Dallas College Retiree Association Newsletter

Fall 2026

From the Association President — Robert Young



Hi again, friends! Welcome back as we start the new 2026-2027 year for the Dallas College Retiree Association. It's time for a fresh start: to celebrate students, meet for our holiday lunch and renew annual memberships — or choose to become lifetime members.

I hope the past few months brought sunshine and travels for you. This year, summer was a difficult time for me and Jeanette as she said good-bye to her sister after a long battle with cancer. (She was misdiagnosed three times.) My message to you is to make sure you select a very good cancer doctor if you may have cancer.

We both spent a month battling COVID. I am back in physical therapy (yes!) while Jeanette, although non-contagious, is very fatigued as she starts month three of dealing with the virus.

On a happier note, my fourth great-grandchild, Hayden, arrived this summer! Born prematurely, she had to stay in the hospital until she gained six pounds. We're so glad she's home now.

My thanks to Don Baynum, who took us to see another beautiful old house. Where does he find all of them? I'm also excited about going back to Maggiano's Little Italy for our Christmas lunch. What a treat!

Although it's several months until Christmas, it's fun to be generous at any time. There are so many wonderful causes that do good. I encourage you to pick one or two and GIVE.

See you soon!

From the Chancellor — Dr. Justin H. Lonon



Greetings!

As a new academic year gets under way, there is an undeniable sense of entry and momentum across Dallas College. From welcoming students back to our campuses to advancing transformative initiatives that will shape our future, this time of year reminds us of the important role that Dallas College plays.

It is an exciting time for our institution, and I am pleased to share a few highlights with you.

We also are continuing to expand opportunities for students through our growing bachelor's degree portfolio. This fall, Dallas College launched its new Bachelor of Applied Science in Management program — a fully online degree designed to provide working adults with a flexible pathway to career advancement. The new program combines the affordability and accessibility that students need with workforce-focused instruction in management, leadership and business skills which employers value. More than 400 students currently are enrolled, and almost 1,000 prospective students have expressed interest. Both numbers demonstrate the strong demand which exists for bachelor's degree options that are relevant, accessible and connected to workforce opportunities.

Recently, the Dallas College Board of Trustees announced its intention to appoint Elizabeth (Libby) Crutcher McCabe to represent District 2; Maria Yolisma Garcia to represent District 4; and Joseph Rodriguez to represent District 6. These accomplished leaders bring extensive experience in education, workforce development, public service and community engagement. Their appointments will ensure strong representation and thoughtful leadership as our college continues to advance student success, workforce development and economic opportunity throughout Dallas County.

We also are grateful for the dedicated service of Trustees Philip Ritter, Monica Lira Bravo and Diana Flores. Their contributions have helped guide Dallas College through a period of remarkable transformation and growth. Their commitment to students, employees and the communities we service has left a lasting impact on our institution.

Another milestone that will have a lasting impact on Dallas College and our region is the advancement of our future downtown campus. Building on the legacy of our historic El Centro Campus, this transformative project will strengthen connections between education, business and our community as it expands opportunities for students in the heart of Dallas.

We recently selected a development group led by Matthews to enter exclusive negotiations and to move this landmark initiative forward.

I also am pleased to share that we have launched a women's flag football program across six of our campuses, which makes us one of the first institutions in Texas to embrace one of the nation's fastest-growing sports. Student-athletes currently are preparing for our inaugural season; competition is set to begin in February 2027. This new program will create additional opportunities for women to compete at the collegiate level as they pursue their educational and career goals.

In addition, Dallas College recently became the first community college in Texas to secure a NIKE-branded athletics partnership through a multi-year agreement with BSN SPORTS. This partnership enhances the student-athlete experience, strengthens recruiting efforts and further elevates the visibility of our athletics programs at the state and national levels. Together, these developments reflect the continued growth and elevation of Dallas College athletics as well as providing our students with exceptional opportunities both on and off the field.

As we look ahead, I am encouraged by the progress we are making across Dallas College and the many opportunities that lie before us. Thank you for continuing to stay connected.

Be well!

DCRA Members Volunteer with CERT

In 2009, Dr. Wright Lassiter, then president of El Centro College, decided to involve all of his administrators in a program called CERT, the City of Dallas Emergency Response Team. The program focused on responding to emergencies, and it was a natural fit for Norm Howden, who previously had some formal disaster management training while he was serving in the U.S. Air Force.



After Howden's first year in the program — along with other El Centro colleagues who did their training with the City of Dallas, the former library director was a CERT instructor for four years and coordinated the first campus response team in the district.

"I think a lot of us were thinking about 9/11 and the fact that we were downtown, next door to the tallest building in the city," said Howden.

