

Specialized automotive training programs offer students options

Automotive repair and service often require specialized training to ensure the best performance of a vehicle.

Partnerships between major car manufacturers and the Collin College Automotive Technology program are providing that training, and both sides are reaping the benefits.

While some procedures like oil changes and tire rotations will always be within reach of shade tree mechanics, manufacturers often use proprietary technologies that respond best to automotive specialists trained in their use and repair. To ensure their customers get the most out of their vehicles, manufacturers and dealerships train their service department employees in the use of specialized tools and approaches to diagnostics and repairs.

Although all Automotive Technology students at Collin College learn the skills needed for vehicle repair and service, partnerships with **Toyota**, **Mercedes-Benz USA**, **Ford**, and **Honda** provide them with the option to become certified in the care of their vehicles. The programs differ slightly based on the manufacturer, but generally students have access to specially designed training, online learning opportunities, proprietary scan tools, and late-model vehicles to train on.

Toyota's Technical Education College Support (TECS) Elite program, for instance, provides introductory-level training integrated into the college's curriculum. Mercedes-Benz's MB Star program and the Ford Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program provide online training modules for students to pursue outside the assigned curriculum. The Honda Professional Automotive Career Training (PACT) program encourages students to complete internships with Honda or Acura dealerships.



Sean Boyll, Automotive Technology discipline lead, said that certification by a manufacturer helps level the playing field for students coming out of college with little work experience. If a dealership knows that the student has significant manufacturer-specific training, they may be a better hire than a generalist who has years working in a service station.

"The programs make the student more marketable to the manufacturer they would like to pursue a career with," Boyll said. "I think that is true for all the programs. Everything they do transfers to them when they land at the dealerships."



Sean Boyll

Aayan Khan, a dual credit student from Allen High School, chose the MB Star program because

he likes the company and its cars. Khan's great-uncle worked for Mercedes-Benz in Pakistan and Germany, and he grew up hearing stories of what a good company it is. Khan sees his participation in the program as a stepping stone to a career with Mercedes-Benz.

"I have wanted to work for Mercedes for a while as an automotive engineer, but first I wanted to learn about their cars and their technology as a technician," Khan said.

Khan plans to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering and would like to work for Mercedes-



Aayan Khan

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McKinney Campus' Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center serves students, community needs with style



Left to right, Back: Lisa Hermes, George Fuller, Glenn Callison, Fred Moses, Dr. Robert J. Collins, Dr. H. Neil Matkin, Christina Mennen Andrea, Andrew Hardin, Rudy Andrea, Jay Saad, Dr. Rick McDaniel, Peter Tokar. Front: Finley McDonald and Beckham McDonald.

Varying shades of blue sunlight peek across the Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center.

The tall electrochromic glass windows change their tint throughout the day, providing both a comfortable environment for visitors and cost-savings for McKinney Campus' newest building.

"This space is truly the warm, welcoming front door to our growing campus," said Dr. Mark Smith, McKinney Campus provost. "We want to serve our students as best we can. Our helpful and knowledgeable staff is equipped to assist anyone who walks through the doors."

The Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center bears its name proudly in recognition of a \$1 million donation by the Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation for endowed scholarships through the Collin College Foundation. This gift is among the largest in college history, and a special dedication was held in August 2022 to honor the family's long history of service as a patron.

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Regional and state leaders featured at inaugural Collin Leadership Policy Summit

Collin College brought area leaders together for its inaugural **Collin Leadership Policy Summit**. Approximately 300 people attended the sold-out event. Designed to offer participants the opportunity to explore regional areas of interest prior to the 88th legislative session, the summit was sponsored by Atmos Energy, Crawford Catastrophe Services, Credit Union of Texas, and Oncor. The half-day event was held Nov. 16 at the Collin College Frisco Campus Conference Center.

“The first Collin Leadership Policy Summit was a great success,” said Dr. Neil Matkin, Collin College district president. “Our distinguished keynote speakers and panelists, who are experts in their fields, shared insightful information that can impact the future of our communities.”

