



Wharton County Junior College

CAREER AND TRANSFER CENTER



"THE PIONEER"

NATIONAL CHAMPION



2022-2023

WCJC PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**PIONEERING
SUCCESS**



The opening of a new Career and Transfer Center, an open house showcasing our enhanced state-of-the-art Emergency Medical Service training equipment, the unveiling

of a bronze sculpture at Corbett Park, and the celebration of a national champion cowboy are all among a variety of successes shared by the students, staff, and board of trustees at Wharton County Junior College.

The world continues to change and so does Wharton County Junior College. It is my honor and privilege to work with an incredible and diligent team of employees spread across four campuses. Everyone works so hard to provide the best services possible to our students and I could not be more proud. It never goes unnoticed that our Board of Trustees is unwavering in its commitment to provide resources and support for the institution to thrive. The best days for the Pioneers lie ahead.

Please enjoy reading this year's Report to the Community and explore the excellence of our students and the Pioneer family.

Warm regards,

Betty A. McCrohan
President, Wharton County Junior College

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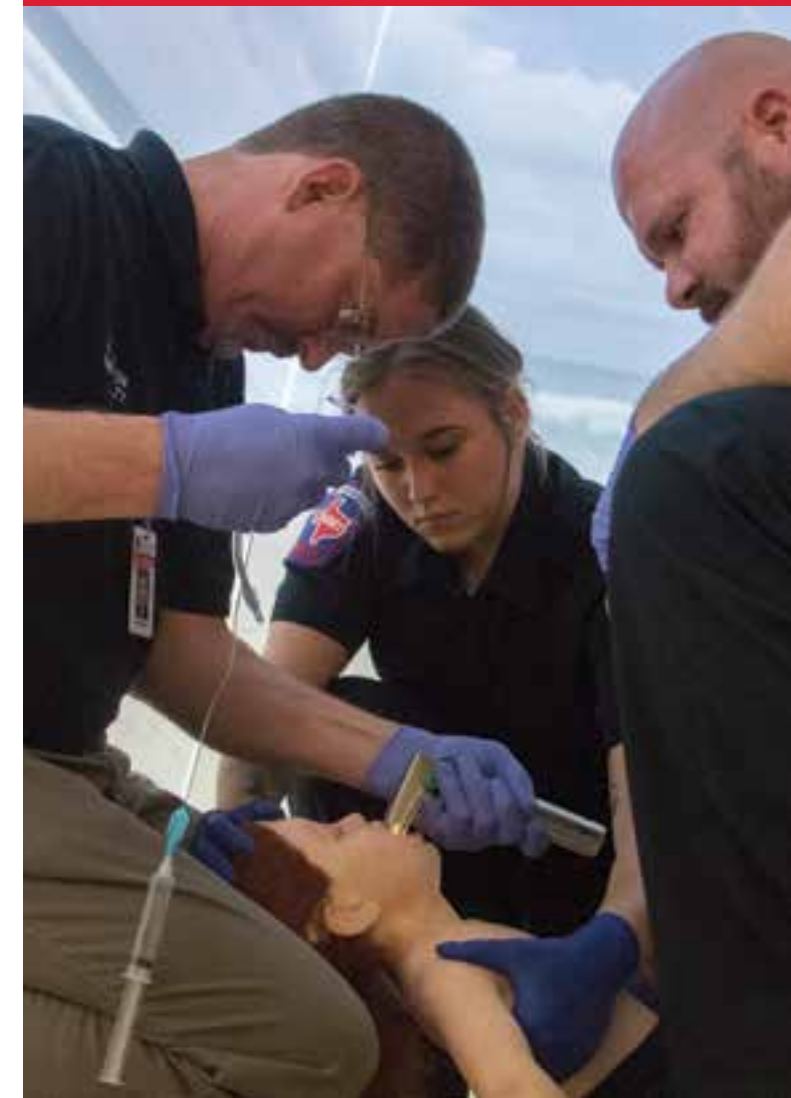
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NATIONAL CHAMPION COWBOY

Logan Moore takes top rodeo honors

When Wharton County Junior College cowboy Logan Moore earned the title of National Champion Heeler in 2023, it was the icing on the cake for a competitor known for his tenacity, dedication, and consistent performance.

During his time at WCJC, Moore has qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) three times, earned the title of Southern Region Champion, was named the Reserve Region Champion twice, and earned a Top 10 in the Nation ranking twice. WCJC Rodeo Coach Sean Amestoy said Moore is the ideal cowboy, possessing a near perfect blend of talent and determination.

Moore and Southwest Texas Junior College cowboy Slade Wood teamed up to capture the national title. They placed first in Round 1 (4.8 seconds), fourth in Round 2 (5.2 seconds), eighth in Round 3 (6.3 seconds), second in the short round (6.5 seconds), and won the average with a combined time of 22.8 seconds on 4 head. They beat out the second-place team by more than six seconds.

Earlier in the season, Moore and Wood had taken the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) Southern Region title, finishing in first place at four of the 10 regional rodeos.

A Pleasanton native, it is only natural that Moore



During his time at WCJC, Logan Moore qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) three times, earned the title of Southern Region Champion, was named the Reserve Region Champion twice, and earned a Top 10 in the Nation ranking twice.

gravitated toward being a cowboy. His family ranched, worked cattle, and participated in enough rodeos for the youngster to develop a passion for the sport.

