

## Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College offers quality education, major cost savings

**T**exas A&M University and Collin College launched the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College and will enroll the first student cohort in Fall 2024. In the latest edition of the U.S. News & World Report Best College Rankings for 2024, Texas A&M University's College of Engineering undergraduate engineering program is ranked seventh among public engineering schools.

This innovative co-enrollment collaboration was developed to address the state's growing need for engineers. Qualified students will be admitted to the Texas A&M College of Engineering, complete the first two years of coursework at Collin College, and finish their engineering degrees in College Station. Applications will be accepted for the fall through June 15.

The academy allows students to pursue one of 22 majors within the College of Engineering at Texas A&M.

"This partnership again proves our commitment to filling Texas' demand for engineers," said Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp. "The Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College will help students start their college careers close to home while earning a degree from one of the best engineering schools in the country."

In Texas, the projected need for engineers in the workforce is 51,000 by 2028. To meet this need, universities and two-year colleges must work together to bridge the gap and attract and retain students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Students in the academy enroll in math, science, and core curriculum courses through Collin College with the opportunity to enroll in engineering courses taught by Texas A&M faculty on the Collin College Technical Campus.



Texas A&M Chancellor John Sharp and members of his leadership team joined Collin College Trustees and District President Dr. Neil Matkin for the ceremonial launch of the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College which will start this fall.

"From the beginning, Engineering Academy students become part of the Texas Aggie community, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie throughout their academic journey," said Dr. Joe Elabed, interim vice chancellor and dean of engineering at Texas A&M. "We look forward to welcoming our first Collin College cohort to the Aggie family this fall."


While co-enrolled at both institutions, students will have opportunities to fully participate in student activities and organizations at both Texas A&M and Collin College.

"We are thrilled to partner with Texas A&M University to create this new academy at Collin College's Technical Campus, where we've enjoyed such a supportive and longstanding relationship with the community," said Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "The Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College will provide students with the opportunity to be Aggies from day one, take Collin College core classes, and earn associate degrees at the college's exceptional tuition."

The collaboration between Texas A&M and Collin College will shape future engineers who can make a lasting impact on the world.


"Collin County is rapidly becoming a hub for industries seeking innovative, career-ready college graduates," said Collin College Board of Trustees Chair Andrew Hardin. "We are delighted to partner with Texas A&M University. We believe that this partnership will help build a stronger economy and ensure a rewarding future for our students and the Texas workforce."

For information, visit <https://engineering.tamu.edu/academics/academies> and [www.collin.edu/tamuengineering](http://www.collin.edu/tamuengineering).



### Texas A&M Engineering Academy

— at Collin College —



Start your engineering degree at the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College.  
Pursue an engineering degree while co-enrolled at Texas A&M University and Collin College.  
Save up to \$40,000 during your first two years.  
Application Deadline: June 15 • [www.collin.edu/tamuengineering](http://www.collin.edu/tamuengineering)

## Introducing 'Destination 2030' – Collin College's seven-year master and strategic plans

**Leaders at Collin College have been diligently moving forward** with the adoption and implementation of the 2023-30 master and strategic plans. Through a variety of extensive market studies, and in collaboration with students, college employees, business leaders, and community stakeholders, the college developed plans that reflect the pressing

needs of the college's dynamic service area. Known as "Destination 2030," the master plan is a comprehensive outlook for facilities and programming, and the accompanying strategic plan focuses on objectives and stretch goals for future initiatives. Both plans work together to deliver a seven-year roadmap for the college.

"The seven-year planning process provides an opportunity for our internal and external stakeholders to share their input in planning the future of the college," said Dr. Bill King, Collin College executive vice president. "We value the opinions and feedback from our students, employees, industry leaders, elected officials, and community partners. With their collaboration and involvement in the development of the

master and strategic plans, we can serve more students, build even stronger partnerships, and make more of a lasting impact in the communities we serve."

The development of the master and strategic plans is driven by the college's overarching guiding principles:

- Passion for the college's Core Values
- Aligning Collin's academic and technical offerings
- Maximizing Collin's unique resources and talents
- Enhancing support services
- Using clear and quantifiable metrics

Additionally, plan development is built around an objective set of guidelines that evaluate community input, market needs, optimal space utilization, feasibility, sustainability, and community partnerships.

