Your feedback is vital to us!
Fill out the Academic Affairs Convocation Evaluation Online!
Scan the QR Code

https://www.facebook.com/STCOPOD/
As a faculty member at South Texas College you are known for your dedication and commitment to student success. Our students achieve their goals because of your dedication to excellence in teaching and learning and your willingness to embrace innovation in the classroom. You have demonstrated excellence in teaching through your focus on creating a student-centered environment by:

- Functioning as an expert in your subject area, staying current in your discipline, and pursuing intellectual development in your discipline and related fields;
- Embracing innovative teaching strategies to enhance student learning;
- Serving as excellent communicators to guide students to practice critical thinking and problem solving, and to provide them with constructive and objective feedback on their progress on a regular basis;
- Using appropriate student learning outcome assessment to continuously improve the student learning experience; and
- Committing to student success as the highest priority that guides our day-to-day activities.

This year, we will enroll over 34,000 students who will come to us with their hopes and dreams of changing their lives and the lives of their families. Nevertheless, transforming our students’ hopes and dreams into realities would not be possible without a strong foundation - the South Texas College faculty, who embody the College’s mission and values. Let us commit ourselves to helping them reach their dreams.

DR. ANAHID PETROSIAN
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs
Chief Academic Officer
South Texas College

SPECIAL THANKS
Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs Team
Office of Professional & Organizational Development Team
2017 Academic Affairs Convocation Presenters
Distinguished Teaching & Learning Award Committee Members
Distinguished Staff Award Committee Members
Faculty of the Year Award Committee Members
E-Faculty of the Year Award Committee Members
Distance Learning Team
Public Relations & Marketing Department
TEACHING AND LEARNING ACADEMY
MAKING THE MOST OF THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS
*Required for all new faculty

Research shows that the first day of class is the most important session of the semester. On August 25th, OPOD will be hosting a morning workshop in the Cooper Center designed to help faculty participants to create a classroom environment in which students collaborate, question, participate and take responsibility for their learning. For more information please visit our website www.southtexascollege.edu/profdev

DISTANCE LEARNING SYMPOSIUM 2017
CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN. LINKING STUDENT SUCCESS
Join your colleagues on August 24, 2017, for this exciting half-day event! Breakout sessions will give you the opportunity to learn from and share ideas with your peers who web-enhance and/or teach online.

FOCUS ACADEMY
*Registration required.
The Hispanic Serving Institutions Grant funded academy, highlights the Common Instructional Framework (CIF) active learning strategies through hands-on activities, instructional techniques, and the integration of technology for higher education. FOCUS Academy will kick off on August 23, 2017. Please visit the Office of Professional Development site to register.

STC FULL-TIME FACULTY TEACHING DUAL CREDIT COURSES
*Required for all full-time faculty teaching dual credit courses
The many changes in the Dual Credit Program will be discussed as well as the outcomes of last year's SWOT analysis on Thursday, August 24, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ADJUNCT & DUAL CREDIT FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
*Required for ALL adjunct and dual credit faculty
This half-day event will cover important and critical deadlines, dual credit updates, and will include breakout sessions. The event will be held at Region One Education Service Center on Saturday, August 26, 2017.

COLLEGE-WIDE PROFESSIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
*Required for all faculty, staff, and administrators
College-Wide Professional & Organizational Development Day will be held on Friday, September 22, 2017 at the McAllen Convention Center for the morning and afternoon session. No department meetings will be held.
EMMA VIANEY ZAMORA is a 2017 graduate of the Business Education Technology Academy. Miss Zamora is also the current first place national champion for the Educators Rising (PDK) Children’s Literature Pre-K Competition. She is a first generation college student who has chosen to begin her academic career at South Texas College in the Fall and is excited to see what the future holds for her, wherever it may lead.

While interning as an Educational Student Docent at the Museum of South Texas History, she became inspired to pursue a career in American Sign Language. Aside from her love of sign language, Miss Zamora also has a deep passion for all things aquatic and often finds herself researching marine life and spending time outdoors in her free time. Miss Zamora is only 4’10” and loves to see the reaction on people’s faces when she tells them she is moving on to college and is in fact, not an 8th grader. Miss Zamora wishes to thank her family and boyfriend for their continued encouragement and support as she follows her dream. She is very glad to be pursuing her education here at STC and thanks you for giving her your attention today.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING

Associate Professor of Spanish DELIA MAGDALENO has worked tirelessly to establish the study abroad program for students and a similar professional development program for faculty. She believes travel is an essential part of education, and she strives to create such opportunities because they allow participants to gain a global view of life and a passion for learning.