“WCJC helped me in my rodeo career by giving me the opportunity to join a college and rodeo in the southern region,” Moore said. “WCJC has also helped me with my education by providing me with good classes and teachers and helping me work towards my degree.”

Moore credits his friends, family, and faith with helping him turn his childhood dreams into a reality.

WCJC LAUNCHED THE FREE COLLEGE INITIATIVE

Wharton County Junior College announced a Free College initiative offering full tuition and fees scholarships to qualified students majoring in certain healthcare professions programs at the college. Students had to be registered in a minimum of six semester credit hours and enrolled in the Licensed

Vocational Nursing, Health Information Technology, Emergency Medical Services, or Human Services programs at WCJC. The purpose was to encourage persistence and completion of certificates and degrees leading to employment in high-need allied health occupations.

FREE COLLEGE INITIATIVE

Health Information Technology • Human Services
Emergency Medical Services • Licensed Vocational Nursing



Full Tuition and Fees Scholarships were offered to Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semester students who resided in specific counties and who were enrolled in a minimum of six semester credit hours in Licensed Vocational Nursing, Health Information Technology, Emergency Medical Services, or Human Services programs at WCJC.

The Emergency Medical Services program's simulation room created a beachside tragedy of a drowned child. Taking part in the exercise are, from left, WCJC EMS Instructor Karl Johnson, student Georgia Hubbard of Columbus, student Dan Harrison of Edna and Ryan McLemore of Hallettsville.



THE NEXT LEVEL

WCJC EMS program demonstrated top-of-the-line equipment at open house

Wharton County Junior College's Emergency Medical Services program held an open house at the Richmond campus in the spring of 2023 to showcase state-of-the-art training upgrades. The improvements were the result of a \$500,000 grant secured through the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling for Education (TRUE) Institutional Capacity Grants, a state-sponsored program.

During the open house, visitors were introduced to the simulation room, which uses projectors to create stunning, life-like environments. Students performed a battery of skills while the room was changed from

a beachside scene to the hustle and bustle of New York's Times Square.

"Without leaving campus we can take the students anywhere in the world to a scene where they need to deal with various emergency situations," said EMS Director Gary Bonewald.

Other training devices included lifelike appendages used for starting intravenous injections and several highly detailed manikin heads, eyes open with bushy eyebrows and mottled skin.

A TRUE ASSET

WCJC's Dr. Archna Bhasin earned award from microbiology society

Wharton County Junior College Biology Instructor Dr. Archna Bhasin had always wanted to be a physician, until the day she started volunteering in a hospital.

A research opportunity opened her eyes to the joys of working in the laboratory and she quickly switched gears, setting her sights on biochemistry. She obtained her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Texas in Austin in 1994 and followed that up with a doctorate degree in biochemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000. Upon graduation, Bhasin

completed a two-year stint with the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in bacteriology at UW-Madison.

She has taught at WCJC since 2014, teaching General Biology 1, General Biology 2, and Microbiology. This summer, Bhasin earned an award from the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) that covered the costs of attending the ASM Microbe 2023, a national conference in Houston that featured topics related to infections, climate issues, pandemics, and the energy industry. Guest speakers included a NASA astronaut and bestselling authors.



Bhasin was excited to win the award and learn more about the cutting-edge research being done in her field. One of her primary objectives as an instructor is to stay up-to-date on new scientific developments and to bring that information to the classroom.

"My goal is to provide my students with current information on the role that microbes play in health and disease," she said. "I begin every microbiology class with a discussion of the beneficial microbes and their role in human health."

"My classroom philosophy involves pushing my students beyond their comfort zone so that they realize that they are capable of much more knowledge acquisition and critical thinking than they thought," she said. "This helps them build their confidence for a challenging world."



Dr. Archna Bhasin earned an award from the Texas Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) that covered the costs of attending the ASM Microbe 2023, a national conference in Houston that featured topics related to infections, climate issues, pandemics, and the energy industry.



The Ponies and Petals fundraiser held in Wharton included attendees, left to right, Terry Lynch, Carol Lynch, Brenda Reina, Vince Reina, Sarah Hudgins, and Domingo Montalvo.

new members Mike Prasek, Jr. of Louise, Larry McDougal of Richmond, and Becky Cook of Bay City. The Foundation continued to expand its presence in the community.

The Foundation was pleased to announce the creation of several new endowed scholarships to benefit the students at Wharton County Junior College, including the Bonnie Hopkins Memorial Scholarship, the Lottie Plumb Mullins Memorial

Scholarship, and the West Fort Bend Women's Charity Endowed Scholarship. They also continued to award scholarships to students by awarding \$96,000 in scholarships for 24 high school students to attend WCJC. Since 2017, the Foundation has offered financial assistance through funds raised to recent high school graduates from the WCJC service area, including Boling, East Bernard, El Campo, Louise, Needville, Wharton, and Bay City.



Above: Graduating seniors from area high schools were awarded scholarships at a special event hosted by the WCJC Foundation.

Below: WCJC Foundation Board Members Suzanne Armour and Gordon Sorrel along with the Director of the Foundation Jonathan Jeter, were on hand to help students during the Super Science Alliance held in Bay City.

