Lone Star College System: New name draws from region’s heritage

The community has spoken. After a seven-week process, 400 name recommendations, and more than 5,000 online ballots, one name stood above all others as the new moniker for NHMCCD: Lone Star College System.

Trustees made the selection official on Nov. 1.

“We needed a shorter name that not only links our colleges together, but also reflects the growth of the district,” says Vice Chancellor of External Affairs Ray Laughter. “Everyone involved recognized Lone Star College System as a solid ‘fit’ for this great college district. We couldn’t be more excited to greet a new era in the school’s history.”

The Lone Star name is of particular interest in the area because of its heritage. According to House Resolution #1123 adopted by the House of Representatives of the 75th Texas Legislature, Montgomery County is the birthplace of the Lone Star Flag.

The new name, though now official, will take effect Jan. 1. Already colleges are preparing to welcome back students for the spring semester with banners and on-campus rallies celebrating the new name.

Each college will participate in simultaneous celebrations at noon Wednesday, Jan. 16. There, college presidents will say farewell to “North Harris Montgomery Community College District” for the final time, and usher in the Lone Star College System.

Other student-centered events commemorating the name are scheduled throughout the spring.

See Lone Star, page 2

Alan Quintero fills unexpired term in Position 6

Trustees have appointed a former Cy-Fair ISD board trustee to fill an unexpired term in Position 6 formerly held by Marie Flotte O’Neal. O’Neal resigned recently when she and her family moved to a home outside the college district.

Quintero, vice president of engineering for Atwood Oceanics, an offshore drilling contracting company, served on the Cy-Fair school board from 1997 to 2000. He serves as a volunteer at Cy-Fair schools and has served as a youth sports coach.

He is the 1981 valedictorian of Cy-Fair High School and a 1985 Cum Laude graduate of Texas A&M University. He attended North Harris College.

Quintero will stand for election at the next trustee election in May 2008. If elected, he will serve until the current Position 6 term expires in May 2010.

College district enrollment hits all-time high

Following the population growth patterns of its surrounding communities, the district reached a record enrollment for the Fall 2007 semester.

Final figures showed 49,253 students enrolled in credit classes at the district’s five colleges, an increase of 7% over Fall 2006.

The district also increased 6% in “contact hours,” or the total hours of classroom instruction, to 7.3 million.

Enrollment was up at every college in the district. Lone Star College-Cy-Fair, the newest college, jumped 9.3% to 12,248 students. Lone Star College-Montgomery also surged 9.3% to 9,254.

See Enrollment, page 2
Did you know?

- LSCS has doubled in size every 10 years since the college opened 35 years ago.
- According to the Houston Business Journal, Lone Star College System is the largest of all colleges and universities in the greater Houston area.
- Average size of a Texas community college is about 5,000 students. Lone Star College System is adding the equivalent of a new college every two years.
- Enrollment is projected to hit 60,000 by 2015.
- District’s service area includes 39 high schools. One in every five May high school graduates attends a LSCS college the next fall.
- The region is growing.
  - Expected to grow 13% between now and 2011.
- Colleges are doing many things to accommodate growth:
  - Putting more students in class
  - Scheduling more afternoon, evening and weekend classes
  - Scheduling more classes “online” (one of the fastest areas of growth)
  - Placing classes in modular buildings at Cy-Fair and Montgomery
  - Placing more classes “off-campus” in high schools and other locations
  - Increased number of “flex” classes—that meet only one time per week (rest via DL)
- According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, both Cy-Fair and Montgomery colleges exceed recommended maximum usage rates. Others projected to exceed space limits within next few years.

Lone Star, continued from page 1

The system, which has grown from 613 students on a single campus to more than 49,253 students on five colleges and six satellite centers across two counties, realized it was time to change the name. The old name included the name of two of its colleges: North Harris College and Montgomery College. This affinity created an “identity challenge” for the other locations.

“We are delighted the college chose Lone Star College System as its new name,” Montgomery County Judge Alan “Barb” Sadler told trustees. “It is both relevant and pertinent as it reflects the important local history of our community as the recognized birthplace of the Lone Star flag.”