As coordinator of the student study abroad program to Spain from 2013-2016, Ms. Magdaleno developed the entire process. This required recruiting faculty and students; planning and organizing the trips; getting approvals from the administration, various departments, and the business office; and ensuring lodging, insurance, fees, and instruction were available and adequate. Ms. Magdaleno even secured scholarships to assist students.

As coordinator of the faculty professional development program to Spain from 2014-2016, she collaborated with the Department of Continuing Education, the Division of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the University Relations, Transfer, and Articulation Center to offer credit hours from the Universidad de Salamanca to participants.

Ms. Magdaleno continues to share her unique perspectives in and out of her classroom through photos, videos, and stories. Her dream of making travel a central part of a holistic education has created many meaningful experiences for the South Texas College community.

Ms. Magdaleno holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Master of Arts in Spanish from the University of Texas-Pan American. She is currently program chair of the Department of World Languages and has been employed with South Texas College for over 20 years.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Automotive/Diesel Technology Program</td>
<td>B221, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Developmental English Department</td>
<td>G214, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Developmental Math Department</td>
<td>G240, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Emergency Medical Technology Program</td>
<td>G240, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Medical &amp; Health Services Management</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Medical Assistant Technology Program</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Police Academy</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Technology Management</td>
<td>F102, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>B117, Technology Campus</td>
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Automotive/Diesel Technology Program</td>
<td>B221, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Bachelors of Applied Science Organizational Leadership</td>
<td>G211 &amp; G212, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Computer Science/CITP-BAT Department</td>
<td>B117, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Biology Department</td>
<td>101, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>History/Philosophy/Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Mathematics, Academic Department</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Automotive/Diesel Technology Program</td>
<td>B221, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>J1.414, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Chemistry/Engineering/Physics/Physical Science Department</td>
<td>G138, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 Noon</td>
<td>Communication Arts (Speech)</td>
<td>L358, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Developmental Math</td>
<td>J2.414, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>L355, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Education/College Success</td>
<td>T1.702, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>J1.402, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>History/Philosophy/Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>J1.402, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>J1.406, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>B117, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Anthropology/Sociology/Geography/Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>J1.402, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Business Administration (Careers)/Human Resources Specialist</td>
<td>J1.216, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Chemistry/Engineering/Physics/Physical Science Department</td>
<td>G138, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Communication Arts (Speech)</td>
<td>L358, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Developmental Math</td>
<td>J2.414, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>L355, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Education/College Success</td>
<td>T1.702, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>J1.402, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>History/Philosophy/Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>J1.514, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>J1.402, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>J1.406, Pecan Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>B117, Technology Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21**
- Business Administration (Academics and Careers) 4:00 PM J1.512, Pecan Campus
- Computer Science (Advances Only) 6:00 PM M146, Pecan Campus

