

Dallas County Community College District

Commit to Complete
Spring 2012



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Why complete college?

- Low community college graduation rates affect lifetime earnings for students. Cutting the drop-out rate in half would generate \$30 billion more in lifetime incomes for 160,000 new graduates.
- Low community college graduation rates also directly affect the quality of our workforce and the resources that are available to state government. Cutting the dropout rate by half would provide an additional \$5.3 billion in taxpayer revenues to state governments.

Source: American Enterprise Institute, April 2012



Numbers tell the story

- In 2009, the White House set a national goal that more than half of all American adults should hold a college credential by 2020.
- In 2010, the Lumina Foundation reported that 38.3 percent of adults age 25 to 64 had earned either a two- or four-year degree, up only slightly from 2008 and 2009.
- The rate for young adults, ages 25 to 34 was 39.3 percent in 2010, again up only slightly from the two previous years, according to Lumina.
- If the nation's higher education institutions continue to graduate students at the current rate, only 47 percent of American adults will hold degrees or certificates by 2025.



Take a stand, make a commitment

- DCCCD is partnering with four other community college systems in Texas in a collaborative effort called Completion by Design to significantly increase completion rates for low-income students under age 26.
- Lone Star College is the managing partner for that \$34.8 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Cedar Valley College is leading the Completion by Design effort among DCCCD's campuses.
- DCCCD's goal is to significantly improve certificate and degree completion rates for more than 80,000 students by 2015.



We commit

- In fall 2011, two DCCCD colleges held special events for students, asking them to take a stand and make a commitment to complete their degrees or certificates.
- In spring 2012, our colleges shared that message and invited students to take action. They signed on to meet that goal.



Cedar Valley: Commit to College

- On March 21, Cedar Valley College held “Commit to College” activities outside in the courtyard.
- More than 550 students from Cedar Valley College, Cedar Hill Collegiate High School and the Kathlyn Joy Gilliam Collegiate Academy participated. They signed individual certificates and banners in the college courtyard.



CVC students are committed



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Eastfield College: Agree to Degree

- From March 20-22, Eastfield College involved students in several signing ceremonies both in person and online.
- In the spirit of completion, more than 1,000 EFC students signed certificates, promising to finish their degrees and certificates. Staff members and other students have volunteered to help encourage those signees to reach their academic goals.



EFC Harvesters: Signing it!



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Mountain View College: I Commit Day

- On March 22, Mountain View College students said “I commit” to completing college. (Activities)
- On March 29, completion activities were held at MVC’s Trinidad “Trini” Garza Early College High School. Approximately 100 high school seniors – with their parents on hand – signed “Committed to Completing” pledges. DCCCD Trustee Wesley Jameson attended, and the pledges from that event are on display in MVC’s Treetop Gallery until a permanent exhibit is created.



MVC: Sign on, move up



**PHI THETA KAPPA
OMEGA OMEGA CHAPTER
PRESENTS:**

Commit Day!

MARCH 22, 2012 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

North Lake College: Commit to Complete

- North Lake College Blazers signed on to complete their degrees and certificates during a “Commit to Complete” day filled with educational activities on March 27.
- Students signed a completion challenge. They also attended workshops that explored study skills, time management, majors, campus resources and the benefits of earning an associate degree. Fellow students talked to them about their fast tracks to success, and career services specialists shared tips about finding jobs and building future careers.



NLC: Blazing a trail



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Richland College: Commitment to Completion

- On March 30, Richland College held a “Commitment to Complete” rally outdoors. The lunchtime activity included a speaker, pledge signing, banner signing, balloons, refreshments and a visit from the Thunderduck mascot.
- More than 200 Thunderducks signed pledges to finish their degrees or certificates.



Thunderducks take the plunge!



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

El Centro College: Commit to Complete

- Students at El Centro College, with raised hands and poised pens, pledged to complete college during activities held April 2 in the Student Center.
- Administrators, ECC's Student Government Association and several organizations participated in the special event, which featured food, fun and an opportunity to make a commitment to education and college degree or certificate completion.



El Centro students: I will finish



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

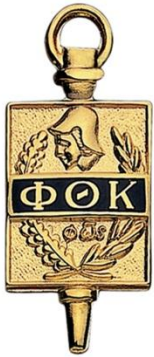
Brookhaven College: C4

- Members of the Alpha Delta Pi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa adopted the Community College Completion Challenge (C4) as a five-year project. They held multiple meetings, events and outreach efforts to encourage other students to finish their degrees and certificates.
- PTK members estimate more than 1,200 students participated in signing events last fall, and other programs such as Music and Coffee Night and a Welcome Back Party promoted C4.
- A C4 advising event this spring was held during registration and will be repeated for the summer and fall 2012 semesters.



Brookhaven College PTK

Thanks to members of PTK's Alpha Delta Pi chapter who helped with Brookhaven's C4 projects this year!



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY



Dallas County
Community College District

IT ALL BEGINS HERE.

Thanks for a job well done!

- Congratulations and thanks to all of the student chapter members of Phi Theta Kappa at Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland colleges for organizing DCCCD's completion events and for committing their time to our students' success.
- Thanks also to faculty, staff and administrators who assisted with these events and who work every day to help students succeed.

