As we close out 2014 and prepare to head home for a well-deserved holiday, it’s a good time to look back on our accomplishments over the past 12 months and take the time to thank those whose dedication and hard work have made this another successful year at Blinn College.

This year we completed a successful Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) on-site visit and created our new Quality Enhancement Plan, Destination Success: First-Year Focus. It has been humbling to see the entire College pull together to show SACSCOC everything Blinn College has to offer its students.

We posted record enrollment once again, drawing students from every corner of the state who are seeking an affordable, high-quality educational experience. With 19,317 students, we have grown more than 37 percent since 2006, and we expect that trend to continue thanks to our academic reputation and partnerships such as the TEAM Program and Engineering Academy.

Speaking of the TEAM Program, we were recognized in November with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Star Award. This award goes to the very best educational initiatives in the state of Texas, and the TEAM Program was selected for its work to help thousands of qualified students achieve their dream of attending Texas A&M, a dream that might otherwise have been impossible due to enrollment limitations.

Even as we strengthened our relationship with Texas A&M, we announced a new Baylor Bound transfer agreement that will help students transfer more easily between the two institutions and will continue to expand educational opportunities for young people across Texas.

This year we also announced the results of our economic impact study, which found that Blinn makes a $345.3 million impact on the local economy each year. That total includes $239.5 million in added income by former students employed in the regional workforce, highlighting the fact that the education we provide plays a huge role in the success of our communities.

We also went into our communities to make a difference, as our Dental Hygiene Program provided free dental care to more than 50 children, our Homecoming Court raised thousands in support of the Boys & Girls Club.

To be honest, it is impossible to list every accomplishment. 2014 has been a busy year, one in which we have reached for even greater heights. Thank you to everyone who has made all of this year’s accomplishments possible. Without your commitment to our students, 2014 would not have been the success it has been.

Happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Harold Nolte

Harold Nolte, Ed.D.
District President

THE BLINN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Arwood Kendra - Vice President, Douglas Bouchard - President, David Sommer - Secretary

Teddy Boehm, Leon Toabin, Carolyn D. Miller, C.P.A., Richard Powell

Blinn Connection is a newsletter for the faculty and staff of Blinn College published monthly by the Office of Blinn College Marketing and Communications.

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Bryan campus
phone: 979-209-7265
email: encompass@blinn.edu

Mission Statement
Blinn College is a comprehensive community college committed to educational excellence and to individual and community enhancement.

Vision Statement
Blinn College will be the leading educational, cultural and economic resource for our communities.

Accreditation
Blinn College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (www.sacscoc.org) to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4397; or telephone 404-679-4500; or visit website www.sacscoc.org for questions about the accreditation of Blinn College.

Blinn College seeks to provide equal education without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, disability or any other constitutionally or statutorily impermissible cause. This policy extends to all programs and activities supported by the college.

2014 Commitment to Student Success.

Blinn surpasses 19,000 students, sets new enrollment record

SEPTEMBER 2014

New initiative will change the way Blinn teaches first-year students

SEPTEMBER 2014

Baylor University and Blinn College announce partnership on new ‘Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement

AUGUST 2014

Sen. John Cornyn praises Blinn’s role in educating Texans

OCTOBER 2014

Blinn makes $345.3 million impact on local economy

FEBRUARY 2014

Blinn nursing student crosses stage after battling breast cancer

MAY 2014

Blinn, Bryan ISD partnership places students on the fast track to a college degree

JANUARY 2014

Blinn honors three instructors for teaching excellence

MAY 2014

Blinn awarded state grant for cutting-edge hospital simulation equipment

JUNE 2014

Blinn claims championship at American Royal livestock judging competition

NOVEMBER 2014

ATHLETICS
• Buccaneer Volleyball wins back-to-back NJCAA titles

NOVEMBER 2014

ATHLETICS
• Blinn cheer, dance teams win national championships

FEBRUARY 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER 2014 Blinn, Bryan, Schulenburg, Sealy
Blinn surpasses 19,000 students, sets new enrollment record

Bryan campus, online courses fuel 4.9 percent enrollment increase

New initiative will change the way Blinn teaches first-year students

‘Destination Success’ initiative will use learning communities to help students transition to college coursework

After more than 130 years, Blinn College is changing the way it helps high school students transition to college coursework.

