Greetings! It is indeed a pleasure to see all of our faculty and students back and making the “Corporate-Look-College-Feel” an extraordinary reality at University Park.

Fall 2012 marks our second full semester since the opening of LSC-University Park as a college. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and administration, the transition to a fully operational and rapidly growing college is evidenced by our enrollment growth and facilities expansions. More classrooms, labs, and student activities spaces are under construction and the design of a $20M energy and manufacturing building has already started.

As you know, LSC-University Park has earned critical milestone approvals from SACS, the accreditation body that oversees colleges and universities in the southern region, and we are expecting a site visit on September 19, 2012. I appreciate the tremendous amount of work and coordination done by Dr. Brandyburg, department chairs, and a System-wide team to generate our (2,624 pages) SACS report. Our Strategic and Unit Effectiveness plans are on target too.

LSC-University Park had an exceptional summer thanks to our full-time and adjunct faculty members who played a big part in delivering high-quality instruction and accommodating an unprecedented 44% enrollment growth compared to last summer. We are very fortunate to have such competent and passionate adjunct faculty members who play a critical role in achieving our mission of student success. Teamwork by faculty and staff resulted in exceeding our enrollment growth goals while ensuring student satisfaction and continuous LSC-UP’s transformation through academic excellence and innovation.

Our students too are answering to our Invitation to Innovate (i2i) and winning national awards. My congratulations to Haley Barnett and our chief strategist for innovation, Mike Mathews for winning the Department of Education’s National Education Startup Challenge contest for undergraduates.

We are fortunate to enjoy continuous robust support and engagement from our community. LSC-University Park’s links with our educational and business partners are growing stronger and more beneficial by the day.

LSC-University Park takes pride in a shared vision on ways to broaden Lone Star College’s social and economic impact on the community at large. **We are our community’s college!**

It is an honor and privilege serving you, this great institution, our community, and our students.

Shah S. Ardalan

## Let’s Hear from You

**ASPIRE** is our campus quarterly newsletter, a place for sharing updates and accomplishments. Please help us celebrate the progress and innovative ideas that make LSC-University Park a haven for education and collaboration. We are looking for your comments, suggestions, and write ups on new programs, community engagements, faculty highlights, student success, partnerships, and career opportunities. Visit us at **lonestar.edu/UP-newsletter** to find out more or email us at **aspire@lonestar.edu**.
A warm welcome to our students, faculty, and staff as we begin the fall semester!

Our faculty and administrative teams are working hard to provide the high quality of instruction and support that has been the hallmark of all our Lone Star College campuses.

We have built the library of the future! Be sure to visit our new Student Learning Center, located on the 8th floor of building 12. The Center houses a digital library, tutoring center, assistive technology lab, writing center, and homework lab. It will be staffed by faculty, certified tutors, and trained peer tutors. We have added new resources for our students, like a small media lab equipped with video editing equipment. Nooks, cameras, webcams, earphones, and laptops are also available for short-term checkout. The digital collection of the library contains 40,000 eBooks purchased especially for college research. The consortium (Harris County Public Libraries and Montgomery Public Libraries) and Lone Star System together have over 3,000,000 books, DVDs, and eBooks. There are over 76 databases containing documents, articles, news, images, and music. Faculty members will enjoy the new multimedia database (NBC Learn Archives) which contains over 10,000 video clips from 3-5 minutes in length in 26 subject areas including historic stories, images and primary source documents, dating back to the American Civil War. Films on Demand contains 90,000 video clips in 28 subject areas and 8,000 full-length videos. Feel free to check out our in-demand videos, which feature journalistic stories, complete with bibliographic information, citation generator and a full transcript.

Join us in building an innovative campus that promotes the success of our students.

Dr. Lawrence Brandyburg

Faculty Spotlight

Sharon Miller, Professor Developmental English

First-year students in Sharon Miller’s Developmental English classes are in for a treat from day one. They are introduced to cool concepts and learn to read and write in brain-friendly ways. Like other professors who teach developmental students, Professor Sharon Miller is passionate about student success.

Her journey as a teacher has led her beyond the classroom to her current work as President of the Texas College Reading and Learning Association and Chair of the Texas Developmental Education Initiative Reading and Writing Leadership Committee.