Look at ISDs to predict future growth

How does a college district project its future enrollment and predict the needs of the very near future? One excellent predictor is looking at the pupil enrollments of the public ISDs in its district. There are 11 separate school districts within the boundaries of Lone Star College System, and they are all growing dramatically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public school districts</th>
<th>Enrollment*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006-07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldine</td>
<td>58,756</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conroe</td>
<td>42,431</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cy-Fair</td>
<td>91,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humble</td>
<td>31,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Klein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Caney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Splendora</td>
<td>3,263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>32,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomball</td>
<td>9,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willis</td>
<td>5,711</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: 335,164 350,907

*As reported by each ISD.

The System’s service area includes 39 high schools. One in every five high school graduates attends a Lone Star College.

Enrollment, continued from page 1

Lone Star College-Kingwood increased 6.8% to 7,918; Lone Star College-Tomball by 5.5% to 8,453; and Lone Star College-North Harris by 4% to 11,380.

Both Cy-Fair and Montgomery have exceeded capacity and are using temporary buildings for classrooms.

The district is the largest college in the greater Houston area and third largest in Texas behind Dallas County Community College District and the Alamo Community College District.
SBDC partnerships are profitable for small businesses

The Lone Star College Small Business Development Center has created some notable affiliations that can considerably benefit existing businesses in this region of Texas. For example:

**Financial:** The SBDC operates in part from a federal grant issued by the Small Business Administration, which provides both financial guarantees and direct loans to existing businesses and start-up entrepreneurs. In addition, the SBDC has created numerous relationships with local lending institutions and venture capital organizations interested in financing business transactions in the local region.

**Legal:** The SBDC has a continuing relationship with the University of Houston Law School. Those who qualify under this agreement can receive legal advice and assistance in non-dispute transactions at no charge for legal services rendered.

**Technical:** Johnson Space Center and the SBDC operate under an agreement referred to as the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP). This is a NASA funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses. Small business owners faced with technical challenges can receive up to 40 hours of free assistance from a scientist or technologist working in the U.S. Space Program. The assistance is made possible through a consortium of Space Alliance Partners which include NASA contractors, NASA Centers, aerospace companies, universities and colleges.

Through these relationships, the SBDC is a significant resource partner to small businesses in our community, assisting in their problem solving, growth and profit enhancement. For free one-on-one confidential business management consulting services, go to www.northhoustonbusiness.com.

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**Teach to make a difference:**

Join our team as an adjunct faculty member

Lone Star College System needs adjunct faculty in a variety of subject areas for courses taught at each of the five colleges and six satellite centers.

View currently posted positions at: https://jobs.nhmccd.edu/

For additional information, email: employment@nhmccd.edu

Lone Star College-Montgomery gets call for corporate training

When one of the nation’s leading pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, needed software training for employees at its Conroe-based distribution hub, it turned to Lone Star College-Montgomery for assistance. The college executed multiple training sessions on a variety of programs at various skill levels. The result for McKesson employees has been enhanced job knowledge and better opportunities for internal promotion.

“McKesson values our strong partnership with Lone Star College-Montgomery,” says Jon Cox, distribution center manager. “They provide more than classroom training; they work to meet our business needs. The professional training has stirred enthusiasm within our employees, and they are now better equipped to handle our day-to-day business, and have learned life skills that carry beyond the workplace.”

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**SBDC is a significant resource partner to small businesses in our community, assisting in their problem solving, growth and profit enhancement.**

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**Lone Star College Business Training Consultants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-Cy-Fair</td>
<td>Abdulnassir Tamimi, Melissa L. Rotholz</td>
<td>281.290.3200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-Kingwood</td>
<td>Ike Williams, Frances Andrews</td>
<td>281.312.1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-Montgomery</td>
<td>Bonnie Dean, David Boden, Patricia Harakal</td>
<td>936.273.7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-North Harris</td>
<td>Mary Fitzgerald, Connie Thomas, Cecilia Martinez</td>
<td>281.618.5400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star College-Tomball</td>
<td>Denton Bryant, RoseMary Mooney</td>
<td>281.351.3300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Texas to benefit tremendously by meeting Closing the Gaps goals

According to a recent study, successfully reaching the goals of Closing the Gaps—Texas’ higher education plan—will increase the state’s economic output by $194.5 billion annually, create more than a million permanent jobs and increase personal income by nearly $122 billion annually by 2030.