This year, the College is developing an ambitious initiative titled “Destination Success: First-Year Focus,” that will create learning communities to help first-year college students adapt to the expectations of a collegiate curriculum. To do this, Blinn will create learning communities consisting of first-year college students, which national research has shown increases students’ learning outcomes and retention rate.

In creating these learning communities, Blinn has identified four courses with high first-year student enrollment but success rates below the College average. Beginning in Fall 2015, first-year students will be placed in learning communities in which they will take two of these courses, plus a college success course that teaches students about their diverse career opportunities as well as the College’s many learning resources, as part of a single cohort. These learning communities will include interaction among students, faculty and staff to enhance the learning experience.

This Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is part of Blinn’s Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS/COCC) reaffirmation. Colleges throughout the nation undergo the QEP process to develop an important element of their institutional mission, addressing a well-defined, focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning.

Learning communities have been around for roughly 20 years, said QEP co-director Mary Barnes-Tilley, but have become more popular in the last decade as colleges and universities have developed successful models.

“Research suggests that learning communities have the best results in improving student success and retention rate compared to other initiatives, and linking these communities to a student success course makes a lot of sense,” Barnes-Tilley said. “The research suggests that students master the subject matter better than if they are in a regular class because they have a support network to help them and students are more engaged in the learning process.”

Learning communities will begin with a pilot program in Fall 2015. That semester, the College will create approximately a dozen learning communities consisting of first-time college students with no declared major. At least one learning community will be created on each of Blinn’s four campuses, and each learning community will have no more than 35 students. The College then plans to steadily grow the program, with all first-time college students enrolling in learning communities by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

For more information, visit www.blinn.edu/qep.

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</table>

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For the second consecutive year, Blinn College attracted a record number of students from across the state for the Fall semester.

Fueled by strong growth on its Bryan campus and in its online course offerings, Blinn registered 19,317 students for the Fall 2014 semester, an increase of 4.9 percent over last year and the highest total in the College’s 131-year history. Since 2006, Blinn’s enrollment has increased 37.5 percent.

According to the Texas Association of Community Colleges, two-year college enrollment is down slightly statewide.

Overall contact hours – the number of hours students spend with their instructors – increased 2.7 percent to 3,626,080. State funding is based on contact hours and student success milestones.

The Bryan campus saw a 6.4 percent increase with 13,587 students – 816 more than last year. The College is also seeing increased demand for its online courses, with 1,267 students electing to take courses through Blinn’s Distance Learning Program. That program has seen a 24.3 percent increase since last Fall.

Earlier this year, Dallas-based architectural design and planning firm BOKA Powell projected that Blinn’s Brazos County campuses could see enrollment exceed 15,000 by 2017 and approach 20,000 by 2025.

Those growth projections were based upon Blinn’s strong academic reputation and its partnerships with Texas A&M, Sam Houston State and Texas State universities, and the universities of Texas and Houston. The Blinn TEAM (Transfer Enrollment at A&M) Program allows selected applicants to Texas A&M’s freshman class a unique co-enrollment opportunity with the chance to earn full Texas A&M admission. The first of its kind between a major university and a community college, the initiative received the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Recognition of Excellence.

This Fall, 1,091 students enrolled in the TEAM Program, while another 227 participated in the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn.

The growth of Bryan-College Station and development of the Research Valley were cited as key factors in Blinn’s projected growth, even as the College has proven unique among community colleges in attracting students from across the state. Blinn students came from 1,533 zip codes in Fall 2013, drawing significant numbers from Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas-Fort Worth.

With Blinn’s growth comes the opportunity to make an even greater impact in the community. A study released earlier this year revealed that Blinn makes a $345.3 million annual impact on the local economy, including $247.4 million each year in Bryan-College Station. That marks a 21.7 percent greater impact than a similar study conducted in 2010.

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For more information, visit www.blinn.edu/qep.
Baylor University and Blinn College announce partnership on new ‘Baylor Bound’ transfer agreement

A joint effort of both Baylor University and Blinn College recently announced the creation of a formal Baylor Bound transfer agreement that will help students transfer more easily between the two institutions and continue to expand educational opportunities for young people all across Texas.