Keynote speakers included Margaret Spellings, former U.S. Secretary of Education and president and chief executive officer of Texas 2036, and Rich Templeton, Texas Instruments chairman, president, and chief executive officer.



(Left to right) Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin served as the moderator for a keynote address about education, accountability, and the future workforce with Former U.S. Secretary of Education and President and Chief Executive Officer of Texas 2036 Margaret Spellings and Texas Instruments Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer Rich Templeton, at the inaugural Collin Leadership Policy Summit.

Several business, community, and civic leaders, including Senator Angela Paxton and State Representatives Jeff Leach, Candy Noble, and Matt Shaheen, served as panelists for the following panel discussions:

- Workforce Opportunities and the Labor Market
- Future of Healthcare in Texas and Collin County
- Economic Development: Statewide Policy and Regional Focus
- Education Priorities for the 88th Legislative Session
- The Future of the Texas Power Grid
- The Future of Transportation

The summit was held in partnership with several chambers of commerce including Allen-Fairview, Celina, Collin County Black, Farmersville, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, Princeton-Lowry Crossing, Prosper, Richardson, and Wylie.

For more information and to view videos from the inaugural summit, visit www.collin.edu/policysummit/.



Collegiate Academies bring more opportunities to today's students

In today's world, high school students have more opportunities than ever before to get ahead. Through Collin College's Collegiate Academy partnerships with area school districts, high school students can graduate with not only their high school diplomas but also with associate degrees from Collin College.



Katherine Omo-Osagie, who graduated from The Colony High School's Collegiate Academy in May 2022, received her high school diploma and her associate degree from Collin College. She is now a freshman at the University of Alabama, but she has enough credits to be classified as a junior at the university, which means she will be able to graduate early with her bachelor's degree. Time is important to Omo-Osagie who is a pre-med student and plans to apply to medical school programs.

“Once I got to college, I didn't have that adjustment period that I saw a lot of my friends having trouble with because I was already used to the course load and was accountable for my own work,” she said. “That is one of the benefits of the Collegiate Academy. Having to balance all of that in high school made it easier for me in college.”



Omo-Osagie was one of 72 students who graduated from The Colony High School's Collegiate Academy which started in 2017, with the first class of 30 graduating in 2020. She, along with her peers, said the Collegiate Academy helps prepare them for college.

Students interested in entering a Collegiate Academy must apply and take tests before being accepted into a program. The academy allows students to take both Collin College dual credit classes as well as their regular high school classes at the same time, all in the comfort of their high school setting. By the time they graduate from high school, students have the potential to earn an associate degree, or up to 60 hours of dual credit. Students taking advantage of the academy model are supported by their high school and Collin College staff.

The Collegiate Academy model first began in 2014 with the Plano Health Sciences Academy to combat the health care shortages in Collin County at the time. It was a vision to prepare high school students to enter the health care field and potentially earn a health care credential and associate of applied science degrees.

In addition to the Plano Health Sciences Academy, Collin College now has six formal Collegiate Academies and partnerships with Allen, Community, The Colony, Farmersville, and Princeton ISDs. There are plans to have three more academies in Fall 2023.

“I am so excited to see the continued expansion of dual credit and our collegiate academies,” said Raul Martinez, Collin College associate vice president of P-12 partnerships. “Collin College values our ISD partners. Together, we are creating amazing opportunities for students. This is really the best thing parents can do for their students. These credits can give students everything from incredible financial savings to a wonderful head start on college.”

Jack Anderson is a history professor who teaches Collin College dual credit classes via The Colony High School Collegiate Academy. He said he can see firsthand the type of impact this opportunity has on his young students.

“For many of my students, the Collegiate Academy offers them their first opportunity to learn that history can be fun and engaging on a personal level,” Anderson said. “Their parents can be safely assured that Collegiate Academy students graduate with an excellent education and with the skills they will need to be competitive in the workforce at a fraction of the cost of a university education. They can then look back at their time with the Collegiate Academy with a sense of pride and accomplishment.”



