

THE WRANGLER EXPRESS



A PUBLICATION OF THE MEDIA CLUB, CISCO COLLEGE * CAMPUSES IN CISCO, TEXAS, AND ABILENE, TEXAS * VOLUME 6 * APRIL 26, 2018

Allied Health Programs Fill Community Needs

SURGICAL TECHNICIAN

Jennifer Mazey,
CST, AAS

is program director for Surgical Technology, a one-year program which prepares for a job assisting in an operating room.

Story, p. 5.



MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Angelia Torrez,
BSN, AAS

is Medical Assistant program director. Her department offers three levels of certification for working in doctors' offices.

Story, p. 3.



RESPIRATORY THERAPIST

Tracy Talley,
M.Ed, BSRC, RRT,
RCP

is a registered respiratory therapist and Director of Clinical Training at Cisco College. CC's two-year program prepares for a wide variety of jobs in respiratory therapy.

Story, p. 8.



PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Kelly Meyer,
M.Ed, BS

is a certified pharmacy technician and directs the Pharmacy Technology program at Cisco College. This is a 9-month program that prepares for a job at a hospital pharmacy or a retail pharmacy.

Story, p. 4.



Cisco College Also Offers Two Nursing Programs



The **LVN Program** is a one-year program preparing a person to become a licensed vocational nurse.

Story, pp. 6 and 9.

The **RN Transition** program takes one year and is offered to people who are LVNs. Upon successful completion, graduates have a guaranteed path to take two semesters online with Texas Tech to earn their BSN. Story, p. 9.





IAN CLYDE

From the Editor

Welcome back to *The Wrangler Express*! My name is Ian Clyde. I only recently hopped onto *The Wrangler Express* train, but it gives me extreme joy to introduce this issue, which focuses on meeting the needs of the community.

I was born and raised underneath the coconut palms of Deerfield Beach, Florida, and while I miss home dearly, Texas has become a second home. Growing up, I would never have dreamed of leaving Florida, but it only shows that as we grow older things change, we change, and with these changes we must adapt to survive. This is my final semester at Cisco College, and while I am at the end of a journey, another one begins anew.

Graduating from Cisco College and transferring to the University of Texas at Dallas brings back to me a memory of my eighth-grade year at Deerfield Beach Middle School. My history teacher Mrs. Stahl, a remarkable woman who brought her lessons to life and brought enjoyment to all of her students, was a teacher to be reckoned with. I remember every day when we would walk into class, she would always have the most random music playing, and it would always refer to our lesson for the day. When we learned the history of Florida and the Caribbean islands, she would play Bob Marley and music from the islands of Haiti and Jamaica while she danced and sang. As we learned about colonial America she played old battle marches and even came dressed in a colonial era dress. Another lesson she taught us was World War II and while learning about that point in time, she came into the class one day and was dressed in an army uniform playing the Andrew Sisters' song "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

The most important lesson she taught us came from a Semisonic song called "Closing Time." In part of their lyrics it says, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." It was a lesson from the heart, one to teach us not to be afraid of change or the ending of a period of time in our lives. This lesson rings true more today than it ever has before.

With that I would like to personally congratulate every student graduating this semester. All of us have our own paths we must take in life, but always remember this: go far in your dreams and become the person you know you can be. As each year passes, time seems to move faster. Don't let the hardships that everyone must go through hinder you on your path to achieve your goals. Learn from the obstacles, and harness the lessons and the pain to push you further. In the end, be proud of this achievement of graduation, and all the achievements I hope you gain in your future endeavors.



ABILENE EDUCATION CENTER
The Abilene campus of Cisco College

We Proudly Present Special Issue on CC's Health Sciences

Who knew what was going on on the second floor of the above beautiful building in Abilene known as the Abilene Education Center, the Abilene campus of Cisco College? The staff of this newspaper certainly didn't. And we bet a great many other faculty, students, and citizens of Abilene, Cisco, and the surrounding areas didn't know either.

When we began doing a story on the Allied Health Programs (Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Surgical Technician, and Respiratory Therapist), we had no idea of the intense amount of training and the wide range of facilities available. Allied Health is typically the name for non-nursing.

