

STAR



Star Newsletter, a Lone Star College System Publication | Fall 2012 | LoneStar.edu

LONE STAR COLLEGE Committed to success of its students

Lone Star College System is committed to the success of its students. In fact, the number one strategic goal of LSCS is to "increase completion and achievement of all students."



Thousands of Lone Star College students successfully completed their associate degree this spring and attended May commencement ceremonies.

Over the past year, Lone Star College has committed to several key projects with student success as the underlying framework.

LSCS is a proud partner of the My Degree Counts initiative recently launched by The Center for Houston's Future and Houston Mayor Anise Parker.

My Degree Counts is a public outreach campaign to raise graduation rates by 1 percent at colleges in the Houston region by the summer of 2013. Projections indicate that a 1 percent improvement in graduation/completions rates will boost personal income in the Houston region by \$4.2 billion annually.

At LSCS, the My Degree Counts project includes contacting more than 10,000 students who have accumulated 55 college credits or more, but for whatever reason, have not returned to complete their associate degree.

These students are being contacted by phone and postcards and can access a special website for assistance that outlines their credit status and completion options.

"They are so close to completing an associate degree and finishing what they started. Studies show that a college degree can increase their earning power, reduce their chances of unemployment and even encourage their children to also attend college," said Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor.

"We can't afford to let them not finish," Dr. Carpenter said.

Student Success, continued on page 11 ►

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LSC the fastest-growing community college in the nation

The student enrollment continues to grow for Lone Star College System, which is now the fastest-growing community college system in the nation.

According to Community College Week magazine, LSCS grew by 17 percent, adding 7,908 students from fall 2009 to fall 2010, making it the fastest-growing community college system in the United States. LSCS has 75,000 students in credit classes and a total enrollment of 90,000.

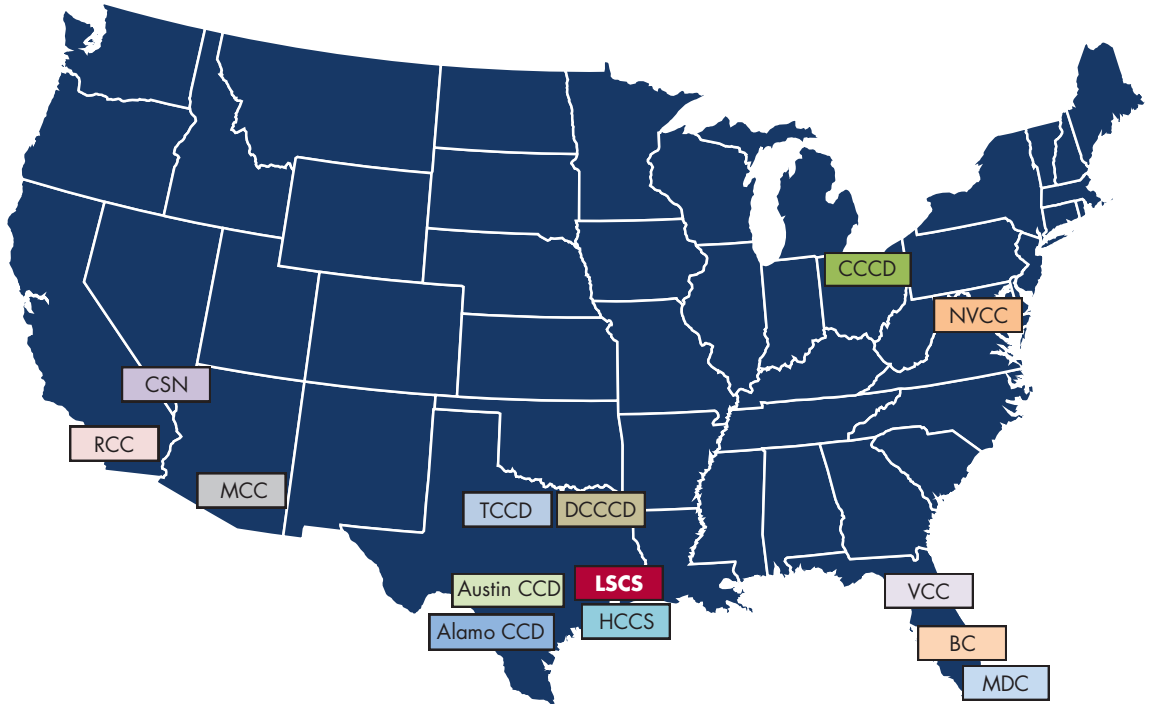
The magazine annually publishes a special report to mark the fastest-growing















colleges in the nation based upon U.S. Department of Education data (the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set survey). The 2009–2010 data was the latest available.

