

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



September BIRTHDAYS

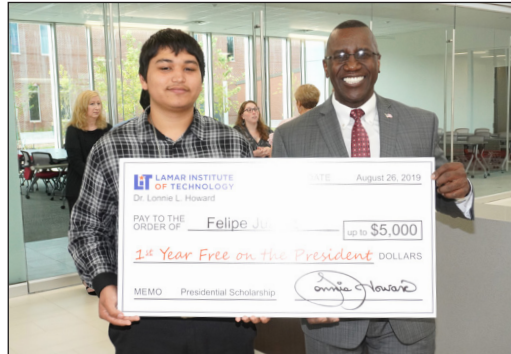
- September 7, Mayor Ames
- September 7, Dennis Hunt
- September 7, Marvin Sibley
- September 9, Joanne Brown
- September 9, Justina Landry
- September 11, Thomas Day
- September 11, Luouida Newbold
- September 12, Kara Booth
- September 16, Kimberly Challie
- September 17, Johnny Pousson
- September 18, Andrew Garza
- September 19, John McKeehan
- September 19, Debbie Polk
- September 22, Daniel Harper
- September 23, James Welch
- September 24, Steve Sims
- September 25, Lonnie Howard
- September 28, Stacy Taylor
- September 29, April Smith
- September 30, Jennifer Jackson

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

September 2019

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President Pays: 1st Year of College Free For Student



Dr. Howard presents scholarship check to Felipe Juarez.

Dr. Howard followed through on a promise he made in front of a packed house at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown, to pay the first year of tuition for a deserving student. That promise came after the heralded announcement of The Texas State University System's 25 percent tuition cut. Nearly a month later, Felipe Juarez, an ecstatic LIT HVAC student, accepted his "1st Year Free on the President" with a smile on his face at a fitting venue, the new Eagles' Nest for Student Success.

Juarez is a Beaumont native, a first generation college student and Beaumont United High School graduate who was dual-enrolled in HVAC at LIT.

Dr. Howard said, "Felipe is so committed to his education that he is taking a full course load of 14 hours. I am proud to present this check and personally cover (his) first year of college."

Foundation's Salute A Memorable Event

Hundreds came to honor our first responders and military personnel at the Foundation's 19th annual "A Salute to the Real American Heroes" event on September 5 at Wesley United Methodist Church. Officers from the Santa Fe Police Department spoke, while Vidor Police Chief Rod Carroll and Dr. Howard announced LIT's Regional Fire Academy is now officially the "Chief C.A. 'Pete' Shelton Fire Academy" in honor of the former Beaumont fire chief, who served in governmental offices and was instrumental in helping establish the Salute event.



Santa Fe I.S.D. Police Chief Walter Braun speaks.



Master of Ceremonies Judge Keith Giblin speaks.



Beaumont Fire and Rescue Department Color Guard raises flags.

LIT Offers Preview of New Student Success Building



Dr. Angela Hill gives overview of new Eagles' Nest.

LIT recently showcased its newest campus addition, the \$6.1 million Eagles' Nest for Student Success (Eagles' Nest) building. The Institute also offered a sneak peek for members of the media on the first day of the fall semester. "The goal was to create a larger space and one-stop-shop to accommodate more students," Dean of Student Success Dr. Angela Hill said.

The Eagles' Nest, located behind the Cecil Beeson Building, houses the Student Success and Online Learning departments, Admissions, Advising, Career Services, Financial Aid, Student Activities, Student Government Association, Teaching and Learning Center, an adjunct faculty suite, the Testing Center, a computer lab, gathering spaces for students and a multipurpose room.

July 26, 2018, marked the groundbreaking. The total cost of the project including demolition was \$7,417,590.



LIT and construction leadership at Eagles' Nest.

John Randall teaches course in Colorado



Randall and Air Force medical personnel.

Regional Fire Academy Coordinator John Randall recently taught a course on emotional intelligence in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to the 139th Medical Squadron of the U.S. Air Force. Randall is certified to teach for the USAF.

Related update on Chief C.A. "Pete" Shelton Fire Academy classes: Fall classes started as scheduled, almost two years to the date after the destruction of Fire Academy buildings and grounds due to Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Recently the advisory board met informally to endorse the program's fresh start in its new buildings.

