



Vernon College

VERNON • WICHITA FALLS

2012 - 2013

President's Annual Report

About

VERNON COLLEGE

Vernon College is a fully accredited, comprehensive community college offering academic, career and technical education programs, as well as community classes to prepare students for employment or for successful transfer to a four-year college or university.



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President's PERSPECTIVE



Dear Friends,

Another productive year at Vernon College has come and gone and we are already engaged in a new year of excitement and improvement at the College. The excitement and improvements are a direct result of outstanding faculty, staff, administration, board members and community members. This report is designed to bring evidence of that excitement and improvement to you, our friends and supporters.

I want to take this opportunity to also share with you today's important role of the nation's community colleges, Texas community colleges, and especially Vernon College. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has very recently put out a report titled *The 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges*. Among many things, the report states that in a rapidly changing America and a drastically reshaped world, the ground beneath the nation's feet has shifted so dramatically that community colleges need to reimagine their roles and the ways they do their work. The premise of the Commission report can be summarized in three sentences:

- The American Dream is at risk.
- Because a highly educated population is fundamental to economic growth and a vibrant democracy, community colleges can help reclaim that dream.
- Stepping up to this challenge will require dramatic redesign of these institutions, their mission, and, most critically, their students' educational experiences.

Key actions taken by Vernon College that I hope describe and sum up how we are directing our resources to create redesign, improvement, and accomplishment are:

- Demonstrated persistent and continuous drive to ensure student success—primarily retention, completion, and transfer.
- Ensuring effective allocation of resources is aligned with promoting student success.
- Inspiring a sense of urgency for positive changes in organizational structure, culture, processes, and practices to meet the needs of our students, our communities, and our employees.
- Implementation of data benchmarks to measure success and evaluate progress.

A reality that I have wholeheartedly embraced and is tied to the comments from the AACC report is that the role of the community college and, in my

opinion most all of higher education, has become completely intertwined with the quality and quantity of the American workforce. What we do at Vernon College to train this workforce is directly connected to the stability and the progress of the national economy. Community colleges have never had a more significant opportunity and Vernon College is ready to meet the opportunities and challenges with zealousness and success.

Vernon College will continue to evaluate our systems, processes, practices, and ourselves to adapt and transform so we can successfully meet our primary mission which is **teaching, learning, and leading to promote a culture of success for our students and our communities through learner-centered instructional programs and exemplary services.**

Sincerely,

Dusty R. Johnston, Ed.D.
President

A message from **our** **BOARD** **CHAIR**

Dear Friends of Vernon College,

On behalf of myself and the Vernon College Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak about the health of the institution and inform you about a few of the many things that were done over the past year to ensure the future prosperity of the institution and its students.

Vernon College made an institution-wide decision to orient itself and its resources to improve student outcomes. The results of those efforts can be seen in data collected in the Key Performance Indicators of Accountability (KPIA) and through a program called Student Success by the Numbers. The institutional improvements you see in this year's President's Report are the results of years of concentrated effort by everyone in the organization.

We are blessed by the gifts of our many generous benefactors. Vernon College and our Vernon College Foundation help to make education affordable, offering 116 scholarship opportunities plus dual-credit scholarships for our high school juniors and seniors. Just over 6.5 million dollars in financial assistance was awarded to our students during the Fall semester of 2012 in scholarships, grants, and loans.

Last year, the Bob and Anna Wright Family were honored as the Benefactors of the Year for medium-sized, rural Community Colleges at the national CRD Conference Banquet in Washington, D.C. for their many generous gifts to Vernon College. One of those gifts was a state-of-the-art baseball field and fieldhouse that bear their names.

The Priddy Foundation continues to generously support students through our New Beginnings Program where financially disadvantaged students can receive assistance for textbooks, fuel or childcare. The three remaining entryways at Century City have recently been covered thanks to the Foundation.

Vernon College is financially sound, with planning in place to insure our students have every opportunity to obtain the skills they need to obtain a degree, certificate, or to transfer to another institution. We have complete faith in the leadership of our president, Dr. Dusty Johnston, our administration, faculty and staff. We are very grateful for your support of Vernon College.

Best Regards,



Dr. Todd Smith, Chair, Board of Trustees



40th ANNIVERSARY Celebration

September 2012 marked the 40th Anniversary of Vernon College. On January 20, 1970, a majority of the citizens of Wilbarger County voted to create the Wilbarger County Junior College District. The first president, Dr. David L. Norton, was hired in April 1970 and campus construction began in May 1971. September 5, 1972 was the first day of classes with a total of 608 students registered for the first semester. Since that first moment of creation, Vernon College has been a growing, vibrant institution meeting the needs of its students and its community. Buildings, academic programs, career and technical programs, student extracurricular opportunities, and athletic programs have been vital components to the growth over the last 40 years. The fall 2012 semester enrollment exceeded 3000 students.