Prof. Miller has won several awards for teaching excellence and was honored to be the commencement speaker for the LSC-Cyfair campus in 2009. Prof. Miller has presented at local, state, national and international conferences on the topics of active learning, accelerated learning, and college placement.

“The greatest fun is structuring each lesson so that my students have that ‘Aha! Moment,’” said Sharon. “It’s so rewarding to bump into students after a year or two and hear about their accomplishments. That is what it is all about!”

LSC-University Park Campus Partners

We are as strong as our partners and our partnerships! LSC-University Park is pleased and proud to serve our students and the community through our excellent universities and charter school. In partnership with these universities over 80 certificates, associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees are offered on our campus. Our university partners are a critical part of our promise to our community. The iSchoolHigh at LSC-University Park, enables students to take college-level classes while in high school at no cost to the student.

New PSSA Team at LSC-University Park

In Spring 2012, the Professional Support Staff Association (PSSA) launched its inaugural year with a new team, new agenda and new vision. The new team, composed of Nicole Aboltin, president, and the officers who work in various positions from faculty, student services and administrative support, raised over $1000 for student scholarships. Activities included a Chili Cook Off, a Parking Spot Raffle, Relay for Life, and a Car Wash.

The 2012 Officers are Nicole Aboltin, Veronica Sanchez, Sharon Luczak, Su-Sun Reza, Justin Thompson, Leslie LaPres, John Fisher, Roz Branch-Leavell and Theresa Benavides.
Lead by Example and Help OUR Students

It has been five years since the last LSC Foundation employee campaign and we are excited to kick-off the 2012 campaign at LSC-UP in September. Lone Star College System opens doors to opportunity and the “key” to these doors is in YOUR hands. Please sign up for a payroll deduction of ANY amount to provide scholarships and direct support of our students’ success. Your gift is tax deductible and can be VERY easily and quickly set up. No gift is too small. Every gift matters and makes a difference. Our goal is 100% faculty and staff participation. For more information, please contact our LSC-University Park Campaign Co-Chairs: Leslie LaPres (Leslie.R.LaPres@lonestar.edu) or Tameka Williams-Bruce (Tameka.L.Williams-Bruce@lonestar.edu).

Professional Development

Professional Development Program -- We launched brand-new professional development series this fall! All staff will have the opportunity to become involved in a variety of ways, including attending weekly professional development sessions, casual gatherings with colleagues, adjunct faculty sessions, and learning circles. Keep an eye out at the start of the semester for flyers, emails, and other advertisements. The fall schedule will be available soon and you can begin registering for sessions. For details, please contact Casey Willis, Program Manager. Casey.willis@lonestar.edu or visit https://intranet.lonestar.edu/campus/up/ProDev/SitePages/Home.aspx

The Art of Teaching Learning Circle -- This video lecture series, aimed at faculty development, will begin in the fall of 2012. Meetings, which will focus on different aspects of teaching (30 min video plus 30 min discussion), will be open to all faculty members, full-time and part-time. The topics are applicable across disciplines and can be implemented in both F2F and online class settings. For details, please contact Leslie LaPres. Leslie.R.LaPres@lonestar.edu

What is Lone Star Corporate College?

The Office for Workforce Education and Corporate Partnerships (OWECP) is home to Lone Star Corporate College (LSCC). Pattie Harakal, Cecelia Martinez, Dave Lenzi, and Michael Burns are the leaders who provide customized and open enrollment training to working professionals (technical and administrative). Although there are offerings in several disciplines, the focus is directed towards the energy, computer technology, and automated manufacturing industry sectors. Another area in OWECP is responsible for keeping the Lone Star College System’s 46 Associate of Science degrees current so that we can also assist industry with a talented workforce pool. We conduct labor market analysis and lead the Workforce Council, which consists of faculty and administrative staff from across the college system. It is through their guidance and our data that we provide the trained workforce our employers need to remain competitive.