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 22**
- Associate Degree Nursing Faculty Competencies 1:30 PM 4.206, NAH Campus
- Administrative Office Careers 9:30 AM G203, Pecan Campus
- Anthropology/Criminal Justice/Sociology/Social Work 9:00 AM T1.402 & T1.408, Pecan Campus
- Architectural & Engineering Design Technology 9:00 AM A208, Technology Campus
- Arts Department 12:00 Noon B101, Pecan Campus
- Associate Degree Nursing Program 8:30 AM 4.206, NAH Campus
- Autoritatives/Diesel Technology Program 8:00 AM B221, Technology Campus
- Chemistry/Engineering/Physics/Physical Science Department 9:00 AM G118, Pecan Campus
- Child Development Department 1:30 PM J1.410, Pecan Campus
- Communication Arts (Speech) Department 10:00 AM L158, Pecan Campus
- Computer and Advanced Technologies/Information Technology Program 3:00 PM A205, Technology Campus
- Computer Science/CITP-BAT Department 9:30 AM M146, Pecan Campus
- Culinary Arts 10:30 AM H101, Pecan Campus
- Developmental Reading Department 9:00 AM G212, Pecan Campus
- Digital Medical Sonography/Diagnostic Imaging Program 9:00 AM 103, NAH Campus
- Drama Department 10:00 AM L155, Pecan Campus
- Education/College Success Department 12:00 Noon T1.702, Pecan Campus
- Emergency Medical Technology Program 12:00 Noon L.310, NAH Campus
- English, Academic Department 9:00 AM J1.704, Pecan Campus
- Fine and Performing Arts Area Meeting 10:00 AM Black Box, Cooper Center
- Fire Science 4:30 PM 14F, Phair Center
- Health and Medical Administrative Services 9:30 AM 407, NAH Campus
- Healthcare Student Success Department 1:30 PM 401, NAH Campus
- Humanities/Sign Language Interpreter ASL/Spanish/World Languages/ITP Departments 10:00 AM J1.210, Pecan Campus
- Kinesiology/Physical Education Department 9:00 AM 2607, Pecan Plaza
- Mathematics, Academic Department 9:00 AM CLE, Pecan Campus
- Music Department 2:00 PM Pecan Plaza
- Occupational Therapy Assistant Program 9:00 AM 308, NAH Campus
- Patient Care Assistant Program 8:00 AM 204 NAH Campus
- Pharmacy Technology Program 9:00 AM 2.208, NAH Campus
- Physical Therapy Assistant Program 1:00 PM 306, NAH Campus
- Political Science/Public Administration 10:00 AM T2.206, Pecan Campus
- Precision Advanced Manufacturing Technology 9:00 AM Bldg. E, Technology Campus
- Psychological Science Department 9:00 AM T1.904, Pecan Campus
- Respiratory Therapist Program 9:00 AM 402, NAH Campus
- Vocational Nursing Program 9:00 AM 4.418, NAH Campus

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**ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS ACTIVITY**

The Essential Qualities (EQ) Task Force was established during the 2016-2017 Academic Year and was chaired by Dr. Brett Millan and Dr. Eric Reittinger. The Taskforce charge was to review and revise the “The Essential Qualities (EQ) of South Texas College Faculty” and to collect faculty feedback regarding “Essential Characteristics of South Texas College Faculty.” The revised document of “The Essential Qualities and Characteristics (EQC) of South Texas College Faculty” was to be aligned to the faculty performance expectations and for recruiting faculty. Over the last couple of years, it became evident that the Essential Qualities aligned better with faculty expectations, but that for recruiting purposes, characteristics of desired faculty would also be useful.

The Taskforce began their work with the review of the existing Essential Qualities of Faculty, making sure that the document was still relevant and applicable. The outcome of the review was that the document was still valid and communicated the essential qualities of faculty of South Texas College Faculty.

To determine the “Faculty Characteristics,” the Taskforce went through the qualitative data that was collected during one of the previous Professional Development days. Dr. Millan and Dr. Reittinger each identified a list of characteristics that came directly from the faculty responses. They consolidated the list with about 30 terms and, in partnership with the College’s Research and Analytical Services, created a survey for faculty as to which characteristics they considered most valuable.

The survey was distributed during the Spring 2017 semester. Faculty had the opportunity to rank their top 8 characteristics. The survey identified the characteristics that the faculty value the most so that these characteristics could be included in the College’s recruiting materials. About 350 faculty (including full-time regular, full-time temporary, and adjunct) completed the survey. The top 14 characteristics that garnered over 100 votes each are listed below. At this point, the Division of Academic Affairs would like to refine the list further, as we consider which eight characteristics are those we believe most important for faculty to exemplify.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. During the break, break into groups and discuss the essential characteristics on the bottom of the page. Which characteristics do you believe are most important and why?
2. After the break, faculty members will be asked to share their top five characteristics and reasoning.
3. Keeping the student success in mind, each person will then vote for their top five characteristics.
4. Using your smart phone, scan the QR code located on the screen or on the page in your booklet. You will be directed to a voting poll.

**TOP 14 ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approachable</th>
<th>Dedicated</th>
<th>Dependable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encouraging</td>
<td>Enthusiastic</td>
<td>Flexible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honest</td>
<td>Inspiring</td>
<td>Knowledgeable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motivator</td>
<td>Organized</td>
<td>Passionate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>Respectful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmYThxpmHHiYkJzreoDM_B6EGdIdRsCaxKhXlYos2GQlwtyO/viewform
The Faculty Senate of South Texas College was established in order to promote the cause of education, to provide quality education to students, to improve communication among the members of the faculty, and to maintain professional relations with the Board of Trustees and the Administration.