Blinn District President Harold Nolte and Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr signed the partnership agreement during a ceremony in the Janis Sneed Banquet Room in the Blinn – Brenham campus Student Center.

As one of its goals under the Pro Forma strategic initiative, Baylor intends to create 10 Baylor Bound partnerships with strong Texas community colleges over the next five years. The Baylor-Blinn agreement is the third partnership, along with McLennan Community College in Waco and Tyler Junior College in Tyler.

The Baylor Bound program will serve highly motivated Blinn students who, upon meeting the program’s criteria, will transfer to Baylor toward the goal of completing their baccalaureate degree. Students will be able to participate in Baylor Bound at Blinn starting in the fall of 2015, with the intent to transfer to Baylor in the fall of 2016.

“This is a natural partnership,” Nolte said. “Baylor and Blinn have long traditions of creating educational opportunities for Texas students and providing them the tools they need to be successful. This agreement gives our students a formal pathway into Baylor University and the opportunity of a lifetime.”

“The Baylor Bound program is a wonderful avenue for so many community college students who wish to continue an outstanding education at Baylor University,” Starr said.

“We are grateful to Blinn College for entering into this historic agreement, which will provide greater educational access for students in the Brazos Valley,” he added. Students may declare their intent to transfer to Baylor by submitting the Baylor Bound application prior to enrolling at Blinn or while enrolled as a full-time student. Application to the program will be determined by Baylor’s Office of Admission Services.

Blinn students who become part of the Baylor Bound program can choose a plan from 66 distinct majors, all of which are articulated through specific MAPS – or Major Academic Planners – that will assist them as they move toward timely degree completion. More information about these majors and course transfer equivalencies between Baylor and Blinn is available at: <www.baylor.edu/advising/blinnaps>

Most students in Baylor Bound will take classes for one year at Blinn and three years at Baylor. However, some students may be approved to take two years at Blinn and two at Baylor, depending on the student's major and number of transfer credit hours.

Students must be enrolled in an approved A.A. or A.S. academic program leading to an approved Baylor B.B.A., B.A., B.S.W. or B.S. degree and refer to Baylor’s Major Academic Planner when planning coursework.

Advisors from both institutions will help students select courses that satisfy program requirements to allow for a successful transition from Blinn to full-time status at Baylor. Baylor Bound students also will receive information about scholarships for transfer students and special residence experiences. Also Blinn students will have access to Baylor’s libraries via the Interlibrary Loan Agreement as well as special opportunities to visit the Baylor campus and meet with Baylor representatives.

Baylor and Blinn officials, along with alumni, friends and special guests from across the region gathered in the Janis Sneed Banquet Room inside the Blinn – Brenham campus Student Center to celebrate the historic partnership between the two institutions. Speakers included Joseph “Hal” Macht, Baylor and Blinn alumnus, Starr and Nolte.

Sen. John Cornyn praises Blinn’s role in educating Texans

Senator spoke to faculty and students about Blinn’s nationally-recognized Agricultural Sciences Program

Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) praised the role Blinn College plays in educating Texans during a visit to the College’s W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex.

“The faculty and leadership at Blinn College are doing remarkable work preparing students and encouraging them to pursue their four-year degrees,” Cornyn said. “I enjoyed my tour of the Rankin Ag Complex, where students are receiving a top-notch education in and beyond the classroom.”

During his visit, Cornyn spoke to faculty and students about Blinn’s nationally-recognized Agricultural Sciences Program, which enrolls approximately 800 students – making it roughly four times the size of any other agricultural program in the state. Blinn offers agricultural science classes on all its campuses, with the W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex in Brenham serving as the program’s hub.

Built in 2011, Blinn’s 20,200-square-foot, $3 million agricultural complex houses classrooms, laboratories, offices, an ag shop, a livestock show arena and a fully-automated greenhouse. The facility was named after W.J. “Bill” Rankin, a lifelong resident of Washington County and the chief financial officer at Blue Bell Creameries. Rankin’s grandfather, Albert Stone, was a state senator in the 1930s and was instrumental in the legislation that enabled Blinn to become the first county-owned junior college.