*continued on page 7*



Dr. Bill King



## Continued excellence: Collin again honored by Great Colleges to Work For®

Donna Smith made a promise to her mother before she passed away. She told her that she would go back to college. Not only did Smith keep that promise, but she became part of a team that helps others prepare for engaging careers in the medical field.



Donna Smith

"It was my mom's belief that if you love what you do, it is not work, and she was right," Smith said, who currently serves as the director of the college's surgical professions programs which include Surgical Assisting, Surgical Technology, and Central Sterile Processing. "From the moment I became a Collin College student, I felt a connection here. Thanks to my mom, values

that govern Collin — integrity, respect, dignity, service and involvement, and academic excellence — have always been part of my personal foundation."

According to Smith, those values are embraced by students, staff, faculty, and administrators, and they are just a few of the reasons why employees enjoy working at the college. Recently, Collin College was named one of the best colleges in the nation to work for according to the Great Colleges to Work For® program. This marks the sixth year the college has been recognized.

**2023 • 2022 • 2021 • 2020 • 2019 • 2012**

Collin College was also one of only four large category community colleges named to the Great Colleges to Work For® Honor Roll, a status granted to community colleges each year that are highlighted most across ten recognition categories.



The college received honors in the following categories:

- Job Satisfaction and Support
- Compensation and Benefits
- Professional Development
- Mission and Pride
- Supervisor/Department Chair Effectiveness

The results are based on a survey of 194 colleges and universities. Survey results reflect a two-part assessment process: an institution questionnaire that captures employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback.

Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions with Collin College included among the large institutions. In all, 72 of those institutions achieved Great College to Work For® recognition for specific best practices and policies.

"It is an honor to receive this award for the sixth time and to achieve honor roll institution status," said Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin. "Collin College is an exceptional institution of higher education because of the work of our innovative and dedicated faculty and staff who put students first every day. Truly, there is no place I would rather be than at Collin College."

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country.

## Collin College prepares for total solar eclipse with campus watch parties



On April 8, North America will be treated to a rare celestial event — a total solar eclipse that will cross Mexico, the United States, and Canada. This phenomenon occurs when the moon passes between the sun and Earth, casting a temporary shadow and causing the sky to darken as if it were dawn or dusk.

To celebrate this unique event, Collin College is organizing watch parties across its district for the college community to join in the once-in-a-lifetime experience. The watch parties are open to the public, but space will be limited.

This initiative follows the success of fall watch parties, where Collin College campuses united to observe a partial eclipse. Physics professors, including Dr. Christian Aars, shared insights about the celestial event during these gatherings.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty, and the community to come together, learn something new about space, and experience the event collectively," Dr. Aars said, reflecting on the fall partial eclipse event.

Dr. Aars explained that total solar eclipses are infrequent occurrences, with their frequency influenced by the complex orbits of the moon and Earth.

"On average, a total solar eclipse occurs somewhere on Earth approximately every 18 months," he said. "However, specific locations may witness such an event only once every few hundred years."

In light of the total eclipse slated for Dallas-Fort Worth in April, Collin College plans to host watch parties on various campuses similar to those held last fall. Attendees will have access to solar glasses and telescopes to enhance their experience.

Saraa Alameri, a Collin College alumna and former president of the college's astronomy club, emphasized the success of the partial eclipse watch party, drawing in curious students and community members who were eager to witness the celestial phenomenon.

"The active participation of people from diverse backgrounds stood out to me the most," Alameri said. "Being part of the club allowed me to contribute to creating an engaging and educational experience for everyone."

Alameri encourages students, regardless of their major or field of study, and the community to actively participate in the event in April.

"Participation in such events goes beyond academic knowledge by providing students with practical, hands-on experiences that considerably broaden their understanding of observational astronomy," she said.

Due to the rarity of total solar eclipses, Dr. Aars anticipates significant attendance from both the local and wider communities, including avid eclipse chasers.

"Total eclipses offer a unique opportunity for public engagement in science and astronomy," Dr. Aars said. "These events bring people together, fostering an interest in the cosmos and inspiring the next generation of scientists, researchers, and space enthusiasts."

Students interested in volunteering for tasks such as setting up telescopes and managing the event can sign up by contacting Physics Professor Dr. Greg Sherman at [gsherman@collin.edu](mailto:gsherman@collin.edu). Membership in the club is not a prerequisite for volunteering at this community event.

