

LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

VOL. 1 • ISSUE 5

LIT College Conversation starts new era

In a historic move, President Howard implements 'The LIT College Conversation.' He said, "It's not enough for LIT to be named the Best Two-Year College in Texas. My goal is to also make LIT one of the best and most satisfying places to work in the region. Management must do better in listening to our employees, making them feel valued and building trust."



LIT President Dr. Lonnie L. Howard addresses faculty and staff.

This College Conversation is a dialogue that is employee-led by three new committees (Staff, Budget and Academic). Despite these are very typical committee names, each is unprecedented because of its humanistic approach to reconcile interpersonal matters such as LIT's: culture, inclusion, diversity, compensation, benefits/perks, and opportunities for advancement. Dr. Howard said, "I'm not trying to open Pandora's Box, but we must have a serious conversation about every employee's past, current and future institutional concern in a fair and transparent way."

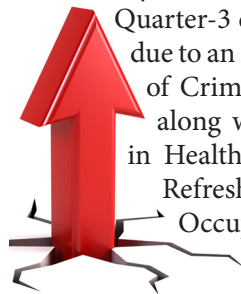
You could ask why these committees are needed when there is a Faculty Senate and Staff Senate. Simple, anyone can serve on these committees regardless of rank/title/popularity because individuals self-nominate. Additionally, these committees make real the notion of shared governance by collaborating to tackle hard-hitting issues, promote civility and make solutions-oriented recommendations directly to the president.

Dr. Howard gave each committee this 'Charge' on June 21.

Skyrocketing enrollment speaks volumes

LIT faculty and staff have put in work to fill seats. Summer I 2018 credit enrollment is up an amazing 15.1 percent when compared to Summer I 2017.

Even more impressive, thanks to extra efforts of faculty and staff, Continuing Education Quarter-3 enrollment is up 41.3 percent due to an increase in Texas Department of Criminal Justice training courses, along with new CE courses offered in Healthcare such as Cardiovascular Refresher, Radiology Seminar, Occupational Safety and Health and Spanish for Health Care.



LIT goes primetime



LIT plans to ramp up its TV advertising for recruiting in July and August, with 211 combined media buys for the two months. This means between KBMT, KFDM and KJAC, LIT's commercials will air 211 times in an effort to draw in students. The college's commercials can be seen on shows like Good Morning America, Big Bang Theory, Jimmy Kimmel, Survivor, The Late Show, Ellen, Judge Judy, America's Got Talent and Saturday Night Live.

THE
**PRESIDENT'S
NEWSLETTER**



LIT employees learn inclusion strategies from Lamar Diversity, Inclusive Excellence and Training Executive Director Imelda Wicks.

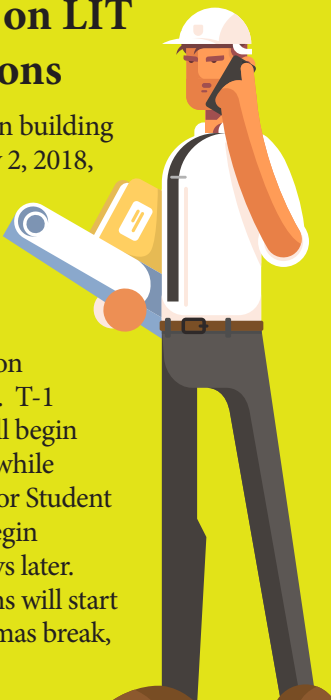
**Diversity & inclusion
take center stage at LIT**

Imelda Wicks, Lamar University Executive Director of Diversity, Inclusive Excellence and Training, addressed LIT employees about “Strategies for Building a Diverse and Inclusive Team to Deepen Impact” on June 12th.

The campus closed at 3 p.m. for the event. The forum helped LIT by providing a better understanding of where it stands on reaching goals for diversity. Ms. Wicks also offered strategies to help LIT grow as culturally competent team members.

**Updates on LIT
renovations**

Renovations on building T-4 begin July 2, 2018, which will include replacing the ceilings and floors and the addition of a bathroom. T-1 demolition will begin July 25, 2018, while construction for Student Success will begin roughly 30 days later. T-5 renovations will start during Christmas break, 2018.



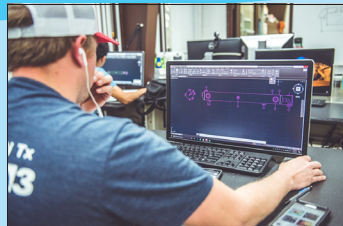
**LIT wins Readers’ Choice
Award for Southeast Texas**



We are the best in the land and have the hardware to prove it – the Beaumont Enterprise Readers’ Choice for “Best in Career Training” in Southeast Texas for 2018. The award rewards area businesses for outstanding products and services from the best restaurants to best medical facilities.