"Lone Star College System has felt the impact of this tsunami of students who continue to turn to us for a quality, affordable education," said Randy Bates, J.D., chairman of the LSCS Board of Trustees. "Our goal, however, isn't to be the biggest. Our goal is to be the best and to help our students complete their credentials."

2012 REPORT CARD

How does the Lone Star College System compare with other community colleges of like size and organizational structure? View the following page to see how LSCS stacks up in nine critical areas.



	Alamo Colleges	Alamo CCD		Lone Star College System	LSCS
	Austin Community College	Austin CCD		Mesa Community College	MCC
	Broward College	BC		Miami Dade College	MDC
	College of Southern Nevada	CSN		Northern Virginia Community College	NVCC
	Cuyahoga Community College District	CCCD		Riverside Community College	RCC
	Dallas County Community College District	DCCCD		Tarrant County College District	TCCD
	Houston Community College System	HCCS		Valencia Community College	VCC

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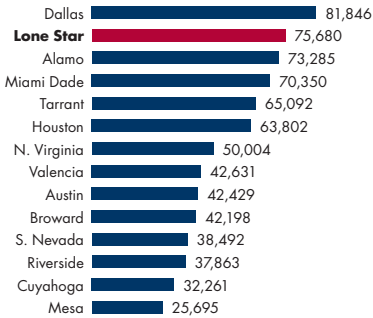
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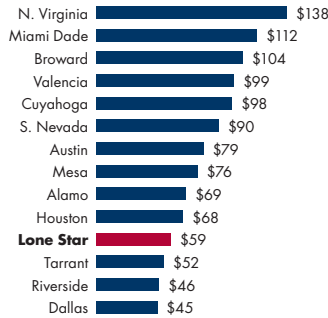
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LSCS Peer Performance Tracking

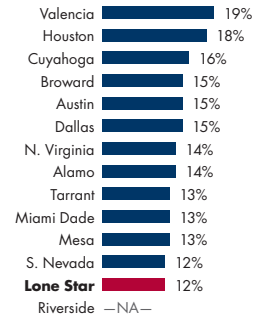
Student Headcount Fall 2011¹



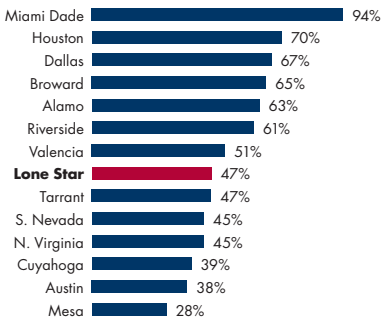
Tuition and Fees per Credit Hour Fall 2011²



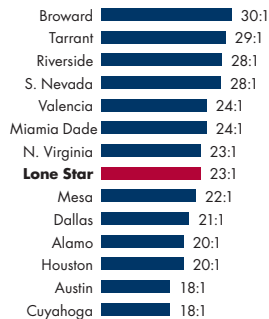
Administrative Costs % of Budget FY 2010-2011³