But when we saw the Nursing Program facilities, we had to include that in our report, too. Allied Health + Nursing Programs = Health Sciences at Cisco College. We hope you enjoy learning what it's all about.

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Medical Assistant Courses Lead to Fast Jobs

The Medical Assistant program at Cisco College is directed by Angelia Torrez.

She teaches students to become medical assistants. “They can work in doctors’ offices, chiropractic offices, optometrists’ offices, almost anywhere,” she said.

The program has three levels. The Level 1 certificate is for students who want to work in the administrative front or at the practical back of a clinic, while a Level 2 certificate allows them to do both. “The third level is the associate’s degree,” which takes five semesters, she said.

“A lot of my students, they may go back later, but their big thing is to get through and get a job now,” she said. “I have single moms, military, and older students who are coming back to school.”

In the program, students learn how to take a patient’s vital signs, such as blood pressure; they learn about medications and drawing blood and giving injections, “and in a couple of places we have them to where they actually start IV’s.”

She said a medical assistant is a step down from a nurse, but “when-ever I have students come to me and they are not really sure what to do, but they know they want to be in the medical field, the first thing I ask them is: ‘What hours do you want?

My students . . . their big thing is to get through and get a job now.’



ANGELIA TORREZ, BS, AAS
Medical Assistant Program Chief-

What days do you want to work? And do you want to work holidays and weekends?”

“Because a lot of times, if they are new mothers, they don’t want to leave their children for 3 or 12-hour shifts,” she said. “So it really varies in their reasons why.”

Torrez herself is a product of Cisco College medical training. She went through the Pharmacy Tech program, then the Medical Assistant program, and then obtained her associate’s degree in vocational nursing. She then completed her Bachelor in Science

and Nursing (BSN) degree online through Texas Tech. “I knew I wanted to be a nurse since I was 13,” she said.

She pointed out that students who opt to continue to the BSN from Cisco College now have a “straight walkway” to the Texas Tech program through an agreement signed by the two institutions.

Torrez, a native of Strawn, Texas, has been teaching at Cisco College for 12 years. “I started out as an adjunct for six years, carrying stuff in the back of my car, and taking

classes and working two other jobs,” she said. “I like to stay busy. If you like to be busy but helping people at the same time, then the medical field is the way to go.”

She is proud of the “personable touch” that the Cisco faculty offers to their students. She said she actually puts her personal phone number on all of her syllabi so students can text her if they have a problem.

“I have a young lady, her food stamps didn’t go through,” Torrez said. “A student might say, ‘I’m having a hard time, my kid hasn’t eaten since this morning, and I won’t have my food stamps till Monday. Can you help me?’” Torrez said she is “glad that they feel comfortable enough to text me.”

She knows that for some students, “It’s hard. It’s really hard. They bring their kids to class sometimes because they may not have a babysitter. I mean, I don’t let them bring them in every week; don’t get me wrong. You have to plan for college. And there’s always something that comes up.

“But there’s always something too, that I don’t want you to miss an exam just because your babysitter’s got the flu. Bring your kids. Come on.”

Persons interested in the Medical Assistant program can receive application information by checking the Cisco College website.

3 Cisco College Students Named to All-Academic Team

Three Cisco College students have been named to the 2018 All Texas Academic Team.

They are Jennifer Dirickson, Vicki Bill, and Michael Hoehner.

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.



Vicki Bill



Jennifer Dirickson



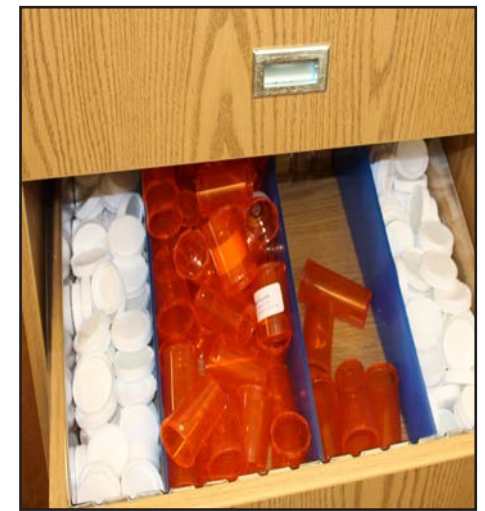
Michael Hoehner



Chemicals are fake.