"Several deans contributed money and gear for a full cribbing kit (equipment used to support heavy weight or collapsing structures), which I had space to store in the library. I also kept track of college CERT members and coordinated fire drills with facilities, CERT and the police."

Making a difference

In 2014, Lisa Rattan joined the El Centro CERT team after 22 years in the nursing department, when Howden introduced her to the group. "I wanted to be prepared to support my department and campus in the event of an emergency," said Rattan. "The program is about being prepared, supporting others and giving back to the community. And the training was valuable for my department and the broader college community."

EC retiree Rattan, who graduated in May 2014 as a member of the 100th CERT class, worked with campus police to assist with emergency preparedness activities, including fire drill evaluations, active-shooter preparedness and tornado response exercises.

One major event that remains utmost in her mind is the Dallas Police shooting in 2017, which came to a dramatic conclusion inside El Centro. Five Dallas police officers (DPD and DART) died, and two college police officers were wounded. “The event reinforced the importance of being prepared for unexpected emergencies,” recalled Rattan. “This is why CERT is very important: to prepare for the worst possible event.”

Joining CERT

Signing up for CERT starts with a 20-hour program that includes 16 hours in the classroom and four hours participating in a disaster drill. Most of the instruction is fairly hands-on, according to Howden, and members may retake the basic course to refresh their training. Dallas College now has its own CERT program, which is directed and operated under the authority of the Dallas College Police Department.

“We suggest volunteers take four FEMA courses that introduce the use of the Incident Command System which all emergency responders (fire, police and military) use,” said Howden.

“The program the district offers now is designed by the Business Continuity Office, known as the College Emergency Response Team. There are four local online courses that cover basics, such as tactical radio, hazmat, navigation and documentation,” he said. “Throughout the year, we also offer ‘stop the bleed’ and informal ‘compression only’ CPR training.”

“CERT has one requirement for membership: each volunteer must be at least 18 years or older,” said Howden. “We also have trained people with disabilities who can coach others to operate safely and do support tasks during an emergency or a disaster instead of doing the heavy lifting.”

Howden also serves as president of the Friends of Dallas CERT, a non-profit organization that raises funds for the CERT program. He runs the CERT Store, which sells related merchandise; those funds go directly to the Friends of Dallas CERT. For more information, visit www.dallascert.org.

Contributing to Dallas College and beyond

Howden and Rattan both agree on the importance of CERT for Dallas College and beyond. While many retirees have taken the training, fewer continue to serve as they get older. Some DC students have become CERT volunteers as well, and other



employees are welcome to join. In an emergency or a disaster, volunteers need to be trained in order not to become casualties themselves, noted Howden, who remembers responding to tornadoes in Lancaster and Rowlett. “I saw first-hand how devastating the weather can be,” he said. “Helping refugees from Hurricane Harvey at the Dallas Convention Center in 2017 was an eye-opener, seeing people who were still wet and muddy coming off the buses.”

Both Howden and Rattan encourage others to get involved and serve their communities, as well as their campus. “These experiences have made me feel very proud to be part of such an important program,” said Rattan. “I want to continue to do as much as I can to help this community effort.”

ERS Shares Details on Changes for Medicare Retirees

The Employee Retirement System (ERS) of Texas recently announced several changes for fall 2026 enrollment that pertain to Medicare-eligible retirees. Fall enrollment begins on October 26 and ends on November 13; changes that are made will become effective on January 1, 2027. The information below is an abbreviated version of an article published in the fall 2026 newsletter “Your ERS Connection.”

A new dental insurance administrator, Humana, started on September 1, 2026, for the State of Texas Dental Choice Plan and the dental health maintenance organization (DHMO).

Changes in health, dental and vision insurance premiums will increase beginning January 1, 2027. Please note that “the State of Texas will continue to pay 100 percent of the health insurance premiums for eligible retirees. Because of that, many retirees will not feel the increase in health plan premiums.”

Cost increases for premiums include: an 18 percent increase for the HealthSelect Medicare Advantage Plan; an eight percent increase for HealthSelect of Texas plans; a

12.5 percent increase for the State of Texas Dental Choice Plan PPO; a two percent decrease for the DHMO; and a 7.5 percent increase for the State of Texas Vision Plan.

More details are provided in the newsletter mailed by ERS of Texas to retirees, or you can visit www.ers.texas.gov.

DCRA Scholarship Recipients: Academic Goals and Financial Help Will Build Careers

Two Dallas College students, Arsall Bhattha and Mary Moore, recently sent thank-you letters to the association for their 2026 scholarships from DCRA. In this issue, they share why those scholarships mean so much to them. In particular, one of their application essay questions asked both students why they are pursuing an education at Dallas College and how receiving a scholarship would have an impact on them.