Raul Martinez



Jack Anderson

2022
GREAT
COLLEGES
TO WORK FOR®

Recognized

Collin College is a great place to work

Throughout the years, Collin College has not only provided educational opportunities for thousands of students but also career opportunities for thousands of employees.

Emery McArtor is the associate project manager of telecommunications at Collin College, and this year he was selected as the full-time staff recipient of the Recognition of Service and Excellence (ROSE) award. He has been with the college for three years.



Emery McArtor

"I have been in the Collin County area for more than 20 years and have heard many times about Collin College's excellent reputation," McArtor said. "When looking to start a career in technology in this area, it was this knowledge that inspired me to apply to Collin College."

McArtor oversees all the structured cabling for Collin College's infrastructure and manages the battery backup systems that provide reliable power to the college's network equipment at every campus.

"In my current role, I work every day in areas that access many of my interests and allow me to solve problems in the ways I enjoy," he said.

"Based on all my previous work experience, I consider this to be a rarity, and I am so thankful for the ability to contribute to Collin College in a way that fits me."

There are many others like McArtor working at Collin College. The college employs more than 2,893 people across the district in a wide range of positions such as faculty, administration, plant operations, IT, kitchen, library, and much more.

Collin College was once again recognized as one of the best colleges to work for, according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. This marks the fifth year the college has been recognized in the program (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2012).

The results are based on a survey of 212 colleges and universities. In all, 68 of those institutions achieved 'Great Colleges to Work For' recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Collin College included among the large institutions.

"Collin College is an exceptional institution thanks to the work of our hardworking employees, and I'm pleased that the 'Great Colleges to Work For' officials repeatedly affirm that they believe we are a great employer," said Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "It is an honor to be included in this distinguished national list for a fifth year," he continued. "At a time when competition for talent has never been greater, we will continue to invest in and support our employees who contribute so much to our students' success."

Kat Balch has been a full-time English professor at Collin College since August 2009. During her time at the college, she has served on numerous departmental, campus, and districtwide committees.



Kat Balch

"I was made aware of Collin through friends who had relocated here," Balch said. "The positive environment, engaged faculty, and supportive administration at all levels sold me on coming here from my former institution in Georgia."

Balch said one of the best things about working at Collin College is the "open door" environment and innovation districtwide.

"The massive amount of library databases and the superior technology services the college offers benefits not only me but also my students," she said. "In fact, the college encourages innovation in the classroom and exploration in a multidisciplinary environment, and that is possibly the best resource Collin offers — we don't stagnate within one subject area but are encouraged to make connections and create integrative learning experiences for ourselves and our students."

The benefits Collin College offers are a total rewards package that makes it competitive, according to Monica Conklin, human resources consultant at Collin College.

"As Collin College continues to grow and opens new campuses in the county, there will be many professional growth opportunities available for our employees to explore," Conklin said. "Our culture is rich in our commitment to our mission, core values, and vision, and supports our 'Students First, No Excuses' mindset. Collin College is a place where you will find purpose, feel valued, and grow a career while having fun."



Monica Conklin

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

- Employer-paid medical and dental insurance
- Generous time off options: sick leave, personal, vacation leave, and paid holidays
- State Retirement Plan and Enhanced Retirement Savings Plan with an offer match of up to 3 percent
- Optional benefits include vision insurance, flexible and dependent care spending accounts, short- and long-term disability insurance, as well as term life insurance
- Employee Assistance Program that includes assistance with financial planning, locating childcare, and mental health.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

- Access to TimelyCare 24/7 Telehealth, which provides medical and mental telehealth services at no cost
- Program for Extra Retirement Compensation (PERC) plan and Enhanced Retirement Savings Plan (without the employer match)

ALL EMPLOYEES are eligible to participate in the college's wellness programs as well as professional development opportunities, depending on eligibility requirements.

Pathways:

From summer camp and college

Collin College dual credit alumnus reaches for the stars

The highest point in a rocket's trajectory is known as its "apogee."

Thousands of hours of effort go into reaching that peak of the flight, but when the preparations are made correctly and conditions are just right, a rocket can reach incredible heights.