Be sure to stay updated by following Collin College on social media for more information about the total solar eclipse watch parties on campuses. Our handle is [@collincollege](https://twitter.com/collincollege) across all channels.



Dr. Christian Aars

COLLIN COLLEGE PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF DISCOVERY

Friday, March 22  
7-9 p.m.

Collin College  
Plano Campus

Scan code for more information.

Join scientists from the community in exploring our world from the atomic to the celestial.  
See what happens when science comes out of the classroom!

Sponsored by the Student Activities Fund Advisory Committee with additional assistance from State Farm.

**Free!  
Food!  
Prizes!  
Music!**



## So, you're ready to begin your college education.

Whether you are a soon-to-be high school graduate researching next steps or someone in the workforce considering a degree or certificate to improve your career prospects, this special section can point you in the right direction. Read on for tips on admission, counseling options, financial aid, and more.

Collin College  
offers more than  
**200**  
degrees, certificates,  
and pathways.

Associate of Arts (AA)  
Associate of Science (AS)  
Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)  
Associate of Applied Science (AAS)  
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)  
in Clinical Operations Management  
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)  
in Construction Management  
Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT)  
in Cybersecurity  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

## The Collegiate Academy: Saving time and money

**“My biggest fear going into the collegiate academy was that I would not be able to handle the class load,”** Katherine Omo-Osagie said. “This could not have been farther from the truth. Earning my associate degree in high

school allowed me to explore different academic paths and be confident with my career decision.”

Omo-Osagie earned a Collin College Associate of Science degree, magna cum laude, before she graduated from Lewisville ISD’s Collegiate Academy at The Colony High School. She is currently pursuing a degree in Finance and Operations with a minor in Sports Media from the University of Alabama.

“A dual credit program like this gives you more flexibility and more options. I cannot recommend this program enough,” Omo-Osagie said.

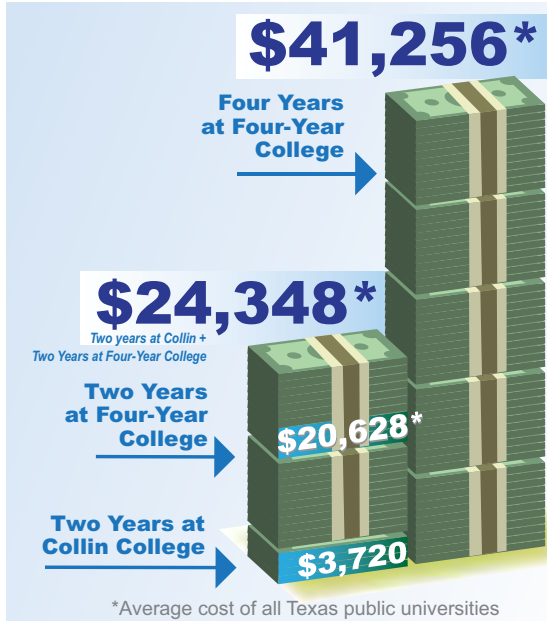
Saving time is just one of the advantages of collegiate academies. Students in these programs pay Collin College’s low tuition rates, and if students are on federal free and reduced lunch programs at the high schools, the college waives the tuition and fees. This means students can earn associate degrees for free. Collin County students are reaping the benefits of the college’s



Katherine Omo-Osagie

collegiate academy model which provides full-time college professors and college and career counselors in high schools.

Today, in addition to the Plano East Health Science Academy, there are collegiate academies in The Colony, Allen, Farmersville, Anna, and Celina. Plano, Community, and Princeton will formally start their new academies in Fall 2024. To find out more about dual credit, visit [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/).



\*Average cost of all Texas public universities

## Counselors are our friends: Embedded counselors at partnering ISDs



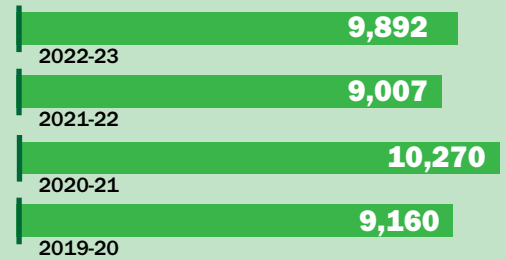
**“I think overall, college can be scary for some students,”** said Brittany Cortez, college and career counselor for Allen ISD and Collin College. “Having embedded counselors from Collin like me in their high school setting helps them feel more comfortable. They feel like they can ask all their questions and walk away more confident stepping into that process.”