Students learn to check out customers.



Empty prescription bottles.

9-Month Program Prepares for Pharmacy Job

One of the four Allied Health programs at Cisco College is Pharmacy Technology. Its program director is Kelly Meyer, a certified/registered pharmacy technician who holds a bachelor of science degree in biology/chemistry and a master's of education degree.

She explained that it takes nine months for students in her program to earn a Level 2 certificate as a Pharmacy Technician.

"Once students finish, once they pass their national exams, they are qualified to work at any pharmacy," she said. "The program is accredited by the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists (ASHP) and is an approved program to teach sterile admixture compounding by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) and the Pharma-

cy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)."

As part of the program, students must do two clinical practices: one at a hospital, and one at a retail pharmacy.

The students have completed clinicals with pharmacies in Eastland, Cisco, Breckenridge, Albany, Sweetwater, Anson – "everywhere," Meyer said. "We try to meet the community where the students are from, so they don't have to drive all the way back to Abilene to do a clinical. We want to make it easier on them to get their hours."

She added, "Most of the small clinical sites, we ask them, would you mind signing a contract with our school? Because we have a student who lives here. And they're like 'Yeah!' For one, it means free help for them; and two, if they are looking to hire, they get to train the student the way they want



KELLY MEYER, BS, M.ED
Pharmacy Tech Director
them."

"If the student lives in a small town, I'll drive to the pharmacy and try to get them in there," Meyer said. "A lot of times when they do their clinicals, they end up getting hired."

The pharmacy lab at Cisco College, where students practice, looks like a real pharmacy, with shelves of medications, IVs, and compounding materials. Although the medications are fake, they look real. Students even learn to mix chemo for oncology patients.

"In class, you learn the proper technique of doing everything," Meyer said. "And then when you get into the clinical portion in the real world, you're not having to learn that; you already know that aspect of it."

The pharmacy technician program prepares students for entry-level positions in either a hospital or retail setting.

Persons interested in the Pharmacy Tech program should check for application details on the college's website.



Keeping computer records.



Prescriptions awaiting pickup.



Chemotherapy chemicals.

Surgical Technicians Work Behind the Scenes

Surgical Technology is a one-year program at Cisco College, directed by Jennifer Mazey.

A surgical technician assists surgeons in an operating room. "We assist the surgeon. We pass instruments. We maintain sterility of all the surgical cases, so we reduce infection," Mazey said. "We're kind of behind-the-scenes patient care. We're right there, but the patient doesn't realize it because they're asleep."

A surgical team is made up of the surgeon, the surgical tech, the OR nurse, and the anesthesiologist.

After a year of training at Cisco College, students sit for a certification exam the week of graduation, and then they are ready to obtain employment in the field.

A native of Albuquerque who grew up in Lubbock, Mazey was a surgical tech herself before she started teaching in 2010, with a combination of 12 years of experience, scrubbing and teaching. She taught at South Plains in Lubbock for two years, and then worked at Texas Health Resources in the metroplex for two years. She then taught at Concord for two years before joining Cisco College in 2015 as program director of Surgical Technology.

Transitioning from working in the field to teaching was not a big change, she said, "because when you're in the field, you're still precepting students, so for me it transitioned from showing them hands on on a live person, to pre-



**JENNIFER MAZEY, CST, AAS
Surgical Tech Director**

paring them to go into the OR with live people. I'm still teaching them the same information; I'm just doing it without real people."

Instruction consists of classroom, lab, and actual clinical experiences in hospitals. "We have our clinicals out of Abilene Regional and Hendrick Medical Center, and we've just added Eastland Memorial Hospital," Mazey said.

The lab at the Abilene campus where students practice looks like an actual operating room. "We do mock surgeries in here, throughout the year. Open abdomen," Mazey said.