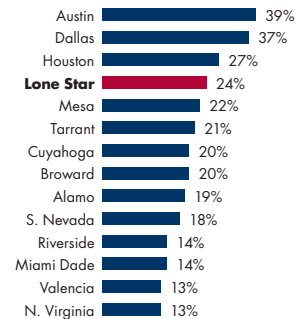
Minority Students Fall 2010⁴



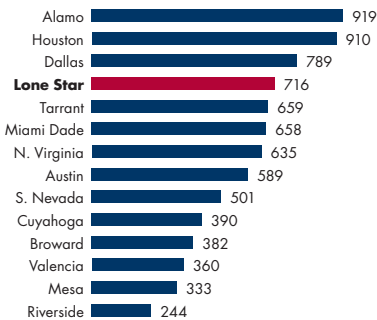
Student Faculty Ratio Fall 2010⁵



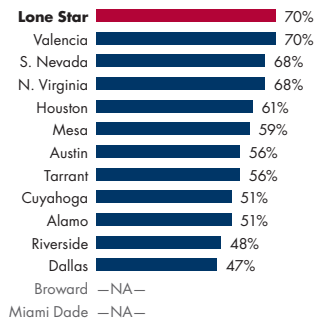
Transfer Rate - 2007 Cohort Fall 2010⁶



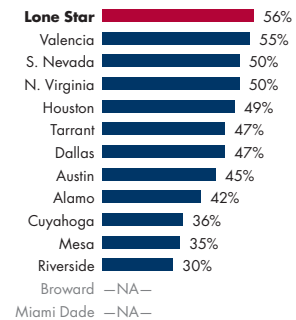
Full-time Faculty Fall 2010⁷



Full-time Persistence Fall 2010⁸



Part-time Persistence Fall 2010⁸



¹Number of students served for credit classes. Source: Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC), Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) College Navigator and individual college websites.
²The cost per credit hour is based on FT credit load of 12 hours, including all applicable fees. Source: individual college websites. ³Percentage of the budget expenditures dedicated to Administrative Cost. Sources: IPEDS and National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). ⁴Includes Black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian/Alaskan Native. Source: IPEDS - 2011 Data Feedback Reports. ⁵Sources: Texas Institutions are from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Accountability Report. Out of State Institutional data are from the individual college websites. ⁶Fall 2007 Full-time, First Time in College students who transferred to a 4 year institution by Fall 2010. Source: IPEDS - 2011 Data Feedback Reports. ⁷Source: IPEDS - 2011 Data Feedback Reports. ⁸Full-time, first-time students who enter the institution for the first time in the fall and who return the following fall, divided by the total number of full-time, first-time students in the fall of first entrance. Part-time persistence is similarly defined. Source: IPEDS - 2011 Data Feedback Reports.

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY.



The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math grant will help fund a math center at LSC-North Harris, where students will have access to tutoring and peer assistance.

Lone Star College receives \$4.35 million STEM grant

Lone Star College System was recently awarded the Hispanic Serving Institution Program's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) grant for \$4.35 million over the next five years.

The HSI-STEM grant will be used to create a Math Success program at LSC-North Harris, where more than 30 percent of its enrolled students are Hispanic.

The STEM grants provide assistance to Hispanic-serving institutions to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students and to help the students complete their education. It is part of a national Hispanic Serving Institution Program funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

The HSI Program grants also enable Hispanic-serving institutions to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality and institutional stability.

As part of the project, a Math Center will be housed at LSC-North Harris and will offer tutoring and peer assistance in

conjunction with the University of Houston's math department – to encourage completion and transfer opportunities for students who want to go on to get a mathematics degree from UH. Students will also get to hear guest speakers who use higher-level mathematics in their professions.

The project includes extensive faculty development, course revisions, increased online access and installation of interactive instruction resources in the new Math Center.

"The tutoring and peer assistance planned as part of the Math Center will help more students complete their credentials," said Dr. Steve Head, president of LSC-North Harris.

As state funding continues to decrease, community colleges must continue to leverage external funding to support the college's priorities. In 2011, LSCS received more than \$21 million in external grant funding and year-to-date for 2012 LSCS has received more than \$26 million in external grant funding.

Year-to-date for 2012, LSCS has received more than \$26 million in external grant funding.

PASS grant to help students prep for college

A new college awareness, readiness and educational program will launch this fall to help better prepare area high school sophomores for college thanks to the Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success (PASS) grant for \$1.175 million awarded to Lone Star College System over the next three years.

The PASS grant is aimed at helping prepare high school students heading to college and accelerating the progress of college students through the developmental, pre-college level math and English.

Through the use of The Compass test, an evaluation given to incoming college students to determine reading, writing and math skill levels, high school educators will be able to identify which students are ready for college-level courses and which need additional help as early as sophomore year.

The LSCS effort as part of the grant, the LSCS College Awareness Readiness and Education Initiative (CARE), will be led by LSC-CyFair and LSC-North Harris along with the Cypress Fairbanks and Spring school districts.

The initiative at LSCS will use a variety of strategies to help high school students avoid having to take developmental study classes while in college and in turn, help raise the students' achievement level.

"We are committed to student success," said Dr. Audre Levy, president of LSC-CyFair. "We're looking forward to partnering with our ISDs to help make sure that graduating high school seniors are college-ready."

LSCS will create courses to help first year college students accelerate their completion of developmental coursework to reach college level classes faster. The partnering ISDs will add support from their level for both students and parents—to build knowledge and understanding about the expectations of college.

The grant, awarded by the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin, has been made possible by Houston Endowment.

Lone Star College System is committed to student success.

Careers. Not just jobs.

An associate degree from Lone Star College a valuable asset in the workplace

Recent employment projections suggest that by 2018, 63 percent of all jobs will require postsecondary education and training.

In 2018, there are expected to be about 4 million job vacancies from both new jobs and job openings due to retirement in Texas alone.

An associate degree from Lone Star College is a valuable asset to have and provides a competitive edge for job seekers.

"At LSCS our number one goal is student success and credential completion," said Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor.

Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation, but ranks 34th in college attainment. Only about 28 percent of its residents hold four-year degrees and 6 percent of residents have completed two-year degrees.

For the greater Houston region, increasing the credential rate by just 1 percent can boost the Houston regional economy and increase personal income by \$4.2 billion annually.

