This fall, Lone Star College-North Harris welcomed 14,000 new and returning students to campus as we began our 37th academic year. This number also includes numerous students who attend our two satellite centers—LSC-Greenspoint Center and LSC-Carver Center, and SecondStart mid-semester classes. The record enrollments reflect almost a 19 percent increase from fall 2008. For the past year, the college has been diligent in expanding recruitment, retention, and community outreach efforts. In addition, we are seeing increases in not only traditional students, but students who are the first in their family to attend college.

This issue of Report to the Community contains a brief synopsis of our new initiatives, projects, new programs, upcoming events, services, and resources that will have a positive impact for currently enrolled students as well as the community at large. By the end of this semester, the college will embark on $80 million worth of construction projects including new buildings, building expansions, structure renovations and facilities upgrades.

This is just the start to LSC-North Harris fulfilling the promise we made to voters during the May 2008 bond referendum when we incorporated community and area businesses priorities as we made plans to meet our expected growth for the next decade and beyond.

“We attended college the first time, I had to stop, come home and help my mother after she got sick,” Pruitt said. According to Pruitt, his father had a stroke shortly before his mother became ill. The last thing Pruitt needed was a hard-to-navigate first year of college. Pruitt knows that it will be difficult to maintain a full-time class schedule, work a forty-hour a week job, and help care for his parents. But what he does not know is that Lone Star College-North Harris was selected to be a part of Foundations of Excellence (FoE) an initiative to make sure his first year (and students like him) experience is successful.
FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE EXPERIENCE: LSC-NORTH HARRIS SELECTED TO BE PART OF FOUNDATIONS OF EXCELLENCE (FoE)

continued from page one

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 the first year students. LSC-North Harris’ particular interest in partnering with these universities and colleges is so we can benchmark ourselves against some of the very best institutions of higher learning in the nation. It widely accepted that one in four freshmen drop out in the first year, and by some estimates nearly half of all college students fail to graduate. According to the Policy Center on the First Year of College, FoE is designed to study all aspects of the new student experience and to produce a plan for institutional improvement leading to higher levels of student learning and persistence in college.

Dorothy Dixon, director of FoE, has a background as a remedial math teacher, which gives her special insight into how important it is to have a plan for success in place for a first year college student. It is worth noting that the primary focus of FoE is directed toward academic excellence.

Lone Star College-North Harris can best achieve and maintain high standards by providing our students with the strong foundation of support in their first year.

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

ENROLLMENTS AND RETENTION:
SETTING NEW RECORDS/COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Americans are heading back to college! With the recession in full swing and competition for jobs at an all-time high, job seekers are reinventing themselves to compete in today’s workplace by returning to college. Additionally, with the escalating cost of four-year colleges’ tuitions and fees, more families are sending their children to begin their higher education at a community college. Both scenarios have LSC-North Harris seeing an unprecedented enrollment boom.

Lone Star College System grew by almost 7,400 students from fall 2008 to fall 2009. LSC-North Harris increased a record 19 percent or almost 2,000 students! This number is remarkable considering that 80 percent of LSC-North Harris students come from low income families and are first generation in college.

The enrollment increase is attributable to many things. However, LSC-North Harris has had an aggressive marketing strategy as well. Over the past year, marketing, outreach, and recruitment efforts included more than 500,000 direct-mail pieces sent to homes, 25,902 personal phone calls made to prospective and current students, and hundreds of visits to community events and college nights.

The excellent efforts of the entire faculty, staff, and administration at LSC-North Harris, Greenspoint and Carver Centers have made possible record gains and meaningful strides toward student success. And, we recognize that none of these accomplishments would be possible without our partnerships with businesses, community organizations, and school districts throughout the North Houston, Aldine, Spring, and Klein communities. Community partners are vital links to our growth. LSC-North Harris is also proud to be a community host site for many business and service events.

If you would like an outreach coordinator or guest speaker to visit your group, please call Leslie LaPres at 281.618.5712.

YMCA AT LSC-NORTH HARRIS CHILD CARE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY

Finding quality, convenient, and affordable child care can seem like an impossible task. Fortunately, the YMCA at LSC-North Harris offers child care to area residents. The recently expanded program includes an all-day pre-school care for children ages 18 to 35 months, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and a new partial-week alternative for preschool aged children 18 months to five years of age. Also available to the community is a separate all-day pre-school specifically for children who are three to four years of age, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and an after-school program for ages five to 12. Cost is very affordable, but varies. For more information about enrolling your child, call Zenobia Guillory at 281.765.7730.
NEW ONLINE OPTIONS: HOSPITALITY, ACCOUNTING, AND HUMAN RESOURCES CERTIFICATES

The LSC-North Harris Hospitality Operations Certificate is now offered in a completely online format. You can continue with your current employment and not have to rearrange your life for college. Students already working in the hospitality industry may qualify to have their current job experience articulate as co-op experience. Most of the courses offered in hospitality will transfer to the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of Houston. For dual credit students, several area school districts offer high school courses in hospitality and can earn up to six hours of college credit. As part of the degree curriculum, students will enroll in cooperative education (paid internship) where they will have the opportunity to practice classroom skills in the workplace.

