

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 8, Virginia Walston

August 9, Edgar Neely

August 10, Regina Drake

August 10, Bradd Henry

August 11, Deena Boland

August 12, Lisa Bland

August 12, Nicole Freeman

August 14, Lisa Harrell

August 15, Brent Campbell

August 18, Donna Burnside

August 19, Tamalla Jones

August 29, Sheryl Nance



THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

August 2019

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TSUS Reveals Unprecedented 25 Percent Tuition Cut



TSUS Chancellor Brian McCall, Ph.D. shares the impact of the system's groundbreaking tuition cuts.

Attending Lamar Institute of Technology and the Lamar State Colleges is now more affordable than ever, thanks to an across-the-board, 25 percent tuition decrease by The Texas State University System (TSUS) for the 2019-20 school year. It was made possible by the efforts of TSUS Chancellor Dr. Brian McCall, Representative Dade Phelan, Texas Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen and

the rest of the system staff. The tuition drops to \$1,995, while the TSUS Board of Regents also reduced the fee for dual-credit courses ranging from \$75 to \$110 per semester credit hour, to \$50 per credit hour.

Dr. Howard enthusiastically endorsed the move. He shared the story of a young man named Eric, who was ashamed he could not afford college while working hard to take care of his family. Dr. Howard explained the good news of tuition cuts with Eric. The young man expressed excitement at the opportunity to eventually attend college once his situation improved.

He added, the decrease only bolsters the affordability of pursuing "the American Dream, which is alive and well at the Institute for hundreds of students who might not ordinarily have the opportunity financially to be able to attend college and 'Get a Degree that Works.'"



Dr. Howard shares how tuition cuts will make it easier for some students to break the cycle of poverty.



Representative Dade Phelan played an integral role in securing funding for the TSUS.

Summer I and II Enrollment Increase 10.5 Percent

LIT Summer Enrollment increased for the second consecutive year, up 10.5 percent compared to 2018.

LIT's Summer I enrollment increased 15.7 percent compared to 2018 numbers, according to the latest point-in-time comparison. The double-digit increase is reflective of summer bridge offerings to dual credit students and the college's concerted recruitment and retention efforts. Summer II showed an increase of .6 percent, bringing the cumulative summer enrollment increase to 10.5 percent.





Ira Wilsker and Mary Nixon, a delegate from Beaumont, unite for the Silver Haired Delegation.

Ira Wilsker represents “Silver Haired” delegation of Southeast Texas

Management Development Faculty Member Ira Wilsker was one of 90 volunteer delegates elected to serve on the 18th Annual Texas Silver Haired Legislature (TSHL), a non-partisan group designed to advocate for the elderly and their specific issues.

Meeting late July in Austin for five days, Wilsker represented Jefferson, Hardin and Orange counties. He was assigned to the Criminal Justice, and Elections and Credentials committees.

The delegation submitted 48 resolutions, 16 of which were passed and signed by the governor. During Wilsker's stay, he visited the offices of House of Representatives (Beaumont) Dade Phelan and Joe Deshotel; and Hardin-Orange Rep. James White; Senators Brandon Creighton and Robert Nichols.



The Silver Haired Legislature delegates hard at work.

HONORS

LIT in Top 25 most affordable online colleges in Texas



Our latest distinction for 2019 is for online affordability.

LIT was named one of the most affordable and cost-effective, accredited online community colleges in Texas for 2019 by the World Scholarship Forum. This accolade came prior to the 25 percent tuition cut by TSUS to each of the Lamar State Colleges. Students here can pursue two online associate degrees, an AAS in Health Information Technology, and National Security (Homeland Security), and two online certificates in Health Informatics and Homeland Security.

The forum is a “portal for international scholarship opportunities for undergraduates, masters and PhD students,” according to worldscholarshipforum.com. Currently Texas is home to 126 community colleges, according to the Community College Review.

Dr. Howard said this latest accolade “is quite an honor, and proves the ROI and long-term value of an education from LIT. We work hard to make sure we offer the people and businesses of Southeast Texas online programs at very competitive rates. This distinction from World Scholarship Forum just validates our efforts.”

Institute receives back-to-back Readers' Choice Awards



Well, we've done it again...thanks to our loyal fans and readers of the Beaumont Enterprise.

They voted LIT #1 School for Career Training in Southeast Texas for the second year in a row! We appreciate the honor of receiving the Readers' Choice Award again. Each year tens

of thousands of readers vote in 180 categories for everything from the best hamburger to the best hospital. Besides 2019 and 2018, LIT also won in 2016.

Roy West radio show highlights LIT's programs every two months

Every two months Roy West, host of local News-Talk KLVI-AM 560, will feature our programs as the subject of several of his weekly radio shows. The first show airs August 11, taping on August 6 and includes Business Technology Department Chair Lauri Arnold-Calder and Pharmacy Program Director Shunetta Lewis in the Allied Health and Sciences Department.

Arnold-Calder will be discussing her department's programs, and Lewis will discuss the Pharmacy Tech program and various award programs. The next planned interview will be held in October with HVAC Program Coordinator Henry Gaus.

The Marketing Department hopes this free publicity brings more recognition to these highlighted programs.



Programs such as HVAC will be highlighted.

Truck Driving Academy funding story goes viral



Local TV was just one of several media outlets that picked up the truck driver funding story.

Channel 12 News Reporter Kelsey Johnson discussed the shortage of truck drivers, great opportunities in this fast-growing field and LIT's \$1.1 million in funding for our program. This story was also picked up by several national trucking publications and online financial and news sources!

The institute received \$1.1 million in funding for its Professional Truck Driving Academy for use starting September 1, 2019, after it was approved by the Texas Legislature. Representative Phelan led the effort.