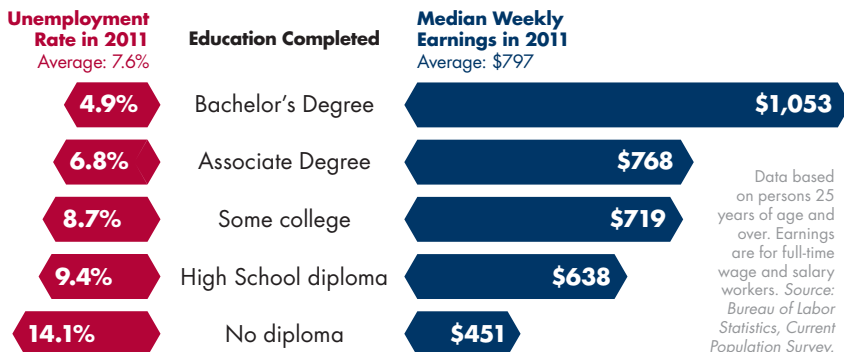
Nationally, while only 4.3 percent of those with four-year degrees are unemployed, the unemployment rate jumps to 10.3 percent for those with only a high school degree and increases to 15 percent for those without high school diplomas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Studies show that a college degree can increase earning power and helps to reduce the student's chance of being unemployed," Dr. Carpenter said. "And when a student gets a college degree, the likelihood of that student's children attending college increases significantly."

Whether a student's final destination is an associate degree, an industry-specific certification or a bachelor's degree, training is important in 2012 and will be even more so in years to come.

After educating students for 40 years, Lone Star College System is one of the best choices in the greater Houston area for obtaining higher education credentials. Along with the outstanding choices of associate degrees and certificates, LSCS also

Education Pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates



provides students with a seamless transfer process to achieve a four-year college degree with one of its many university partners.

Visit LoneStar.edu to find out more about where an associate degree from Lone Star College System can take you.

Lone Star College again tops Houston-area colleges list

Lone Star College System was again ranked as Number 1 in the list of Largest Houston Area Colleges and Universities published annually by the Houston Business Journal.

The ranking, which was published in the March 23-29, 2012 edition of HBJ, was

based on credit student enrollment for fall 2011 when LSCS had 75,680 attend its six colleges. This fall 2011 enrollment number does not include additional students who attended LSCS for non-credit, continuing education courses, making the total headcount for LSCS more than 90,000.

LSCS administrators cite the increase in student growth not only to the downturn in the

economy, but also because of the value of the education received at community colleges, like Lone Star College. LSCS offers smaller classes, an average of 23 students per class. Another advantage of Lone Star College is the cost to attend. On average, LSCS is one-fifth the cost of flagship universities in Texas.

Second on the HBJ list was Houston Community College with a fall student enrollment of 58,810.

HOUSTON
BUSINESS JOURNAL

CHOICE OF 90,000 STUDENTS.

Rankings based on Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 data.



Overall



Total Non-minority



Total Minority



Hispanic



African American



Asian American

LSC named to Top 100 Associate Degree Producers

Lone Star College System was named the fourth largest producer of associate degrees among all community colleges in the nation in the 2012 list of Top 100 Associate Degree Producers.

This list is published each year by Community College Week magazine.

LSC awarded 3,342 associate degrees to students in all disciplines for the 2010-2011 school year, making it the fourth largest producer in the nation among community colleges. This represents a 9 percent increase over degrees awarded in 2009-2010 by LSC.

Currently, part-time and transfer students are not counted with those receiving an associate degree although

they may have completed the required number of credits needed.

"It is an honor to be nationally recognized for the completion work we are doing here in Houston to give our students clear pathways for achieving their goals," said Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor. "Our number one goal is student success and credential completion."

LSCS is also ranked second nationwide in the Top 50 Associate Degrees category of Nursing with 392 associate degrees awarded. LSCS was also ranked fourth in the category of Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences with 624 associate degrees awarded last year as well. These are subsequent disci-

plinary "sub-lists" as part of the Top 100 Associate Degree 2012 analysis.

LSCS was also ranked 10th for community colleges in the 2012 nationwide list for the number of its Hispanic students receiving their associate degrees.

The Top 100 Associate Degree Producers list is compiled by the magazine each year from data collected through the National Center for Education Statistics and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Set survey.

Community College Week, one of several national publications covering the education industry, publishes the rankings each June.

Student pursues dream job in the OR

He's already a CNA who works in an ICU and ER while taking steps toward his RN in the ADN program at LSC, and his ultimate dream job is in the OR.



Dustin Rogers

It's a lot of acronyms, but to Dustin Rogers, a 25-year-old resident of The Woodlands, it's par for the course.

Rogers will graduate from Lone Star College-North Harris May 2013, the first step in his long-term plan of a lifelong career in nursing.

"I wanted to learn more about critical thinking, thinking ahead, understanding illness and the disease process," Rogers said.

