



LAMAR INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 4, Weldon Jacobs

Apr. 5, Tracy Spencer

Apr. 7, Lawrence McCartney

Apr. 8, Ira Wilsker

Apr. 11, Leigh Burks

Apr. 12, Cheryl Biksey

Apr. 17, Cheylyn Brown

Apr. 19, Renee Celeste

Apr. 21, Bonnie Cobb

Apr. 21, Tiffany Williams-Parker

Apr. 26, Henry Gaus

Apr. 27, Sharon Hughes



THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

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LIT Base Year Enrollment Highest in 10 Years

With the recent certification of our Spring 2019 credit (+7.4 percent) and our Quarter II 2019 non-credit (+27.1 percent) enrollment, LIT's base year is set to exceed 1.7 million contact hours. This is an increase of 9.9 percent over the previous biennium and helps to solidify the college's formula funding calculations to be determined by the Legislative Budget Board in May 2019.



Houston Community College Spotlights LIT's TLC

LIT's Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) has earned national and regional attention as a result of its efforts to promote faculty and staff excellence with innovation and training. Most recently, one of the Institute's esteemed peers, Houston Community College (HCC), featured Dean of Student Success Dr. Angela Hill on its television network show, "Credential Up."



Dr. Angela Hill appears on HCCTV's "Credential Up" to share the success behind the TLC.

Dr. Howard said, "We do a great job in transforming the lives of our students. However, the impetus of our LIT Teaching and Learning Center is to provide these same transformational opportunities to our faculty and staff."

Originally the vision of Dr. Howard, the TLC was highlighted on "Credential Up" for hosting professional development sessions and being the first one of its kind for two-year colleges within the Texas State University System (TSUS). In addition to providing employees a chance for top-notch professional development, the Center was created to help LIT reach its TSUS Vision 2020 targets.

"We strive to attain the targets of retention, persistence, and completion," Dr. Hill said. "The TLC offers faculty and staff training that will strengthen competencies for student success and our employees' professional growth."

Training Grounds to Reopen for LIT's 94th Fire Academy

New and exciting events are in store for LIT's 94th Fire Academy. Fire and rescue exercises were performed at the Fire Training Ground in Beaumont.

A year and a half in the making, the Institute is proud to be on the verge of reopening its new Fire Academy Complex. The entire location was destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017. Temporary facilities were used in the interim. The new building is nearly complete, and the move-in is planned in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for updates.



The LIT Fire Academy opens its doors for the first time since Hurricane Harvey flooded the training grounds.

"We are so excited to be back in our facilities," Fire Academy Director John Randall said. "We appreciate the support of the community and our faculty and staff during this transition."



Marketing Moment: April 2019

The marketing department sought input from department chairs on putting more of a program-specific emphasis on its 2019 summer and fall advertising campaigns. Four programs, including low-enrollment, from each department will be targeted based on faculty chair recommendations, while online learning audiences, adult learners and GEDS will also receive a boost.

Allied Health & Sciences Department Chair Peter Whitaker selected Child Care & Development, Pharmacy Technician, Nurse Aide, Occupational Safety & Health / Environmental Technician as target programs for the summer and fall campaigns.

Business Technology Chair Lauri Arnold-Calder submitted Office Management and Administration, Computer Information Systems, Accounting Technology and Real Estate as points of emphasis.

Public Service and Safety Chair Ken Mason elected Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Crime Scene Technician, Fire Academy and Police Academy as focal points.

Technology Chair Pat O'Connor selected Industrial Mechanics, HVAC, Diesel Mechanics and Drafting as the Top 4 programs to highlight in his department.

The Marketing Department will focus on its tagline, "Get a Degree That Works." GEDS will see increased visibility in the summer and fall campaigns with an emphasis on affordable college opportunities from a top-rated institution and the flexibility of online classes to complete the basics and earn an AAS.

LIT graduates living their "American Dream" months after graduation



Mallory Matthews, Briana Johnson and Timothy Haynes were honored at the Awards of Excellence.

Three graduates were among five who were recently recognized by Texas Workforce Solutions as the 2018 Workforce Ambassadors for their achievements and successfully overcoming barriers in their journeys to self-reliance. The LIT standouts honored at the 4th Annual Awards of Excellence event were Timothy Haynes, Mallory Matthews and Briana Johnson.

In January 2018 Haynes enrolled at LIT, where he received a \$2,500 scholarship. By October 2018, he had completed training, received his license and was hired by a local freight company as a Class A CDL driver, earning about \$22 per hour.

Matthews, through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA) program, enrolled in the Police Academy. In February 2018, Matthews was sworn in as a Port Arthur Police Officer. Earning a starting wage of \$24 per hour plus benefits, she realized her dream and became self-sufficient.

In less than a year, Johnson went from being unemployed with no high school diploma and no job skills to realizing her dream job as a Dental Assistant. After earning her GED, she successfully completed Dental Assistant training, passing her state boards and receiving her credentials in December 2018.



Lori Johnson named April Employee of the Month

Testing Center Coordinator Lori Johnson is April's Employee of the Month. She was nominated by peer and Regional Fire Academy Coordinator John Randall, who described her as a hard worker.

"I work in the Learning Lab daily," Randall wrote in his submission. "I just get to watch what she does. She's here early and leaves late. She is conscientious to everyone who tests."

Johnson, who has worked in the Testing Center for almost six years, which include up to two Saturdays a month, was touched by Randall's thoughtful words and the acclaim.