The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to represent faculty interests and to present the views and recommendations of the faculty to the administration and to the Board of Trustees of STC. Recommendations may include but are not limited to, such matters as curricula, academic standards, salaries, contracts, student development, board policies, institutional goals, and future policies.

The Divisions of the College are represented by Senators in the Faculty Senate in proportion to the number of full-time Faculty in that Division. These Senators serve as the voting members of the Faculty Senate and serve as liaisons between their Divisional Faculty and the Faculty Senate.

If you have an issue that you would like to see the Faculty Senate address, please contact your Senators, so they can present it to the next Assembly which is held every fourth Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open and Faculty are encouraged to attend.

Senatorial Succession: A vacancy in the Senator position will be filled by a nominee proposed by the President and confirmed by a vote of the Faculty Senate at the next meeting.

2017 - 2018 FACULTY SENATE OFFICERS & SENATORS

OFFICERS
Diane Teter, President
Bruce Griffiths, Vice President
Bill Carter, Past President
Yolanda Hake, Secretary

Nathan England, President-Elect
Bill England, President-Elect

MS
Mario Marin, 17-19
Veronica Domínguez, 17-19
Leninne Bashiri, 17-19
Gabriel Viera, 17-18
Jesus Muñoz, 16-18
Ravi Nandigam, 16-18

SBS
Bill Greene, 17-19
Mark Murray, 17-19
Eric Reittinger, 17-19
Sylvia Flores, 16-18
Sandra Ledesma, 16-18

BSPT
Iris Jasso, 17-19
Laura Salas, 17-19
Christina Aguilar, 17-19
Lyudmyla Dickinson, 17-19
Daniel Morales, 16-18
Margarita Vanguelova, 16-18

NAH
Gwen Dalida, 17-19
Steve Miller, 17-19
Wayne Williams, 16-18
Layman Miller, 16-18

LASS
Vacant, 16-18
Pedro Perez, 16-18
Scott Nichol, 17-19
Sean Kennedy, 17-19
Richard Smith, 17-19

BACHELOR PROGRAMS
Meng-Hung Wu, 17-19

What is a Literature Circle?
It is a group of like-minded individuals meeting to discuss a common reading or article and how it relates to teaching and learning with our students.

Benefits
1. A great way to meet new colleagues and peers from other disciplines.
2. An opportunity to meet CLE staff and learn about academic resources available for your students.
3. A mechanism for familiarizing yourself with interesting reading regarding higher education and community colleges.

Time Requirement
The Literature Circle will meet every other week for five weeks. Each meeting will be limited to one hour. Participants will receive certificates at last meeting.

What Does the CLE Provide?
The CLE will loan you the text, schedule a meeting area, and facilitate the discussion.

CAMPUSSCHEDULEFORLITERATURECIRCLE If inaugural circle is successful, our goal is to have a literature circle on every campus, each fall semester beginning Fall 2019.

Fall 2017    Mid-Valley Campus
Spring 2018  Starr County Campus
Fall 2018    Pecan Campus
Spring 2019  Nursing and Allied Health Campus & Technology Campus

Selected Text
The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates by Wes Moore

To inquire about available times, sign up, and/or for more information please contact Regina Mason
E: rwelch@southtexascollege.edu  T: 956.973.1038
W: southtexascollege.edu/cle
South Texas College is committed to serving the students and communities of south Texas by recruiting and retaining faculty who are committed to academic excellence, integrity, and scholarship. The College grants four titles to convey faculty classification to active faculty members: Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 - 2017 ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROFESSOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR. REBECCA DE LOS SANTOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINESIOLOGY</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVID ARIZMENDI</td>
</tr>
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<td>SOCIOLOGY</td>
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<tr>
<td>DELIA MAGDALENO</td>
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<td>SPANISH</td>
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<tr>
<td>HECTOR VILLARREAL</td>
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<td>SPANISH</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSISTANT PROFESSOR</td>
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<td>JORGE FUENTES</td>
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<td>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR. AARON WILSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOSOPHY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WENDY BRANWELL</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHROPOLOGY</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 FACULTY RETIREES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBERTO ALVAREZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEMISTRY</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR. JACKIE WORLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD DEVELOPMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLANCA GONZALEZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL READING</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUTH WESSLING</td>
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<td>DEVELOPMENTAL READING</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR. MELVIN CLARK HELLER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JORGE SAENZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPUTER &amp; ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUADALUPE HERNANDEZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEATING, VENTILATION, A/C, &amp; REFRIGERATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSEMARY REICH-HILDEBRANDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFFICE ADMINISTRATION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED STAFF AWARD
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING & LEARNING AWARD
eFACULTY OF THE YEAR
FACULTY OF THE YEAR
ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION
FACULTY RETIREES