Originally from Indiana, Rogers was interested in nursing because of family exposure. After high school he took the idea for a test-drive, he said, completing a 12-week course in a Certified Nurse Aid program.

From there, he moved to Houston to live with his aunt, who has a doctorate in public health. With the Texas Medical Center in the heart of the city, she knew Rogers would have access to world-class nursing.

Today, Rogers enjoys working in intensive care and the emergency room at St. Luke's The Woodlands and St. Luke's downtown, a high-tech playground of modern medicine.

"People don't go into an ICU unless they're really sick," Rogers said. "In ICU there are machines that can run every organ in the body except the liver."

As a CNA, Rogers' job is somewhat limited. But he says he

Lone Star College lauded as 'vet-friendly'

Lone Star College System has been recognized nationally for its efforts in creating a community environment that is friendly and accommodating to United States veterans.

First, LSCS was named a 2012 Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine. LSCS is ranked nationally among 1,500 colleges and universities nationwide that offer military students and their families the best education and value, according to the G.I. Jobs' annual guide.

"Lone Star College faculty goes above and beyond to help out veterans," said Sgt. Justo Jamies, a Lone Star College student veteran who attends LSC-North Harris. "Since I have been a student, I have seen professors allow soldiers given their orders a chance to test out of the class and get the credits before they deploy."

LSCS was also named to the 2012 "25 Colleges with Incredible Veteran Support" list by Best Colleges Online.

LSCS is ranked 11th on this national list, which also includes major colleges and universities like Rutgers, Harvard and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"It is quite an honor for Lone Star Col-



LSCS offers a Veterans Affairs Center for its students at LSC-University Park.

lege System to be recognized as one of the Top 25 schools in the country with incredible veteran support," said Randy Bates, J.D., chairman of the LSCS Board of Trustees. "We pride ourselves on helping those who have served our country and want to provide a welcoming place for them when they return home."

The survey accompanying the Best Colleges list shows that most military undergraduates choose an institution based on location, followed by the programs offered and then cost. LSCS was cited for its student veterans groups "reaching out to make students' experience on campus as welcoming,

comfortable and familiar as possible," the report said.

LSCS offers Veteran's Affairs education benefits counseling, separate veteran academic advisors on each campus, career services, partnerships with the Texas Veterans Commission, and student veteran centers and veterans' groups on each campus.

"The Veterans Affairs Center at LSC-University Park is a services hub for our veterans," said Shah Ardalan, chief executive officer at LSC-University Park. "We work at helping our veterans achieve their educational goals and get back in the workplace quickly."

In addition, LSCS is participating in the College Credit for Heroes program, launched by Gov. Rick Perry last July, which aims to maximize college credits awarded to active military members and veterans for their military experience.

The program has developed streamlined degree paths and workforce certificates to expedite the veterans' transition into the Texas workforce.

Currently, LSCS has 3,000 student veterans enrolled in its colleges (Spring 2012).

wants to do more, such as administer medications, which is why he's now a student at LSC-North Harris. Students receive training in pharmaceuticals, nutrition, acute care, psychiatric care, and medical care ranging from pediatrics to geriatrics, from neurology to oncology.

He made the right choice, because two-year colleges such as LSC train two-thirds of all healthcare workers. And the LSC-North Harris nursing program is housed in its new Health Professions Building at 17200 Red Oak Drive in Houston.

"We have our own building and our own lab," Rogers said. "I'm in the first class that starts and finishes in the new building."

Rogers, the president of his class's student nursing association, will graduate in May 2013.

Despite increasing numbers, Rogers realizes he's still in the minority when it comes to male nurses.

Male nurses still represent a "small fraction of the nursing workforce in the United States," according to the American Society of Registered Nurses. But it's growing, and furthermore, according

Community colleges like Lone Star College educate and train

60%

of all registered nurses.

to the society, male nurses often end up in leadership roles in critical specialties like intensive care, emergency departments and operating rooms.

Rogers has been working in the ICU and ER for months now, and his ultimate goal is to be a nurse anesthetist in the OR.

The associate degree nursing (ADN) program at Lone Star College is in one of the most in-demand career tracks, because it's the gateway to registered nursing. Registered nurses, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, are in demand. Employment is expected to grow 26 percent in the next eight years, well above the average for all other occupations.

As of 2010, the median annual salary for registered nurses was \$64,690.

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY.

Academy for Lifelong Learning

The Academy for Lifelong Learning is a membership community that offers free and low-cost classes, events and activities for active adults age 50 and older.

ALL participants are able to explore a wide variety of special interest, professional growth and development, and personal enrichment courses. The courses are short-term, non-credit, cost-effective and last anywhere from a few hours to several weeks.

Course selections include: arts and crafts, gardening skills, photography techniques, financial planning, health care issues, finance, health and wellness, technology, test prep, genealogy, Tai Chi, hiking adventures, community service projects, business, literary discussion groups, customized training, seminars and workshops, and an insider's view of Texas history. This is only a partial list.