"We teach the students how to scrub



Training facilities at Cisco College include a mock operating theater and simulated open-abdomen surgeries.

in. Hand washes are 7 to 10 minutes long. I have to teach them how to scrub in," she said. "If they contaminate, I spray them with the Asepto. I'll squirt them with this to remind them that you have to keep your hands in a certain position."

A surgical mannequin is attached to a circuit. "We have the ability to do laparoscopic surgery in here so they can practice," she said. She sometimes hides jelly beans or gummy bears in the mannequin's open cavity, "and they have to use the laparoscopic graspers to get them out."

Mazey became interested in surgical

technology as a child, watching the popular "Nip / Tuck" television drama series. "I thought, that looks so easy. And it wasn't. But I did fall in love with it. It looked like so much fun," she said. "It's fast-paced."

Originally she wanted to do Xray technology, but "I spent a summer doing MRI's and was so bored. I wanted to be more hands-on."

People who are interested in applying to the Surgical Technology program should check the college's website for application procedures. Applications are accepted every year until May 1.



Preparing tools



**Simulated
open
abdomen**



Scrub sink



Maintaining sterility of tools



Automated mannequin

LVN Students Dedicated to Helping Patients



CHELSEE PHILLIPS
LVN student from
Abilene

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I chose nursing because I'm very passionate about the babies. That's what I wanted – to be a NICU nurse when I grow up. That's why I chose nursing. I chose Cisco College because it's not as large as other campuses around town. You can get more one-on-one care with the instructors. I feel like they care more about how well you do. They're willing to help a lot here. Coming to Cisco College for nursing was probably one of the better choices I've made.  
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At left, first-semester LVN instructor Kindra Elliott advises students, continuing from left, Wesley Cruddas of Buffalo Gap, Chelsee Phillips of Abilene, Darren Li of Taiwan, and Drew Smith of Abilene.

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I definitely chose this because it was a smaller-knit, smaller campus, and more one-on-one with the teachers. And I've been a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) for years, and this is my calling. I want to help people.  
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DREW SMITH
LVN student from Abilene



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I chose this program definitely for cost, and it was very cost effective, but also for the teachers and how amazing that they work with the students. But the reason that I chose nursing is for the fact that I wanted to help people, but I wanted to help them on a more personal basis. And so I thought this would be the right choice for me. To be able to help people with the things that they can't do, and possibly save a life or two.  
~~~~~

WESLEY CRUDDAS
LVN student from Buffalo Gap



