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Dr. Steve Head, president  
LSC-North Harris

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### Budget 2008-09

The 2008-09 budget has been finalized at the college. The enrollment growth at LSC-North Harris provides approximately one million dollars in new funding. The basic goal for next year's budget is to fully fund areas that have been underfunded for several years and to direct dollars toward several new initiatives. More specific information will be sent out later this month but the highlights include a significant allocation for instructional needs, additional funds for Student Services, Workforce Training and Community Development (CE), facilities and technology.

### Bond Construction

Architects and project manager selections will be finalized at the August Board of Trustees meeting. Plans at this time include the hiring of a lead architect at each college with others hired as necessary. North Harris will move forward on multiple projects simultaneously so three or four architects may be used. The overall construction will be managed by one or more firms, and each college will have a project manager on site who will work with college personnel.

It is anticipated that all the North Harris projects will be completed in four years so we will be moving along rapidly after the architects are determined. Committees will be formed to make recommendations for each construction project. Every effort will be made to insure that the North Harris projects meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards—the national benchmark for organizations conscientious about “Green” projects.

### Early Retirement

Employees eligible for the Early Retirement Plan should have received an information packet outlining the details. If you have questions or believe you should have received the information, please contact Cyndie McNamee, human resources manager at LSC-North Harris, or Cristina Patetta, benefits manager at the System Office.

### Convocation

The official date for faculty to return to work is Monday, August 18. Our approach will be a little different this year:

- LSC-North Harris fall convocation will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, in the Performing Arts Theater.
- An employee welcome back luncheon will be held in the gym between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- The Faculty Senate meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m.

The Lone Star College System's fall convocation will be on Wednesday, August 20, at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott. You should receive a separate communication regarding this meeting.

### Child Care Update



The YMCA Child Care Center at Lone Star College-North Harris will offer three new child care programs starting on August 25. Additional funds will be made available through Financial Aid for students needing child care assistance.

The YMCA programs include the following:

• All Day Pre-School (Ages 3-4)	\$110 per week
• After School Program (Ages 5-12)	\$ 50 per week
• Child Watch Program (Ages 18 months to 5 years) For students only - free service for those who qualify	\$ 4 per hour

For additional information call 281-765-7730.

## Cafeteria and Food Service



The cafeteria renovations are a little behind schedule and the facility should reopen September 12. Food service operations will be contracted to Fazoli's in late August—the company that runs operations at LSC-Montgomery. The quality and variety of foods should benefit students and employees. All levels of service will be provided, including catering for special events. Johanna Boley will be sending out more information in the near future.

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## Lone Star College System (LSCS) Initiatives

**Advisors**-An Advisor II position has been created to establish a case management system for students. Each college within the LSCS will be filling these positions over the next year. The North Harris advisors will be reporting to Marilyn Dement in Student Services and charged with assisting students with their academic scheduling, following up during the semester on an individual basis, and monitoring their progress. This model came out of Achieving the Dream discussions, and subsequent meetings at North Harris. The intent is to provide personnel devoted to academic counseling and move the counselors to a more traditional role. More information on the role of advisors and counselors at North Harris will be provided soon.

**Contract Training**-Work continues on the organization and structure of a System wide contract training office. The contracts currently managed by the colleges, including North Harris, will be transitioned to the new office at the Greenspoint Center. Most of the North Harris contract training personnel will also be shifted to that office. This change has been discussed with the North Harris employees for many months so we expect the shift to be smooth.

**Distance Learning (DL)**-LSCS will move toward a more consistent look and feel for DL classes starting this fall. Several new instructional designers will be hired at the System Office to assist faculty in developing classes. Updated guidelines for teaching will be discussed in future meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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