STRONG FOUNDATION

WCJC's Foundation Thrived with Additional Scholarships, Community Events, and New Board Members

The WCJC Foundation made significant strides in the 2022-2023 academic year, hosting events that captivated the community, welcoming new Board Members, and handing out more scholarships to students than ever.

For the first time, the Super Science Alliance and Ponies & Petals events brought excitement and support to the Foundation's mission. The Super

Science Alliance, held at the Bay City Civic Center, encouraged sixth grade students in Matagorda County to pursue careers in STEM. Ponies & Petals saw teams from the Houston Polo Association converge on the A-F Pony Farms in Wharton for an afternoon of polo festivities and Argentinian cuisine and helped raise essential funds for the organization.

The WCJC Foundation Board of Directors welcomed



“THE PIONEER”

Bronze sculpture installed at Corbett Park

Wharton County Junior College’s Corbett Park is known throughout the region as one of the most beautiful, modern baseball parks in the area. The facility became an even more unique attraction with the installation of a six-foot, five-inch bronze statue of a baseball player.



Sculpted by renowned Texas artist Ed Hankey, the statue – deemed “The Pioneer” – was made of bronze and created in the image of a player. Houston resident Duncan Corbett commissioned the statue. Pictured, from left, are Mary Corbett, Michael Corbett, Duncan Corbett, Virginia Carrington and James Carrington.



Eight WCJC instructors received 2023 NISOD Excellence Awards. From left are Gary Bonewald, Instructor of Emergency Medical Services; Geoffrey Shine, Instructor of Government; Nicole Parks, Instructor of Mathematics; Dr. Hector Weir, Instructor of Spanish; Dr. Jessi Snider, Instructor of English; Peter Anderson, Instructor of Geology; Dr. Kelly Wallace, Instructor of Physical Therapy Assistant; and J.B. Groves, Instructor of Computer Science.

NISOD AWARD WINNERS

Eight Wharton County Junior College instructors were recognized in 2023 for their dedication and commitment to their particular fields of study by the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

WCJC’s annual comprehensive financial report earned special recognition

Wharton County Junior College in 2023 earned a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The college earned the recognition for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2021.

Wharton County Junior College earned special recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting. Pictured, from left, are Dean of Human Resources Rachel Bahnsen, Controller Cynthia Ward, Director of Purchasing Philip Wuthrich, Grant Accountant Gloria Vela, Vice President of Administrative Services Bryce Kocian, President Betty McCrohan, Director of Financial Aid Leslie Kolojaco and Dean of Financial and Business Services Gus Wessels.





The Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees recognized Phil Stephenson for his years of service as a state representative and as a WCJC Board of Trustees member. Stephenson served for 10 years as a member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 85 and previously served for 16 years as a board member. WCJC President Betty McCrohan noted that Stephenson was a longtime friend and supporter of the college and presented him with a plaque. Pictured, left to right, are board secretary Mary Ellen Meyer, board member Danny Gertson, board chairman Amy Rod, board member J. Paul Pope, Sue Stephenson, Phil Stephenson, WCJC President Betty McCrohan, board member Dr. Bret Macha, board member Dr. Sue Zanne Williamson Urbis, board member Dr. Priscilla Metcalf and board member Larry Sitka.

WCJC BOARD RECOGNIZED PHIL STEPHENSON

The Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees recognized Phil Stephenson for his years of service as a state representative and as a WCJC Board of Trustees member. Stephenson served for 10 years as a member of the Texas House of Representatives for District 85 and previously served for 16 years as a WCJC board member. WCJC President Betty McCrohan noted that Stephenson was a longtime friend and supporter of the college and presented him with a plaque.



WCJC CHOIR STUDENTS EARNED SPOTS ON ALL-STATE CHOIR

Three Wharton County Junior College Choir students performed at the Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio as part of the Texas Two-Year College All-State Choir.

Riley Henderson of Wharton, Alex Miranda of El Campo, and Valeria Rojas of El Campo joined more than 100 students from across the state at the conference. Part of the experience included rehearsing under the tutelage of conductor Dr. Craig Jessop, a former director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



Three Wharton County Junior College Choir students performed at the Texas Music Educators Conference in San Antonio this spring as part of the Texas Two-Year College All-State Choir. From left are Valeria Rojas of El Campo, Riley Henderson of Wharton and Alex Miranda of El Campo.

WCJC COMMUNITY DAY – STEM 101

Wharton County Junior College hosted a Community Day – STEM 101 on its Wharton campus to highlight careers and educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math. Educators, parents, influencers, and community leaders were

on hand to learn more about STEM careers. The event included a Continental breakfast, tours, presentations, and door prizes. The event was hosted by WCJC and sponsored by the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station Nuclear Power Institute.

Wharton County Junior College hosted a Community Day – STEM 101 on the Wharton campus to highlight careers in science, technology, engineering and math. From left are Wendy Tamayo, coordinator of vocational support services; Kimberly Mrnustik, administrative assistant to the dean of vocational instruction; David Kucera, department head and instructor of electronics technology; Leigh Ann Collins, vice president of instruction; and Dr. Valerie Segovia, director of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) Nuclear Power Institute.