~~~~~  
The reason I chose nursing is because I love taking care of patients, and I also like to see their smiling faces after I take good care of them. I think that's the main goal, to make them happy.  
~~~~~

DARREN LI
LVN student from Taiwan

*Nursing
story,
p. 9*



Wesley Cruddas and Marlene Ruppert, Simulation Skills Lab Coordinator, insert a breathing tube into a mannequin.

41 Wins! 18-6 in Conference!!



Photo by Linda Spetter

Anthony Dominguez #16 exemplifies Wrangler Team Spirit after the team won Game 2 against McLennan College, 6-3.

20th in National Rankings but they beat #5-Ranked McLennan

**We love our Wranglers!!
All of 'em! And we love
Head Coach David White,
Coach Mason Lucas
and Coach Kirk Walker!!**

UPCOMING GAMES (AT PRESSTIME)

4/25 Weatherford College at Cisco, 1 p.m.
(two games)

4/28 Weatherford College at Weatherford 1 p.m.
(two games)

5/2 Vernon College at Vernon, 1 p.m.
(two games)

5/5 Vernon College at Cisco, 1 p.m.
(two games)

**See you at REGIONALS!
May 11-15 in Grand Prairie**

Prickett Gains 600th Career Win

It was only hours later after the Lady Wranglers defeated Ranger College on April 18 in two games, 10-9 and 10-2, that Coach Joel Prickett realized he had attained his 600th career win. Congratulations, Coach Prickett!



#25 Vanessa Escamilla gets a hit for the Lady Wranglers softball team.



After winning double-header, winners gather around Coach Prickett on the field for talk.

Respiratory Techs Make Critical Difference

Respiratory Therapy is one of the Allied Health programs offered at Cisco College. Tracy Talley, Director of Clinical Education at the college, is a registered respiratory therapist with a bachelor's degree in respiratory care and a master's degree in education.

"Respiratory is a specialty," she said. "In respiratory, I could work in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) one day with premature babies, and then the next day I could work in the trauma center, and the following day I could work in the ICU."

"You have many hats," she said. "You have to be able to work with babies all the way up to adults; children with asthma. In ICU we deal with the open-heart patients; people who have catheterizations; people who have had repairs of the heart done. We deal with people on life support. We deal with all the emergencies. So when you're in the hospital and you hear 'Code Blue, Rapid Response Team,' that's respiratory."

Cisco College offers an Associate Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Care in a two-year program, beginning in August and finishing in August.

About halfway through the first semester in the fall, a student begins clinical practice. "And you will do clinicals throughout the whole program," Talley said.

"Our main clinical site is Hendrick Medical Center, just because that's where the program originated," she said. "And we go to Rolling Plains Hospital in Sweetwater," and also to Brownwood Regional Medical Center in Brownwood. Students also travel to



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*'You have people on life support who are scared, and . . . with the courses that we give, you can explain exactly what is happening with their lungs, and how and why we're doing the things that we're doing, and how we can improve.'*  
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TRACY TALLEY, M.Ed, BSRC, RRT, RCP
Director of Clinical Training at Cisco College

Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth to do rotations there.

Respiratory therapists also do home care, so students will learn how to monitor medical equipment, such as CPAPs, in homes.

Talley knew from the age of 8 that she wanted to become a respiratory therapist. "I have a long history of asthma; I was in the hospital a lot when I was little," she said. "I have a cousin who is a respiratory therapist also. And I remember her and the other RT's coming in who were taking care of me, and how that care was different."

"They had more time to spend with me. They had more of a compassionate care side. They were always there to answer my questions and to calm me down when I had an asthma attack."

Talley worked fulltime as an RT at Hendrick for six years and started teaching classes at the hospital before coming to Cisco College three years ago.

The one thing she misses about practicing as a therapist is "the stories

that people have to tell, getting to know them on a more personal level," she said.

"You have people on life support who are scared, and they need just a person to sit there and say, 'Hey! It's okay! I'm here for you,' and talking to them like they're human. You have that ability. Because you can explain, with the courses that we give, you can explain exactly what is happening with their lungs, and how and why we're doing the things that we're doing, and how we can improve."