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEARNING
Azalia Barrera, Faculty Secretary, Starr County Campus
For the past 2 years, MS. AZALIA BARRERA has been serving South Texas College as a faculty secretary for the Starr County Campus. She was introduced to the operational side of Starr County Campus when she was in the final stages of obtaining her Bachelors of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership from South Texas College. Throughout her capstone, Ms. Barrera was able to establish the Starr County Campus Strategic Plan/IE Plan. In doing so, Ms. Barrera had to coordinate and communicate with administrators throughout the college district to make sure that her capstone project was up to par. Through her leadership and ability to work with others, she was able to initiate, formulate, process data, and physically input data into the IE website.
Ms. Barrera shows her commitment to South Texas College and the Starr County Campus by continuously improving all functions and processes at hand. She is not afraid to research and seek guidance to effectively implement tasks on campus, and she is constantly searching for areas of improvement in daily operations. Furthermore, Ms. Barrera has voluntarily taken on the responsibility to coordinate two high-level annual community events – the September 11th Observance Ceremony and Veterans Day Celebration.

Leonardo Castañeda, Academies Specialist, Academies & High School Projects
MR. LEONARDO CASTANEDA, Academies Specialist is truly devoted to furthering the mission of the Academies & High School Projects Department and the institution through his service, both internally and externally. Mr. Castañeda has been employed with South Texas College for the last seven years, with two of those years as an Academies Specialist at the Mid-Kingsville Campus. In his role, Mr. Castañeda works closely with the dual credit academy students, providing support with course registration, case management, and degree audits.
In addition, Mr. Castañeda has worked to implement innovative strategies to guide students towards academic success. Specifically, he has created the Academies Program Senior Exit Interview template that is being utilized at three campuses to collect data for the department. The Senior Exit Interview focuses on students’ feedback on the program operations and insight on necessary university information. Moreover, Mr. Castañeda has built a strong rapport with his Academy students, school district personnel, high school administrators, and parents. He strives to ensure that not only students but also parents and members of the community understand the value of an education and the positive impact it has for their futures.

Maria Isabel Echazarreta, Faculty Secretary, Physical Science Department
MS. MARIA ISABEL ECHAZARRETA has been with the Physical Science Department for almost two years. During this time, Ms. Echazarreta has demonstrated initiative and high level communication on a large project for the department. For instance, she worked with the Office of Public Relations & Marketing to arrange and finalize the graphics for the Physical Science Department’s promotional banner. Additionally, Ms. Echazarreta created and developed divisional flyers to promote the Math & Science programs. Furthermore, when it comes to leadership and commitment, Ms. Echazarreta continues to demonstrate her excellence. She works closely with the lab specialist to ensure that all work study employees are on task and answer any questions that they might have. She has also transformed the department’s manual paper work from physical paper to online, saving college resources. Ms. Echazarreta takes care in reviewing departmental documents to ensure accuracy and completeness. In everything, she has great expectations of herself and the Physical Science Department.

Reynaldo Sanchez III
Reynaldo Sanchez III began as a full-time faculty member at South Texas College in 1999 and currently serves as the Program Chair overseeing the Design & Building Technology Department, composed of the Construction Supervision, Electrician Technology, and the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration programs.
After graduating from the Texas A&M-Kingsville, Mr. Sanchez worked for Ashley Humphries and Sanchez Architects before accepting a teaching position at Alamo Middle School in Midland, Texas. In Midland, he reconfigured the traditional “wood” shop class into a high tech teaching lab composed of Robotics, Lasers, CAD/CAM, and Communication Technology modules, a one of a kind teaching lab in the Midland/Odessa area.

