



THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

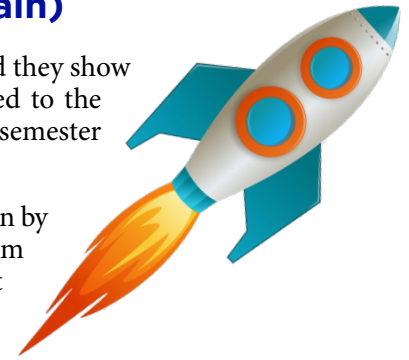
March 2020

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Spring Enrollment Skyrockets (Again)

Preliminary Spring 2020 enrollment numbers are in, and they show an unprecedented 19.5 percent increase when compared to the 2019 semester. Enrollment has increased every long semester since Dr. Howard's installation in 2016.

Contributing factors include a 25 percent decrease in tuition by the Texas legislature and The Texas State University System (TSUS), a focus on dual enrollment, innovative recruitment and retention efforts by employees and Dr. Howard's introduction of a Shared Vision: Growth and Excellence.



The TSUS reported credit enrollment headcount rose a combined 11 percent for all three of member two-year colleges to 8,153 students in Spring 2020, as compared to 7,369 in Spring 2019. Our college's numbers increased by over 600 students (about 77 percent of the region's enrollment increase), and credit headcount of 3,504 accounts for 43 percent of the Spring 2020 two-year college enrollment. *Great job, everyone!*

Dr. Howard Headlines at SXSW Education Conference



Dr. Howard is a guest speaker at this year's SXSW Education Conference.

Dr. Howard will be one of four guest speakers at South by Southwest's (SXSW) 2020 Education Conference, March 9-12 in Austin. The conference is being hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), who is piloting an initiative to guide high school students to in-demand jobs and related training.

Labor Commissioner Julian Alvarez will lead the panel discussion on workforce counseling in high schools and hopes the participants can connect students with technical careers and training.

"Best Community Colleges" in Texas, LIT at Top of List



LIT recently was named number five on the list of the 2020 Best Community Colleges in Texas, according to the national educational ranking website Niche.com. The list included 56 other community colleges in the state.

The Institute also ranked 83rd out of 871 community colleges in the U.S. This is the second time we have received a similar honor from Niche.com. The award was also bestowed in 2018. Rankings reflect the entire college experience, from freshman year to life after college.

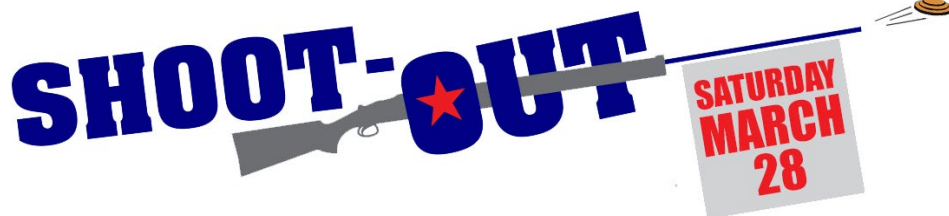
According to Niche.com, LIT's most popular majors are: Lab Technician; Instrumentation Technician; Police and Criminal Science; and Welding.



March BIRTHDAYS

- March 5, Clinton Vannoy
- March 7, Deborah Haynes
- March 8, Wei Zhang
- March 12, Lauri Arnold-Calder
- March 13, Kathleen Hawsey
- March 14, Pete Matak
- March 16, Lacey Stinebrickner
- March 17, Jason Bingham
- March 17, Michelle DeMoss
- March 17, Cynthia King
- March 21, Dawna Whitmire
- March 24, Sheryll Snider
- March 26, ShaNelle Lawson
- March 27, Ebony Simpson
- March 29, Shunetta Lewis

Foundation to host 13th Annual Shoot-Out



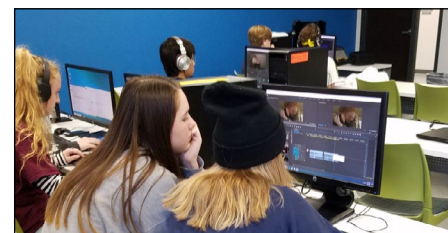
Sponsorship opportunities are still available for this year's Shoot-Out, a fun sporting clay event that benefits the Foundation and LIT student scholarships.