She said that respiratory therapy is a job that is "fast-paced, keeps you thinking and challenged, as well as a way to provide good one-on-one care, get to know people – that is the coolest part to me."

Students in Cisco College's RT program start putting in applications for jobs at hospitals while still in the program. She pointed out that many hospitals are now pushing employees to have a bachelor's degree, "so they will let you in upon graduation with your

intent of obtaining a bachelor's degree" in the future.

Cisco College has affiliation agreements in respiratory therapy with two institutions: Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, and Texas Tech University. This means that Cisco College graduates in respiratory therapy have an automatic "in" to these schools if they decide to continue their education towards a bachelor's degree.

She also pointed out that respiratory therapy, after the bachelor's degree, can lead on to jobs like physician's assistant, or RN, or certifications like asthma educator, COPD educator, registered pulmonary function therapist, or specialties in critical care, or even becoming an assistant to a pulmonologist.

"You can fly, like on a care flight team. You can sign contracts and travel all over the world. You can sign six-month contracts at a time for three days a week."

Persons interested in applying can find information about application procedures on the college's website.



Maricela Medina, left, of Abilene, Roji Rai of Nepal, and Aja Johnson of Georgia are introduced to a ventilator for life support in a respiratory therapy class at Cisco College.

Learning about a high-frequency ventilator for premature infants are, from left, Makenzie Peoples of Abilene, Tamlyn Keller of Albany, Linsey Ratliff of Abilene, and Chasity Maxwell of Hawley.



One of Marvella Starlin's jobs is Chair of the Division of Allied Health Programs.

Starlin's other job is Director of Nursing Programs. She shown here with RN nursing students, from left, Craig Danz of Weatherford, Cliff Harvell of Graham, and Codye Burum of Abilene.



Starlin Heads All Medical Programs at CC

The Health Sciences programs at Cisco College have two divisions. One is the Allied Health Program, consisting of programs for Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician, Surgical Technician, and Respiratory Therapist. The other division is the Nursing Programs, consisting of a Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program, and an LVN-to-RN transition program.

One person, Marvella Starlin, is in charge of both of these divisions. She is Division Chair over Allied Health, as well as Director of Nursing Programs.

To enter the LVN program, a person must be a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant). "We offer the CNA program here," Starlin said. "It's a five-week program, and we start one of those every six weeks. A new class starts."

"Then, when the students are done with that, they can apply to come to our LVN program," she said. The LVN program admits students three times a year, in January, May, and August. "Once they're done with our LVN program, which is a yearlong program, they can apply to come into our RN program. But they must be an LVN to come into our RN program."

The RN program is also a yearlong program, starting in August and ending in August. However, in January of next year, an evening RN class will be started. "So we'll have the day August class going, and starting in January, we'll have an evening RN class, which



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*'Every one of our students is a living person, and we treat them that way. We want every one of them to succeed. And that's what we're here for.'*  
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**MARVELLA STARLIN
RN, MSN, LNC**

will consist of 2 evenings a week, and a Saturday clinical.

"We just got approved by the Board of Regents, Board of Nursing, and everybody else for that because there is such a need for nurses," Starlin said.

The evening RN program is being set up specifically for LVNs who want to pursue their nursing degree but cannot quit their daytime jobs in clinics. "We found that students who work in clinics and hospitals, that even if they knock down to one day a week, some of them lose their benefits," she said. "So we want them to be able to feed themselves, and still further their education."

This semester a Saturday clinical was started, "so working students come to class one day a week, and then do a Saturday clinical." This way "they only miss one day from their work."

Students who graduate from Cisco College's RN program are automatically guaranteed a slot in Texas Tech's BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree program. This is a two-semester online