The Wharton County Junior College Drama Department walked away with numerous awards from a play festival held at the University of North Texas in Denton. Kneeling, left to right, are Hamza Mir of Richmond, C'Aira Hearse of Wharton and Valerie Brown of Eagle Lake. Standing, left to right, are Jamie Arar of Bay City, Aline Dejesus of Palacios, Ben Wandell of Wharton, Brayden Leva of Sugar Land, Crystal Hackstedt of Needville, WCJC Drama Instructor Greg McLarty, Riley Moseley of East Bernard, Karis Meek of Hungerford, Wil Harborth of Wharton, Luis Perez of Wharton and Maegan Hackstedt of Needville.

WCJC DRAMA DEPARTMENT EARNED TOP RECOGNITION AT PLAY FESTIVAL

The Wharton County Junior College Drama Department left a lasting impression at the 2023 Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association (TCCSTA) Festival. WCJC students walked away with top awards in numerous categories.

"I was pleasantly surprised," said WCJC Drama Instructor Greg McLarty. "They came together well and knocked it out of the park. I'm proud of what they did."

WCJC performed "The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong," a hilarious comedy that features intentional mishaps and miscues. McLarty said both the respondent and the audience enjoyed the performance despite the fact that last-minute modifications had to be made to the set and the performance.

"We couldn't use our fog machine because it set off the university's fire alarms," McLarty said. "It was disappointing but we worked around it."

The production received an overall rating of Superior.

Other awards included:

- Technical Presentation: Excellent – Crystal Hackstedt of Needville (Props Design), Maegan Hackstedt of Needville (Hair and Makeup Design), Hamza Mir of Richmond (Light and Sound Design), Alina Dejesus of Palacios (Light and Sound Design), Jamie Arar of Bay City (Costume Design), and Wil Harborth of Wharton (Scenic Design)
- Technical Presentation: Superior – C'Aira Hearse of Wharton (Stage Management) and Riley Moseley of East Bernard (Stage Management)
- Professor's Choice, Acting – Ben Wandell of Wharton, Luis Perez of Wharton, and Brayden Leva of Sugar Land
- Audience Choice, Acting – Luis Perez of Wharton
- Respondent's Choice – Crystal Hackstedt of Needville (Excellent/Props Design), Ben Wandell of Wharton (Superior/Acting), Wil Harborth of Wharton (Superior/Acting), Luis Perez of Wharton (Superior/Acting), Greg McLarty (Superior/Scenic Design), and Special Merit (Phenomenal Chemistry Onstage)
- Greg Schneider Award for Technical Excellence in Scenic Design – Wil Harborth of Wharton

CAREER AND TRANSFER CENTER RIBBON CUTTING HELD IN WHARTON



Wharton County Junior College hosted a ribbon cutting and reception for its Career and Transfer Center during the spring of 2023.

The Career and Transfer Center supports services to low-income and First-Time-In-College students. Funding for the center was made available by a \$3 million Title V Grant. The college secured the grant in 2020 and will receive \$600,000 annually until 2025.

The center is designed to increase transfer, retention, and graduation rates for Hispanic and First-Time-In-College students. The Wharton site has administered about 2,400 career advising sessions and more than 1,335 transfer advising sessions. The center also provides financial literacy services and career services.



Wharton County Junior College hosted a ribbon cutting and reception for its Career and Transfer Center. Pictured above is Dr. Mike Adkins, WCJC's director of academic and career advising. Pictured below, from left, are Bryce Kocian, vice president of administrative services; Gus Wessels, dean of financial and business services; Jerry Martinez, dean of enrollment management and registrar; Dr. Amanda Allen, executive vice president; Danny Gertson, WCJC Board of Trustees member; WCJC President Betty McCrohan; Leigh Ann Collins, vice president of instruction; Gordon Sorrel, WCJC Foundation board member; Dr. Mike Adkins, director of academic and career advising; and Lindsey McPherson, associate vice president of academic affairs.



PIONEER BASEBALL



PIONEER RODEO



PIONEER VOLLEYBALL



BASEBALL, RODEO, AND VOLLEYBALL TEAM ATHLETES RECEIVE AWARDS

Athletes from Wharton County Junior College's three sports teams were recognized during the Spring 2023 semester for outstanding efforts both on and off the playing field. During the WCJC Athletic Awards Luncheon, presentations were made to top players who distinguished themselves on the field of competition as well as in the classroom.

Baseball player Brayden Evans of Pearland received the Dr. Ty Pate Academic Award, an honor established in the memory of the late WCJC administrator and former athlete that recognizes high academic achieving athletes. Evans played first base and outfield for the Pioneers and will continue his baseball career at Baylor University in Waco.

The Johnnie Frankie Award, a special honor for athletes who exhibit exceptional abilities and character, went to volleyball player Kiah Barron of Corpus Christi. Barron was a middle blocker for the Pioneers and has signed a letter of intent to continue her career at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins. Jenny Banker, daughter of the late WCJC coach Johnnie Frankie, presented the award along with her grandson, Michael Frankie.

