



LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY

## February BIRTHDAYS

- February 5, Stephanie Finley
- February 5, Cheryl Talbert
- February 6, Brian Parrack
- February 9, Sarah Ridley
- February 12, Steven Joiner
- February 13, Lauren Case
- February 15, Rita McClelland
- February 16, Pablo Rodriguez
- February 16, Dennis White
- February 17, Christopher Elliott
- February 20, Renee Sandusky
- February 22, Nicholas Mires
- February 23, Kenneth Mason
- February 24, Catherine Falb
- February 27, Julie Palmer
- February 27, Byron Prince
- February 28, Nola Gaus

# THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

February 2020

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## Professional Development Day Sparks Excitement

Employees learned about new, exciting developments and unheralded growth in enrollment at LIT. Speakers, including Dr. Howard, discussed campus safety, student success, capital projects, record-breaking donations from the community and strategies for 2020 going forward.

Dr. Valerie Worry, who was instrumental in a partnership with Emerson that resulted in an over \$1 million donation, received the inaugural Presidential Innovation Award and \$1,000 during the event. The award is designed to inspire and reward innovation at LIT among faculty and staff. Dr. Worry was also named December's Employee of the Month.



## \$60,000 Newtron Donation Goes Toward Lineman Vehicle



Newtron representatives proudly sign and present check to LIT employees and Foundation member, Vernon Durden for lineman truck.

Members of LIT's Foundation accepted a \$60,000 check from Newtron, LLC for LIT's Utility Line Technology program. The money will go toward purchasing a vehicle for the utility line program.

Dr. Howard said, "This generous donation couldn't come at a more strategic time. This will also help any Utility Line Technology student wanting to obtain their unrestricted CDL while training. We are extremely proud of our 100 percent job placement rate after graduation that this program bolsters."

## LIT's Regional Fire Academy engine gets facelift



The fire engine was digitally wrapped by **Fast Signs of Beaumont**.

LIT's fire engine, acquired from the Nederland Fire Department six months ago, has undergone a huge transformation! The digital wrap design was a lengthy collaboration between our Marketing Department and LIT Regional Fire Academy Coordinator John Randall. We are so proud of the colorful and amazing revamp.

## Baldy welcomes new students



Baldy and new students enjoy interacting.

Our new mascot, Baldy, is really enjoying getting around the campus and meeting all the new students on campus for Spring 2020! The mascot is living up to its playful reputation by interacting with and engaging students in photo ops. Go, Baldy!

## Blackboard orientation and tutoring set

First-time students and others who need tips on how to navigate in Blackboard® are learning in the electronic platform that will help them with their classes. Face-to-face Blackboard orientation and tutoring sessions for English, math and sciences are scheduled throughout the Spring 2020 semester.

## Tiffany Williams-Parker receives 3D printer training

Technology Department Chair Tiffany Williams-Parker and other area school representatives learned all about 3D printing in a daylong event at Lamar University. The event hosted 17 technology and STEM programs.



Parker observes the 3D printer in action. (Photo courtesy of the Beaumont Enterprise.)

Featured in a Beaumont Enterprise article, Parker said, "STEM is huge, and we need to promote it more to our students because this is the way technology is going." She added, "The more we educate our educators, the more knowledgeable they can become for our students." Read more about the session here: <https://bit.ly/2v0VmLt>.

## Challie earns February Employee of the Month

Executive Associate Sr. for Strategic Initiatives Kim Challie is the February 2020 employee of the month for her overall work ethic and willingness to assist various departments. Splitting duties in coverage for Strategic Initiatives, Marketing & Communication as well as backup for the President's Office, Challie has played a major role in keeping some of the most outward facing departments running in the background. She was nominated by Marketing Creative Manager Jennifer Jackson. Please send your March **Employee of the Month nominations** to Christopher Elliott at [celliott@lit.edu](mailto:celliott@lit.edu) by February 15.



Executive Associate Senior Kim Challie.

## Smith-Hutson Award recipients honored



Smith-Hutson Award winners gather for presentation.

The annual Smith-Hutson Awards dinner was held in late January, to honor the scholars. LIT is one of the five colleges in Texas to bestow these scholarships.

Students in all majors with demonstrated financial need and academic potential who are seeking a certificate or an associate degree from LIT can apply. Since its inception at

LIT in 2014, the program has awarded more than 384 scholarships to 112 LIT students for \$1,082,721. Fifty-six of those recipients have graduated in roughly six years.

## Shout out to Mega Bytes for superior health grade



Megabytes' Mary Morris and Leslie Moore.

The Mega Bytes Café earned a Superior Grade from the City of Beaumont Public Health Department. Mary Morris, who's worked at LIT for 25 years said food services has never had a grade below superior. A special thanks to Morris, Don Barlow (not pictured) and Leslie Moore for making Mega Bytes one of the cleanest places to eat in Beaumont.

## Students play #wheresdrhoward with Dr. Howard's cut-out



Students take selfies with Dr. Howard's cut-out during Week of Welcome.

#wheresdrhoward? LIT students combed the campus all week, provided with hints from social media, to try and find the runaway cardboard cutout of Dr. Howard. Finding the cutout, taking a selfie with it and tagging LIT on social media earned three lucky winners Taco Bell gift cards.

Students were given the opportunity to receive the prizes when the first three reported back to the SGA office. It was a unique, fun way for new students to explore the campus, returning ones to test their knowledge and solve a mystery, and for all to take a short break from studies.

## SGA continues the fun with events

For newbies and returning students alike, the LIT SGA set up Navigation Stations throughout buildings on campus, offering directions, helpful information about LIT classes, activities and snacks. Student volunteers were stationed from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. during weekdays in the Quad during the first week. The SGA's first meeting of the semester is February 5 at 2 p.m. in the Eagles' Nest.



An SGA member at a Navigation Station.

## Facilities Update

Did you notice that our new flags are up?

We are removing LIT banners in parking lots for safety.

Other updates include:

- We are working on electrical in the Foundation/Development Office, MPC parking lot and MPC conference room. The lights in the Quad have been replaced.
- We are updating the room next to the Cashier's Office to be a computer classroom.
- We are finalizing land purchases (behind T4, T5) as a part of the Institute's Master Plan.



## THE PRESIDENT'S Photo Wall



Dr. Howard joins community leaders at Beaumont City Hall where Mayor Becky Ames made a proclamation, declaring February 2-8 "Salute to Southeast Texas Workforce Week."

If you would like your pictures placed on the President's Wall, send selfies, cute pet moments and photos from your vacations.

*Thanks for all you do*

# THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

## LIT Family aids sister in need



LIT faculty members help Stacy Taylor change her flat tire.

Respiratory Care Program Director Stacy Taylor found her tire flat in the parking lot as she prepared to leave work one afternoon. However, she didn't have to worry too long.

Representing what LIT Family is truly about, a group of faculty members (Peter Whittaker, Cynthia McKinley, Allen Welch, Stacey Rashall) rallied to fix the flat without hesitation to get Taylor back on the road. This selfless culture is one of the reasons why LIT was voted as one of the Top Places to Work in Beaumont.

## Marketing Moment



LIT's new enrollment campaign on a digital billboard.

Have you seen our new digital billboards? LIT's enrollment campaign kicked off digitally, targeting and retargeting specific audience groups on their mobile and home devices. However, the Institute still has an out-of-home presence, showcasing that at LIT you can "Get a Degree That Works."