The Gulf Coast region alone would see an additional $35 billion in personal income and nearly 250,000 new jobs.

The report, titled “A Tale of Two States—and One Million Jobs!” was conducted by the Perryman Group in Waco, TX.

“This analysis shows without a doubt that Texas has much to gain by achieving the goals of Closing the Gaps, and that it has much to lose by not meeting those goals,” said Texas Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes.

“It’s a must-read report for community, business, and political leaders, or anyone else with an interest in the future of Texas. It’s the most comprehensive study we’ve seen on this issue and it shows that the economic benefits of higher education are much greater, including the creation of new jobs, than what we had estimated in the past.”

The report indicates that when all public (state and local) and private costs are considered, the annual economic returns per $1 of expenditures by 2030 are estimated to be $24.15 in total spending, $9.60 in gross state product, and $6.10 in personal income.

These benefits will accrue if the state meets Closing the Gaps goals, which call for enrolling 1.6 million students in higher education, awarding 210,000 certificates and degrees, significantly increasing federal research obligations to the state, and improving excellence at the state’s colleges and universities by 2015.

Kingwood nursing auxiliary provides scholarships

Kingwood Medical Center’s Auxiliary present Lone Star College-Kingwood President, Dr. Linda Stegall, (second from right) and Lone Star College Foundation Executive Director, John Hooker (right) a check for $81,000 to endow five scholarships and purchase equipment in the college’s Applied and Health Sciences.

Adults enjoy classes close to home, geared to their interests

Each of the five colleges has an Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL), which offers programs especially of interest to active, older adults. There are no educational requirements for those interested in joining ALL, but membership fees and course listings vary by college.

Call or check the website for specific dates and course descriptions. While a few of the classes have an added fee beyond the basic ALL membership fee, many of the classes are free with membership.

Lone Star College-Cy-Fair
281.290.5246

Lone Star College-Kingwood
281.312.1749

Lone Star College-Montgomery
936.273.7446

Lone Star College-North Harris
281.618.7133

Lone Star College-Tomball
281.357.3676
Mobile Go Center takes college into community

The college district is doing its part to help area high school students start their college careers. As part of a statewide initiative, “College for Texans,” the district will be operating a Mobile Go Center at events and sites around the region.

The Mobile Go Center is a 34-foot-long air-conditioned trailer, equipped through an $800,000 grant to the College for Texans Foundation from the AT&T Foundation with 10 laptop computers, a printer, scanner, copier and a high-speed satellite Internet connection.

The Go Center’s purpose is to promote higher education to middle and high school students and their parents. It will operate in tandem with a statewide network of Go Centers, to bring information on the admission process, financial aid and career options to communities and schools with limited access to that information.

Golf Tournament Raises $65,000 for Scholarships

The college district’s 14th annual Foundation golf tournament raised approximately $65,000 in support of student scholarships, academic programs as well as district faculty enrichment.

The tournament was held at The Clubs of Kingwood and followed by a dinner sponsored by Oceaneering International, Inc.

“The community support for this event was incredible. Not only do our sponsors financially assist students to reach their goals within the college experience, but they generate a long-term investment in the community,” said John Hooker, executive director of The Foundation.

Since 1991, The Foundation continues to facilitate charitable gifts programs that help fill the gaps in revenue support, due to declining state funds. This fall, The Foundation awarded more than 300 substantial scholarships to students at Cy-Fair, Kingwood, Montgomery, North Harris and Tomball colleges.

Sponsors for this year’s tournament included MATT® Manufacturing; SHW Group LLP; Conroe Regional Medical Center/Kingwood Medical Center; Methodist Willowbrook Hospital; The Woodlands Waterway Marriott; Abby’s Catering Services; Amegy Investments, Inc.; Bridgeland; Carter & Burgess, Inc.; CenterPoint Energy; Cisco Systems/Calance LLC; Continental Airlines; Crystal Communications, Ltd.; Custom Food Group; Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union; Debners Company/ Knoll; Dell, Inc.; DNC Travel & Hospitality Services; Entergy; Follett Higher Education Group; Gensler; Henry T. Brooks Investments; HTS, Inc. Consultants; InvesTex Credit Union; Jones/Borne/Inc., Structural Consultants; Kirksey; Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands; Parsons; PBK Architects; Schulte Building Systems, Inc.; The Sellers Group; Stan St. Pierre; Texas Process Equipment Company; Towne Lake a Caldwell Companies Community; Triad Measurement & Equipment, Inc.; Williams Scotsman, Inc.; Woodforest Financial Services; and The Woodlands Development Company.