This year's Platinum sponsors are ExxonMobil Beaumont, Golden Pass LNG and Provost Umphrey. Teams may sign up for 8 a.m. or noon flights on March 28 at the 1-in-100 Gun Club, Lumberton. Last year, the Foundation raised more than \$145,000 for scholarships, with 73 teams participating, consisting of 292 individuals.

For more information, to volunteer or register a team, you can visit lit.edu/foundation/shootout, or contact Mandy Clayton at 409-839-2956 or arclayton@lit.edu.

LIT hosts SkillsUSA Texas high school competition

About 1,700 high registered for the SkillsUSA Texas District 7 competition that was held on our campus and several other locations in mid-February. Students competed in Digital Cinema, Internet, Automotive, HVAC, Welding, Architectural Drafting and other categories. The awards ceremony was held on February 15 in the Ozan High School auditorium.



Area high school students competed in various categories including Digital Cinema.

March's Employee of the Month Bradd Henry



General Education and Developmental Studies Instructor Bradd Henry was nominated by Department Chair Dr. Mary Sizemore for his dedication.

"Bradd (Henry) is a talented educator," Sizemore said. "He teaches six days a week that includes Saturdays. He is the core of LIT, having a Saturday class. He is always willing to teach any class to help the department.

"He will take on additional classes for an extended schedule to benefit the college," she added. "He never complains or requests special accommodations — he is a true team player."

Math Instructor Bradd Henry is this month's honoree.

Henry's courses are Contemporary Mathematics, Developmental Algebra, Beginning Algebra, Developmental Mathematics and Intermediate Algebra.

LIT's Safety Awareness Institute receives \$100,000 grant

LIT recently was awarded a \$100,000 Texas Mutual Insurance Co. grant to fund our Safety Awareness Institute (SAI) that provides workplace safety courses for area employers, workers and the general public. This is the fourth straight year of the award in support of our risk management program.

The Institute is one of 11 colleges in Texas that provides safety classes via this funding. We launched the SAI in 2017 to provide training to reduce work-related accidents and injuries. Since then, hundreds have participated at no cost in courses for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American Heart Association (AHA) CPR/First Aid, Forklift and Aerial Lift operation.

CTE Signing Day drives student toward success



Savanna Mitchell prepares for life after LIT.

Roughly a year ago four LIT students received a total of \$8,000 in ExxonMobil scholarships during the Texas legislature's Career and Technical Education (CTE) resolution hearing at the first-ever CTE Signing Day.

Savanna Mitchell, a dual enrolled student and a CTE Signing Day scholarship recipient, will graduate in December 2020 before turning 18. She plans to move to Oklahoma and work at a Chevron plant in an Occupational Safety & Health position (her major at LIT). She talked about how much of an impact the CTE signing day made on her life.

"It was really special," Mitchell said. "When we went to the capital everyone made us feel like we were the most important people there. It made me feel really accomplished. I felt good about working hard for the things I have so far. It has me excited for the future."

Marketing Moment

Department chairs will have the chance to choose specific programs to be highlighted for the Summer and Fall 2020 enrollment campaigns. Thanks to advertising tools called Facebook and Instagram Carousels, department chairs will also be able to promote up to four programs for the upcoming marketing campaigns. A carousel starts with a video or an image and allows interested users to swipe left to keep viewing the advertisement. LIT will have six active carousels on both social media platforms, allowing for departments to highlight multiple programs for the upcoming semesters.