Athletes recognized for other honors included:

- Freedom Stephenson of Santa Fe (volleyball) – Volleyball MVP, Region XIV 2nd Team All-Conference, Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Rylee Reina of Wharton (rodeo) – Rodeo MVP Female
- Logan Moore of Pleasanton (rodeo) – Rodeo MVP Male
- Tori Arrington of Boling (volleyball) – Volleyball Region XIV 1st Team All-Conference
- Rebekah Wilks of San Antonio (volleyball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Valerie Martinez of Corpus Christi (volleyball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Brooke Johnson of Forney (volleyball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Ryan Melcher of Giddings (volleyball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Georgia Vance of Hardin (volleyball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Aiden Huerta of Katy (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Brayden Evans of Pearland (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Ryan Pehrson of Southlake (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Blaise Wilcenski of Waterford, Mich. (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Keaten Hawk of Danbury (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team
- Kamron Snodgrass of Corpus Christi (baseball) – Region XIV All-Academic Team

BASEBALL

Wharton County Junior College Pioneers baseball team players were honored for their academic achievement. Players were named to the "3.0 Club," the "3.5 Club," or the "4.0 Club" based upon their Grade Point Average during the Fall 2022 semester. Pictured, front row, left to right, are A.J. Smith of Kilgore, Levi Castilleja of San Antonio, Hunter Smith of Spring, Cade Romero of Beaumont, Aiden Huerta of Katy, Kamron Snodgrass of Corpus Christi and Carter Heinrich of Georgetown. Back row, left to right, are Jake Rabe of Corpus Christi, Keaten Hawk of Danbury, Brayden Evans of Pearland, Blaise Wilcenski of Waterford, Mich., Cole Columbus of Vancouver, British Columbia, Ryan Pehrson of Southlake and Tyler Byrd of Atascocita.

RODEO

Wharton County Junior College Pioneers rodeo team members were honored for their academic achievement. Players were named to the "3.0 Club," the "3.5 Club," or the "4.0 Club" based upon their Grade Point Average during the Fall 2022 semester. Seated, from left, are Chloe Callan of Braddock Heights, Md., Kevin Gooden of Boling, Trevor Hebert of Prairieville, La., and Reagan Goudeau of Hungerford. Standing, left to right, are Jeff Williams of Boling and Jayden Cisneros of Woodsboro.

VOLLEYBALL

Wharton County Junior College volleyball team players were honored for their academic achievement. Players were named to the "3.0 Club," the "3.5 Club," or the "4.0 Club" based upon their Grade Point Average during the Fall 2022 semester. Seated, from left, are Freedom Stephenson of Santa Fe, Sadie Claxton of Giddings, Alyssa Edwards of Needville and Valerie Martinez of Corpus Christi. Standing, left to right, are Georgia Vance of Hardin, Brooke Johnson of Forney, Ryan Melcher of Giddings and Rebekah Wilks of San Antonio.

BAY CITY CAMPUS HOSTED INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Tour highlighted some of the college's Technology facilities

Representatives of Wharton County Junior College in 2023 hosted international visitors at the Bay City campus. Through a partnership with Texas A&M, the visitors were provided with a tour of the college's Nuclear Power Technology, Manufacturing Technology, and Process Technology labs. WCJC Nuclear Power Technology Program Director Daniel

Johnson led the tour, accompanied by Bay City Campus Specialist Gloria Crockett and Texas A&M's Dr. Kenneth Peddicore. The two visitors were Dr. Yassin Hassin, Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University, and Professor Foud Abolaban, Department of Nuclear Engineering at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

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Wharton County Junior College hosted a reception to honor Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald. Pictured, from left to right, are WCJC Board of Trustees member Dr. Bret Macha, WCJC Trustee Larry Sitka, County Judge Nate McDonald, WCJC President Betty McCrohan and Sharyl McDonald.

WCJC RECOGNIZED JUDGE NATE MCDONALD

Wharton County Junior College hosted a special event in 2023 at the Bay City Campus to recognize Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, who retired at the end of the year. On hand for a reception and presentation were WCJC Board of Trustees members, students, faculty, Matagorda County elected officials, and members of the general public. WCJC President Betty McCrohan provided a welcome and presented a plaque to McDonald, noting that "he's just an outstanding individual and

I'm going to really miss that daily interaction." A recognition letter from U.S. Senator Ted Cruz was also read and presented to McDonald, who was accompanied by his wife, Sharyl. McDonald provided a brief address, noting that the county's relationship with WCJC has been especially rewarding for area residents and students. He urged the students in the crowd to continue to "take full advantage of what WCJC has done for Matagorda County."

Ten former athletes were inducted into the Wharton County Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame for 2022 at an induction ceremony held on the Wharton campus. Some inductees were represented by family or friends. Seated, left to right, are Judy Shilk representing Michele Ruschhaupt, Class of 1983 in tennis; Betty Parr Muegge representing Ervin C. Muegge, Class of 1949 in football; Mamie Mauch, Class of 1977 in basketball and volleyball; and Betty Detmer representing Hubert M. Sonny Detmer Jr., Class of 1964 in baseball, basketball and football. Standing, left to right, are Scott Williams representing Steve Austin, Class of 1984 in football; Bradley Harter, Class of 2002 in rodeo; Stephanie Jacks Saculla, Class of 2005 in rodeo; Walt Wendtland, Class of 1974 in baseball; Lisa Crutcher representing Ronald Glenn Jones, Class of 1984 in baseball; and Burkley Harkless Sr., Class of 1964 in football.



