Graduation: A Return to Normalcy One Step at a Time

Dental Hygiene Hosts Regional Clinic License Exams
Coastal Bend College is looking for your thoughts on community safety.

Please visit https://bit.ly/2Rz2JEV to complete a confidential survey and provide your feedback.

“You are our stakeholders”
...and as such your opinion and input is crucial to maintaining a strategic focus in our safety plans and operations. I wish to thank each of you who participate in advance for your important contribution to making a safe and secure atmosphere here at CBC...
In April I had the opportunity to go to Austin and support legislation for Continuing Education (CE). The bill is sponsored by Senator Judith Zaffirini and would be an important step forward assisting community colleges across the state of Texas provide these critical trainings. CE allows the college to provide very specific trainings to provide re-skill and up-skilling opportunities. These opportunities can allow both incumbent and new workers to increase their earnings while filling employers’ needs.

One of the overlooked aspects of CE is that it can have a short window of training that can lead to significant job opportunities. This training can also be specific and customized to meet employee needs. This is a win-win-win for the student, the employer, and the community as more earned income leads to more funds being spent in our communities.

This legislative session has been challenging just as much of our lives have been due to COVID-19. While I certainly appreciate the diligence of the Texas legislative contingency, I would like to specifically thank the legislators who serve in the CBC service area. They continue to provide valued leadership and guidance for higher education and recognize its value. Our legislators are helping CBC to ensure that Success Happens Here!

“CE allows the college to provide very specific trainings to provide re-skill and up-skilling opportunities.”

Dr. Justin Hoggard
President
Coastal Bend College
On April 23, 2021, the Coastal Bend College (CBC) Dental Hygiene Department hosted a Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) clinical exam for our students. This exam is one of several regional exams that is required for dental hygiene licensure. Licensure is a means of protecting the public from unqualified individuals and unsafe practices. The CBC Dental Hygiene Department was very honored to host this examination as our students tested on manikins instead of live patients due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This exam is currently accepted in 33 other states and growing; so if students decide to move out of Texas, they have a better chance of not having to retest. Additionally, the students will be required to complete the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) which is the written portion of the exam.

The CDCA furnished the testing manikins. Ten students were able to test at one time with testing cycles lasting 2 hours. As part of the testing, students used an ultrasonic scaler, completed calculus detection and removal, and performed probing, which demonstrated their clinical skills. Tissue trauma could also be detected on the manikins with mandibles replaced between testing students.

In attendance at the exams were distinguished guests to observe the exam. Ms. Kimber Cobb, the National Director of Licensure Acceptance and Portability with CDCA was in attendance. In addition to Ms. Cobb, Ms. Christine Mendez, the Director of Licensing with the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners also observed, along with Ms. Lois Palermo, who serves on the Disciplinary and Licensing Committees with the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners. For more information on the Dental Hygiene program please call 361-354-2561.
Graduation: A Return to Normalcy

The stage is set, the graduation gowns have been ordered, and Coastal Bend College’s most recent graduates are prepared to walk across the stage in a commencement ceremony that marks the long awaited return of an academic tradition. In the interest of health and safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic, CBC took appropriate measures and adjusted last year’s ceremonial plans, opting instead for a virtual recognition that was streamed internationally. This year’s ceremony will also be streamed but will now provide students with the opportunity to walk the stage, leading the way back to a more traditional experience.

Student safety and health is still a top priority for the CBC administration. Social distancing and masks will be required. While attendance is restricted to graduates only, friends and family will be able to watch their student graduate via streaming services. Even though guests will not be allowed to attend in person, CBC is grateful that we can have the ceremony and allow students to walk this year. CBC would like for the ceremony to be at 100% capacity, but safety protocols must be maintained while marking this important event.