In recognition of the 40th Anniversary, Vernon College hosted a community picnic to welcome and show appreciation to the citizens of Vernon. More than 350 people joined the celebration. Additionally, a donor banquet was held to recognize and say thanks to the College's consistent, loyal, and generous supporters.



Michelle Espinoza

GARZA

Michelle Garza is a nursing student from Haskell, Texas. She came to Vernon College after she realized she needed to do something to support her family as a single mother of 4 children. A close friend had completed the Associate Degree Nursing program at Vernon College and encouraged Michelle to apply for the nursing program. Garza had never seen herself as a nurse, but she was determined to be a positive example to her children. She studied diligently and was accepted into the nursing program in 2009. She has since completed the Licensed Vocational Nursing program and will graduate in May from the ADN program. She plans to take the next step and achieve her BSN at either the University of Texas at Arlington or Texas Tech University. She lists the great support groups of instructors and students as well as the inspiring and encouraging environment as key elements to success at Vernon College. "Vernon College brought education back to life... especially for someone that had been out of school for some time," stated Garza. "You have an opportunity regardless of your background or what you're juggling in life. I feel like someone now!"

"I want to thank Vernon College for helping me achieve my goals. I know this is something I needed in order to raise my children...I have 4 kids looking up at me. I also met my husband here! Vernon College gave me the strength to know I can do this!"



Gage

WILLIAMSON

"I really like the small town atmosphere." This is one of the reasons that Gage Williamson chose Vernon College. Williamson is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business while also participating in calf roping and team roping on Vernon College's Rodeo Team. Gage is proud to say he is able to follow in the footsteps of many of his rodeo idols like Trevor Brazile, Matt Shiozawa, and others that helped make the VC Rodeo Team the powerhouse it is today.

Williamson is one of the many high school students that took advantage of Vernon College's dual credit opportunities. He was able to complete 21 hours of college level courses while still in high school. He credited this as a great way to save money as well as get many of his required courses completed early. Gage has also been encouraged by the many instructors willing to go the extra mile for the students. The smaller, more intimate environment of Vernon College has allowed him to get the training and support that he is certain he wouldn't have been able to receive at a larger school.

STUDENT SUCCESS

By The Numbers

In the fall of 2011, Vernon College was pleased to be selected to participate in the Student Success by the Numbers (SSBTN) initiative directed by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin and supported by the Greater Texas Foundation.

The purpose of the SSBTN initiative is to build the College's capacity to use data and to build a culture of evidence and inquiry in support of strengthening our student success agenda. The initiative engaged faculty and staff throughout the College in professional development trainings on topics such as data results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE), data collection and disaggregation, and data sharing. The trainings were provided by appointed SSBTN liaisons.

Seven Vernon College faculty and staff members participated in online training modules offered by the Association for Institutional Research. The collecting, disaggregation and sharing of data was evidenced by new or enhanced research projects such as creation of a database management dictionary, freezing data each term (first class day, census day, and after final grades are posted) for comparison, creation of a Count Day Snapshot, and tracking developmental required students through completion of first level college course.

During the spring of 2013, a SSBTN list of priorities was developed by faculty and staff and incorporated into the President's List of Priorities to ensure our continued progress toward strengthening the student success agenda at Vernon College. Representatives from the Greater Texas Foundation requested a site visit in August 2013 to hear about the College's SSBTN experience and to gain ideas to help other institutions develop data informed student success agendas. The initiative will conclude with Focus Group Training during fall 2013; however, Vernon College created a SSBTN standing committee to ensure continued oversight and progress in student success.



Dina NEAL

Dina Neal has been a mainstay at Vernon College as a psychology and sociology instructor since 1977. She came to Vernon College from Navarro Junior College in Corsicana because she loves “big sky” and wanted to be closer to rural west Texas to raise her son. In addition, she feels that it is this rural setting that makes Vernon College so unique when it comes to education. “Our advantages are in the size and closeness of our school relative to other colleges. We can give students a perspective that they would never have or understand in a city.” When Neal first came to Vernon College she was struck by the friendly, caring, and authentic hospitality she experienced. She also loved the fact that Vernon College’s motto was “Students Come First” ...something that she feels still holds true today. Dina would recommend Vernon College to prospective students because of the wonderful opportunity they would have ! to work one-on-one with their instructors which, she notes, rarely happens at larger colleges and universities. When asked what Vernon College has taught her over her 37 of 39 years of full-time teaching, she summed it up in two words: “A lifetime.” She added. “I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to spend this amount of time at this college and in this community. They are both very special to me. I really love this place.”