In addition to its excellence in the classroom, Blinn offers extracurricular educational activities in the areas of livestock judging, agriculture club, wildlife, agriculture mechanics, horticulture and agriculture sciences. Last year, Blinn’s Ag Club totaled about 3,700 hours of community service at 127 events. The club partnered with organizations such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Coastal Conservation Association of Texas and Texas Parks & Wildlife in organizing and staffing events, and also volunteered at livestock shows, ag mechanics shows and county fairs.

“We teach our students honesty, character, integrity and work,” Agricultural Sciences Professor Douglas Pierce said. “That’s what we’re all about here at Blinn College. That’s what built Blinn College.”

Cornyn serves on the Finance and Judiciary Committees and is the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee’s Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas attorney general, Texas Supreme Court justice and Bexar County district judge.

“Our community colleges play a key role in teaching skills for practical life application and good jobs, and Blinn College is an important place for students to begin their college career and transfer to a place like Texas A&M,” Cornyn said.

Douglas Pierce, Blinn College Agricultural Sciences professor, shows Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) the trophy case displaying the Blinn livestock judging team’s championship trophies during a tour of the College’s W.J. “Bill” Rankin Agricultural Complex during a visit to Brenham.
**Blinn makes $345.3 million impact on local economy**

Impact has grown more than $60 million annually since last study in 2010.

A recent study has found that Blinn College's economic impact in the region continues to expand, pumping $345.3 million into the local economy each year.

The study, conducted by Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), displayed 21.7 percent growth in Fiscal Year 2012-13 over the most recent economic impact report commissioned by the College in 2010, which showed an annual economic impact of $283.8 million.

"Blinn College is fortunate to have such terrific support from our community," said Dr. Harold Nolte, Blinn College district president. "This report shows that their investment in Blinn College's success is paying off and makes it clear that as Blinn continues to grow and develop it can make this region even stronger economically and culturally."

Blinn's total impact includes $239.5 million in added income by former students employed in the regional workforce, $61.3 million in income to the College's service area economy, $11.1 million in income to the College's service area economy, and $3.9 million in added income by students currently employed in the regional workforce.

"Blinn College's economic impact report clearly demonstrates that an investment in a Blinn education.

"Benjamin Franklin once said that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest," said Blinn College – Bryan campus President Sylvia McMullen. "I believe this study demonstrates that the difference we make in the lives of our students has an incredible cumulative effect on our society and our economy."

For more information on Blinn's economic impact study, visit: www.blinn.edu/impact.

**BRYAN CAMPUS**

In Fiscal Year 2012-13, the Blinn – Bryan campus and its students added $247.4 million in income to the College's service area economy.

- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to $170.9 million in added income, and statewide Texas receives $1.3 billion in added income over the course of the students' working lives.

- Students receive a 17.5 percent annual rate of return on their investment in an education at Blinn – Schulenburg.

- Students receive a 13.8 percent annual rate of return on their investment in an education at Blinn – Brenham.

**BRENNHAM CAMPUS**

In Fiscal Year 2012-13, the Blinn – Brenham campus and its students added $83 million in income to the College's service area economy.

- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to $3 million in added income, and statewide Texas receives $17.4 million in added income over the course of the students’ working lives.

- Students receive a 19.0 percent annual rate of return on their investment in an education at Blinn – Blynn Connection.

**SCHULENBURG CAMPUS**

In Fiscal Year 2012-13, the Blinn – Schulenburg campus and its students added $11.1 million in income to the College's service area economy.

- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to $9.2 million in added income, and statewide Texas receives $22.9 million in added income over the course of the students' working lives.

- Students receive a 15.3 percent annual rate of return on their investment in an education at Blinn – Sealy.

**SEALY CAMPUS**

In Fiscal Year 2012-13, the Blinn – Sealy campus and its students added $3.9 million in income to the College's service area economy.

- The accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce amounted to $3 million in added income, and statewide Texas receives $1.7 million in added income over the course of the students' working lives.

- Students receive a 19.0 percent annual rate of return on their investment in an education at Blinn – Sealy.