“It’s a huge accomplishment to be graduating after all of the obstacles that last year brought,” said student Emma Ramirez, graduating with an Associate of Arts this spring. “I’m very excited to be able to experience an in-person graduation after all of the hard work to get here. I’m sure that I’m not the only student that really appreciates the opportunity to walk the stage and celebrate the end of one journey and the beginning of another,” added Ramirez.

“I’m thankful our graduates will be celebrated through an in-person and a virtual ceremony, one which allows the graduate to walk across the stage and still be able to share this moment safely with family and friends,” said Frankie Ramirez, mother of graduating student Emma Ramirez.

This year’s ceremonies took place on May 18th (Nursing graduation and pinning ceremony) and May 19th (General Education and Career and Technical Education) and was streamed live on CBC’s YouTube and Facebook platforms.

“Graduation is a significant milestone we should recognize and celebrate. I believe this is a positive step with respect to normalcy,” said Dr. Justin Hoggard, CBC president. “I believe this is a positive step with respect to normalcy,” added Dr. Hoggard.
Coastal Bend College - Alice

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Rho Lambda CBC’s Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society

Founded in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the national honor society for two-year colleges, which recognizes scholars and develops leaders. There are currently over 1200 PTK chapters world-wide, and the chapter of PTK at Coastal Bend College is the Rho Lambda Chapter.

Qualifications for Membership
Community college students who have completed 12 semester credit hours with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher qualify for joining PTK. Each semester, qualifying students attending Coastal Bend College receive invitations to join PTK via their Cougar email.

Research
Active PTK members are dedicated to more than just their studies. Many of CBC's active PTK members are also committed to PTK's hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship. As such, PTK Rho Lambda students lead campus projects, volunteer in the surrounding communities, and participate in undergraduate research projects. The students have selected "The Heirs of Our Ways" as their research project theme, and they will be devoted to researching how we acknowledge our inheritance and support children in ways that promote humanity's greatest potential.

Induction Ceremony
To better recognize PTK students, CBC hosts an induction ceremony each Fall and Spring semester. Many of CBC's new members of PTK were inducted in the Spring Induction Ceremony streamed via Facebook Live and YouTube LIVE on May 7th.

Any CBC students who are interested in learning more about Phi Theta Kappa can contact Coastal Bend College's PTK advisors:

Beeville
Kathleen Cuyler
kcuyler@coastalbend.edu

Alice
Christi Morgan
chrism@coastalbend.edu

Kingsville
Richard Cowart
recowart@coastalbend.edu

Pleasanton
Anna Hazelrigg
hazelrigg@coastalbend.edu

Riviera ISD Students Tour CBC–Kingsville

On Wednesday, April 14th, six students from Riviera ISD toured the Coastal Bend College (CBC) Kingsville Center. These high school students were selected to take part in this initiative to help generate a desire to attend a post-secondary institution. Mr. Elias Arredondo, Early College High School Counselor (Kaufer HS) and Mr. Keenan Woods, CBC-Kingsville Site Director, worked in tandem to collaborate on an opportunity to shed light on post-secondary opportunities available within their community. The students took part in a presentation led by Jessica Cavazos, Academic Success Coach and Braden Becknell, Director of Continuing Education, that provided information about the college, academic, career and technology education, and continuing education programs offered at CBC. In addition, the students were able to tour the campus, speak with faculty and staff, and witnessed some in-class interaction between CBC students and instructors. This was an eye-opening experience due to the fact that most of these students were unaware of the opportunities we offer! The site tour concluded with an online survey and students were issued various CBC memorabilia. Initiatives such as these will continue to be explored in efforts to generate more interest for not only our college but also strengthen community ties moving forward. Coastal Bend College, Success Happens Here!
The purpose of the Eagle Scout Service Project is to demonstrate to an Eagle Scout Board of Review that the Eagle Scout candidate has developed an idea, planned tasks to complete the idea, and showed leadership to others to complete the project.