They also were asked to explain their academic goals and how a scholarship would help reach them.

Arsall Bhattha

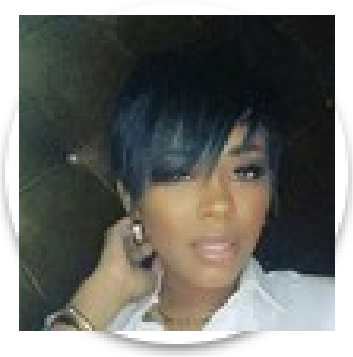


I chose Dallas College because it was feasible and cheaper, to be honest. I did not want my education to burden my family, and I wanted to bear all of the costs on my own. I am pursuing an Associate Degree at Dallas College and hope for a two-year transfer plan to the University of Texas at Austin.

This scholarship would limit my financial pressure and enable me to focus more on studies to achieve my dream of being a CPA. This scholarship can be the means to be a successful accountant. I will try to give my best and serve the community as much as I can.

Mary Moore

I am pursuing my education at Dallas College because it has given me the opportunity to grow academically while still managing real-life responsibilities. Dallas College provides a supportive environment with instructors who truly care about student



success, especially in the nursing program. I am currently working toward my Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), with plans to continue my education and earn my Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN). My goal is to become a registered nurse who provides quality care and makes a positive impact in the community.

Receiving a scholarship would mean more than just financial support; it would give me peace of mind. Nursing school comes with many expenses, including tuition, books, uniforms and clinical supplies. A scholarship would help ease the financial pressure and allow me to focus more on my studies and clinical training instead of worrying about how to cover these costs. With that support, I would be better able to stay focused, motivated and successful throughout my program.

My long-term goal is to use my education to help others and give back to my community through compassionate and ethical nursing care. A scholarship would help me stay on track toward that goal and would be a reminder that others believe in my potential. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to pursue my education at Dallas College, and receiving a scholarship would make a meaningful difference in helping me reach my academic and career goals.

Retiree Roundup: News You Can Use

Save the date and send in your reservation: Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 8, 2026, and send in your reservation for the Holiday Luncheon! *Our menu, a registration form and payment details are included on the last two pages of this newsletter.* DCRA members will once again share the holiday spirit at Maggiano's, North Park Center. Lunch will be served family style, and the menu includes group favorites from previous years. Reservations are required by November 20, 2025. See you there!





Ross Avenue History - DCRA board member and retiree Don Baynham shared information about legendary used-car entrepreneur Gene Goss (known as the "Mayor of Ross Avenue") during the annual Dallas History Conference in January. His presentation, titled "Goss on Ross, the Tradin' Hoss," was based on a paper published in the spring edition of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*.

Please note: Beginning with this newsletter (fall 2026) — which is sent by e-mail and snail mail — we will continue to include contact information for board members and other individuals, plus lists and similar information. However, our DCRA newsletter on the Dallas College website (which the general public can view) will not contain personal contacts.

Thank you: Our thanks to Don Baynham for organizing a tour of the Brown House in Wylie this month. Built by Thomas and Mattie Brown in 1905, the Brown House stayed in the family until the 1930s. After several subsequent owners, it was acquired and restored by the Birmingham Memorial Land Trust, a Wylie charitable organization. It was acquired by the City of Wylie in 2015 and opened to the public. We look forward to more tours with Don.

News Tips: We want to hear from you! We are looking for ideas, suggestions and "News About Us" items to share with members of the DC Retiree Association. Please take a moment to help us make DCRA everything you want it to be. In addition, if you have any information you would like to share in the "Retiree Roundup" column, submit a brief update or photos or both, to Robert Young at ryoung@retiree.dcccd.edu.

Colleagues We Will Miss

We recently have learned about the passing of fellow retirees. These individuals — our friends and colleagues — are remembered for their impact on our lives, the lives of our students and our institution. We express our sympathy to their families and friends. We also extend our condolences to retirees who have lost family members.