program; upon successful completion, the student will be awarded a BSN degree from Texas Tech. The guaranteed pathway for Cisco College graduates is a result of an affiliation agreement signed by the two institutions.

Starlin, a native of Terre Haute, Indiana, was in the Air Force for six years and was stationed at Dyess. "I seem to always come back to Abilene," she said. She worked as a legal assistant for 11 years for an Abilene attorney. When her family moved to Oklahoma, she became a CNA (certified nursing assistant) and then worked her way up. She earned her LVN certification in Altus, Oklahoma; she earned her RN with an associate's degree from Western Oklahoma State College in Altus. Then she received her master's of nursing education at the University of Oklahoma. She is now pursuing a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) at Texas Tech.

In the Air Force, she was in administration, experience which serves her well now at Cisco College. She has 12

years of nursing education experience in Oklahoma and Las Vegas. "I love my job," she said.

The last LVN class in December had a 100 percent passing rate in the national exams; and overall, the pass rates have been 94 percent and 97 percent, she said.

The health faculty consists of 10 full time people, including two remediation specialists. "These are people that students can go to for additional help, and they are fulltime. Six part-time adjunct instructors also teach in the program.

"Up here, we take time with our students; we make time for them. We have open-door policies. We grow our own up here. We are a family up here. And we don't believe in our students just being a number," she said. "Every one of our students is a living person, and we treat them that way. We want every one of them to succeed. And that's what we're here for."

"Meet and greet" nights are held for prospective students. "The students can come and bring their family members, bring their significant others, and they meet all of the faculty, and they know heads up because it takes the whole family. You have to have a good support system, anytime you're in a nursing program. It takes everybody to be involved.

Persons interested in applying to any of the nursing or Allied Health fields can find application materials and procedures on the college's website.

Rev. Penns Seeks Ways to Help Carver Neighborhood

By MYCHELLYA SHADLE
Wrangler Express Staff Writer

Rev. Andrew Penns recently brought his well-earned insights about the historical challenges and triumphs of African-Americans in Abilene and the Big Country to an event at Cisco College celebrating Black History Month. The event was co-sponsored by the Global Leadership, Phi Theta Kappa and the Cisco College History and Government Department. The event included food cooked by students, a video and music presentation created by students, faculty and staff honoring individuals who have attempted to build a community of justice and equality, followed by a lecture by Rev. Penns.

Cisco College celebrated the achievements of individuals throughout our history and within our community for Black History Month. At the lecture, Abilene native and hero, Rev. Andrew Penns, shared his experience as an African American attending Abilene schools during segregation with faculty, staff and students of Cisco College.

Reverend Penns recalled his experience at Woodson Elementary as the beginning of his awareness of the importance of neighborhood and community involvement. Unlike other schools, Woodson Elementary did not offer field trips for their students. However, educators made continual efforts to excite their students by taking them on neighborhood outings. Penns described his teachers to be more like parents, stern and persistent in their determination to get the lesson across.

High School in the mid-1960s was enjoyable for Rev. Penns. While African American students were still faced with segregation, educators worked with students to help them remain enthusiastic about learning. He remembers the textbooks and football

equipment being secondhand and not until his junior year did the school begin to get new equipment.

Integration began during this time as schools in the south began to implement Brown vs. Board of Education. Abilene was moving forward with desegregation and Penns said it was a "tough battle." While the draft conducted by the Selective Service was in full-swing, Penns went ahead and volunteered himself. Penns elected to graduate from Woodson High School and joined the army. He left "feeling negative about Abilene." He spent six months in Vietnam before getting wounded and later served seven months in Korea. In his three years in the military, Rev. Penns acquired rank quickly and became a staff sergeant. He returned to Abilene and was "disappointed with the lack of progress that had been made with integration." The military opened many doors for Rev. Penns, especially a chance to experience integration.