After discussing options for his Eagle Scout project with CBC Dean Mark Secord, A.C. Jones High School student, Kelton C. Keys, a member of Troop 451, decided to take on the task of putting signs on the walking trails. As part of a donation to the Coastal Bend College Foundation, a donor provided funds for scholarships for CBC students. Applicants were required to write an essay on the importance of bees and pollination.

The winning essays would be featured on signs around the walking trail with a photo of a bee near the CBC Pollination Garden. After meeting with members of his troop, Keys developed a plan of action to take on the task at hand.

A list of materials was made which included wood posts, caulk, cement, a post hole digger, and wheelbarrow. After the materials were collected, the team of scouts, headed by Keys, got to work and completed the project.

The journey is not quite done yet for Keys as he will now present his project to the review board and await the findings. We believe there will be an Eagle Scout very soon in Troop 451. Congratulations!
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In our modern times we hear words thrown around so meaninglessly and without true intentions, to the point where words almost become lost as white noise. The old adage of ‘actions speak louder than words’ rings ever more true as we advance through time. Common phrases of people stating that this item or that item is the champion, or our product is worth more than someone else’s, have been so watered down because there is no “skin in the game” or consequence should the item not prove to demonstrate true worth. So what does it really mean to stand by your product? How does one attempt to prove they fully and wholly believe in what they are doing? What consequence do they provide should they fail to meet their claims? Coastal Bend College and the Career and Technical Education Department demonstrate these answers with our employer guarantee. Our guarantee states, “A student that graduates from Coastal Bend College with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) or Certificate in Workforce Education, who is judged by his/her employer to be lacking in workforce job skills identified as exit competencies for his/her specific degree program, will be provided with nine tuition-free credit hours of additional skills training by the college”. (CBC Catalog 2020-21 pg. 81) So what does this mean exactly? CBC believes so firmly in the programs offered and the level of skills demanded of our students, if an employer hires a CBC graduate and is not satisfied with their skill level, CBC will provide up to 9 hours (about 3 courses) for free to the student for the employer. This demonstrates the faith and confidence the college has in the career fields, and the confidence employers should have in hiring CBC graduates. Our students face curriculums designed to push them and their knowledge base to a level they have never achieved before, and enter the workforce as strong contenders for jobs and promotions. The Career and Technical Education division is dedicated in providing quality graduates into the workforce. We know we are not the biggest, which truly isn’t our goal, so we strive to simply, be the best! Until next time...GO COUGARS!
Nursing is the most trusted profession in America but there is a national shortage of registered nurses. Texas is one of the top states hit hardest by the nursing shortage with a projected 57,000 deficits by the year 2032. To become a nurse, one needs to be compassionate, caring, and dedicated. Nursing is a lifestyle, not just a career. At Coastal Bend College (CBC) we are dedicated to providing the education required for students to become safe, competent nurses that are ready to enter the workforce and provide their services to their community. There are two tracks to become a registered nurse through Coastal Bend College: Traditional Professional Nursing program and LVN-RN Bridge Program.

The traditional Professional Nursing Program is a two-year program that leads to an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. The curriculum combines nursing classes with the required academic courses such as English, Math, and Biology courses throughout the two years of study. There is an application process to enroll into the Traditional Professional Nursing program. Students must complete and score at least a 50 on the TEAS exam in order to receive an application. The application must be completed and submitted to the Nursing department along with transcripts from all previous institutions. Once the program has collected all the required information, each student's application is scored by their GPA, score on TEAS exam, completion of academic courses, and experience in the medical field. The applications are then sorted by their score and the top scoring students are selected to be in the program. The Traditional Professional Nursing program accepts applications each June for Fall enrollment.