Retirees of Dallas College who recently passed away:

Delphina Bedarte, RL, 4/26/26

Dee Brock, EC, 9/23/26

Sanford (Jim) Corvey, MV, 7/6/26 (married to Barbara Corvey, DC Admin retiree)

Ed Dawson, CV, 9/23/26

Thomas Dodge, MV, 9/10/26

Michael (Mike) Garza, BH, 8/28/26

Peter Irwin, RL, 7/8/2026

Jesse Jones, RL, 2/3/26

Genell Kelso, EC, 3/23/25

Anita Landenburger, EC/BC, 4/11/26

Frances Whatley, EF, 9/24/26

Family losses for DC retirees:

Norma Lopez, CV, lost her mother on 4/29/26

Jan (Bryant) Rogerson, CV, lost her husband, Jim, on 9/15/26

Barbara Field, EC, lost her daughter, Angie Field Roihna, on 9/10/26

Other long-time employees

Oscar Lopez, RC/EC/BH, 5/21/26

Recent Dallas College Retirees

Congratulations to all recent retirees from the Dallas College Retiree Association! We are sharing their names and hope our members will encourage them to join.

July 2026

Karen Lazarz, NL

Billy Robinson, EC

August 2026

Amanda Anantathat, EF

Peter Lamborghini, EF

Robert Flicker, EF

Elizabeth Martin, EC

Wende Galloway, EC

A. Massey, EF

Laurel Gerald, NL

Robert Mims, RL

Denise Griffin, NL

Paula Rattler, CV

Daryl Hobson, RL

Russell Simmons, MV

Howard Hughes, EF

Debra Turner, DC Admin

Rodney Jackson, MV

Cassandra Webb, NL

Lilia Jarquin de Guzman, NL

Maria Ybarra, EF

September 2026

Kenneth Dunson, RL

Mary Peacock, RL

George Marquez, BP

Jan Bryant Rogerson, CV

Jaime Nino, MV

Lee Scott, RL

It’s Time to Join or Renew Your Membership (Annual)

Membership and Contact Form

All 2026 annual memberships expire on December 31. If you are not on the Lifetime member list; if you are an annual dues-paying member and have not paid your 2026 dues; or if you have not yet joined the DC Retiree Association, please join now as a lifetime or 2027 annual member. You can use the membership form below or join online on the Dallas College website. You can use this form to make a donation, too.

To join online, go to the Retiree Association website at https://www.dallascollege.edu/employees/retirees/. Complete the form and submit your application. In addition to submitting the application online, please pay your membership fee: $10 for annual membership or $100 for lifetime membership. You may pay by check or online using Zelle.

If you wish to write a check, make it out to Dallas College Retiree Association; address it to **Robert Gonzales, DCRA Treasurer, 7055 LaVista Dr., Dallas TX 75214**. OR pay with **Zelle at 214-868-3368**.

Today’s Date: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____State: _____ Zip:_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Location you retired from: _____

- Please note: If you do **NOT** want your phone number and/or email address to appear in the retirees directory, please indicate by placing a √ mark **HERE**: ____.
- Annual Membership Dues: $10 **OR**
- Lifetime Membership Dues: $100
- Additional Scholarship Donation: $ _____
- TOTAL Enclosed $_____

Holiday Luncheon Details and Reservation Form

Have a holly, jolly time during the DC Retiree Association's Holiday Luncheon and business meeting! The menu will feature several popular options as we return to Maggiano's Little Italy, North Park Center, based on member feedback. Enjoy choosing from several specified options for lunch. Share memories with friends and colleagues, and perhaps win a door prize! (Thanks to Rosie Steffen and Georgia Francis for coordinating this event.)

When: Tuesday, December 8, 2026; **reservation deadline**: November 20.

Times: Check-in/chat, 11 to 11:30 a.m.; lunch/meeting: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Maggiano's Little Italy, North Park Center.

Cost: $40 per person; guests are welcome.

Menu (family style):

First Course: Maggiano's Salad;

Second Course: Four-cheese ravioli, with pesto Alfredo sauce and parmesan cream;

Third Course: "The Grand" chicken parmesan;

Bread: Freshly-baked ciabatta rolls;

Desserts: Apple crostada with vanilla ice cream;

Drinks: Iced and hot tea, freshly-brewed coffee (regular and decaf), sodas.

(A credit card bar will be available in the dining room for persons who wish to purchase an alcoholic beverage.)

Parking: Ample free parking or complimentary valet service is available. Valet parking staff will use your cell phone (if you have one) instead of providing a parking ticket.

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RESERVATION FORM

Fall/Holiday Luncheon and Meeting

Event date: Tuesday, December 8, 2026; Maggiano's, North Park Center

Reservation deadline: November 20, 2026

Make checks payable to Dallas College Retiree Association; mail to Robert Gonzalez, DCRA Treasurer, 7055 LaVista Dr., Dallas TX 75214

OR pay using Zelle: 214-868-3368.

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS:_____

HOME ADDRESS:_____

GUEST NAME(S):_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: ____ (no. of persons) x $40 (per person) =

Total $ _____

Welcome back for the 2026-2027 school year!