

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As we announced last month, all Spring semester classes have been converted to an online environment and Blinn employees are working remotely through the conclusion of the Spring semester. Additionally, Blinn has scheduled all May Minimester, Summer I, Summer II, and Summer 10-week courses to take place in an online environment.

As you know, the CARES Act provides federal funding to address the economic impact of COVID-19, and portions of the bill specifically address funding for higher education. Blinn is analyzing the requirements of the Act related to the use of these funds and will keep the board updated regarding developments.

To support its communities during the coronavirus pandemic, Blinn's Natural and Physical Sciences, Health Sciences, and Technical and Community Education divisions recently donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to local hospitals and medical clinics.

This donation was coordinated by Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Administration Karen Buck, Dean of Health Sciences Michelle Trubenstein, Dean of Natural and Physical Sciences Dr. Elmer Godeny, and Dean of Technical and Community Education Jay Anderson, and Police Chief John Chancellor provided an officer to assist in the delivery of these supplies.

## **BLINN RANKS NO. 1 IN ACADEMIC TRANSFER**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's latest figures show that Blinn continues to be the state's leading academic transfer institution. Blinn's 45.9% transfer rate once again was the highest in the state, followed by Northeast Lakeview College's 39.2%. The statewide average was 24.1%.

I would like to congratulate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, our academic leadership team, and particularly our faculty for making this achievement possible.

## **NEW AFFORDABILITY DATA**

The Coordinating Board also has updated its affordability data at [CollegeForAllTexans.com](http://CollegeForAllTexans.com). According to the site, out-of-district Blinn students taking 30 credit hours in 2020-21 will save \$4,514, or 44%, in tuition and fees compared to in-state residents at the average Texas public university.

Registration for the May Minimester and the Summer and Fall terms opened to current students on March 30<sup>th</sup> and to all students on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **PROMISING PLACES TO WORK AWARD**

Blinn recently was recognized as one of 2020's most promising places to work in community colleges by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

**Mary Hensley, Ed.D.**  
**Report to the Board of Trustees – April 21, 2020**

The Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges Award recognizes community and technical colleges with exceptional commitments to diversity through best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

Blinn was selected based upon the success of the:

- FutureWorks Academy, a two-semester leadership development program open to all full-time faculty, staff, and administrators;
- mentoring program for new faculty;
- Blinn Navigators program, in which faculty and staff serve as points of contact for students and direct them toward academic and student support resources;
- and its wide array of faculty professional development opportunities.

Blinn previously was named a promising place to work in community colleges in 2017.

## **FACILITIES REPORT**

On the Brenham Campus, the building permit for the science, technology, engineering, and innovation building has been secured and site work has begun. Security fencing has been installed to secure the worksite and to protect nearby trees beside Spencer Stadium.

Planning and design meetings for the P3 student housing project continue and a student housing market study has been completed. This study will be used by Servitas to seek bond monies for the project. This project will consist of two buildings housing 320 and 184 beds. Due to uncertainties associated with the bond market, the 184-bed facility will be constructed first and completed by August 2021. The 320-bed facility is scheduled for occupancy in January 2022.

The contract to install access control on the exterior doors of the Blinn College Park Apartments has been awarded to Madison Construction and the contractor is in the mobilization phase. This project is scheduled for completion in July.

On the Bryan Campus, the cast stone replacement project is approximately 80% complete and remains on schedule for completion in June.

The contract to replace the roof of Building T has been awarded to Lessman Roofing and Sheet Metal and the contractor is in the mobilization phase. This project is scheduled for completion in August.

The contract to maintain existing parking lots and light poles on the Bryan Campus has been awarded to Brazos Paving and the contractor is in the mobilization phase. Construction is scheduled to begin in May and will be completed in August.

At the RELIS Agriculture and Workforce Education Complex, painting, flooring, and fixtures are being installed in the office area while electrical and plumbing trim-out and painting are almost complete in the workforce and agriculture pavilions. Substantial completion of the facility is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, and move-in is scheduled for mid-July.

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The RELIS Phase II academic building contract has been completed and sent to the architect for execution. This project is scheduled for completion in Fall 2022.