Rev. Penns' mindset upon returning was focused on excelling and exceeding. Penns attended Drumm's Business College and would move to Austin to work for Texas Instruments for 14 years. He worked a variety of jobs in his lifetime, serving at the Bible Bookstore in Abilene, and then working with Taylor County Education, but he eventually retired and went into ministry, his passion. He recalls making mistakes throughout his lifetime but that is life itself. He thanks Wilma Butler, his mentor, for shaping his life into something greater. At the age of twelve, he accepted ministry into his life and at the age of thirty-two he became a preacher. Serving others and his community has been an important part of Rev. Penns' life and would eventually become the foundation of his non-profit, Interested Citizens of Abilene North, I-CAN.

Interested Citizens of Abilene North,



Members of Cisco's College Phi Theta Kappa group are shown with Hattie Washington and Rev. Andrew Penns, at right. They are, from left, Chase Allison, Chase Anderson, and Mychellya Shadle.



Working for I-CAN are Justin Russell, Alex Russell, Link Harris, Mychellya Shadle and Rev. Andrew Penns.

I-CAN, was formed and organized by a group of concerned citizens in the Carver neighborhood. The area was deteriorating and the question of what can be done arose. Penns and other members within the Carver community were worried about the youth and their life's potential. The process began by looking at boundaries of the neighborhood, and speaking to business owners and churches in the area. The group believed that if they were going to ask for help that they had to know, what is it that we are going to do for ourselves? A

non-profit was established. Members served to be able to make a change in the community.

Rev. Penns' goal is to be about the change and to make it happen. He stated, "The struggles have made want to have the desire to achieve." He is involved in many different organizations in Abilene. Currently serving as Pastor at Valley View Missionary Baptist Church and Chairman of Interested Citizens of Abilene North, Reverend Penns is actively making a difference for those around him.

One-Act Play Contest, Touring Production Highlight Theater Life

Cisco College hosted the District UIL One-Act Play contest again this year, according to Dr. Stace Gaddy, speech professor and manager of the Crawford Theater.

In a one-day educational theater extravaganza, more than 150 students from area schools came to Harrel Fine Arts Auditorium at the Cisco campus to rehearse and perform their one-act plays.

The Cisco High School Department of Theater presented its public performance of its one-act play adaption of *Peter Pan* at the Crawford Theater.

In addition, the McMurry University Department of Theater presented Aristophanes' *Women in Congress* at the Crawford Theater.

Phi Theta Kappa Members Assist Community Projects

The four pillars of Phi Theta Kappa are Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. Several examples of three of those valuable assets were on display in Abilene recently by young scholars belonging to PTK, members and advisors of PTK, alongside faculty and staff from the college. Cisco College's Phi Theta Kappa society is dedicated to emphasizing the importance of community.

On Saturday, April 14th, members of Cisco College Phi Theta Kappa served in the Carver Community alongside Chase Allison and Chase Anderson of ACU, Justin and Alex Russell, and Rev. Andrew Penns, Director of Interested Citizens of Abilene North (I-CAN)). Lawns were mowed, old furniture and debris

removed, and, spirits lifted.

Cats may litter the sites on YouTube, but many get their start based on the kindness of others. On Saturday, April 7, Cisco College Phi Theta Kappa officer and student Richard Bohm volunteered to help Petsmart and Rescue the Animals' Linda Rogers with a cat adoption event.

On Saturday, February, 10th, Phi Theta Kappa members joined the Alameda Community Center and Wylie high school students for a neighborhood clean up that filled two large dumpsters provided by the City of Abilene. The event was organized by Marie Scroggins from the community center and provided Cisco students, faculty and staff another opportunity to serve.



Cisco High School performs "Peter Pan."



Another performance of Cisco High's "Peter Pan."



McMurry's performance of "Women in Congress."

Wrangler Belles Spread Joy to Local Residents



Cisco Meals on Wheels

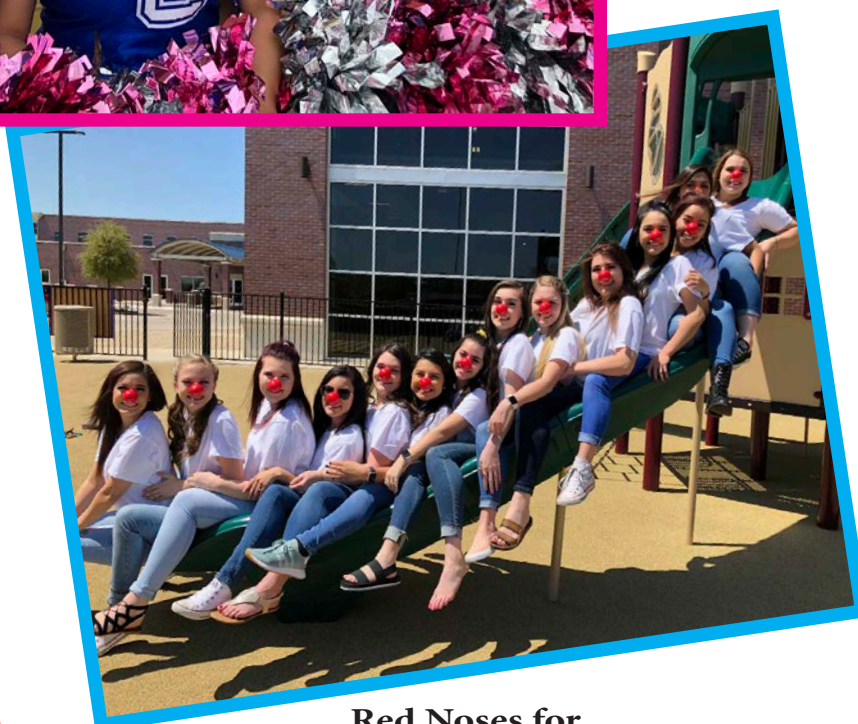


Breast Cancer Awareness
"Pink-Out"
Game



Cisco Meals on Wheels

*The Belles
are directed
by Professor
Debbie Baker*



Red Noses for
Child Abuse Awareness month.



Serving at the Open Door Banquet Fundraiser
in Cisco, Texas. Theme: "Worth Fighting For."