Collin College provides embedded counselors on partnering ISD campuses as a direct and fully accessible resource for students. Each embedded counselor is on-site and works as a liaison between the college and their corresponding district to help facilitate dual credit opportunities, as well as college and post-graduation readiness.

The program, which started six years ago, has grown significantly as a result of more students seeking dual credit opportunities at Collin College. For example, at Allen High School about 950 students enrolled in dual credit last fall. Dual credit allows high school students to take college courses and earn college credit. In some ISDs, this means a student can earn an associate degree while still in high school.

“I’ve had students who are interested in dual credit or are exploring the possibility of attending college visit me and have no idea where to start,” Cortez said. “Most times they just need someone to take the time to walk through each process and explain the differences between applications or the ‘must do’ deadlines. That’s what we’re here for.”

**11,076 Dual Credit Students**  
(2023-24 current academic year to date)



### Dual Credit Sites: (does not include Collin College sites)

- Allen High School
- Anna High School
- Blue Ridge High School
- Celina High School
- Community High School
- Farmersville High School
- Frisco ISD: Centennial, Emerson, Frisco, Frisco CTE Center, Heritage, Independence, Lebanon Trail, Liberty, Lone Star, Memorial, Panther Creek, Reedy, and Wakeland high schools
- Heritage Christian Academy
- Harmony School of Innovation
- John Paul II High School
- Leadership Prep
- Lewisville ISD: Hebron High School and The Colony High School
- Lovejoy High School
- McKinney ISD: McKinney, McKinney Boyd, and McKinney North high schools
- Melissa High School
- Plano ISD: Plano Academy, Plano East and Williams Health Sciences Academy, and Plano East, Plano Senior, and Plano West high schools
- Princeton High School
- Prosper ISD: Prosper High School and Rockhill High School
- Rockwall ISD: Gene Burton College and Career Academy
- The Home Educator's Outsourcing Solution (THEO)
- Wylie ISD: Wylie and Wylie East high schools

For more information about Collin College dual credit, partnering ISDs, and embedded counselors, visit [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit).





# College finances: Learn how to pay for college

Prepare for a unique journey as we guide you through financing your college experience!



## The FAFSA Journey:

Start your journey by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov>. This tool will lead you to federal and state grants, work-study opportunities, and low-interest loans. Master the FAFSA form to access your first source of financial aid!

To ensure you're considered for all eligible aid, submit your FAFSA at least 30 days before the semester begins.



## Scholarship Quest:

Embark on a quest to find scholarships! Online is brimming with scholarship opportunities tailored to various arts, academics, athletics, interests, and hobbies. Discover scholarships that align with your goals.

Find special interest group scholarships such as those targeted to first-generation students, veterans, and more.

Search college scholarships online to discover a wide variety of resources. Or, if you are interested in scholarship opportunities at Collin College, visit [www.collin.edu/foundation/students](http://www.collin.edu/foundation/students).



## Work-Study Opportunities:

Explore work-study options offered by colleges to earn money and gain valuable experience concurrently. Visit your college career center to uncover these opportunities.

For more work-study details, visit online resources such as FAFSA, the Department of Education, College for All Texans, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and more. Or, if you are interested in attending Collin College, students can find work-study positions and apply for employment at [www.collin.edu/hr/employment/index.html](http://www.collin.edu/hr/employment/index.html).

**As you embark on this journey, remember that with determination and resourcefulness you can unlock the resources needed for a brighter future. College may present challenges, but with the right approach, you'll navigate them successfully.**



# DESTINATION COLLEGE



## Part-Time Employment:

Embrace part-time work while attending college to support your living expenses and lessen reliance on loans. Part-time jobs offer a chance to develop skills alongside your studies.



## Loan Management:

If necessary, consider student loans but approach them wisely. Understand loan types, interest rates, and repayment options to ensure a smooth post-graduation journey.



## Financial Planning:

Monitor your college expenses closely. Establish a budget and track your spending to avoid overspending.



## Guidance and Support Systems:

Seek advice from your support network, including family, friends, and counselors. Their insights will prove invaluable as you navigate financial challenges.



## Financial Aid Ethics:

Adhere to the principles of financial aid by meeting deadlines, providing accurate information, and reporting any changes in your financial circumstances. Integrity is essential on your college journey.

## COLLIN COLLEGE FAST FACTS

### HOW OUR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

Face-to-Face Courses	36,155
Distance Education	29,256
Hybrid/Blended Courses (2022-23)	755

23.7 Average student age



21-to-1

Student-to-faculty ratio



NEW in 2023-24

Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)  
in Clinical Operations Management  
Physical Therapist Assistant (AAS)  
Medical Massage Therapy – Continuing Education  
Esthetician – Continuing Education




7,586

Degrees and certificates awarded  
in the 2022-23 academic year







# Dual credit: Spotlight on Fernanda Gonzalez

**Fernanda Gonzalez’s dual credit journey bridges the gap between high school and college courses.** A junior in high school, Gonzalez is enrolled in the Collin College dual credit program at Farmersville High School. While still navigating the halls of her high school, she navigated rigorous coursework as part of her collegiate experience.

“I think the dual credit program is great for students like myself who don’t have the resources we need to attend an expensive college or university,” Gonzalez said. “I am gaining so much knowledge and experience in the program. I also really like that it is provided by my high school so I can get ahead in college courses.”

Gonzalez is currently pursuing a degree in Medical Assisting Advanced Practice. Each class has exposed her to a depth of knowledge beyond

traditional high school education. The dual credit experience has not only broadened her knowledge and skills but also has given her a sense of independence and responsibility that will definitely serve her well in the future. After graduating high school in 2025, Gonzalez plans to attend the Collin College McKinney Campus and take classes in the Sonography program.

“I have certainly been given a view of what my future will look like because that is what I am working toward,” Gonzalez said. “Once I graduate and earn certifications, I will be able to work and earn money to eventually get more education and possibly reach my end goal of being a registered nurse.”

For more information on dual credit, visit [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/).



Fernanda Gonzalez

## Test prep programs help students reach their goals

**Matt Sia recommends the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) preparation course at Collin College.**

“Usually, I struggle on tests, but this course helped me dive deep into materials that I didn’t understand and realize the main points of the problems we were trying to solve,” Sia said.

While some exemptions exist, the TSI is generally required for all incoming college students in Texas. The test determines college readiness and placement in classes. Students who struggle with the test may be required to take additional developmental courses to ensure they are ready for college-level classes.

Now a Collin College freshman, Sia took a TSI prep course in mathematics last year and came away with a better understanding of the

materials and an approach to test-taking that he believes will benefit him going forward. That is a common thread in test preparation courses offered by Collin College for the TSI and the General Education Development (GED) test. They set students up for success later in their college careers.

The TSI is a starting point for most students seeking an associate degree or credits to transfer to another college, but for students in career-oriented workforce programs, completing the TSI course also allows them to take classes required for more advanced certificates or degrees that will make them more employable.

Developed and taught by Collin College professors and administered by Continuing Education, the college’s TSI prep courses draw approximately 100 students a year for math assistance and 80 for help with reading and writing portions of the test.

The GED test prep course offers a similar opportunity for students seeking a high school diploma equivalent, with education in mathematical reasoning, reasoning through language arts, social studies, and science. Professor Blair Cyres, who teaches GED courses, said he has older students returning to school in their 30s and younger students who did not do well with virtual learning during the early days of the pandemic.

The class educates about 115 students per year for the English GED course and about 20 per year for the Spanish GED course. Cyres said he enjoys preparing the students for growth in their lives – getting a better job and personal satisfaction.

“There is a personal satisfaction for them when they get their GED,” he said.

For more information on the TSI preparation program, visit [www.collin.edu/ce/classes/continuingeducationtsi.html](http://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/continuingeducationtsi.html).

For more information on the GED prep program, visit [www.collin.edu/ce/classes/ged.html](http://www.collin.edu/ce/classes/ged.html).



Test prep courses allow students to sharpen their skills and learn test-taking strategies.

## Top 15 transfer universities from Collin College

- The University of Texas at Dallas
- University of North Texas
- Texas A&M University
- The University of Texas at Austin
- University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
- Texas Woman’s University
- Texas Tech University
- The University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Oklahoma
- Texas A&M University – Commerce
- Texas State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Baylor University
- Tarleton State University
- Stephen F. Austin State University



# A Collin County legacy: Founding Collin College president honored

**It's hard to imagine Collin County without Collin College locations** in Allen, Celina, Farmersville, Frisco, McKinney, Plano, Rockwall, and Wylie — but in 1984 Collin County did not have a community college.

The foundation of higher education in our county is one of several reasons that Dr. John Anthony, Collin College's first president, was honored with an award recognizing his accomplishments on and off the football field. Dr. Anthony was one of seven alumni of Susquehanna University (SU) athletics to be inducted into the 2023 Football Ring of Honor class.

"The greatest accomplishment is the founding of Collin College. This award recognizes me for that as much as any football prowess," said Dr. Anthony, who was known at the time as "Jack" and was a starter on both offense and defense during most of his four years at the university.

According to Collin College Founding Board of Trustees Member Dr. J. Robert Collins, Dr. Anthony played an invaluable role in the formation of the college.

"When Dr. Anthony visited the college in July 1985 for a planning session, the founding Board of Trustees said we wanted classes to start in September and permanent faculty in January," Dr. Collins said. "He took on the challenge, like so many others, and made it happen. We also told him, as we have told every Collin College president, that we are not interested in becoming the best college in Texas. We want to be the best college in the U.S., and that is still our objective. It was a privilege to work alongside Dr. Anthony from 1985-1999."

### Forward Thinking

According to Dr. Anthony, when the county commissioners decided to ask the state for approval for a community college, they had three options: annex to the Dallas district, annex to the Grayson district, or create a new college.

"They voted to create their own college which showed tremendous vision because look at where we are today," Dr. Anthony said. "Together, with the hiring of consultants, they had to plan where to locate campuses. Would you have one major campus in the center of the county or would you establish different campuses within commuting distance of most residents? The Board decided that we would offer numerous campuses within commuting

distance of all the citizens. That, I think, was a wise decision."

One of the college's first five employees in 1985, Dr. Anthony was known for his keen sense of humor and 22 postulates which communicated a philosophy that guided the college for many years.

"My favorite postulate is 'We will be the standard by which other institutions are judged.' That was our goal, and from that all other postulates followed," Dr. Anthony said.

Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin said the college is grateful for Dr. Anthony who, under the direction of the founding Board of Trustees, opened campuses in McKinney, Plano, and Frisco.

"Though they may not know it, countless students, residents, and businesses owe Dr. Anthony a debt of gratitude," Dr. Matkin said. "Along with the founding Board, this remarkable leader's vision made quality higher education accessible, positively impacted the local economy, and helped to foster a thriving pipeline of employees for area businesses in our communities. Dr. Anthony set the bar high for Collin College, and I am proud to continue his tradition of excellence in higher education."

After retiring from Collin College, Dr. Anthony served as executive adjunct professor at the University of North Texas where he taught graduate courses in community college leadership and higher education finance and administration. He also served as chair of the advisory board for the Bill J. Priest Center for Community College Education.

In 2001, he established Executive Resource Consulting Services, and his firm conducted more than 20 executive searches in Texas and California through 2017. Among his many achievements, Dr. Anthony served as president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities and was the chair of the committee on criteria and reports for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Married to his wife, Carole, for more than 60 years, Dr. Anthony has three children and four grandchildren.

Looking back, Dr. Anthony said he is most proud of the community support through the years, the faculty and staff who built the institution into what it is today, and a solid Board of Trustees. Looking forward, the founding president said he sees nothing but positive things for the college's future.

"I think it will continue to evolve under the current leadership into an even more reputable institution. It has a great reputation now statewide. It has a good reputation nationally, and I think that will just expand," Dr. Anthony said.

Dr. Anthony at the college's first campus now known as the McKinney Campus.



Collin College's first president, Dr. John Anthony, was recognized by Susquehanna University for his accomplishments on and off the football field.

## Introducing 'Destination 2030'

continued from page 1

"We are grateful to the Board of Trustees for supporting "Destination 2030," which allows us to continue our mission to serve as a student-centric, world-class academic and workforce institution that attracts some of the best and brightest faculty and staff," Dr. King said.