Tiffany Johnson hosts motivational camp for kids

Information Technology Administrative Coordinator Tiffany Johnson recently hosted the Third Annual Lush Girls Day Camp. Lush Girls founder Ebony Fowler (@ebonysfowler) created the camp to empower youth, ages 8-18, in Burkeville, Texas, and surrounding areas. This year's theme was "Self-Love. Self-Care. Love Your Selfie," highlighting inner confidence and esteem. Follow @lushgirls__ for more information or to make a donation to the 2020 camp. (Johnson is pictured in the middle.)



Tiffany Johnson with campers.

Professional Development Day inspires employees



Stephen Hudnall presents on the recruiting mindset.

Faculty and staff, wearing their LIT shirts, stood "LIT Proud" at the recent Professional Development Day. Dr. Howard received a rousing welcome with his opening address that involved audience participation and free gift cards.

Faculty led discussions on new developments in Blackboard, Starfish and Student Advising refreshers, STEP Project updates and student retention. Various program directors explained how they creatively retained students through diverse methods

from analytics and social media to the introduction of childhood games.

After a lunch of hamburgers, chicken sandwiches and salad, the attendees broke into small groups, with staff reporting to various locations. Afternoon breakout sessions were assigned to various faculty and staff. Seven lucky employees received \$20 gift cards for lunch, courtesy of Dr. Howard.



Staci Waldrep shares her retention methods.

Foundation's 2019 Charity Golf Tournament preview



The Foundation's Charity Golf Tournament, sponsored by ExxonMobil and scheduled for Friday, October 4, at the Beaumont Country Club, just picked up a new Platinum sponsor, Apache Industrial Services. Sponsorships are still available. Tee times are at 7 a.m. or 1 p.m., and they go fast!

Proceeds go to a very worthwhile cause—scholarships for deserving LIT students with financial need. So, spread the word today for participation in a day filled with fun, food, camaraderie and golf. To volunteer, email vbseymour@lit.edu.

LIT represents at Roy West KLVI News Talk Show

Management Development Program Director Kara Booth and Pharmacy Technician Program Director Shunetta Lewis were recent guest speakers on the Roy West Radio Show (News Talk 560 AM).

Booth and Lewis discussed their individual programs and how to apply and easily contact them at LIT. The instructors also explained how their courses could pay off on two fronts. Students have the choice of graduating with an associate degree and pursuing in-demand careers or continuing their education by earning a bachelor's degree.

The podcast, which also featured BISD Superintendent Dr. Shannon Allen, aired in August from noon to 1 p.m., playing on iTunes, iHeart & Spotify.

Dr. Howard will be West's October guest. More information will follow on that segment later.



Kara Booth and Shunetta Lewis with Roy West at KLVI.

Bryan Neal named September Employee of the Month

Applied Sciences Instructor Bryan Neal received the honor of LIT Employee of the Month for September 2019. He was nominated by Jeffery Gibbs, a student who contacted Dr. Howard about how much of an impact Neal made in his time at the Institute.

“(Neal’s) overall care and passion for physics and his students is overwhelming,” Gibbs said. “He goes above and beyond to ensure his students have a true understanding of the course work. So far in my time here at LIT he has gone further than any other teacher to help...not just me but everyone with any issue that may have come up.”



Bryan Neal was nominated by student Jeffery Gibbs.

LIT and Jasper ISD: beneficiaries of TWC's dual enrollment grant



Dr. Miranda Phillips, pictured interviewing with 12News, wrote the dual enrollment grant as an in-kind contribution to DETCCA.

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) recently awarded a \$190,000 grant to Jasper ISD's dual enrollment program with LIT for establishing a cybersecurity lab at the Deep East Texas College & Career Alliance (DETCCA) Jasper Higher Education Center. The grant was written by LIT's Dean of Strategic and Workforce Initiatives Dr. Miranda Phillips.

Dr. Howard said, “LIT leadership wrote the grant as an in-kind contribution to DETCCA because it aligns with our mission to provide innovative teaching and learning for tomorrow's workforce.”