Mr. Sanchez has a passion for mentoring young people and encouraging community involvement. Through unique partnerships, he has developed a very unique service learning component to the Construction/ELPT programs by partnering with Habitat for Humanity. Students complete practicum experiences and labs for their courses by working at the Habitat job sites. This partnership benefits Habitat by reducing the costs of skilled labor and by providing additional supervision of volunteers at the work sites. This activity has also generated a strong sense of community service in the students, many of whom volunteer with Habitat and other organizations beyond what is required for their coursework lab components. Moreover, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, RGV.
As a result of his dedication, Mr. Sanchez was recognized for his community service efforts by the RGV Chapter of the American Institute of Architects with the Zebby Award in 2014.
In addition to his work community service work in the Construction industry, Mr. Sanchez routinely speaks to migrant students at several middle schools and high schools in the Rio Grande Valley, encouraging them to achieve their goal of attending and completing college. Mr. Sanchez shares his personal story of being a migrant student who persevered to complete college to emphasize the importance of parental support, and the hopes and dreams that parents hold for their children.
Assistant Professor Cynthia G. Sanchez, CPA, has worked 10 years for South Texas College and has taught nine (9) years online. She is fully committed to students’ success both in an academic and career level. She intentionally designs online courses that are student-centered and engaging. Assistant Professor Sanchez is a strong advocate of Quality Matters and has chosen to take her continuous improvement journey in developing course. Currently, she is a Certified QM Peer Reviewer.

Assistant Professor Sanchez heightens student engagement with quality content and authentic activities that connect real-world relevance and knowledge. She designs course rich in opportunities for student to engage with content, with her, and with each other. Through online technology, her online courses contain diverse activities such as virtual rooms, personalized videos, discussions, group work, case studies, and collaborative problem-solving opportunities. Her online resources are relevant and present a variety of viewpoints and meet different learning styles. Assistant Professor Sanchez feels collaboration is essential and designs courses that are seamless. For group assignments, students are emerged in technology tools such as collaboration rooms, wikis, blogs, journals, and others tools. She knows that course design plays a major role in student success. Therefore, her intentional online design and layout are inviting with clear and consistent structure. Each module has the same structure so that material, assignments, collaborative opportunities, are always found in the same location.

Assistant Professor Sanchez is a reflective online course designer and continues to improve her courses each semester. She understands, firsthand, that there is no perfect online course and student needs and engagement levels change over time. Therefore, she continuously evaluates her course resources, activities, approaches, design-layout, and technologies and modifies courses each semester.

Assistant Professor Sanchez goal is to continuously improve her online environment that enhances student learning, achievement, and experiences.

Caron Gonzalez, Science Lab Coordinator, Biology Department
During the last 15 years, MR. CARLOS GONZALEZ has worked with the Biology Department as the Science Lab Coordinator. Mr. Gonzalez is passionate, kind, hardworking, and dependable. He has a genuine commitment to South Texas College and is always looking for additional ways to help the students, faculty, and staff. Mr. Gonzalez’s internal and external communication and relationship skills are mirrored through his team, not only by improving the productivity and professionalism of the Biology Department but also by instilling valuable work skills and ethics to those he supervises.

Erika Leal, Specialist, Professional & Organizational Development
Ms. Erika Leal has been a member of the Office of Professional and Organizational Development (OPOD) since 2016. Before joining South Texas College, she worked for Region 1 for ten years and was previously employed by the College in the Developmental Studies division. Ms. Leal is instrumental to the OPOD team, as she thrives in making the processes for program chairs, faculty, and staff stress-free as they prepare for events such as STLA for Staff, STLA for Chairs, Faculty Preparation days, and College Wide Professional and Organizational Development days.

Ms. Leal is also a certified Emotional Quotient analyst and DISC Behavior Styles analyst that she may help facilitate departmental customized trainings and customer service training. Moreover, she has been vital in the creation and development of the new OPOD tracking and record keeping software.

Norma Longoria, Faculty Secretary, History & Philosophy
MS. NORMA LONGORIA has been with the South Texas College family for over ten years as a faculty secretary. She is a valuable asset to the department and epitomizes the true spirit of South Texas College. With over ten years of experience and knowledge, Ms. Longoria shows commitment and leadership within the department. For instance, she provides support to help organize conferences and guest speakers for the department like Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Furthermore, Ms. Longoria makes sure that all issues are resolved, determining innovative ways to improve the workload, and proactively starting on paperwork before the peak time arrives to ensure that all faculty are situated properly when it comes to course scheduling, travel paperwork and/or NOE’s. She has excellent verbal and written communication skills that make it easy to understand complicated procedures. In addition, Ms. Longoria has a great working relationship with all the faculty in the History & Philosophy department, which contributes to the department’s collegiality and positive working environment.