2022 WCJC ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

From a pro-circuit cowboy to a major league baseball player to one of the most recognized names in professional wrestling, Wharton County Junior College's 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees shared two things in common: excellence in their respective sports and a love for WCJC.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan welcomed the crowd, noting that the induction event was like a "homecoming."

Named to the 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame were:

★ **Steve Austin**

An Edna, Texas, native, Austin came to WCJC in 1984 as a hard-hitting linebacker. After accepting a scholarship to play football for the University of North Texas, Austin later began training for professional wrestling. His career lasted from 1989 until 2003, with stints competing for the World Wrestling Championship and the World Wrestling Federation (now renamed the WWE). Wrestling as "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, he achieved numerous titles and championships, becoming one of the most well-known wrestlers of all time. He currently works in movies and with TV programs.

★ **Hubert M. Sonny Detmer Jr.**

A Texas native, Detmer came to WCJC in the mid-1960s on a baseball and basketball scholarship. He was later encouraged to play football for the Pioneers. He lettered in all three sports before transferring to Florida State University to continue his basketball and baseball careers. He later played in the Continental Football League before embarking on a lengthy coaching career that included leading teams to numerous district, regional, and state titles. Detmer passed away in 2020 at the age of 76.

★ **Burkley Harkless Sr.**

Born and raised in Bay City, Texas, Harkless spent two years at WCJC (1963-1964), earning two All-American honors in football before transferring to The University of North Texas, where he played nose tackle from 1965 to 1966. Harkless spent a number of years in the National Football League, playing for the Houston Oilers, the Baltimore Colts, and the San Francisco 49ers. He also competed in the Canadian Football League, playing with the Edmonton Eskimos (now the Edmonton Elks) and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Harkless later worked for General Telephone and Electronics (GTE) and the Denton County Juvenile Probation Department.

★ **Bradley Harter**

Born in San Angelo, Texas, Harter wanted to be a professional cowboy from early on in life. During Harter's two years at WCJC (2001-2002), the team won the Southern Region and competed nationally, while Harter won several All-Around, bull riding and bronc riding titles. After WCJC, Harter transferred to Tarleton State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and also qualified for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo National Finals four times and the PRCA National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas 11 times. He then embarked on a professional career that included competing in more than 100 rodeos annually across the United States and Canada. He retired in 2019 after suffering a career-ending injury in Las Vegas and currently works for the Louisiana Farm Bureau.

★ **Ronald Glenn Jones**

A native of Seguin, Texas, Jones was selected in the 14th round of the baseball 1982 amateur draft by the Toronto Blue Jays but turned down that offer, choosing instead to get an education and do some maturing at WCJC. The following year, he was drafted in the 2nd round by the Montreal Expos, but he remained committed to staying at WCJC for another year. After WCJC, Jones signed as an undrafted free agent for the Philadelphia Phillies and began making his mark, known for his power swing and homerun potential. Injuries, however, ended his promising career after just a couple of years. He played ball in independent, international, and semi-pro leagues until 2000, when he began coaching youth baseball in the Houston area. He passed away in 2006 at the age of 41.

★ **Mamie Mauch**

The El Campo native made a name for herself on the basketball and volleyball courts while at WCJC in the late 1970s. In 1977, she was awarded All-Region honors and named to the NJCAA Women's Basketball All-American team. After transferring to Baylor University in Waco, she was awarded All-Tourney at the University of Houston tournament in 1979. With her teaching certificate in hand, Mauch embarked on a 14-year career in coaching and teaching at Louise Independent School District, Brownsville Independent School District, and El Campo Independent School District. She later turned her talents to the field of agricultural management.

★ **Ervin C. Muegge**

Born near Kennedy, Texas, Muegge initially played football for Texas A&M before transferring to WCJC, where he played under the tutelage of famed WCJC coaches Johnnie Frankie and Tom Pickett. Muegge earned an associate's degree at WCJC while excelling

on the gridiron, making the All-American and All-Conference teams in 1949. Earning a scholarship to the University of Houston, Muegge received the Most Spirited Player award in 1950. After college, he returned to Wharton where he received the Progressive Farmer magazine's "Young Farmer of the Year" award. He retired and joined his son Eric's real estate firm, C.E. Muegge Real Estate. Muegge passed away in 2003 at the age of 73.

★ **Michele Ruschhaupt**

Originally from Cuero, Texas, Ruschhaupt was a tennis aficionado, playing for the Cuero High School tennis team and dedicating her summers to traveling and playing the United States Tennis Association (USTA) tour in Texas. While at WCJC in the early 1980s, Ruschhaupt was a two-time NJCAA All-American and competed in the NJCAA finals twice. After WCJC, she transferred to Northeast Louisiana University to play tennis for a team that was ranked in the Top 25 of the country. Ruschhaupt's final year of college was spent at the University of Houston, where she served as an assistant coach for the women's tennis team.

★ **Stephanie Jacks Saculla**

A Beaumont, Texas, native, Saculla competed with WCJC's rodeo team from 2003 to 2005. She earned a host of awards during her career, including qualifying for the CNFR in goat tying in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2008. She was also named the Southern Regional Champion in goat tying in 2004 and 2007, the Reserve Champion in goat tying in 2005 and 2008, the CNFR National Champion in goat tying in 2005, and the CNFR Reserve National Champion in goat tying in 2007. After retiring, she has coached and mentored numerous students. When not in the saddle, Saculla works as a real estate agent for Connect Realty.

★ **Walt Wendtland**

Graduating from Lamar Consolidated High School in 1972, Wendtland had a remarkable career at WCJC, making All-Conference, All-Region, and All-American teams in 1974 as well as being the first baseball player to win the coveted Johnnie Frankie Award, a recognition reserved for a WCJC player who exhibits outstanding abilities and character. After WCJC, Wendtland transferred to Mississippi State University, where he was the starting catcher for two years. After graduation, he served as head baseball coach for Stephen F. Austin University while obtaining his master's degree. In 1978, he embarked on a 33-year career in education. He retired in 2010 and currently owns Doublesteal Fishing Guide Service in Matagorda County, Texas.

WCJC PROVIDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO UIL WINNERS

\$126,000 worth of scholarships awarded to 114 students

Wharton County Junior College in 2023 committed \$126,000 worth of scholarships for top finishers in University Interscholastic League events. WCJC hosted a UIL competition in March where more than a dozen schools participated.

Each first-place finisher from the UIL competition received a \$1,000 scholarship to WCJC. Students who finished second received a \$750 scholarship.

A total of 114 students received scholarships.

“Providing these scholarships is the college’s way of recognizing outstanding achievement on the part of these UIL competitors,” said WCJC President Betty McCrohan. “We are excited to offer financial assistance to these students as a means of supporting their future educational goals.”

More than 1,000 students from nearly two dozen schools participated in a UIL competition held at Wharton County Junior College’s Wharton campus. WCJC is providing 114 scholarships for the event’s top finishers. Pictured with WCJC President Betty McCrohan are Boling High School competitors. From left are Summer Clark, Bradley Hutchinson, WCJC President Betty McCrohan, Elise Sharp and Karli Joyce.



WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE Summary of Resource Development Activities by Program/Discipline

WCJC was awarded grants from foundations, governmental agencies, and individuals totaling approximately \$15,910,357 for the period September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023. These awards are used to support WCJC’s academic and vocational training programs and to provide financial support for students.



ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/ ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Adult Education and Family Literacy Act/Workforce Invest Act \$935,000
Purpose: Adult Basic Education Program with support from federal funds, state funds, University of Houston, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

Senior Citizen Programs in Wharton County and Colorado County \$335,232
(Grant Period Oct. 1, 2021-Sept. 30, 2022)
Sources of funding: federal and state funds, Wharton County Commissioners Court, church donations, private donations, program income, and special fundraising events.
Purpose: Nutrition, medical and social support services for senior citizens
Wharton County Program: \$223,780
Colorado County Program: \$111,452

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

(All qualified students are eligible to apply.)

Carl Perkins Act \$237,904
Purpose: Technical training program for underserved populations. Funding used for instructional equipment, educational materials, professional development, student scholarships, and tutoring services for students

Chevron Phillips \$6,000
Purpose: Scholarships for students enrolled in Process Technology program

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo \$37,000
Purpose: Scholarships for students enrolled in vocational programs

Johnson Foundation \$349,500
Purpose: Scholarships for students in allied health programs

The Henderson-Wessendorf Foundation \$50,000
Purpose: Scholarships for graduating seniors from Lamar High School and Terry High School

LyondellBasell \$10,000
Purpose: Process Technology scholarships

Texas Engineering Equipment Station . . . \$6,503
Purpose: Support WCJC and the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station Nuclear Power Institute workshop

Continued on page 22



ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

PROGRAM EQUIPMENT

Tenaris \$20,000
Purpose: Provide instructional equipment and supplies for the Manufacturing Technology program

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

U.S. Department of Education, TRIO/SSS Program \$261,018
per year for 5 years (3rd year of project)
Purpose: Identify qualified individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, prepare them for a program in post-secondary education, and provide support services for them

U.S. Department of Education, Title V Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Program \$600,000
per year for 5 years (3rd year of project)
Purpose: Expand educational opportunities for and improve the attainment of Hispanic students

COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

U.S. Department of Education Institutional Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund . . \$11,819,764
Purpose: Provide institutional support for expenses related to COVID-19

U.S. Department of Education Minority-Serving Institution Portion of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund \$1,242,436
Purpose: Provide institutional support for MSIs for expenses related to COVID-19



2022-2023

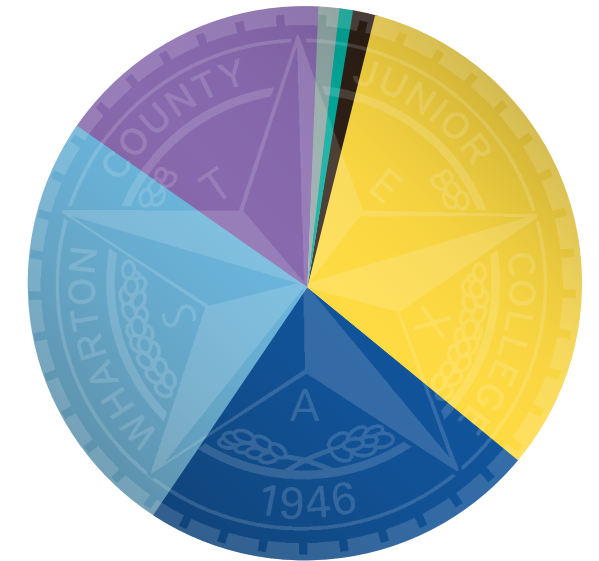
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2022-2023 REVENUE SOURCES