The Enterprise solicits votes from its readers annually in a total of 180 categories. The newspaper receives tens of thousands of votes, according to the Enterprise’s Senior Marketing Executive Tanya Ardoin. This year, instead of awarding each area in the region individually, there was just one region: Southeast Texas.

Congratulations, LIT family, for your contribution to this amazing accomplishment.



**Evening Computer-Aided
Drafting available for adult learners**

Basic Computer-Aided Drafting (DFTG 1309) will be offered starting Aug. 27 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.. The evening classes will help accommodate adult learners’ busy schedules.

Computer-aided design and drafting skills can be applied to a wide range of fields and specializations.

**BISD & LIT named
to Texas Honor Roll**



Beaumont Independent School District (BISD) Early College High School has been recognized as a “Texas Honor Roll” school for 2017-2018 by the Institute for Productivity and the Education Results Partnership (ERP).

LIT partnered with BISD in August 2016, when the venture was approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). According to the TEA, innovative early college high school programs like LIT allow high school students to earn a diploma and

an associate’s degree within six months of graduating at no cost to the students, thus greatly reducing financial barriers to college access.

The Texas Honor Roll recognizes public schools for demonstrating consistently higher levels of student academic achievement, improvement over time and trimming achievement gaps among minority and socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

LIT represents at Ford Park Homeschool Expo

LIT Vice President for Strategic Initiatives David Mosley and Luke Bourgeois presented interactive workshops on June 23 at the Southeast Texas Homeschool Expo at Ford Park. Others recruiting for LIT included: Allen Welch, Clinton Vannoy, Sharon Hughes, John Edgar, Misti Dearing and Dr. Valerie Worry.

Mosley, who is also a homeschool dad, spoke about preparing homeschooled children’s paths through high school and college. Bourgeois, a homeschool graduate, discussed how these students can earn college credits, learn skills and get a head start on the next step in their education. He also promoted LIT’s dual-credit program as a vehicle for the journey.

Do you want coverage of your event or have a story you would like to see in the newsletter? Contact Chris at celliotl@lit.edu or Rhonda at rmitchell@lit.edu.

LIT Dental Hygiene provides relief in Philippines

The Dental Hygiene program embarked on the first-ever mission trip in college history to help underprivileged people in a developing country.

The outreach effort was the brainchild of Dr. Kristina Mendoza, a 2011 LIT graduate, faculty member and a practicing dentist from the Philippines. She also launched the new Dental Assistant program that started June 22.

The group, which consisted of faculty members Program Director Deborah Brown, Michelle DeMoss, Lisa Harrell and Lori Rogers, Instructor Tami Browning and student Ken Baxley, stayed with Dr. Mendoza's family, who also helped finance meals. This story was chosen for the national newsletter for Dental Hygienists, RDH eVillage.



LIT Dental Hygiene takes selfies with volunteers.

Dr. Kristina Mendoza July Employee of the Month

Dr. Kristina Mendoza was named Employee of the Month because she arranged the college's first-ever mission trip to the Philippines with other members of the Dental Hygiene program.

"It was rewarding for everybody because we were able to give help to almost 200 patients," Dr. Mendoza said. "Volunteers provided help to the elderly, the deaf and mute and children without families."

Mendoza added that being a role model to her students and representing LIT is rewarding, and she is grateful for the award. "It means so much to be acknowledged for the work we do in the community," Mendoza said.

Dr. Howard said, "Dr. Mendoza is not only a wonderful faculty member, but she is a very caring human being. This outreach effort to the Philippines and willingness to involve her colleagues is truly heartwarming."



Dr. Kristina Mendoza



LIT students and faculty advisors gather after earning gold and bronze medals at SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA National Conference medals prove LIT students are best in nation

LIT proved it boasts some of the most skilled students in the nation by bringing home gold and bronze medals from the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference on Friday, June 29.

LIT's Anthony Dillon Adams placed first in Prepared Speech to earn the gold medal in Louisville, Ky. This contest required students to deliver a five- to seven-minute speech on a common theme established by SkillsUSA. Adams' Speech on the topic "Champions at Work, Job-Ready Day One" wowed the judges, earning him the spot as the nation's best.

The team of Nereyda Diaz, Rebeca Martinez and Syed Habib displayed how exceptional the Criminal Justice: Crime Scene Technician program is at LIT by garnering the bronze medal in Crime Scene Investigation at SkillsUSA. The team processed a

crime scene, wrote a report, drew the crime scene sketch and marked its evidence on its way to the bronze. Six faculty advisors: Dr. Tom Noyola, Dawn Katz, Weldon Jacobs, Darrell Grissom, Lauri Arnold-Calder and John McKeehan also attended this week long event. We congratulate them all and their respective programs.

