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## **Celebrations and Announcements**

### ***Culinary Students Have Clean Sweep***

Chef Joanna Barnes and five students attended the Texas Chefs Association State Convention in Corpus Christi the first week of August. The students competed in a student Quick Fire Challenge where they had 40 minutes to make three shrimp entrees with whatever surprise ingredients were provided. Lauren Aleman won 3rd place, Wesley Brown won 2nd place, and Diana Larkins won 1st place. They received medals and cash prizes that they donated back to the student club. They also attended culinary lectures, a reception on the USS Lexington, and a tour of a beef processing plant.

## **Legislative Update**

The main issue affecting community colleges during the special session was the effort to pass a property tax bill designed to lower the rollback rate and establish automatic, rather than petition generated, elections. The TACC advocacy team worked throughout the session to seek an exemption for our districts from the provisions of SB 1. The bill ultimately failed to pass when the House and Senate ran out of time without reaching a compromise between their competing versions of the bill. It is unclear if Governor Abbott will call a second special session on property taxes. If he does, community colleges will be well positioned now that at least one chamber has affirmatively voted to exempt colleges.

## **Facilities Update**

### ***Building Closures for Chiller Project***

The major components of the chilled water HVAC system over Christmas break. The buildings that are served by that system will be without HVAC service from after December graduation until the faculty return on January 8. The buildings that are affected are: (1) Arts & Communications; (2) LA; (3) Science; (4) CIS; (5) Library; (6) Student Life including the Bridge.

### ***Housing: Safes Installed***

Housing safes were installed by the maintenance employees at Viking Hall. The safes are required as a part of the campus carry regulations.

***BSM Remodel***

The Baptist Student Ministry building has recently been remodeled/upgraded. In addition to new paint, flooring and ceiling tiles, the outside wall has been lowered to provide for more visibility of the building. New window covering/shades have been added, the bathrooms have improved ADA accessibility, and new furnishings have been placed throughout the building. Patio furniture will be installed in the near future.

***Rain Damage***

The college did not suffer any major damage from the recent hard rains. We did experience roof leaks in six locations. We had problems with leaks in each of these locations in the past, had worked on them, and had not had leaks there until the last downpours. We are actively working with a roofing company to prevent future problems in these locations.

**Budget and Tax Rate Pass**

At the August 22 board meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the budget and tax rate for the upcoming year. The tax rate will decrease from last year's rate of \$0.181300 per \$100 of taxable value to this year's proposed tax rate of \$0.181200 per \$100 of taxable value. For more details, see the recap from the Herald-Democrat <http://www.heralddemocrat.com/news/20170828/grayson-college-lowers-tax-rate-plans-to-hire-for-nursing-bachelors-program>.

**Regional Accreditation Update**

The college has a number of upcoming accreditation visits:

- September 15- SACSCOC 5<sup>th</sup> Year Report Due
- November 14-16, 2017- SACSCOC Visit
- December 31- American Culinary Federation Educational Foundation (ACFEF) 3 Year Report Due
- February 26-28, 2017- ACFEF On-Site Visit
- Spring 2018- LVN Accreditation
- Fall 2018- ACN Accreditation

**HR Update*****Compensation Analysis Project Update***

The projected investment to increase non-faculty pay is \$206,474.00 for 213 employees for the 2017-2018 budget year. This ensures the non-faculty pay is competitive within our market. The largest adjustment was to police officers.

The consultant was generally complimentary of the prior compensation plan noting that the majority of non-faculty staff were paid within market range. The new system will provide us with resources to evaluate compensation more consistently and monitor market trends.

***New Hires/Promotions***

Casey Ticknor was recently promoted to Director of Administrative Computing. He was instrumental in helping the college with the CAMS implementation and continues to add value as the college moves to the next phase to improve processes and create efficiencies in our administrative computing systems.

Cean Fritz has joined the IT department as Software Developer and SQL Reporting Specialist. His position is a result of repurposing the Assistant Network Director position within the IT department.

***Resignations***

Andrew MacPherson resigned as the Director of Public Safety and Emergency Management. He's accepted a similar position at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado.