building. In addition, Greenspoint Center will receive a facade upgrade, a new science laboratory, and much needed additional parking.

**Student Services Building**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters; scheduled for completion fall 2010/spring 2011 semesters.

**Fine Arts Building Expansion**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters; scheduled for completion fall 2010/spring 2011 semesters.

**Applied Technology Building Expansion**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters; scheduled for completion fall 2010/spring 2011 semesters.

**Academic Building Renovation**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters for some accelerated projects and spring 2011 semester for the non-accelerated projects; accelerated projects scheduled for completion summer 2010/fall 2010 semesters; non-accelerated projects scheduled for completion spring 2011/summer 2011.

**Winship Building Renovation**: construction commences spring 2011 semester; scheduled for completion summer 2011 semester.

**Greenspoint Center Renovation**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters; scheduled for completion spring 2010 semester.

**Health Professions Building Renovation**: construction commences fall 2009/spring 2010 semesters; scheduled for completion summer 2010/fall 2010 semesters.