



Contact: Colton Wedeking - Director of Marketing & Public Relations

Phone: 325-442-5013

Email: colton.wedeking@cisco.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cisco College Professor Beth Jackson Nominated and Selected to Participate in 2023-2024 Texas Success Center Leadership Academy

Abilene / Cisco, Texas - May 1, 2023 – The Texas Success Center announced the first cohort of the Texas Leadership Academy for Student Success. This leadership development program is designed to provide mid-level community college faculty and staff with the critical skills and knowledge to improve student outcomes.

Cisco College Mathematics Chair and Professor, Beth Jackson was nominated by Cisco College President, Dr. Thad J. Anglin and selected to participate in the 2023-24 Texas Success Center Leadership Academy.

“I am excited and honored to be selected as a Leadership Fellow in the first cohort for the Texas Success Center Leadership Academy,” said Jackson. “I am committed to the mission of Cisco College and student success, and hope to apply what I learn to promote positive outcomes for our students and the surrounding community.”

Nationally, community colleges often struggle to attract and retain the talented leaders they need to implement evidence-based reforms that help more students succeed. This project, which is made possible by generous funding from the Ascendium Education Group, the ECMC Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation, aims to address this challenge by strengthening the pipeline of leaders within colleges.

Texas is joining New York and Michigan in this project and will lead two cohorts of mid-level practitioners through the year-long curriculum. The first cohort of the Texas Leadership Academy for Student Success is comprised of 40 faculty and staff from 22 community colleges.

"The Texas Leadership Academy is a crucial investment in the future of Texas as it prepares community college leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to enhance student success and support workforce development across the state," said Dr. Cynthia Ferrell, Executive Director of the Texas Success Center. "We appreciate the philanthropic support from our education partners at Ascendium, ECMC and the Kresge Foundation for developing a program that will pay dividends for generations to come."

The National Center for Inquiry & Improvement is leading this project with colleagues at the Aspen College Excellence Program and the Success Center for Ohio's Community Colleges. The curriculum for this project draws on Aspen's Curriculum for Community College Excellence and includes the following content sessions:

- The Essential Roles of Leadership in Student Success
- Keeping Students' End Goals in Mind
- The Student Experience
- Leadership Traits to Drive Change
- Managing and Advancing Institutional Change
- Effective External Partnerships & the Leadership Journey

The project partners will support the selected states as they replicate Ohio's successful program over the next three years.

"Many community colleges are working to improve student success, but one of the most common disruptions to their reform efforts is the transition of critical staff members with no one ready to replace them," said Chris Baldwin, Senior Fellow at the National Center for Inquiry & Improvement. "The Leadership Academy for Student Success is designed to help colleges build a bench of mid-level employees who are adequately prepared to step into vacated leadership roles."

###

About Cisco College

Since first admitting students in 1940, Cisco College has offered programs and activities intended to encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves.

As a member of the Texas state system of publicly supported institutions of higher education, Cisco College maintains an open-door admissions policy and provides an array of learning, skill development and life experiences to motivate and challenge students. Classes are offered at two primary locations, Cisco and Abilene, in addition to several other off-campus sites. The College strives to maintain a student/faculty ratio which facilitates close interaction between faculty and students.

Cisco College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate level degrees.