Beginning spring 2010, LSC-North Harris will also offer fully-online certificates in accounting and human resources. For more information, please contact David Smith at 281.765.7929 or visit lonestar.edu/12248.htm.

A QUALITY EDUCATION DOESN’T HAVE TO BE EXPENSIVE

Texas Tuition comparisons for 2009-10 based on 12 credit hours

Here’s what it costs to pay tuition for 12 credit hours (about four classes).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-North Harris</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Houston State University*</td>
<td>$1,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Houston*</td>
<td>$3,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Texas*</td>
<td>$3,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devry*</td>
<td>$3,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas*</td>
<td>$3,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University*</td>
<td>$4,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITT Technical Institute**</td>
<td>$5,352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These 12-hour basic tuition-only rate comparisons for 4-year universities do not include mandatory student fees, usage fees, and course related fees or optional fees that might be imposed depending on the course of study. Costs are for resident tuition only and do not include books, room or board expenses.

**ITT Tech’s fees do include most books, but does not include tools or other supplies.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

REGISTER NOW for spring 2010 classes at LSC-North Harris.
For the best choice of courses, class times and particular days, early registration is strongly encouraged. First day of classes for the spring semester is Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010. For more information, call 281.618.5410 or visit our Web site: NorthHarris.LoneStar.edu.

Nov. 18: Caribbean Get-A-Way: Steel Drum Concert, 7 p.m. For event location, call 281.765.7961.

Nov. 30: Holiday Pops: Concert and Jazz Choir, enjoy many of your holiday favorites, in the Academic Building, A-126, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2-5: The Glass Menagerie, by Tennessee Williams, Dec. 2-5, 8 p.m. and Dec. 6, 2 p.m., Tickets are $10. For more information, call 281.765.7812.

Dec. 5: Holiday Gala Concert, festive celebration with many of the department's ensembles performing your seasonal favorites. Tickets are $5 general admission. For event location, call 281.765.7961.
As campus enrollment continues on an upward climb, Lone Star College-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.

Beginning in late fall 2009, many new construction and renovations projects will start on our W.W. Thorne campus and our LSC-Greenspoint Center location. Additionally, LSC-North Harris purchased two professional buildings near the Houston Northwest Medical Center, which will be used for a wide-variety of allied health programs training.

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

Also planned is a new LSC-Victory Center to be located on 17 acres at the corner of Victory and Vogel Streets in the Aldine and Acres Home community.

Are you interested in earning your bachelor’s degree? Start by giving yourself the best of both worlds—enroll in Lone Star College Systems’ Joint Admissions Program. If you are a current or prospective Lone Star College-North Harris student who plans to earn a bachelor’s degree, we encourage you to take advantage of the LSC-North Harris Joint Admission Program! You can earn credits toward your Lone Star College-North Harris associate’s and a bachelor’s degree at the same time.

There are many good reasons to begin your bachelor’s degree through the Lone Star College System. A few are affordability, easy transferability of credits, excellent faculty, simplified application process, discount or no application fees, and complete access to the facilities and resources of both institutions.

Visit lonestar.edu/joint-admissions.htm and find out how you can be a student at both Lone Star College-North Harris and other excellent colleges and universities. Take advantage of Lone Star College System’s partnership with: Sam Houston State University; Our Lady of the Lake University; Prairie View A&M University; Texas Southern University; University of Houston; University of Houston-Downtown and University of Texas at Dallas.

Perhaps you are currently attending another school and decided that it was not meeting your educational needs or perhaps you are home for either a summer or winter break and looking to pick up a few more credit hours.

In addition to joint admissions, Lone Star College System has a Reverse Transfer program with the above universities. Reverse transfer establishes policies and procedures for credits earned at universities to be transferred to Lone Star College System and applied toward associate’s degrees. For example, students wishing to obtain an associate’s degree while attending a university can transfer university credit towards the associate’s degree. Students can also apply for LSCS graduation online.

It is important to work closely with a counselor or faculty advisor to be sure that progress is being made toward graduation and that all requirements are being met for future transfer.