Rosalba Ramirez, Faculty Secretary, Criminal Justice & Social Sciences
Over the course of five years, MS. ROSALBA RAMIREZ has demonstrated initiation, commitment, and leadership in all that she does as a faculty secretary. Ms. Ramirez is proactive in accomplishing all of the tasks needed to keep the Criminal Justice & Social Sciences department running smoothly. She always anticipates the needs of the department chair, faculty, and the department as a whole. Ms. Ramirez is known as a good role-model to others and assists in training other secretaries on the policies and procedures of the college. Her leadership skills have assisted her in being asked to present at a national conference regarding “What Department Chairs Need to Know About the Role of Secretaries and Administrative Assistants in the Effective and Efficient Functioning of Their Departments.”

Moreover, Ms. Ramirez maintains ongoing communication with all key stakeholders regarding the status of assigned tasks and information requests. She keeps the department faculty informed regarding important meetings and crucial deadlines. Essentially, she is a great asset to the College and department.

Samuel Solis, Electrician Technology Lab Assistant
MR. SAMUEL SOLIS has been employed with South Texas College for over six years as an Electrician Technology Lab Assistant. Mr. Solis demonstrates great commitment to the department, developing original, practical strategies; new technology practices, lab preparations, systematic approaches for inventory, and strategies to improve student learning in the lab. Mr. Solis has also taken the initiative to assist with recruitment efforts at the Starr County Campus and has taken on the responsibilities of the lab assistant at the Technology Campus and the Pharr Teaching Center. Furthermore, Mr. Solis participates at the career and job fairs at the elementary schools for La Joya ISD.

As an ambassador for the college, Mr. Solis is committed to South Texas College and the Electrician Technology Program. Hence, he participates in on-campus and off-campus activities, such as Habitat for Humanity RGV, Buckner International, and Proyecto Azteca. He is efficient, productive, and organized, epitomizing the ideal employee.

Mari Vargas, Program Secretary, Physical Therapist Assistant & Occupational Therapy Assistant
Over the course of the last 18 years, both the Physical Therapist Assistant & Occupational Therapy Assistant have undergone multiple time-consuming, rigorous, and stressful national accreditation processes. Just as the faculty commit extra time and energy to ensure all required standards are met and documented, MS. MARI VARGAS, Program Secretary is committed in her efforts to assist in any way possible. Ms. Vargas continuously contributes to both programs, providing effective recommendations for improved student recruitment and communication without hesitation.

Furthermore, each semester she participates in and represents the programs at area job fairs and community events. Ms. Vargas serves as the liaison to our therapy community and their families, the general public, licensing boards, and professional accreditation agencies. She is conscientious of her demeanor, attitude, and appearance both on and off campus, as students often recognize her even when in public.
Daniel Cather, Music, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Division
Making Music Interactive – Enhancing Classroom Experience with Course-specific Apps and Technology
As iOS applications continue to improve, it has led to host of helpful resources for musicians. By incorporating these course-specific iOS applications into his music courses, Mr. Daniel Cather offers his students many advantages as they begin to understand the technology. During the fall 2016 semester, Mr. Cather decided to implement this technology. Mr. Cather enhances student engagement, creating a more interactive classroom environment and providing students methods to practice outside the class. Furthermore, Mr. Cather uses Apple TV to stream iPad applications to the projector in a couple of his courses. Students are able to demonstrate their knowledge by writing, tapping, playing along with audio, and interacting with the material through the iPad.

Elmer Esguerra, Associate Degree Nursing Program, NAH Division
Applying Principles of Nursing Informatics in Developing Evidence-Based Remediation Interventions to Improve Student Outcomes
As a faculty member of the Associate Degree Nursing Program and Assistant Chair for the Mid-Valley Campus ADN Program, Mr. Elmer Esguerra is a registered nurse with extensive clinical experience in medical-surgical and critical care nursing and is a self-taught informatics expert. During the fall 2016 semester, Mr. Esguerra decided to implement several changes in the Leadership & Management course by changing how students select the sources for their weekly 100 NCLEX style quizzes. Historically, students were instructed to use any NCLEX review source; however with this change, students had to use the HESI Exam review materials, already provided to them online.