HR Essentials series begins in January to help area companies with personnel

The EEOC received over 75,000 new discrimination charges last year. And even though 61.2 percent of the charges were resolved, the price of defense is higher than most businesses can imagine: $140,000 average (through a jury verdict), according to attorney Mike Starzyk of The Woodlands.

Starzyk is part of a taskforce formed by Kim Fox-Marchetti and Sal Mira, SBDC director, Lone Star College System, to develop a timely and informative workshop for small business owners and human resource professionals who want to familiarize themselves with the important changes in HR management and employment law.

“HR Essentials” is a series of workshops designed to assist companies in “getting it right the first time.” Participants may take the entire series or only one or two. Scheduled for Jan. 23, Feb. 6 and Feb. 20, from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., early registrants will get a discount for the series. CE credits will be offered.

For registration and program information, see the SBDC website at www.northhoustonbusiness.com or call 832.813.6674.
AtD Progress Report: 
Development of “student advocacy system” will help students overcome obstacles, graduate

The college system is entering the second year of a national initiative to help students persist and succeed. The initiative is “Achieving the Dream,” a project funded by the Lumina Foundation.

According to system officials, enrolling people is not enough; students must graduate with the competencies required to join Texas’ workforce. For many disadvantaged students, that success means overcoming personal and work issues that cause overwhelmed students to give up and drop out.

Thus, Achieving the Dream signifies the intent to level the playing field.

While there are no quick fixes, the district wants to determine which intervention strategies can affect systemic change in the organization. After a year of data collection and analyses, the district is developing a student advocacy system. Key components include training faculty to advise students, identifying high risk students and training student success coaches to intervene, formalizing a minority student success program and developing increased instructional support for adjunct faculty.

The initiative will begin with students who are not college ready in their mathematical ability because these courses are sometimes stumbling blocks before a student even begins work toward his educational goals.

The number of students who successfully complete their remedial math courses will increase and then the added focus will be to increase the number of students who successfully complete Math 1314, college level algebra, required in most degree plans, developmental English courses and English 1301.

Rather than depending on anecdotal information, Achieving the Dream is creating a student advocacy system based on concrete statistic data. The outcome will be educated college graduates rather than dropouts.

The System addresses teacher shortage with fast track certification program

Early retirees who are seasoned professionals and college educated stay-at-home moms whose kids have grown are turning to a second career in teaching. The district is helping them make the transition with its alternative teacher certification program.

The alternative teacher certification program is intensive, fast-tracked, and modular based. Classes are held evenings, weekends and on a daytime fast-track basis to accommodate a variety of schedules. Participants can enter the program in August, January or May at any of the five colleges within the System.

Past participants in the colleges’ alternative teacher certification program include a cache of doctors, lawyers, engineers, marine biologists, police officers, chemists, and accountants, to name a few. Highly educated professional men and women who have climbed their career ladders, run businesses, made the grade, and earned their accolades are facing middle age and considering ways to give back to their communities. Their goal is to make a difference.

There is no one better than a seasoned professional who has worked as an engineer to explain how math applies to physics and how physics applies to life. That credibility is solid among students.

Gary Summers is a good example. He ran the 911 operations in Chicago for AT&T. Now he’s teaching math at a private charter school. Don’t talk to him about the stress of teaching math to rambunctious middle school kids. He loves teaching the magic of math.

Other traits needed for a career in teaching include high energy, flexibility, teamwork, creativity and respect for diversity.

For more information, call the college nearest you during regular business hours:

**Alternative Teacher Certification Program**

Requirements for the program include a bachelor's degree, a 2.5 overall GPA, U.S. citizenship or permanent residency. Prior to acceptance into the program, applicants must pass a basic skills exam (which is available at each of the five colleges), complete a formal application for admission, pay a $40 application fee, and interview with program leaders.
Dr. Steve Head fills position as Lone Star College-North Harris president

The extended search for the next president of Lone Star College-North Harris has resulted in the selection of Dr. Steve Head for the permanent position.