"Wow! I'm truly honored," she said. Testing students is what Johnson enjoys. But she refused to take credit for her work. "I couldn't do this job without the people I work with. Any spotlight on me needs to be shone on them also," she said.

Regional Police Academy announces April exam dates



Aspiring cadets can test to enter the Police Academy.

Know anyone who's interested in a career in law enforcement? Police Academy Entrance Exam dates for April have been announced: Tues., April 9, 9:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m., Wed., April 10, 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., Thurs., April 11, 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m., Fri., April 12, 9:30 a.m.

The exams will be held at the Police Academy in MPC, Rm. 258. Call 880-8022 or email policeacademy@lit.edu for more info.

“Up for a Cause” group hosts Relay Day fundraiser

Students, staff and faculty truly were “Up for a Cause” for Relay Day on campus March 19. Everyone enjoyed fun, food, activities, a bake sale and some registered for the LIT American Cancer Society Relay For Life Jefferson County team.



Students participate in Relay Day in the Quad.

The “Up for a Cause” team is headed by Management Development Program Director Kara Booth. Co-captains are Business Technologies Department Chair Lauri Arnold-Calder and General Education and Developmental Studies Chair Dawn Katz. Jefferson County’s event, “Small Town, Big Fight,” is scheduled for April 27 on Boston Avenue in Nederland.

LIT’s Hardin/South Jasper Relay For Life team, named “Health Warriors,” which are comprised of LIT Allied Health instructors, is headed by Radiologic Technology Program Director Brenda Barrow.

The team’s walk, originally scheduled for March 29, was canceled, Barrow said. The group is still fundraising, though, for the American Cancer Society through June 16. As of this publication date, \$19,617 has been raised in Hardin County-- \$1,559 of it from the Health Warriors team. A celebration party is planned with a luminaria ceremony on May 18 at First Baptist Church Loeb.

Faculty recognized by students in NISOD essays for making impact

Student Kellie Leday submitted an essay to the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) 2019 Scott Wright Student Essay Contest. NISOD Executive Director Edward Leach was so impressed with her compelling and inspirational story and the impact that their instructors had on their lives that he personally emailed their submissions to Dr. Howard.



Lacey Stinebrickner received major kudos from one of her students in an essay submitted to NISOD.

In her essay Leday, a single mother who also works full time, wrote about how Instructor Lacey Stinebrickner helped her overcome her initial fears of taking a medical lecture-lab. The aspiring sonography student said Stinebrickner’s kindness and relatability made a difference.

“I don’t think she knows how much I admire her way of teaching and inspiring me in a way most professors don’t,” Leday said.



Spring Job Fair 2019 major success

The 2019 Spring Job Fair was a huge success! A total of 13 companies attended, networking with 104 students.

Participating companies included: Waukesha-Pearce Industries, Total Petrochemicals & Refining, Valero, BBVA Compass, Spaw-Glass, Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC), Huntsman Refinery, CRBE, Met, Inc., McDermott International, Family Pharmacy, I-Corp Industrial Services, Inc. (ICIS), Mustang Cat and CHRISTUS Health and Oschner.

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Allied Health and Sciences pulled out all the stops for students touring the MPC.

High school students gather for tour of Allied Health programs

About 150 high school students from seven area high schools converged on the campus on March 22 for a Spring tour of the Allied Health programs. Faculty represented each program, making presentations and conducting tours of classrooms, labs and the dental clinic.

The tour was organized by Health Information Technology Program Director Staci Waldrep and Radiologic Technology Program Instructor Sheryl Nance. Allied Health conducts tours twice a year. Another is planned in the fall.

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.

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LIT's AHSC Pharmacy Tech Program now PTCB-Recognized

We are excited to announce that our Allied Health and Science's Pharmacy Tech Program is now certified as a Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)-recognized education/training program for pharmacy technician students.

PTCB sets the national standard for certification of pharmacy technicians with the goal of improving medication safety and patient care. The program also has been added to the list of PTCB-Recognized Education/Training Programs on the board's website.

LIT is one of more than 600 programs nationwide that has been recognized. The Institute's next course starts in Fall 2019, AHSC Department Chair Peter Whittaker said.

Featured photo from the President's Wall.



Dr. Leigh Smith gets a selfie with the Today Show's Hoda Kotb in New York City.

SEEN AROUND

CAMPUS

2019 LIT Shoot-Out raises over \$145,000

With a 4.3 percent increase in the number of teams participating, more than \$145,000 was raised at the 12th annual LIT Foundation Shoot-Out clay shoot event at the 1-in-100 Gun Club in Lumberton. Funds raised go to student scholarships. Many thanks to Platinum sponsors ExxonMobil, Golden Pass LNG, Provost Umphrey Law Firm and Signature Industrial Services. Seventy-three teams with 292 participants and 120 volunteers helped make the event a resounding success.



From left to right: Chris Brown, Robert Bilnoski, Dr. Howard, Kyle Bilnoski and Paul Thibodeaux of Golden Pass LNG.



Teams did their best to hit the moving targets on the course.



The Shoot-Out was for all ages and skill levels, including these young participants.



Longtime supporters Gus and Jean McFaddin celebrate Gus' birthday at the 12th annual Shoot-Out.

TSUS Vice Chancellor and CFO Daniel Harper and Dr. Howard share a laugh at the Shoot-Out.



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

Thanks for all you do!