"ALL courses, lectures and seminars are



In addition to hobby and craft classes, ALL offers day trips, book clubs, financial seminars, and a multitude of other personal enrichment and skill development learning opportunities.

taught by seasoned professionals," said Dr. Austin Lane, president of LSC-Montgomery. "The offerings run the gamut – there's something for everyone."

A small annual membership fee—that varies by college—allows members

to register for ALL classes at their local Lone Star College campus. Some classes may require nominal event, supply or entrance fees. For more information visit LoneStar.edu/ALL.

LSC Foundation's *StarGala* raises funds for scholarships

The Lone Star College Foundation's mission is to change lives through student scholarships and quality educational programs achieved by excellence in relationship building, fundraising and



LSCS Chancellor Dr. Richard Carpenter, right, and wife Dana, left, at *StarGala 2012* with a LSC-Foundation essay contest scholarship winner, Kyle Muhle, and his wife Christie Muhle.

investment management.

Donations by individuals, corporations, businesses and other organizations allow the Foundation to grant numerous scholarships annually to students attending Lone Star College System. The two highest fundraisers for the Foundation include the annual golf tournament and the *StarGala*.

This year the LSC Foundation's *StarGala 2012* event in May raised more than \$429,000 to help fund student scholarships and academic programs.

The gala, with a Kentucky Derby "Run for the Roses" theme, was attended by more than 800 guests, and the funds were raised from underwriters, sponsors, table sales, individual tickets and raffle sales, "Support a Student" scholarships, the silent auction, bid boards, and live auctions.

Established as a 501(c)(3) Type I nonprofit corporation, the LSC Foundation secures and manages unrestricted and restricted assets to continually support and enrich the academic and scholarship programs of LSCS.

Since its creation in 1991, the Foundation has expanded its initial investment of \$20,000 into an extensive portfolio of almost \$15 million.

For more information on the Foundation or to find out how you can contribute, visit LoneStarCollegeFoundation.org.

Firefighters train at LSC Fire Science Academy

The sight of bright red fire trucks, the sound of screaming sirens, the sense of urgency – all of these things can be quite exciting to children.

Robert Glenn Hill was no different.

“I would see the fire trucks racing down the street and think ‘man, I want to be on one of those someday,’” said Hill, a 19-year-old Hempstead resident.

Just three days after graduating from Waller High School in 2011, Hill enrolled in Lone Star College-CyFair’s Fire Science Technology Fire Academy.

Two-year colleges like LSC train approximately 84 percent of all first responders, including emergency medical technicians and firefighters.

The LSC Fire Academy is an award winner, recognized by the Community College Futures Assembly as a top-10 finalist for creating partnerships with local government entities, combining public resources to reduce training costs, maximizing program effectiveness in training firefighters, and using state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

Hill knew all of this, but still appreciated

the candor of his instructors when they blasted old-school myths.

“You don’t get to slide down poles,” Hill said. “They stopped doing that a long time ago. A lot of stuff you see in the movies isn’t how it is in real life; they told us that at the very beginning of class.”

What Hill did experience was plenty of modern-day, hands-on experience at the LSC Fire Academy, where he participated in mock drills with scenarios ranging from building fires to hazardous material containment.

“Firefighters do more than fight fires,” Hill said. “We educate kids and families on fire prevention and escape routes, respond to car wrecks for extrication and traffic control, and since we’re all trained EMTs, we can assist ambulance crews.”

Hill also realized why physical fitness is critical for firefighters. It takes three of them to control a 2.5-inch hose blasting with water, Hill said, or “you would fall over.”

General physical requirements at LSC Fire Academy include the ability to run two miles in less than 18 minutes, lift heavy objects up to 150 pounds, maintain appropriate weight in proportion to height, and acceptable participation in an academy-designated agility course.



Glenn Hill pictured during training at LSC Fire Science Academy

As a former high school football player and someone who’s been working construction alongside his father since he was 13, Hill handles fitness with finesse.

But Hill has brains as well as brawn.

“I was always one to never complain about anything,” Hill said. “At the Academy, I did whatever I was told. Don’t ask questions, just do it. It’s how I was raised.”

In fact, Hill’s work ethic and study attitude earned him a LSC “Anytime, Anywhere” award.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of firefighters is expected to grow 9 percent between 2010 and 2020.

The city of Houston alone anticipates a large number of firefighters retiring soon, leading to approximately 1,500 job vacancies in the next few years.

The median annual wage of firefighters nationwide was \$45,250 in May 2010.

Whether he’s holding the hose or riding the rig, one thing is certain. Lone Star College has turned a young boy’s dream into reality.