Black History Month program honors trailblazers

Black History Month (BHM) was celebrated in style with guest speaker Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Precinct 2 Constable Christopher Bates. He is the youngest elected official in the history of the county to be sworn in as constable and the second youngest constable in Texas. Bates reiterated the importance of voting and reviewed the federal, state and local offices on the ballot and recognized other local pioneers like Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens.



Constable Bates stressed the importance of voting.

The BHM Committee presented this year's scholarship winners: Jaalah Baaheth, Nyaah Guillory, Sharonda Humphries, Heather Jones, Onitra Lopez, Farrah McCurley, Lineia Roy and Cierra White.

Also on the agenda: Dr. Freddie Titus and Psalms 150 Gospel Choir sang, and a light lunch was provided by Team Gilliam was served.



BHM Scholarship winners pose with presenters, Dr. Howard and the Executive Team.

Panel discussion with ExxonMobil set for March 10

Instrumentation Technology students will be able to take advantage of the knowledge of two groups from ExxonMobil Fuels & Lubricants division on March 10 at 1 p.m. The BEST (Black Employee Success Team) and GOAL (Global Organization for the Advancement of Latinos) Employee Resource groups are presenting an open forum with a Q & A session.

Facilities Update

- We are updating the room next to the Cashier's Office, to be used as 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



Hollywood actress, model and director, Robin Givens shares a smile with Dr. Howard at the HCC Black History Scholarship Gala.

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

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Welding SGA raises \$750 in link sale!



Link sale participants happy with results and profits.

The Welding SGA already has big plans where it will spend the \$750 it made in a link sale in February. Welding Instructor Maggie Noble said she was pleased with the results, considering the group organized the fundraiser in three weeks. She said the group is considering several options: hosting a welding competition for high school students and awarding a scholarship; purchasing team shirts for the upcoming SkillsUSA Texas competition; and organizing a cookout for local welding companies to help foster relationships between LIT and the business community.

Baldy lends a "wing"



Baldy appears at the Youth Career Expo at Ford Park.

Who was spotted out in the community, leading LIT teams and saving lives? Our own mascot Baldy, who entertained the masses and even demonstrated CPR at Ford Park at a recent Youth Career Expo, hosted by Workforce Solutions of Southeast Texas.

CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO



BALDY AND LIT REPRESENT AT MARDI GRAS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS

LIT's participation in the recent Mardi Gras "Krewe of Krewes" parade downtown was a collaborative effort across departments. Special thanks go to Allied Health & Sciences Department Chair Allen Welch, who originally proposed the idea to Dr. Howard about a month ago, and Fire Protection Technology Coordinator John Randall. Both spent countless hours organizing "Krewe Aquila," setting up and cleaning. About 25 employees from various departments rode on the float with Baldy, distributing soft "throws": beads, LIT shirts, stress balls, cups and more. Welch said the parade appearance was a huge success, providing visible community outreach for the school, and there are future plans to continue LIT's participation.

Student Government Association (SGA) roundup

- Newly elected SGA officers will be sworn in on March 4. They help with campus events, promote student engagement and represent fellow students.
- SGA volunteers helped get out the vote in February by registering students while urging them to make their voices heard in the upcoming elections. The grass roots effort also reflected the Black History Month theme.
- Resume workshops are scheduled for interested students throughout March from 2-4 p.m. on March 11 and 24 in MPC room 159, and from 9-11 a.m. on April 8 in the Eagles' Nest Computer Lab. A Southeast Texas Workforce Spring 2020 Job Fair is planned for April 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the MPC.
- Student Appreciation Day is planned for March 10. Themed, "Keep Calm, Game On," games planned are Jenga, checkers and chess. Food will be provided by Chick-Fil-A.

RESUME WORKSHOPS

MARCH 11 MARCH 24	}	2 - 4 P.M. MPC RM 159
APRIL 8		9 - 11 A.M. EAGLES' NEST COMPUTER LAB



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