**Blinn nursing student crosses stage after battling breast cancer**

Leslie Donovan defies the odds to become an oncology nurse

With the scars on her chest to prove it, Leslie Donovan knows now more than ever that she can conquer anything.

There wasn't a dry eye in the room this past May when Donovan crossed the stage, signifying that she had finally earned her associate's degree in nursing from Blinn College. A difficult two-year commitment for most students proved to be an even more trying journey for the 46-year-old mother of two.

In the midst of a divorce four years ago, Donovan found herself unemployed and renting out an extra bedroom just to pay for groceries.

A stay-at-home mom of 15 years, Donovan's stack of part-time job applications each were met with a rejection notice, though she was equipped with a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and eight years of military experience.

"It didn't matter that I had Army and Air Force experience," Donovan said. "What stood out was that I had been out of the workforce for 15 years. And here I was with two kids, thinking I'd have to sell my house."

"It's not about me. It's about them." said Donovan.

"That's when Donovan's new roommate approached her with a newspaper advertisement for Blinn College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program."

"That day I got online and Googled 'Blinn Nursing,'" Donovan said. "I knew the nursing program had a fabulous reputation and if I was going to commit to going to nursing school, I was going to go to Blinn. I knew it would be difficult to get in, but I love a challenge."

Donovan submitted her application and was accepted to the College's ADN program in Fall 2011.

"I was a much better student this time around than when Mom and Dad were paying for it," Donovan said. "I knew that this was my life, my future, my kids, my home."

"As things began to look up, Donovan made a devastating discovery. Not a month into nursing school, she found a lump in her breast."

"It's not about me. It's about them."

The first doctor Donovan saw told her the lump was nothing to be concerned about, but a visit six months later to the veteran's hospital in Temple brought other news.

"I knew I would have to take time off school," Donovan said. "Having to slow down my education was more devastating than the fact that I had cancer."

Donovan spent most of 2012 driving to and from Temple for treatments, caring for her children and keeping up with ADN Program requirements. Donovan struggled to balance working part-time with the toll the cancer and treatments were taking on her body.

"It got really, really bad," Donovan said.

"I was facing utter financial devastation. I was looking at losing my home. But God provided. When people look at me and say, 'Wow, you got through that,' I say 'No, God has gotten me through.' Without him I wouldn't be here."

On June 9, Donovan will begin a three-month paid internship and subsequent full-time job as an oncology nurse with St. Joseph's hospital in Bryan.

"I am proud to have gotten through this. I can empathize and understand my patients who want to give up," Donovan said, rubbing two fingers over the scar on her chest from the chemotherapy port. "But it's not about me. It's about them."

Donovan said she would not have made it through the program or her fight with cancer without the encouragement of Blinn faculty, especially Professor Cynthia Comley.

"So many people went to bat for me in the nursing program," she said. "They worked together to make sure I finished. Look where I came from—a single, displaced homemaker who went through 50 job interviews from 2008 to 2010. I went from not knowing what to do to having a fabulous career as an RN. Thank you, Blinn."
Blinn, Bryan ISD partnership places students on the fast track to a college degree

Each Bryan Collegiate student saves an estimated $15,000 in college expenses

Bryan Collegiate is the result of a unique partnership between Bryan ISD and Blinn College that places students on the fast track to a college degree. Through a curriculum that includes dual credit throughout all four years of their high school experience, graduates leave not only with their high school diploma, but also 60 college credit hours. The school estimates that between tuition and books, students who complete the program receive an estimated $15,000 in college savings at no charge.

The school, which opened in 2007, will apply for independent adult and how to complete the college application process. The school also utilizes regular parent meetings to keep parents informed and help students succeed.

"The biggest thing we do is build relationships, and that's why you don't want early college high schools to grow too large, because it's important to provide each student with a strong support system," Richardson said. "The biggest thing this campus provides is that relationship and that support structure."

Bryan Collegiate students have access to Blinn's Library, Writing Center, tutoring sessions, mathematics lab, Learning Center and computer labs.

Blinn instructors travel to the Bryan Collegiate campus to teach courses to freshmen and sophomores, while juniors and seniors travel to Blinn for classes on campus. Senior students take just one class at Bryan Collegiate while the remainder of their schedule consists of Blinn coursework.