Howard said, “This grant will empower students in East Texas to break systemic cycles of poverty and unlock doors to affordable, top-notch training and education to fulfill their version of the ‘American Dream.’ We are preparing the next generation to enter the workforce faster, more prepared and with less debt.”

Upon program completion, these students will earn 24 hours of credit toward LIT's Associates in Cybersecurity Technology and be awarded a Cyber Defense Technology Certificate from LIT.

Welding Instructor Maggie Noble earns esteemed, nationally recognized certification



Maggie Noble is now a CWI.

Welding Instructor Maggie Noble, with almost six years of experience under her belt, is now a Certified Welding Inspector (CWI), after being awarded by the American Welding Society (AWS). Noble is one of just [30 to 40 percent of candidates](#) who passed the exam on the first try with a grade of 72 percent or higher.

“It made me realize that I am very capable of doing anything as long as I try and that I know my curriculum very well,” she said.

According to the [aws.org](#) website, the CWI exam is comprehensive and challenging, measuring the candidate’s ability to accurately complete welding inspections to specific codes. Noble is now certified to teach anywhere in America with this certificate.

Dr. Howard added, “Faculty like Maggie who go the extra mile demonstrate what we are all about at LIT, ensuring that students know the ‘American Dream’ is alive for anyone wanting a quality education...and a degree that works.”

50-year-old grandmother and LIT graduate reaches success

When you find yourself married at 15 and pregnant by 17, life hands you its own set of challenges. But 35 years later this single mom of two and grandmother of three is the proud role model and inspiration for her very large extended family.

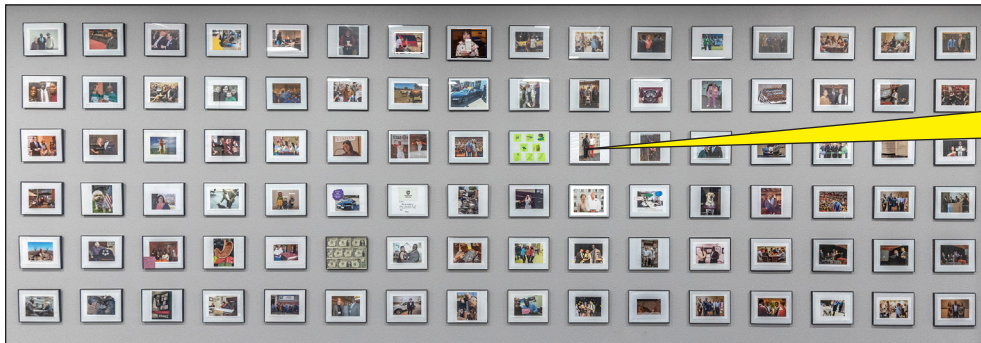
Connie Laurent graduated with honors from LIT in May 2017 with a certificate in Utility Line Technology. Less than a month later, she secured a position with a global disaster solutions company. Her starting salary was \$58,000, plus a truck allowance and per diem when traveling.

“After two years of employment here, I make \$59,745,” she said, speaking from her current project in Florida. “Lamar Institute of Technology literally changed my life. To this day, there is nothing I can’t do or accomplish.”

Her “aha” moment came in 2015 after she grew tired of working for 30 years in a “dead-end” medical lab job with an annual salary that capped out at \$35,000. Through her medical employment, Laurent had worked with OSHA and was intrigued. She is working on her bachelor’s degree in occupational safety and health, anticipating completion in 2021.



Connie Laurent on the job.



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



Marketing Moment

Did you know that from July 30 to August 26, the Lamar Institute of Technology Facebook page had an organic reach of 107,974 people? That means we were on the screens of over 100,000 people without having to pay for advertising.

What does this mean for you? If you want to promote your program or event, you’re more likely to get increased buzz if you put in a marketing request. Simply go to lit.my.workfront.com and log in using the same Single Sign-On (SSO) credentials you use to access your LIT email or work computer. From the drop-down menu, select marketing request and then select social request. Fill out all the blanks in the details of your request, and before you know it, your program will be featured on our page.

Featured photo from the President’s Wall



Dr. Howard and Benjamin Taylor, legislative aide for US Rep. Brian Babin (TX-36)