Liam Brennan, a sophomore at Texas A&M University and Collin College alumnus, is on a trajectory for an exceptional career in mechanical engineering, specifically working in private spaceflight. He said Collin College dual credit and summer classes taken while attending Reedy High School in Frisco helped prepare him for upper-level engineering courses and his work with the university's Sounding Rocketry Team.

Sounding rockets are slightly larger than typical model rockets but much more advanced. Teams from across the country build rocket engines, airframes, and flight computers for annual New Mexico Spaceport America Cup competitions. Team members get practical engineering experience, and the private space industry watches competitions for talented engineers.

Texas A&M has been competitive historically, winning awards for design and working toward a successful flight. Liam was accepted onto the team in his first few weeks as a freshman at the university.

"It was pretty competitive," Liam said. "I was one of five freshmen to make the team, and a big reason was my engineering experience in high school and some of the advanced courses in math that showed I had a level of understanding of the theoretical side of calculations necessary to make a successful rocket."

Liam took Statistics, Calculus III, and Physics II at Collin College, along with English, History, Economics, and other courses. He said the math courses went in-depth, digging into the theories behind the math, which helped him with its conceptual aspects.

That is a common refrain from proponents of dual credit classes. The ability to take on higher-level courses while surrounded by the support systems of a high school setting encourages success in many students, according to Stephanie Sellers, dual credit academic advisor for Frisco ISD.

"Dual credit is an opportunity for students to experience the expectations of college classes within a smaller context," Sellers said. "This precursor provides students with the knowledge and skills needed for a smoother transition into college."

Liam's love of science was fueled at a young age by his grandfather, an electrical engineer who allowed Liam to work with him on summer



Liam Brennan

Photo Credit: Danielle Sullivan/Texas A&M Engineering

projects. A love of education was fostered by his father, Terrence Brennan, the dean of students for Collin College who brought Liam as a youngster to the college's campuses from time to time.

Terrence said he is excited for Liam and his chosen path.

"It is something he has been passionate about since he was a little boy," Terrence said. "I want him to do whatever makes him happy, and he has always been fascinated with designing things, making things, and figuring out how things work."

Terrence saw that same passion in Liam's approach to his dual credit studies and the greater appreciation he earned for what it takes to earn the grades he needs to succeed.

"It really helped focus him and teach him at a younger age how important it is to prioritize his education," he said. "The courses helped mold him into a disciplined student who managed his time and prioritized academics."

There is no telling how far or how high Liam's trajectory will take him. With a passion for becoming a part of the private space industry fueling him and the tools he is bringing to his studies, the sky and space beyond are the limit.

education **to successful careers**



Annette Minear

From camp through BSN: Fulfilling her nursing dream

A trauma victim with a large, open fracture in his arm loses consciousness. The call of “Code Blue” reverberates to the other side of the room where a patient who has fallen is being interviewed. Within seconds, people dressed in scrubs rush to the trauma victim’s side and start CPR. Finally, the patient begins to breathe on his own.

Though this scenario was a Collin College nursing camp skit, it had a long-lasting impact on high school students like Annette Minear.

“It was intense, and it looked real,” Minear said. “The camp made me feel that nursing is what

I wanted to do. The turning point for me was that skit showing what a day in the emergency room could look like. There were multiple patients, and everyone worked as one cohesive unit to help people. It was really inspiring.”

A home school student, Minear attended nurse camp in the summer of 2016. Today, she holds two Collin College associate degrees, a Collin College bachelor’s degree, and is a medical-surgical nurse at Medical City Lewisville.

From camp to college

In Fall 2016, 16-year-old Minear started taking dual credit classes and nursing school prerequisites at the Frisco Campus.

“I absolutely recommend taking dual credit classes,” Minear said. “It is smart to finish high school and take college classes at the same time. You can get a jump start on your career. I was able to work toward providing for myself and my future earlier.”

According to Associate Vice President of P-12 Partnerships Raul Martinez, Collin College has a robust dual credit program that is offered at 41 public, private, and charter school sites.