Over 54,000 job postings were listed for truck drivers in Jefferson, Orange, Hardin and Newton counties from 2015-2017, according to an EMSI economic modeling data set. With a median salary of \$45,000 a year and the cost of a Class B license class starting at just \$1,500, the return on investment should be a selling point for potential students. If you know someone interested in this career and attending our Truck Driving Academy, visit workforce.lit.edu

New programs offered

A new certificate and degree in Graphic Design is just one of the innovative awards offered.

Also slated is a 17 hour Advanced Technical Certificate (ATC) in Process Technology, along with the 60 hour degree program. In Continuing Education, two new Spanish courses are on the board.

In Public Service & Safety, new classes include Principles of Basic Emergency Management, Leadership and Effective Communication and Managing Mass Casualty and Fatality Incidents.

Rhonda Mitchell named August Employee of the Month

Staff member Rhonda Mitchell was named the Employee of the Month after accepting a temporary full-time role to fulfill graphics and writing requests.

"Rhonda went above and beyond, taking on assignments out of her comfort zone to make sure we could promote LIT and meet the continuing needs of faculty and staff," Marketing Director Chris Elliott said.



Rhonda Mitchell was nominated by supervisor Chris Elliott.

ECHS Summer Bridge Program students gather at LIT



ECHS students talk to representatives from Total Medical Care.

If you were on campus in late July, you probably spotted groups of "younger" students—soon-to-be area 9th graders, and participants of our Beaumont ECHS Summer Bridge program. This is our "Innovative Academy," one of the first 18 in the state of Texas.

Students learned about college life, online learning and how to be successful at LIT and beyond. The two career paths we currently offer for this academy are Process Operations and Instrumentation. On Friday, officials from Total Medical Care, Bridge City, talked to the students about medical technology careers.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Community representatives meet at LIT to talk about increasing job opportunities



Two students are hard at work on Process Operating equipment

Representatives from ExxonMobil Refinery, Beaumont, Lamar University and BISD, along with the Hispanic Professional Women met at LIT to identify ways to help meet Southeast Texas workforce needs.

They also discussed how to increase opportunities such as training, co-ops and internships, for Process Operations and Instrumentation Technology students, Dr. Miranda Phillips said.

Dr. Worry gave a tour of the facilities.



Drs. Worry and Phillips with community representatives.

Do you want coverage of your event or have a story you would like to see in the newsletter?

Contact Chris at celliott@lit.edu or Rhonda at rmitchell@lit.edu.

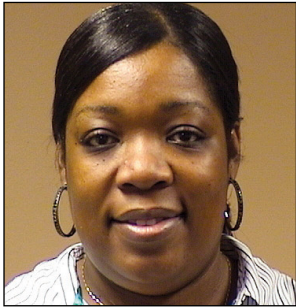
CAMPUS

Three new Department Chairs are announced, as farewell and thanks are bid to former chairs

EMT Program Director James Allen Welch has been appointed the new Allied Health and Sciences Department Chair, replacing R. Peter Whittaker. Tiffany Williams-Parker, Technology instructor, has been appointed the new Technology Department Chair, replacing Pat O'Connor. Dr. Mary Sizemore has been appointed the new General Education/Developmental Studies Department Chair, replacing Dawn Katz.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to Peter Whittaker, Pat O'Connor and Dawn Katz for their seminal academic leadership. We are excited about our three new dynamic leaders.”

- Kerry K. Mix, Ph.D.



Tiffany Williams-Parker

Since 2014, the Process Operating Instructor has been actively involved in driving student success.

Dr. Mary Sizemore

Recently the Dir. of Learning Tech. at LSCO, she has 10 years of instructional experience.

J. Allen Welch

The EMT Program Director brings over 20 years of teaching experience to his new role.



Marketing Moment

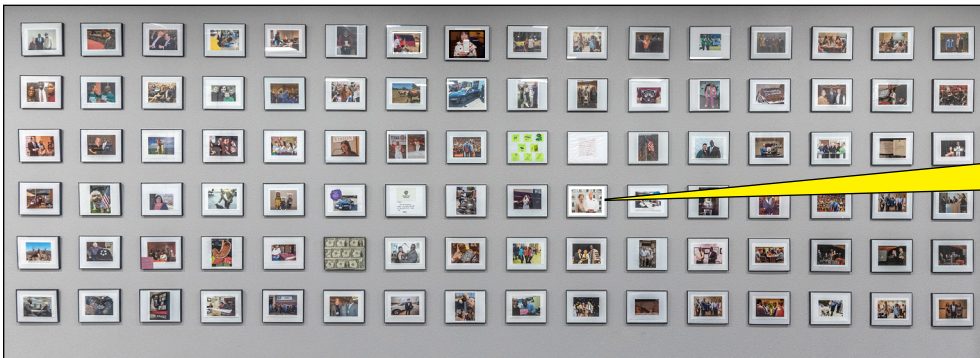
LIT will take a new approach to its marketing strategies beginning in Fall 2019. After securing a new Google partnership and working with an advertising firm, Net Natives, that focuses specifically on higher education, the Marketing Department will be able to gauge its return on investment and quantify its key performance indicators by tracking target audience members.

With access to more efficient analytics that is only available through exclusive Google partnerships, and improved digital media monitoring and reporting, the Institute will be able to be more efficient in its media placement based on current trends.

Thanks to input from a diverse selection committee, which included a current department chair, the faculty senate president, the student government association president and members of the president's cabinet, the marketing department was able to make an informed decision through a collaborative effort.

Watch the latest aerial view of the Eagles' Nest for Student Success.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO



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

Thanks for all you do!

Featured photo from the President's Wall



TSUS Regent Nicki Harle snaps a shot in front of the famous President's Wall.