Dr. Head is a long-time employee of the college district, having served in many capacities during his 23 year career with the district. His tenure began as the dean of Student Services at North Harris College and included service as president of Kingwood College.

Most recently, he has been the executive vice chancellor for the district. He was appointed interim president at North Harris College in February 2007 after Dr. David Sam resigned.

In Dr. Carpenter’s announcement to the college, he indicated that the results of the faculty and staff feedback from the various interviews conducted for Dr. Head were overwhelmingly favorable and clearly supportive of the work he has accomplished in the last eight months as interim.

Dr. Head is active in community, civic and economic development issues in the region, and has a number of leadership roles in regional organizations. Most recently he served as vice president for economic development for the South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the East Montgomery County Scholarship Foundation Board and is on the advisory board for The Woodlands Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Head is active in community college affairs, serves on several state and national committees, is a frequent presenter at professional conferences, and has written several articles on community college issues.

College professor explores India as part of Rotary exchange team

Rajiv Malkan, professor of computer science and business at Lone Star College-Montgomery, recently spent five weeks in southern India as one of a six-member team of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) program.

For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country’s institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

As a part of the team, Malkan stayed with the Rotarian host families in cities throughout southern India and visited numerous higher educational institutions as a part of the exchange program.

“The Indian education system puts a lot of value on the theoretical aspect of the curriculum and less emphasis on the practical approach of teaching and learning,” said Malkan. “Even though, more and more, urban institutions are incorporating a hands-on approach toward teaching, the rural areas are lagging behind.”

Malkan was impressed with a rural polytechnic college that was offering the latest information technology curriculum (such as Cisco networking) and engaging faculty in professional development. The MBA program at one institute required every student to purchase a laptop with the facilities incorporating all-wireless Internet access in a business-like classroom setting. The placement of the graduating class was 100 percent.

Staying with Rotarian host families was one of the most important cultural experiences of the program, said Malkan. Understanding the daily routine of a family and being part of that family as a member for several days was “unforgettable.”

Besides making vocational and cultural visits, GSE team members made presentations at Rotary club meetings in each city.
IN THE NEWS

Trustees decrease tax rate by 2%

College trustees have set a 2007-2008 tax rate that is 2% lower than the previous year's rate. This is the second consecutive year trustees have lowered the tax rate, and the sixth time since 1997. The board has approved a total tax rate of 11.44 cents per $100 valuation, based on certified tax rolls received from Harris and Montgomery Counties.

Officials said the lower rate will generate tax revenues sufficient to support the operations of the district as well as pay bonded debt obligations for the coming year.

The new rate includes $0.0809 per $100 valuation for maintenance and operations, and $0.0335 per $100 valuation for the interest and sinking component.

According to Cindy Gilliam, vice chancellor of business affairs, the new rate will result in an estimated $114.8 million, which will support approximately 44% of the district's operating budget and 87% of its debt service requirements. The remainder of the debt service requirements are funded from investment earnings and pledged operating revenues. The remainder of the operating budget will come from state appropriations, tuition, and auxiliary funds.

The new budget totals $233,480,000, which includes debt service and auxiliary funds.

Out-of-district tuition increases for Spring ‘08

For students living outside the college district, the cost of college is increasing.

Beginning with registration for the Spring 2008 semester, out-of-district and out-of-state fees will increase by $20 per credit hour. That means a full-time student taking 12 credit hours and living out of district will pay an additional $240 above current tuition costs.

Out-of-state students taking a full-load will pay an additional $240. With regular tuition, fees and books, a full course load of 12 credit hours will total about $1,584 for out-of-district students and $1,764 for out-of-state students.

Students living within the college district will see no increase in fees.

The action was taken to help mitigate the subsidy local property taxpayers provide for students who live outside the district and pay no taxes. Last year, more than 6,400 out-of-district and out-of-state students enrolled for classes at the colleges.

The college district receives 28% of its funding from state appropriations, 44% from local property taxes, 26% from student tuition and fees, and 2% from grants and auxiliary operations.

Registration for Spring 2008 classes continues through Jan. 12, 2008. Out-of-district and out-of-state students will be charged the new fees when they register and pay for classes.

www.nhmccd.edu

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