By the time they have completed their senior year, most students can enroll in college as juniors. "These students are sought after by college admissions departments because they've already proven they can do college-level work," Richardson said. "We try to explain to students what it will mean to them, what it will mean to their future, but it's not until they graduate that it really hits them."

Promote your events online for FREE, 24x7

Blinn’s online calendar works for you to draw attendance to your event, day and night, weekends, even during holidays. It’s your tool to use and your first step to host an event with a terrific turnout. Check it out. It’s easy to use, the price is right ($F$FREE) and you decide how much or how little detail you want to add!

— Continued from previous page —
Blinn honors three instructors for teaching excellence

Hoppens, Langenegger and Presswood are recognized by colleagues for outstanding service.

Blinn College celebrated another year of outstanding instruction with banquet honors its finest faculty across the College’s four campuses this past May. Blinn named Math Professor Randal Hoppens the Teaching Excellence Award winner for its Brenham, Schulenburg and Sealy campuses, while Government Professor Dr. Joyce Langenegger and Associate Degree Nursing Professor Rebecca Presswood earned the honor on Blinn’s Bryan campus. The awards are presented by the Blinn professional associations on the Brenham and Bryan campuses.

Hoppens joined Blinn’s faculty in 1984 and became a division chair in 1992. He will retire from full-time instruction at the end of this semester but will continue to teach part-time.

In his nomination letter, fellow professor Dr. Gary Irby commended Hoppens’ unique ability to demonstrate how mathematical concepts impact students’ daily lives.

"The teaching of mathematics is really the teaching of logic,” Hoppens said. “After 30 years of teaching college math, I am still learning new ways to solve old problems and how to teach them to students.”

Economics Professor Andy Harrington, English Professor Mark Bernier and Agricultural Sciences Professor Bryan Belinka were also nominated for the honor.

A government instructor for Blinn’s Social Sciences Division since 2005, Langenegger was named Blinn’s interim director of Professional Development last month, a role in which she will help fellow instructors develop new strategies for helping students succeed.

"Joyce has high expectations for her students and the ability to communicate with compassion,” said Social Science Professor Jeff Lee. “Sheducks home for Teaching and Learning, is a great support to faculty in the Social Sciences Division on the Bryan campus and is constantly trying new things in her classroom.”

Langenegger is a member of Blinn’s Quality Enhancement Plan development team, Assessment Council, Center for Teaching and Learning steering committee and textbook committee. She is also a sponsor for Blinn’s Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

“Teaching is my passion and mission,” Langenegger said. “After practicing law for 17 years, I stepped into my first community college classroom in July 1994. From the first word I spoke, I knew I was home and in the right place.”

Presswood has served on Blinn’s faculty and curriculum committees since 2006 and its admissions committee since 2001. She is a member of the National Organization of Associate Degree Nursing, the Texas Organization of Associate Degree Nursing and the National League of Nursing.

“Rebecca is an advocate for evidence-based practice and works diligently to develop her lectures, activities and clinical experiences for students with this approach,” said Simulations Director Sami Rahman. “Students find her engaging and innovative, as do her colleagues.”

Business Programs Instructor Brandy Scholze, Social Science Instructor Rhonda Reagan, Math & Engineering Professor Judy Wagner, Health & Kinesiology Professor Larry Latterman, Social Science Professor Charles Swanlund and Natural Science Instructor Melissa Layton were also nominated on the Bryan campus.

Blinn recognized 11 retiring employees in Hoppens, Humanities Instructor Jody Tyson (10 years), Computer Science Professor Judy Kroll (13 years), District HVAC Systems Manager Spencer Lofland (12 years), Business Division Chair and Professor Karen May (13 years), Accounts Payable Specialist Judy Niemeyer (13 years), Humanities Division Chair and Professor H.F. Poehlmann (27 years), Social Science Instructor Linda Tiemann (25 years), Coordinator of Campus Events Glen Vierus (23 years), Associate Degree Nursing Professor Lois Brokenbrough (21 years) and Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Alfred Zeftel (22 years).