“High school students can earn up to 60 college credits, and thanks to our collegiate academy model, many area high school students have earned Collin College associate degrees before they have graduated from high school,” Martinez said.

A resident of Lewisville, Minear was paying out-of-county tuition for her Collin College classes, but she said it was still the most reasonable option.

“Collin College’s prices are affordable, even though I was paying out-of-county tuition,” she said. “I had money saved up, and I paid for most of my degrees. My parents helped me occasionally, and my mom made me apply for every scholarship opportunity.”

Earning three degrees

Minear earned an Associate of Arts degree and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Collin College in 2019. At 19 years old, she passed the national nursing exam the first time and became a licensed RN.

“Dr. Betty Veasy, director of the Collin College RN-to-BSN program, reached out to me and said, ‘I would love for you to be part of the college’s first cohort of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program.’ I was not happy with the bachelor’s degree pricing at other colleges. The Collin College BSN program was the best choice, not only because of the tuition, but I knew the campus and the quality of the professors.”

In January 2020, Minear started the BSN program, and in December of the same year she earned a bachelor’s degree.

“The BSN program focused on leadership and critical thinking, and I was able to delve into research,” Minear said. “The professors are truly invested in your success, and they are very easy to talk to.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree, Minear said she was hired right away at Medical City Lewisville.

“I had a great preceptor at the hospital,” she said. “Now I am a preceptor, and I am training my second resident. They told us in nursing school that we will be learning throughout our careers. I tell my nurse residents that I am still learning, too, and that the nursing program isn’t something to get through. It’s the start of your nursing journey, and it’s a good one.”

Collin College announces new leadership appointments

Collin College recently approved the following leadership appointments.

Dr. Bill King has been appointed executive vice president of Collin College. He served as interim executive vice president from August–December 2022 and previously served as the provost of the Technical Campus from 2019–2022. In addition, he served the college as executive director of facilities and construction from 2016–2019. Prior to working at the college, he served as the executive director of facilities and construction (auxiliary services) for Tyler Junior College. Dr. King holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University, an M.B.A. from Stephen F. Austin State University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Educational Administration from Texas A&M University.



Dr. Bill King

Dr. Brenden Mesch has been appointed provost of the Technical Campus and Courtyard Center. He served as the interim Technical Campus provost for these locations from August–December 2022.



Dr. Brenden Mesch

He also served the college as a dean of academic affairs and workforce from 2020–2022. Dr. Mesch started his career in education as a Collin College adjunct faculty member more than 20 years ago. Previously, he served as a campus president and dean of academic affairs of the Art Institute of San Antonio. Dr. Mesch holds a B.A. in Biology from Austin College, a Master's Certificate in Hospitality Management from the University of North Texas, and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and an Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership from Argosy University.



Dr. Sarah Lee

Dr. Sarah Lee has been appointed founding provost of the iCollin Virtual Campus. She served as the executive dean of iCollin Virtual Campus from September 2020–December 2022. In this new role she will also oversee Collin Weekend College. Prior to working at the college, she served as an assistant dean for undergraduate programs and assistant provost for academic initiatives and innovation at Abilene Christian University's Dallas Campus. Dr. Lee holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from Abilene Christian University and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Colorado State University.



Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis

Dr. Jennifer DuPlessis has been appointed chief human resources officer. With more than 20 years of educational administration experience, she has led various departments at the Carrollton–Farmers Branch, Wylie, and Arlington independent school districts. Most recently, Dr. DuPlessis served as assistant superintendent of finance and operations at Lovejoy Independent School District

where she led the district's first comprehensive staffing and compensation assessment and worked with district leadership to execute their strategic objectives. She holds a B.B.A. in Marketing Research and an M.B.A. in Strategic Management from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in Human Resource Development from the University of Texas at Tyler. She will provide strategic direction and leadership for human resources functions across the college's 12 campuses and centers, including employee compensation, benefits, data management, Human Resources Information Systems (HRIS), recruitment and retention, and employee relations.

