

March 2008



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**Lone Star College System Bond Election**



The Board of Trustees has called for a bond election on Saturday, May 10. Early voting will occur at LSC-North Harris and other locations around the system area starting on April 28. Open forums for discussion and review will be held at LSC-North Harris and the Centers. More information may be found at [www.LoneStar.edu/bond2008](http://www.LoneStar.edu/bond2008).

The LSC-North Harris projects are as follows:

New Health Professions Building	45,000 sq. ft.	\$13.3 million
Student Services Building	50,000 sq. ft.	15.8 million
Purchase Site for Aldine Satellite Campus		3.2 million
Academic Building Renovation		10.6 million
Winship Building Renovation		.4 million
Applied Technical Building Add-on	10,000 sq. ft.	2.3 million
Fine Arts Building Add-on	15,000 sq. ft.	4.8 million
Campus Safety Lights		.7 million
Campus Traffic Infrastructure		1.5 million
Greenspoint Center Traffic Infrastructure		3.8 million
Long-term Maintenance, Replacements		5.4 million
<b>Total for LSC-North Harris</b>		<b>\$61.8 million</b>

**Cafeteria Renovation**

Renovations on the LSC-North Harris cafeteria have been delayed pending a review of the scope of work and the cost of the project. The construction estimates for the work came in considerably higher than budgeted, so a review of the project is underway to determine priorities. The project will start in late spring or early summer.



**Designated Smoking Areas**

Signs will be posted soon designating proposed smoking and non-smoking areas that were identified by a special committee composed of employees and students. The actual policy will not go into effect until mid-summer. The signs will be posted so that students and employees can start making the adjustment.

**Summer Schedule**

The summer work schedule will begin the week of June 2-7 and end the week of August 11-15 with Fridays off. The normal work schedule will resume on Monday, August 18. Summer hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Monday through Thursday – with a 30-minute lunch break. The summer dress code will be business casual. Any leave time taken during the summer schedule will be charged according to the rate chart below:

VACATION/SICK HOURS TAKEN	VACATION/SICK HOURS CHARGED
1 DAY = 9 HOURS	9 HOURS
¾ DAY = 6.75 HOURS	6.75 HOURS
½ DAY = 4.50 HOURS	4.50 HOURS

Please note that July 4 falls on a Friday this year. Employees should make arrangements with their supervisor to take *either* Thursday, July 3 or Monday, July 7 as the holiday.

Any questions regarding vacation or sick leave taken during the summer should be directed to the Human Resources Department.

## Forums



CIO Shah Ardalán will be at LSC-North Harris on Thursday, March 20, 1 to 3 p.m. in CE-101 to discuss and answer any questions you might have about the state of technology at North Harris and Lone Star College System.

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## Campus Cruiser (myNH)

Campus Cruiser will expire at the conclusion of the Spring 2008 semester. All distance learning courses, course material, and student services, including e-mail, will be converted to Vista. The funds formerly used for this contract (\$180,000) will be used to improve distance learning support.

The decision to discontinue Campus Cruiser is based on the need:

1. to provide one common platform for faculty and students;
2. to insure a higher quality level of service to faculty and students; and
3. to use resources more efficiently.

CTDL (Distance Learning), LSCS IT and the LSC-North Harris Faculty Staff Center will work closely with you to insure a smooth transition.

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## Budget Preparation

All departments should have 2008-09 budget requests input by March 31. A series of meetings has been held with administrators to discuss budgeting priorities that include adequate funding for adjunct faculty, facilities upgrades, and general operating funds. Three new faculty will be hired from funds provided by the System Office. Technology upgrades will be coordinated by the System Office.

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## Graduation

Graduation will take place Friday, May 9, at the Champions Forest Baptist Church (the same location as last year). This is a special occasion for many of our students so please make every effort to attend. More information will be sent out in April.

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## Open House – “Passport to a Better Future”

On Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lone Star College-North Harris will be hosting a college-wide Open House – “Passport to a Better Future.” For this to be an exceptional event, involvement from all departments and divisions is necessary.

The goal of the open house is to provide a college awareness and recruitment day that will allow prospective students, current students, and parents to visit the campus and learn about the many academic and technical programs, financial aid resources, enrollment requirements, and provide opportunities for participants to obtain a jump start on the admissions process.

Additionally, the event will allow visitors to become more familiar with the college’s new name, our beautiful campus grounds, and our hidden treasures.

A full marketing campaign will be part of this strategic process including direct mail pieces to more than 8,000 high school seniors and their parents, advertisement and news releases in the local papers, and on-campus publicity.

Workshops and activities for the day include something for everyone:

- Admissions process
- Academic, education and career advising
- Financial aid educational sessions
- Campus tours
- Continuing education information
- Degree completion advising
- Parent’s information sessions (English and Spanish)
- Showcase of all academic and technical programs and departments
- Student organizations expo

This initiative is being spearheaded by the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Outreach and Recruitment.

Again, campus-wide participation is requested from administrators, faculty, staff and student groups. Please contact Linda Mark, ext. 7149 or Leslie LaPres, ext. 5712 for additional details.

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### **Campus Landscaping: Impact on Recruitment and Retention**

One of the major priorities at Lone Star College-North Harris has been an upgrading of the grounds and facilities. The following is an excerpt of an e-mail sent from the Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) that best explains how all this impacts students' perceptions and the role those environments play in student recruitment and retention:

*"62% of high school seniors made their choice of institution on the basis of the appearance of the campus buildings and grounds. Most of them made that decision within the first 15 minutes of arriving on campus.*

*The built environments of our colleges and universities – both the architecture and the landscape – have affective powers that come to bear in the recruitment and retention of students, faculty, and staff. The campus environment is continually sending symbolic as well as functional messages but we often don't realize that the message received is not the intended one."*

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