Total Revenue	\$50,428,135	
Tuition & Fees	\$14,682,298	29%
State Appropriations	\$11,915,807	24%
Grants & Contracts	\$11,949,492	24%
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$9,324,980	18%
Investment Income	\$1,194,068	2%
Other	\$596,719	1%
Auxiliary	\$764,771	2%

Source: Wharton County Junior College District Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2023

2022-2023 Revenue Sources

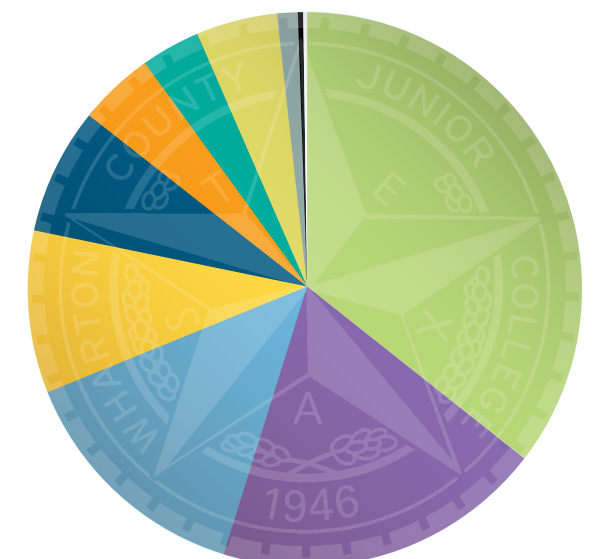


2022-2023 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Total Expenditures	\$48,469,969	
Instruction	\$18,182,637	37%
Instructional Support	\$7,596,191	16%
Operations/Maintenance	\$3,759,490	8%
Academic Support	\$3,054,738	6%
Scholarships	\$5,659,272	12%
Student Services	\$4,371,191	9%
Public Service	\$1,423,819	3%
Depreciation	\$3,282,949	7%
Auxiliary Expenses	\$943,304	2%
Interest	\$170,029	<1%
Other	\$26,349	<1%

Source: Wharton County Junior College District Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2023

2022-2023 Budget Expenditures



WCJC Facts and Figures

All figures for Fall 2022 unless noted

Pell Grant Awards

Academic Year 2022-2023

Number of Awards	1,671
Value of Awards	\$7,017,527

Unduplicated Credit Students 5,495

Unduplicated Enrollment by Campus

Wharton Campus	1,352
Sugar Land Campus	1,709
Richmond Campus	1,003
Bay City Campus	140
Dual Credit & Concurrent Enrollment	705
Distance Education (Internet/ITV)	2,282

1,532 students attended more than one campus.

Annual Unduplicated Credit Enrollment 7,344

Academic Year 2022-2023

Other Unduplicated Noncredit Enrollment

Academic Year 2022-2023

Continuing Education (Workforce)	217
Continuing Education (Adult Avocation)	374
Adult Education and Literacy	
GED	366
ESL	436

Student Ethnicity

White/Non-Hispanic	1,485	27%
Hispanic	2,533	46%
Black/Non-Hispanic	597	11%
Asian/Pacific Islander	756	14%
Indian/Alaskan Native	9	<1%
International	3	<1%
Unknown	112	2%

Student Age

Under 20	2,932	53%
20-24	1,776	32%
25-29	334	6%
30-39	300	6%
40+	153	3%
Student Average Age	21.2	

Student Gender

Women	3,185	58%
Men	2,310	42%

Student Residency

Texas Residents	5,374	98%
In-District Residents	1,245	23%
Out-of-District Residents	4,031	75%
Tuition-Exempt Residents	98	2%
Outside Texas/Foreign	121	2%

Full-Time Faculty Educational Attainment

Doctorate	30	19%
Master's	98	61%
Bachelor's	13	8%
Associate/Certificate/Other	19	12%

Full-Time Faculty (Fall 2022)

Length of Teaching Service

5 Years or Less	57	35%
6-10 Years	35	22%
11-15 Years	27	17%
16-20 Years	22	14%
More than 20 Years	19	12%

Faculty Characteristics

Total Faculty	260
Full-Time	160 62%
Part-Time	100 38%
Total Minority Faculty	78 30%
Average Faculty Age	52



WHARTON CAMPUS

911 Boling Hwy
Wharton, TX 77488
979.532.4560



SUGAR LAND CAMPUS

14004 University Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479
281.243.8447



RICHMOND CAMPUS

5333 FM 1640
Richmond, TX 77469
281.239.1500



BAY CITY CAMPUS

4000 Avenue F, Ste. B
Bay City, TX 77414
979.318.7355



WHARTON | SUGAR LAND | RICHMOND | BAY CITY

2022-2023 President's Report to the Community

Produced by the
WCJC Office of Marketing, Communications, and Advancement

For more information, call or write:

Wharton County Junior College
Office of the President
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, Texas 77488
1.800.561.WCJC
wcjc.edu