Continuing Education is the third area in the OWECP, providing the non-credit courses and programs at each campus. Our Job Placement and Workforce Solutions Scholarships departments offer workforce students assistance in identifying scholarship funds to get started and jobs once they complete. Then of course we have multiple projects to include state and national grants, international relationships, and curriculum development. Please contact me or any of our team members if you want to recommend someone interested in teaching or training with us, are aware of equipment donations we might use in any of our college labs, have contacts at our employers who may be in need of our training services, or any opportunities for our talented workforce students.

Focus on Innovation

On our first Student Innovation Day (April 18), students were asked to submit “cool new ideas” for improving higher education. Of the 70 entries received, seven were submitted to the U.S. Department of Education Contest (http://nesc.challenge.gov).

Five students were chosen to submit business plans. Haley Barnett was the finalist and winner in the undergraduate category. See Haley’s promotional video at http://nesc.challenge.gov/submissions/7550-the-educational-positioning-system.

LSCS is helping to develop a breakthrough guidance system for use by students called “Education and Career Positioning System.” This system is being designed to provide career planning assistance for students and parents.

LSC-University Park participated in the 2012 IMS Global Learning Consortium Conference. LSCS also won two Research Awards for work done with students across America: one for the National Lone Star Report on Aligning Technology to Student Success, and the other for the Educational Positioning System.

“Winning this type of national recognition demonstrates that students can help leaders across the country innovate and change the way in which they navigate the landscape of education.”

Dr. Richard Carpenter, Chancellor, Lone Star College System.
On September 12 & 13, LSC-University Park will be hosting “BEST START at The Park” from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in The Park.

This will be a great opportunity for our students and others to get to know the faculty, staff, programs and services available at LSC-University Park, while also having some fun!

To make our BEST START initiative a success, all departments are invited to help students connect with their campus.

BEST START encourages students to:

1. Set a goal
2. Make a plan
3. Get connected
4. Stay involved

Cypress Community Orchestra

LSC-University Park is now the rehearsal venue for the Cypress Community Band. This talented musical group has delighted local audiences since 2007 with classical and popular musical selections. The group will perform free concerts during the fall and spring semesters.

Music is an important part of a well-rounded education and cultural climate at LSC-University Park. The Cypress Community Band will contribute to raising the awareness of the arts in the community. For details please contact Stephen Mendonca.

Explore Galaxy 21 at LSC-University park

Get ready for Galaxy 21, a monthly forum on 21st Century issues and innovative solutions in various careers, the humanities, science, and technology. This lifelong learning initiative is designed to support academic vitality, cultural diversity, and career networking for our students and surrounding community.

With help from faculty experts, community leaders, and external speakers, this forum can become a gathering place for inquiring minds and a catalyst for student learning about the way innovation transforms our world. Forum meetings will take the form of panel sessions, speaker interviews, or keynote addresses.

Galaxy 21 events will be open to all -- students, staff, faculty, and community. A schedule of meetings will be posted on bulletin boards and announced via press releases to the community.

Topics for the 2012-13 season include the following: Ten Hottest Career Paths for Community College Students, Restoring Civility to American Society, Are Social Media Making Us Smarter or Dumber?, The Politics and Economics of Healthcare. Stay tuned for a schedule of events. If you have ideas or suggestions, please contact the forum director, Stephen Mendonca at Stephen.J.Mendonca@lonestar.edu Or visit the website at lonestar.edu/up-galaxy21

Leo the Lion

Welcome to LSC-UP, it is the place to be! Last semester students voted and picked the Lion as LSC-University Park’s new mascot. The lion is the perfect fit for LSC-UP as it represents pride, courage and excellence. During welcome week, Leo walked the halls and interacted with students. Here are a few comments about Leo from our students.

“I am so excited about our new mascot, Leo. Welcome week was great! Appreciated the faculty and staff at UP helping me find my class and thanks for the, I heart UP t-shirt, love it!”, Diane K.

“I was nervous coming to college for the first time. I didn’t know what to expect or if I would fit in. But, when I saw Leo and I had to smile. I know that UP was the right place for me”, Tim R.

“It is fun to see Leo walking the hall and interacting with students”, Lauren R.

“I was lost and Leo escorted me to my class, where do you get that?”, Davis J.

lonestar.edu/up-newsletter