The Bryan campus Blinn Professional Association also recognized Blanche Brick, Dwight Bohmeyer, May, John Schaffer, Amanda Chau, Kathy Anzivino, Bennie Graves and Essie Childress for outstanding service and awarded merit scholarships to students Melissa R. Mohdazam and Tao Qin.

The 2014-15 Bryan campus BPA executives are Monica M. Gangotena, president; Brandy Scholze, vice president; Stanley Kratchman, secretary; Shahravan Milan, treasurer; Sam Py, lyceum coordinator; and Robert Nelson, webpage master.

Blinn awarded state grant for cutting-edge hospital simulation equipment

A grant from the Texas Comptroller worth almost $270,000 will help Blinn College expand its renowned simulation environment for tomorrow’s nursing professionals.

Blinn was awarded $269,320 from the state’s Job Building Fund, which was designed by the Texas Legislature to fund training in high-demand occupations. The College is required to match 5 percent of the project.

The Texas Legislature approved a new $25 million Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program to aid state economic growth in 2009, of which $10 million was JET grant to the Job Building Fund to finance equipment purchases for new or high-demand career and technical education programs. Through a competitive process, Blinn was selected to receive funds for the purchase of additional equipment to support the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program.

The grant will be executed beginning in July, and will allow the College to add equipment to its simulation labs, including:

• Additional intravenous catheterization equipment (virtual IV system)
• Additional computer on wheels systems that allow students to bring medical records to the bedside during simulation
• An automated delivery system that allows students the simulator to automatically demonstrate a variety of birthing scenarios
• Additional recording equipment that will allow the College to record simulations in all laboratories. After the simulation is complete, these recordings are reviewed with the student to identify areas for improvement.
• Cardionics SimScopes, computerized stethoscopes that simulate abnormal heartbeats, hearing and abdominal sounds
• DiscuCare, an electronic medical record system that allows students to create a simulated health record, including charts and care plans.
• A defibrillation simulator that allows students to practice defibrillation techniques.

“This grant takes our simulation lab to the next level and allows us to make our simulations accessible to more students at once,” said Simulations Director Sami Rahman. “Especially with the increased recording ability, that’s going to allow more of the simulated activities students really need to prepare for their future careers.”

Blinn was previously awarded JET grants for $350,000 in 2010 and $287,632 in 2012. That funding allowed Blinn to continue upgrading its simulation mannequins and populate more patient beds in its simulated hospital.

Clinical simulation facilities are an important part of Blinn’s capacity to graduate highly skilled nurses who are prepared to quickly obtain their license and begin working in today’s high-demand health services environment. Blinn is leveraging the simulation environment to provide up to half of the required clinical practice training time needed to become a licensed nurse.

“This environment allows our students to learn and grow, and if they make mistakes, to correct those mistakes so when they are on the clinical site with faculty and preceptors, they have hands-on knowledge and a better understanding,” Rahman said.

In November, Blinn was awarded more than $18,000 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to address the statewide nursing shortage. Those funds have been used for faculty enhancement, student recruitment and the identification, development and implementation of curriculum innovations.

Blinn has received commendation from the Texas Board of Nursing five of the last six years. Students who complete the program and pass the National Council Licensure Examination have a job placement rate between 97 to 100 percent and are qualified for a wide array of nursing positions, including pediatric, geriatric, hospice, hospital and clinical nursing. New graduates can expect to earn over $52,000 per year.
Buccaneers crowned national champs after beating Miami Dade, 3-1

CASPER, Wyo. – When it came down to it, Blinn College volleyball stuck together and overcame a talented Miami Dade squad to win the NJCAA Division I national title with a 3-1 victory in Casper, Wyo.

"Obviously this is an incredible moment but it didn't come without its challenges," said Blinn coach Erin Mellinger. "But they got to push through and feel the way that they feel right now."

Rebecca Reeve supplied the championship-clinching kill to seal the 3-1 victory by the score 33-31, 25-16, 20-25 and 25-18 at the Casper Events Center. The 2014 championship is the second consecutive championship for Blinn College and its third in four years, and the Buccaneers finish the year with an astonishing 40-1 record.

Reeve not only delivered the championship-winning kill but was named the most valuable player of the national championship-winning kill but was named the most valuable player of the national championship.