To ensure that the changes were effective, Mr. Esguerra reorganized and classified the required quizzes to categories that focused specifically on Medical-Surgical nursing. He then extended the quizzes to other categories such as Maternity/Pediatric/Gynecology, Mental Health, Fundamentals, Management of Care, and Pharmacology. In doing so, students were provided a comprehensive, weekly review until they took the HESI Admission Assessment (A2). Additionally, Mr. Esguerra revised how remediation for the HESI diagnostics was made and started to guide the students on how to read and understand the HESI report. He outlined a detailed and custom remediation procedure based on the HESI report.

When looking at the student data from fall 2015 to spring 2017 regarding the HESI A2, there was consistent improvement in performance from cohort to cohort, with the overall class outperforming the national mean scores among BSN and other ADN programs. Overall, the use of data is not only essential but is also critical in supporting students’ individual success and allowed the ADN program to develop a more systematic evidence-based remediation intervention that provided opportunity for students’ success. Such would not have been possible without Mr. Esguerra’s innovation and initiative.

Juan Hernandez, Computer Science, Math, Science, & Bachelor Programs
Vigorous Tactical Teaching Style through SIMNET
With over 30 years of computer science experience, Mr. Juan Hernandez utilizes his experience and knowledge when preparing students for the workforce. As a computer science faculty member, Mr. Hernandez employs a vigorous tactical teaching style that enhances the academic high school core graduation requirement while simultaneously encouraging his dual credit students to establish and attain short term goals. His teaching style integrates foundations of Constructivism which allows students to draw on their own experiences to build on new knowledge through hands-on experiences and Humanism which builds on the ability of the student to solve future problems through critical thinking. Mr. Hernandez’s rationale for using this approach is based on the benefits the students will gain by building a basic foundation for computer science, all while advancing to higher and more complicated courses. In implementing the vigorous tactical teaching style, all of Mr. Hernandez’s students graduate with a Microsoft Office Certification. This certification is not easy and can be the determining factor in hiring.

Antonio Santiago Nunez, Healthcare Student Success, NAH Division
Teaching Critical Thinking Using Patient Scenario and Bloom’s Taxonomy of Learning
With a Doctorate in Medicine from the Universidad De Puerto Rico, Dr. Antonio Santiago Nunez has been a member of South Texas College’s Vocational Nursing program since 2008. During this time, Mr. Antonio Santiago Nunez has implemented patient scenarios and Bloom’s taxonomy of learning within the curriculum for students to truly understand the NHA field. In doing so, Mr. Nunez provides students with guided instruction and questioning to move them seamlessly through the exercises. Students have the opportunity to gain real-world experiences as they research symptoms and determine possible causation and treatment strategies. Additionally, students are able to utilize all three learning styles as they research online, discuss in small groups, use interrogatory requests, and verbal, auditory and tactile areas of their learning.

Laura Salas, Architectural & Engineering Design Technologies, Business & Technology Division
Creating a Maker Space
With over 16 years teaching experience, Assistant Professor Laura Salas is a faculty member in the Architectural and Engineering Design Technologies Program. In this fast paced and growing job market in the Architectural and Civil Engineering field, Ms. Salas utilizes real world projects to give the students an understanding of the expectations in the workforce. Students get to experience the entire design process with 3 steps: 1) initial sketches for concept design and preliminary ideas, 2) going through the process of developing their design and 3) building this design into an actual physical model or prototype using 3D printing.

For the process to work, Ms. Salas introduces the class to real life “clients” outside the classroom. Students have served Dr. Reed herself in designing buildings for her review. Additionally, the students are given the opportunity to be creative and interpret the assignment based on their level of knowledge and expertise, while following certain requirements. Students work in collaborative groups and are exposed to the type of learning and working environment that exists in the workforce. Students learn time management and how to communicate their ideas and interpret the ideas of others and evaluate all different options of the design. Furthermore, Ms. Salas has the students create a presentation to their “client”, as they would in real-life. Not only are students gaining hands-on experience, they are developing soft skills and the confidence to take on any project.

The Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award (DTLA) has been established to recognize full-time faculty who have established an exemplary teaching technique, practice, or activity at South Texas College. DTLA recipients were selected by a representative committee of their peers through a competitive process, with rigorous selection criteria.

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