The LVN-RN Bridge Program is for students who are already LVNs and want to advance their career. The program is a one-year program that also leads to an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. Academic courses must be taken prior to enrolling into the program as the program is very fast paced. The application and selection process are the same as with the Traditional Professional Nursing Program except that a student must score a 70 on the TEAS exam before receiving an application. The LVN-RN Bridge Program accepts and enrolls students each Fall and Spring semester. Both programs are fully approved through the Texas Board of Nurses and once the student has completed the program, they are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam to become licensed as a Registered Nurse.
In a world of community college compliance and the various mandates of state, regional, and federal agencies, this month I will build upon that theme by introducing readers to our academic instructional bible and will explain the important role it serves for colleges across Texas. This catalog of academic courses is known as the Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual and is commonly referred to as the ACGM.

In the simplest of terms, the ACGM is an inventory of courses for all community, state, and technical colleges in Texas that have been approved and qualify for state funding. This is important because all state institutions receive funding based in part on their course offerings and enrollment. If a college offers a course that is not approved, it likely will not receive state funding for that course. The ACGM Advisory Committee provides oversight of this course inventory and has equal representation from public two-year colleges and public universities and meets at least annually to make recommendations to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The ACGM is designed to be a dynamic document with courses periodically being added, deleted, or modified.

The Advisory Committee ensures the course offerings are relevant and provide the necessary rigor. This standardized listing of course offerings is extremely important because it helps maintain a continuity in course offerings between different colleges and universities and ensures the transfer of courses between these institutions. It is critical that a student taking a class at CBC has the same educational experience as a student taking the same class at any other institution of higher education. This concept also applies to the Career and Technical and Allied Health Departments that oversee fields such as welding, nursing, dental hygiene, and cosmetology. For these areas of instruction, there is the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM) that essentially serves the same purpose as the ACGM. A student learning a trade must know the foundational skillset of their targeted occupation, regardless of where they go to school.

Course inventories are just one tool used in preparing a student for a successful academic or workforce experience. These inventories list and define the courses, but it is up to the institution to put them in a coherent, relevant sequence that produces an optimal educational experience. Just like chords on a guitar, a proper sequence will produce a beautiful melody, whereas the wrong sequence is just so much noise. At CBC we like the sound of success, and next time I will focus on the importance of a well-orchestrated degree plan.
The CBC Student Mentorship program provides students an opportunity to assist high school and CBC students to and through college with the mission to improve student access, success, and completion in higher education. The program’s goals and objectives are directly aligned with CBC’s commitment to “delivering superb educational and life-enriching opportunities to students”. This program also allows CBC students to give back to the community and develop leadership skills for life beyond college.

The peer mentors assist with outreach, mentoring, and tutoring activities. Some of the activities provided by the CBC Peer Mentors include:

- Providing information to high school students about higher education (application and financial aid process)
- Assisting at local college outreach events, such as FAFSA Nights or ApplyTexas workshops
- Assisting CBC students with academic tutoring

During the pandemic, student mentors communicated with students virtually and by phone, as constant communication with students is essential. Most recently, peer mentor, Naena Luna, presented to a small group of high school students at the CBC Pleasanton site to discuss the importance of preparing for college while in high school. If you would like more information on the CBC Student Mentorship Program, please contact studentlife@coastalbend.edu.
The next step in your academic journey is right in your own backyard!

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Long before the COVID-19 pandemic made its way to the United States and much less Beeville, Ronald E. Yates, an author, journalist and public speaker defined “hero” in late October 2017, as “someone who voluntarily leaves a point of safety to attempt to save the life of another.” Take a good look at the picture above, this team put their life on the line on the each and every day to help stop the spread of COVID-19 here in own backyard. They are heros!

Pictured above (L) Aaron Puga, ER-LVN, Diego Delgado, ER-LVN, Mike Tyran, ED/ICU Manager for CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital-Beeville, Michelle Rosas, ER-LVN, Cynthia Perez, ER-LVN, Devon Gonzales, ER-LVN (not present).

We’re proud to note all of the ER-LVN nurses mentioned here are proud graduates of CBC.

Coastal Bend College, Success Happens Here!

* as defined by Merriam-Webster