“Firefighters will come from all over for some calls,” Hill said. “We have a kinship. We help each other out. I really like that.”



Tax exemptions extended again

The Lone Star College System board of trustees in June voted unanimously to approve tax exemption allowances for 2012.

That means all residents who live in the LSCS taxing jurisdiction and who are homeowners continue to be eligible for a \$5,000 homestead exemption.

Disabled residents and those over 65 years of age residing in the LSCS service area are also eligible for the system’s \$75,000 property tax exemption and tax freeze for 2012. Taxpayers who are eligible for this \$75,000 property tax exemption—disabled residents and residents over age 65—will also automatically qualify for the tax freeze, where the actual dollar amount owed is frozen as of the date the taxpayer qualifies for the exemption—even if the property value increases.

Any resident who already had an over-65 or disabled exemption on file with their county appraisal district will automatically receive the 2012 exemption and tax freeze.

CAREERS. NOT JUST JOBS.

Lone Star College helps train workforce

While it's no surprise that Lone Star College is committed to students, Lone Star College is also committed to local business and industry through Lone Star Corporate College.

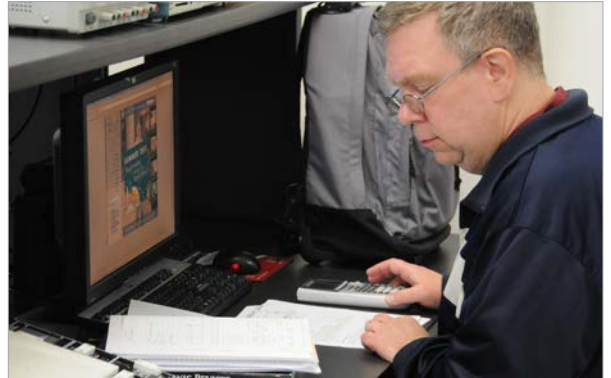
LSCC works with local businesses and organizations to develop long-term education and job training partnerships. In other words, employers rely on LSCC to help make sure their employees stay at the forefront of their fields with up-to-date training and professional development seminars, all taught by instructors with hands-on, real-world experience.

Several of Houston's leading corporations partner with LSCC to ensure the best continuing education for their employees, including:

- Anadarko
- Baker Hughes
- FMC Technologies
- GE Oil & Gas
- Halliburton
- Hewlett Packard
- National Oilwell Varco
- Stevens Transport
- Tenaris
- Union Pacific Railroad



Students receive hands-on experience.



Lone Star Corporate College training includes programs in Computer Technology.

When it comes to the energy and manufacturing industries specifically, LSCC has that covered, too. LSCC, in collaboration with the six Lone Star College campuses, is responsible for the Lone Star Energy & Manufacturing Institute, a hub for businesses with employees currently working in the oil and gas, alternative energy, or mechanized (automated) production industries.

Through the Institute, Lone Star College delivers specialized, trade skill-specific training in areas like:

- Machining
- Welding
- Engineering technology
- Computer technology
- Energy technology
- Logistics
- Health and safety
- Quality
- Language skills
- Project management
- Front line supervision

To learn more about Lone Star Corporate College or the Lone Star Energy & Manufacturing Institute, go to LoneStar.edu/CorporateCollege, LoneStar.edu/EMI or call 281.296.7827.

Energy & Manufacturing Institute preps for 'Big Crew Change'

Lone Star College opens doors with multiple career and technical education programs, including programs in an industry with a great need for highly-skilled workers: energy and manufacturing.

In January 2012, Houston was named the top U.S. city for industrial employment according to Manufacturers' News. However, as a generation of manufacturing workers nears retirement, businesses, including those in the Houston region, are desperate to hire employees before the industry veterans retire so that their years of industry knowledge will not be lost. The industry has called this "the big crew change."

As part of the effort to help local businesses address the issue, Lone Star College launched the Lone Star Energy & Manufacturing Institute to capitalize on the specific training needs of Houston employers. LSC students get cutting edge training aligned with current and future job trends. Learn more at LoneStar.edu/EMI.

But training at Lone Star College isn't limited to the energy or manufacturing industries. Recent high school graduates who want to go directly into the workforce, or seasoned workers who would like to quickly change professions, learn new skills, or earn a certification in a specific field, may also opt for one of

Lone Star College's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Lone Star College also partners with businesses in other vital Houston area industries such as health care and information technology to provide training and job placement so that employers and staff can excel quickly in the ever-changing economy.

Generally, these CTE programs are shorter in length and are designed to provide career-specific skills to get students into the workforce as quickly as possible.

To learn more about how Lone Star College is helping to equip the workforce of today and to check out the programs available, go to LoneStar.edu/CTE.