The Buccaneers controlled the second set as it jumped out to an 11-4 lead with back to back blocks from Luafalemana. Blinn went on to grab a 2-0 lead after a block from Onipede to win the second 25-16.

The third set was a forgettable one for Miami Dade as Miami-Dade won 25-20 to force a fourth set. It was a lot of back and forth in the fourth set but Blinn was able to grab a slim 15-10 lead after a block from Onipede.

Miami Dade put up a fight in the fourth but it was Blinn College coming up with the big points in the end. Reeve came up with the biggest point with the championship-winning kill to win the fourth 25-18 and win 3-1.

The first set was a classic. It looked as though Blinn would make it look easy as it jumped out to a 13-7 lead with a kill from Jordyn Kreamo, who had 52 assists in the match. But Miami-Dade didn't go away quietly as it charged back to take a 25-24 lead.

The first set went into extra points, but it was Blinn that came up with two consecutive points as a kill from Reeve helped to clinch the first 33-31.

Alyssa LaMont and Abolunde Onipede were both named to the all-tournament team. Onipede had six kills in the championship match and LaMont turned in an impressive effort on defense with 16 digs in the win.

Trinity Alualu and Tawnee Luafalemana each had 11 kills while Rachel Sharp finished with nine kills.

Blinn got to push through and feel the way that they feel right now."}

Blinn cheer, dance teams win national championships

For the first time in Blinn College history, the Blinn cheer and dance teams are national champions.

The Buccaneer cheer squad and Blinn Treasures dance team each won their respective divisions here at the NCA & NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship on April 11.

"I don't think it's sunk in yet," head cheer coach Michael Brewster said. "It's definitely been long awaited and it feels great to get over the hump."

A year after missing out on the championship by four-tenths of a percentage point in 2013, the Buccaneer cheer team scored 93.33 points in the finals to beat Shorter (Ga.) University for first place.

“We were disappointed getting second last year and it’s been our goal since then to push the routine, push the difficulty and improve our chances of winning this year,” Brewster said.

The same could be said for the Treasures dance team.

After a second-place finish of their own, the Treasures turned in a flawless performance in the finals to claim their championship.

“It was the best performance of the year,” dance coach Sarah Barland said. “It was absolutely flawless.”

The Treasures scored 9.632 out of a possible 10 points to claim their first national championship. They dethroned two-time defending champion Ramapo College, who barely edged the team in 2013, and Oklahoma City University.

Of the 17 teams that competed in Division III, only five were from junior colleges. “We got some really good critiques coming out of prelims, so we took those critiques and fixed them Thursday night and were very confident coming into today,” Barland said.

NDA Collegiate National Championship Dance Team Performance III Finals

1. BLINN COLLEGE, 9.632
2. Oklahoma City University, 9.491
3. Ramapo College, 9.432
4. St. Ambrose University, 9.418
5. McLennan College, 9.315
6. Johnson County Community College, 9.195
7. Barton Community College, 9.066
8. Midland University, 8.978
9. New York University, 8.946
10. Iowa Central Community College, 8.775

NCA Collegiate National Championship Small Coed II Cheer Finals

1. BLINN COLLEGE, 93.33
2. Shorter University, 92.60
3. McKendree University, 88.40
4. Faulkner State Community College, 87.18
5. Missouri Southern State University, 83.10

Cheer scores 93.33, dance tallies 9.632 points to take titles

NCA Collegiate National Championship Small Coed II Cheer Finals

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2. Shorter University, 92.60
3. McKendree University, 88.40
4. Faulkner State Community College, 87.18
5. Missouri Southern State University, 83.10

confirmed coming into today,” Barland said.
Please save the date for your respective convocation!

Faculty Convocation
Jan. 13, 2015
Brazos Center
3232 Briarcrest Dr., Bryan, TX,
followed by workshops and department meetings on the Bryan campus

Staff Convocation
Feb. 27, 2015
Brazos Center
3232 Briarcrest Dr., Bryan, TX

As part of its commitment to student success, Blinn is implementing a Quality Enhancement Plan titled, “Destination Success: First-Year Focus,” which utilizes learning communities to support first-year college students. Find out more at www.blinn.edu/QEP.