"Our medal winners did a tremendous job representing LIT with poise, professionalism, and mastery of their trade," Katz said. "Year after year I'm humbled to witness all the hard work, dedication and resilience demonstrated by our students. It's great to work with an administration that is student-focused and supports our SkillsUSA team."



TSUS and LIT want to invest in you

Texas State University System (TSUS) 2-year colleges have collaborated with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) to offer the Course in Effective Teaching Practices to a limited number of select faculty. With funding from TSUS; LIT, Lamar State College Orange and Lamar State College Port Arthur were selected for the opportunity to create the first ACUE collaborative effort within our system.

This course is designed for higher education faculty that leads to a national Certificate in Effective College Instruction endorsed by ACE. This program includes five comprehensive units of study:

- 1 Designing an Effective Course and Class
- 2 Establishing a Productive Learning Environment
- 3 Using Active Learning Techniques
- 4 Promoting Higher Order Thinking
- 5 Assessing to Inform Instruction and Promote Learning

This faculty development opportunity will advance the pedagogical understanding of evidence-based teaching practices. Faculty and adjuncts will learn and implement innovative instructional practices and skills while taking the course. The result: increased engagement, student success and LIT's achievement of 60x30TX and TSUS 2020 Vision targets.

Don't miss out on this innovative opportunity. Faculty and adjuncts are encouraged to submit applications by Friday, July 6, 2018. Contact Dr. Angela Hill for assistance.



Dental Hygiene Instructor Lisa Harrell

LIT welcomes Dr. Byron Prince, new CE program

Dr. Byron Prince started as the new Hurricane Harvey Grant Manager on June 15. He comes to LIT with 15 years worth of experience with disaster grants and workforce training programs from Chicago to Southeast Texas.



Dr. Byron Prince

This new position is an outgrowth of the Texas Workforce Commission's federal grant to help people displaced by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017.

Dr. Prince's addition was not the only big news for Continuing Education.

LIT's first Dental Assistant program started June 22nd with a full class of 20 students. The new, two-week entry-level offering prepares students in all aspects of administrative and clinical dental assisting. This 100-hour course is a collaboration between Allied Health and Sciences and the Workforce Education Department. Classes run daily, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. excluding Sundays, and prepares students to take the state exam.

LIT Foundation News: \$50,000

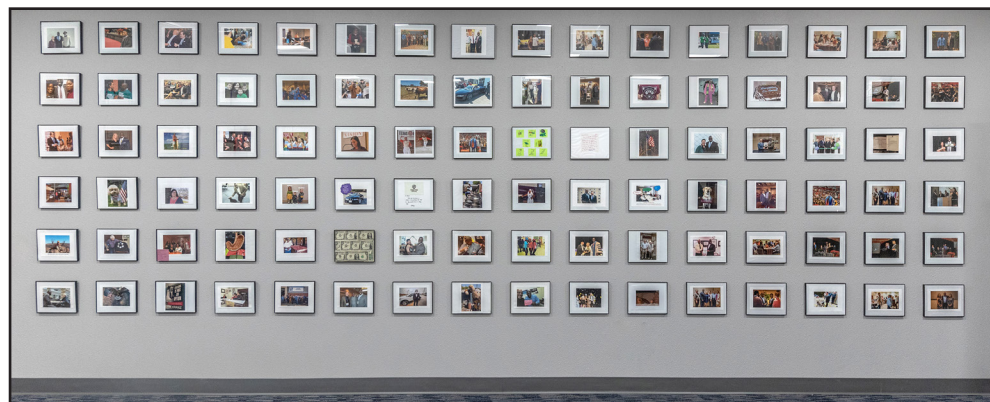
After his passing in March, Ralph Mock, Jr., a former LIT drafting instructor and founder of the program, bestowed \$50,000 to the Computer Drafting Program he lovingly helped establish. These funds will be used to establish an endowed scholarship in his name.

In 2011 Mock established a \$250 annual scholarship for a student enrolled in the Computer Drafting Program. Mock was so dedicated to his profession and students, he actually started teaching classes at 6 a.m., much to the surprise of college administrators at the time.



Ralph Mock, Jr.

Since childhood he was an avid collector of watches, clocks, radios, bottles, frog replicas, model trains, cars and airplanes, and fossils. He amassed over 500 clocks in his lifetime, and also donated many of his collection pieces to Beaumont area attractions and museums.



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