Educational goals, one scholarship at a time

For student Elisa Martinez, completing nursing school is a goal she's kept in focus, but as both a mom and military spouse, that hasn't always been the easiest. Her journey started with an interest in sonography, but a family emergency and a trip to Medical City in Plano in 2012 changed her chosen career path.

"It was a scary moment finding out my mom had a stroke," Martinez said. "I didn't know exactly what happened. I just knew I had to get to the hospital. Once I got there, I was taken to the Progressive Care Unit (PCU) where my mom was receiving lifesaving care."

Martinez recalls the nurses being kind, empathetic, and doing their jobs with much compassion. It was then that Martinez came to the realization that she, too, wanted to save patients' lives like the team of nurses that helped her mother.

"The nurses were amazing and helped me get through that tough moment," Martinez said. "I saw the care mom got firsthand, and I told myself, 'I want to do that.' I just needed to figure out how to get there."

Collin College was close to home for Martinez, so the decision to apply for the college's Nursing program was an important step to this newfound journey. She was elated at being accepted as she was the first in her family to attend college, but figuring out how to pay for college was an intimidating challenge.

That challenge seemed more achievable when Martinez sought the support of the **Collin College Foundation**. The Foundation awards scholarships to students based on financial need, academic performance, and service to the community. With the help of dedicated donors year after year, the Foundation has provided more than 11,000 scholarships over its history. Recently, the Foundation awarded more than \$950,000 in scholarships for the 2021–2022 academic year.

Scholarship awards are made possible by donors like Will Smith, who has supported students for more than 15 years. Setting up a scholarship for those interested in nursing, Smith is paying it forward and honoring his late mother, a nursing aide.

"I want to help deserving students and not let financial restraints be a concern or impede them from achieving their goals," Smith said. "I know someone like my mother would have appreciated an opportunity like this to continue in the nursing field."

The scholarship Smith provides helps students who meet grade point average (GPA) criteria and who may have little to no resources to complete the nursing program. He hopes scholarships can ensure students have the opportunity to fulfill a great need in the workforce.

"I love to see Collin College students be successful and have a positive impact on the people they'll soon take care of, leaving a lasting impact on their communities," Smith said.

For Martinez, having an opportunity similar to the one donors like Smith offer was the determining factor which allowed her to enter her third year of nursing school at Collin College.

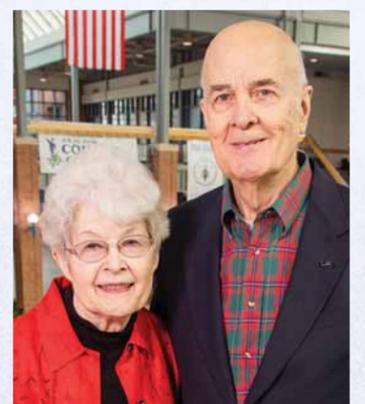
"I was really worried I wasn't going to be able to fully pay my tuition," Martinez said. "But being a scholarship recipient was such a huge relief for me and my family."

This past fall, she found herself interning in the halls of the PCU at Medical City Plano. The same halls she once paced, waiting on her mother's recovery, are now a part of her nursing journey.

"It seemed like a full-circle moment when I realized I'd be learning to be a nurse in the same place I realized nursing was my dream," Martinez said. "I'm so grateful to have the support of the Foundation and donors who support students through scholarships. It's a blessing. This wouldn't be possible for me otherwise."



Elisa Martinez (right) pictured with Nursing Program Professor Bethany Soteres.



