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PRESS RELEASE

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Cisco College Students Named to 2018 All Texas Academic Team

Cisco, Texas (April 23, 2018) – Cisco College is pleased to announce that three students, Jennifer Dirickson, Vicki Bill and Michael Hoehner, have been named to the 2018 All Texas Academic Team.

Each year, approximately 100 outstanding community college students are selected from the 50 community college districts in Texas to be honored as members of the All Texas Academic Team. Members of the team represent the best and brightest students who excel in academics, leadership, and service.

Competing colleges nominate up to two students, with nominations reviewed by the international honor society for two-year colleges---Phi Theta Kappa. According to the Phi Theta Kappa web site, the honor society, two-year college presidents, and community college state associations co-sponsor All-State Academic Team recognition programs in 32 states. All-State recognition programs are most often held in a state's capital with legislators, education leaders, and corporate leaders attending. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community, according to the honor society web site.

The University of Texas System with The Texas Association of Community Colleges recently honored these students during a medallion ceremony at the University of Texas at San Antonio campus on Friday, March 30, 2018. At the ceremony, the winners received a certificate and medallion.

Vicki Bill, a Child Development major, never envisioned herself as a college graduate. “Through my journey at Cisco College, I have gained a sense of self-worth and courage that I had buried away so many years ago.” She has been a valued employee at Comanche ISD for fifteen years, working with students who need extra help in reading.

Working with young children came naturally for Elementary Education major Jennifer Dirickson. She directs one of the school’s computer labs and has collaborated with publishers concerning curricular suggestions.

According to Mrs. Dirickson, “the Region 14 Education Services program with Cisco College has given me the flexibility to continue working at the school, in addition to pursuing my education.”

Comanche Elementary principal Curtis Stahnke “appreciates the commitment and willingness of these women to set goals and is very proud of the initiative they’ve taken.” Both are full time employees, dedicated family members, volunteers, and college students. Stahnke remarked that “he can’t wait to hire the students as certified teachers.”

The Region 14 Education Services Center, in collaboration with Cisco College, offers an opportunity for educational aides to earn an Associate's Degree in Child Development while continuing to work. Students receive a tuition discount and also benefit from the lasting and supportive relationships with co-workers and classmates that they form during the program.

These students will be recognized again for their outstanding achievement during the upcoming Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony, scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Foyer of the Abilene Campus.

For additional information about the upcoming ceremony or the award recipients contact Tom Bell or Sheron Caton, advisors to the Alpha Gamma Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at ptk@cisco.edu.

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Pictured From Left: Jennifer Dirickson and Vicki Bill at the 2018 All Texas Academic Team Medallion Ceremony in San Antonio on Friday, March 30th.