Student Success, continued from page 1:

Lone Star College also recently announced its Texas Completes project in partnership with several other Texas community colleges aimed at transforming student completion rates.

The Texas Completes team has been working this past year to identify community college policies and procedures that hinder student success and develop solutions to eliminate barriers. (See *Texas Completes* story, this page)

LSCS also participates in “Foundations of Excellence (FoE),” a national program designed to evaluate and revitalize the campus services for first-year college students.

The FoE program is a yearlong, comprehensive guided self-study and improvement process that explores the aspects of the new student experience and produces a plan for institutional improvement. While the process focuses mainly on the college’s policies, practices and programs, part of the evaluation process engages both

traditional and non-traditional students through surveys to understand what they’re experiencing.

“Completing the first year of college work establishes a pattern that greatly increases a student’s chance of finishing a certificate or degree, or transferring to

a university to complete a bachelor’s degree,” said Dr. Katherine Persson, president of LSC-Kingwood.

“Changing current practices or initiating new ones that will help more students reach the milestone of 30 semester credits of college coursework will greatly increase their ability to finish their educational goal,” said Persson.

“We want students to graduate, we want them to look back as alums and say I’m a better person because I chose Lone Star College,” said Dr. Susan Karr, president of LSC-Tomball.

Texas Completes announces strategies for student success

Lone Star College System and its Texas community college partners recently announced the implementation stage of their statewide student success and credential completion effort called “Texas Completes.”

The group announced its initial action plan and strategy for transforming the Texas community college completion rate with the findings of its first year of collaboration. These bold, innovative initiatives include:

- Revising the curriculum to swiftly get students into programs of study, streamline time to degree, and facilitate transfer to four-year institutions.
- Creating a comprehensive student advising and management system that ensures students a strong start and consistent feedback along each step of their way through college.
- Restructuring developmental education to reduce time spent in pre-collegiate coursework.

With its planning phase funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation under the former initiative Texas Completion by Design, the new Texas Completes initiative will move ahead with the financial support of state and regional funders.

The Texas Completes team has been working this past year to identify community college policies and procedures that hinder student success and develop solutions to eliminate barriers. The Texas Completes project is led by Lone Star College System, and the partners include Alamo Colleges, Dallas County Community College District, El Paso Community College and South Texas College.

This group of five colleges enrolls 289,000 students – more than 1/3 of all community college students in Texas and 20 percent of all Texas undergraduate college students.

“This project is critical to the future

of Texas,” said Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor and incoming chairman for Texas Association of Community Colleges.

“The momentum and coherence across Texas as a result of our 18 months of collaborative work is profound and we are determined to succeed,” said Dr. Carpenter. “Groups are working together throughout Texas like never before – our community colleges, universities, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, philanthropic groups. Even the Texas legislature is rallying around the work of Texas Completes and our focus on student success.”

Enrollment has surged in Texas community colleges as the recession caused many Texans to return to school for additional training and education, at a cost they can afford. Community colleges also are evolving to serve today’s non-traditional students, who often are older, have children and work full- or part-time to support families while attending school to obtain a degree or credential.

Increasing college success and completion rates is important for students, the economy and the country. A recent report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce forecasts that, by 2018, 63 percent of jobs will require at least some postsecondary education.

Dr. Raymond Paredes, commissioner of the THECB, said the THECB is fully supportive of the Texas Completes effort.

“We know that for Texas to become a national and international leader in education by 2030 – which is one of our goals – it must accelerate its efforts,” Paredes said. “Texas Completes creates an important framework for alignment on that strategy and we are eager to work with the cadre on advancing this important agenda.”

“We continue to push forward as a group to design the best completion pathway for all Texas students. Student success is at the core of everything we do,” said Dr. Carpenter.

We can't afford to let them not finish.

—Dr. Richard Carpenter, LSCS chancellor



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University Centers offer easy access to bachelor's degree

Student success—students completing their educational goals—is a core value for Lone Star College System.

In addition to associate degrees and certifications in career and technical education, Lone Star College opens doors for its students who want to continue with their education and obtain a four-year degree and more.

Through partnerships with four-year universities, the two Lone Star College University Centers offer easy access and transfer on site, and students do not have to travel to the parent university to complete a bachelor's degree.

It's called the 2+2 program – students complete two years at Lone Star College and obtain an associate degree, then transfer to one of the university partners that have operations on site to complete two more years for their bachelor's degree.

Lone Star College university partners include: Our Lady of the Lake University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Houston-Victoria and University of St. Thomas.

Transferring to a four-year college has never been easier than at the LSC-University Center at Montgomery and the LSC-University Center at University Park!

For more information, go to LoneStar.edu/university-center.



DID YOU KNOW?

Lone Star College System is the largest institution of higher education in Houston area and the fastest-growing community college system in the nation.