Will and Mary Lou Smith



FOUNDATION

Specialized automotive training programs offer students options

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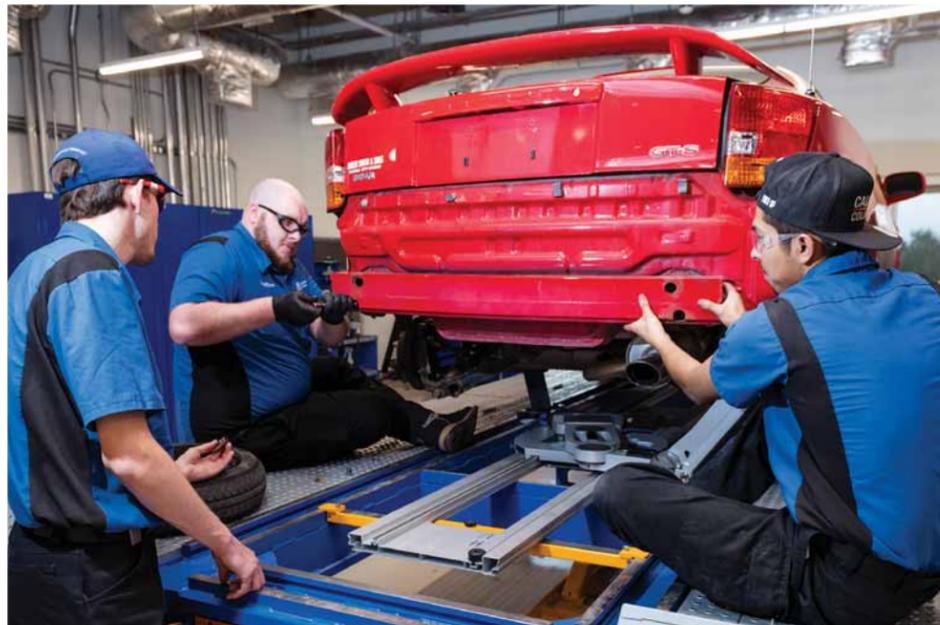
Benz, but for now he is happy to learn about the company's vehicles and corporate culture.

"In Automotive Technology classes, you learn about repairs and technology, but one thing that stood out to me in the MB Star program is that they teach that you should always go the extra mile to satisfy the customer," Khan said, discussing one training module that focused on customer service.

From the manufacturer's perspective, it makes sense to partner with programs like Collin College's according to Toby Gustavus, workforce development manager at Gulf States Toyota.

"There is a need for quality technicians to repair our vehicles and to promote the value that Toyota brings to the customers and to the market," Gustavus said. "The best way to find those individuals is to partner with local community colleges and provide them with the support they need to do their job."

Students win because they have the knowledge and certifications needed to compete in the job market. Manufacturers win because the programs provide a pipeline of well-trained potential employees. And, if the program graduates have taken the lessons they learn to heart, so do their future customers.



McKinney Campus' Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center

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"We see the welcome center as the gateway for a life-changing experience for all who enter," said Rudy Andrea, president of the Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation. "We hope that this will create a domino effect where others will have the opportunity to give back and open the doors for students to get a good education."

With the unwavering support of donors like The Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation, the Collin College Foundation has awarded more than 11,000 scholarships and established more than 100 permanent scholarship endowments. In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Foundation awarded more than \$950,000 in scholarships based on students' financial need, academic performance, and service to the community.

At nearly 40,000 square feet, this the state-of-the-art welcome center is a one-stop shop for several essential student services. In a nod to the clock tower that once stood in its place, a large clock sits high above the building's public-facing entrance. On the first floor, students and visitors find a spacious lounging area to study and gather. Resources for the admissions process such as class registration information, academic advising and counseling, and financial aid are available steps away from each other. Down the hall, resources like the career center can offer guidance for opportunities beyond the classroom, not only for current students, but also for alumni and community members alike.



"Collin College is here to support the communities we serve, and we take that responsibility very seriously," said Dr. Smith. "With all these resources being in one place at the Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center, we hope to facilitate the guidance needed for anyone to achieve academic success."

Continuing to the second level, a new, expanded testing center offers students a comfortable and secure environment to complete all their testing needs. Here, students also find a veteran's center — a designated area where military-connected students can gather and find helpful resources. The Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center is home to Accommodations at Collin College for Equal Support Services (ACCESS) and counseling for students seeking additional resources. Whether starting an educational journey at Collin College or continuing one, the amenities at the Andrea-Mennen Welcome Center are designed to help and support along the way.



Dr. Mark Smith



Dual Credit

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