### Master Plan

- Ensure maximum utilization of college facilities, programs, and resources.
- Expand college programs and facilities to accommodate growth and employment needs throughout the service area.
- Enhance the college's university partnerships through the development of comprehensive pathways that enrich the student experience and support student completion with a focus on Collin College students.
- Implement planned and new components of the college's comprehensive safety and emergency management plan.
- Streamline the college's programs and systems by implementing efficient business processes that improve outcomes for students and employees.

### Strategic Plan

- Realign student completion and performance metrics to meet or exceed state and regional accreditation thresholds and goals.
- Develop and implement strategies to become a national exemplar in program and student outcomes.
- Create and implement comprehensive pathways to enrich the student experience and support student completions.
- Implement strategies to be recognized as an employer of choice to attract and retain top talent.
- Expand educational access through a systemic approach with external partners and stakeholders.
- Expand baccalaureate degree options.



### Dual Credit

Save time and money! Students can earn high school credit AND college credit through dual credit classes. Learn more: [www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/](http://www.collin.edu/express/dualcredit/)



# Did you know?

5

REASONS TO ATTEND COLLIN COLLEGE

**Lower cost than universities**

Community colleges are more affordable than universities, and Collin College has the lowest in-district tuition rate in the state of Texas.

**Smaller, flexible, comfortable environment**

Collin College intentionally provides small class sizes taught by degreed faculty who provide students with the knowledge and support they need to excel. Students gain a better undergraduate experience because they’re not just a number in a large classroom; instead, professors get to know their students which helps them offer personalized assistance. The college also has Weekend College for students who are balancing work life and family. Students also have the option to attend the iCollin Virtual Campus.

**Certificates and associate and bachelor’s degree programs**

Collin College offers more than 200 associate degrees, certificates, and transfer programs, including four bachelor’s degrees at Collin’s tuition rates:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) in Cybersecurity
- Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Construction Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Clinical Operations Management

**Workforce and Apprenticeship Programs**

Collin College is committed to developing highly skilled workforce professionals. The college has several programs and apprenticeships in different interest areas, including:

- automotive
  - construction
- health care
  - engineering
- informational technology
  - manufacturing

**College credit for high school students**

High school students can get ahead by enrolling in courses at Collin College for either dual credit or concurrent credit with the approval from their high schools.

## NJCAA approves Collin College plan to offer golf, esports, volleyball teams

**Collin College will expand its athletics offerings over the next two years to include golf, esports, and volleyball.** The request to add the new team sports was approved in February by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), the governing body for two-year college sports.

In January, the Collin College Board of Trustees voted to add men’s and women’s golf and esports for the 2024-25 season with women’s volleyball to follow in 2025-26.

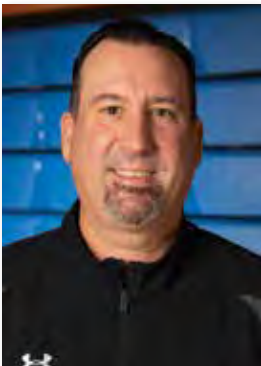
“This expansion not only enhances our competitive landscape. It also enriches the collegiate experience for our student athletes,” said Dr. Albert Tezeno, athletic director and vice president of student and enrollment services at Collin College.

The new athletics programs will join Collin’s nationally ranked basketball and tennis programs. Head coach Jim Sigona achieved his 700th win in early 2024, marking an illustrious basketball coaching career. Coach Jeff Allen was also named Two-Year College National Coach of the Year by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA).

The Lady Cougars basketball team ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation in the NJCAA National Coaches Poll during their 2023-24 season. The year before, the team advanced to Collin’s first NJCAA national tournament appearance and two players, Waiata Jennings and Mackenzie Buss, were honored as Women’s Basketball All-Americans. The Collin men’s tennis team was



Jim Sigona



Jeff Allen

ranked No. 4 in the nation in an early Spring 2024 poll. The Collin women’s tennis team ranked ninth for its division.

Collin College competes at Division I level of junior college sports in basketball and tennis. The golf and volleyball teams will also compete at the DI level.

For more information on athletics at Collin College, email Dr. Tezeno at [atezeno@collin.edu](mailto:atezeno@collin.edu). Visit <https://athletics.collin.edu> for updates on the college’s basketball and tennis teams.

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