D. Chaz
TEPFER

D. Chaz Tepfer is a new member to the Vernon College faculty. He recently took over the welding program at the Wichita Falls Skills Training Center when long-time instructor Gene Nessel retired. Chaz's career at Vernon College started as a student in the welding program after a need within the family business lead him to the Skills Training Center. Nessel quickly saw the talent in Chaz and encouraged him to continue his training and earn his Associate Degree in Welding. This encouragement and hard work resulted in Chaz being named the Skills Training Center's Student of the Year in 2004. The mentorship and the diversity of the programs offered - from welding, cosmetology, to academics - is what sets Vernon College apart from other institutions.

Chaz is a recent newlywed with a baby on the way and lists rodeo ("bulls hurt now so I prefer roping"), sports and anything outdoors as his favorite activities. He hopes that many years from now, his legacy will be the many welders hired through his program.

40 YEARS
 Vernon College celebrated 40 years with an anniversary celebration inviting the community to campus for several events.

2012 National Benefactor Award



for rural community colleges was presented to the **Bob and Anna Wright Family** by the Council of Resource Development

\$350,000

The amount of the grant the college received from the **Priddy Foundation** to enhance the exterior of the Century City Center in Wichita Falls with three additional new entryways.



One of 12 community colleges in Texas to receive **Success, Scaling, & Sustainability (S3) Grant** from the THECB... **\$300,000** to be paid over the life of the grant – January 2013 through August 2015. Vernon Colleges' focus, "Acceleration and Success in Developmental Mathematics" will include new math labs, lab coordinator and tutors, and specialized training and professional development for faculty and tutors.



The POISE Early Alert System was fully implemented to assist with student success.

\$415,126 The amount of the **Skills Development Fund Grant** to upgrade skills of 343 total employees of Tranter, Inc. and P&WC Aerospace.

57 The percentage of increase in 2012-2013 students used **Course Scheduling Advisor Centers** as compared to the previous year.

Initiated processes and practices of **Student Success Communication** through student emails, Facebook, and the VC portal.



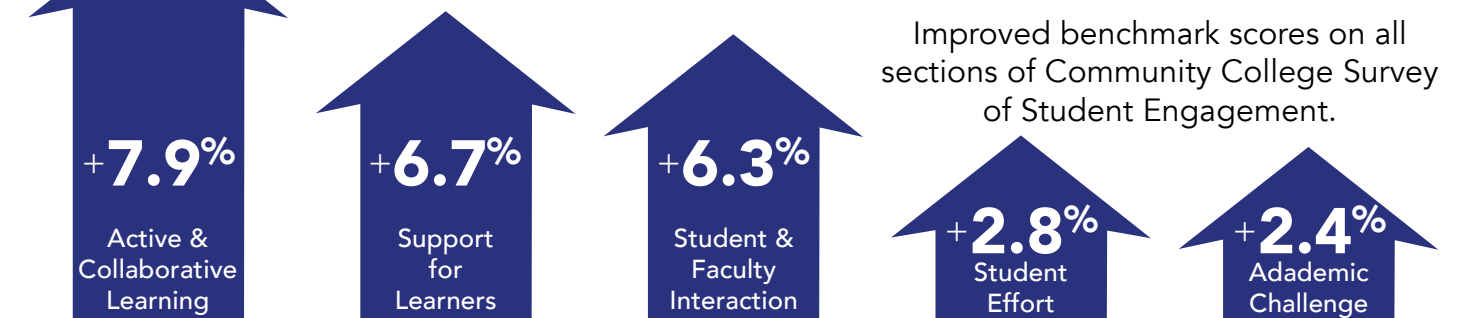
Continued participation in the **Student Success by the Numbers** grant opportunity to improve data driven decisions throughout the college.

80%

Met **Key Performance of Accountability (KPIA)** benchmark (80%) for course success rate.

Piloted three sections of Student Success Course as recommended by the **Student Success Course Task Force**.

Improved BENCHMARK SCORES



Above STATE AVERAGE

Vernon College ranked above the state average for Texas community colleges in the following areas as reported in the **2013 Texas Public Higher Education Almanac**:

- 3, 4, and 6 year graduation rates of full-time students
- 3, 4, and 6 year graduation rates of part-time students
- % of academic graduates employed and/or enrolled (92.0 compared to 89.1)
- % of CTE graduates employed and/or enrolled (94.2 compared to 90.2)
- % of developmental math students meeting their TSI obligation (66.7 compared to 47.8)
- % of developmental writing students meeting their TSI obligation (75.9 compared to 59.0)
- % of developmental reading students completing college level reading course (30.6 compared to 23.5)
- Transfer rate (41.2 compared to 27.3)
- % of dual credit students earning a bachelor's degree in 4 years or less (52.4 compared to 31.7)
- % of dual credit students earning a bachelor's or associate degree in 4 years or less (71.4 compared to 39.1)

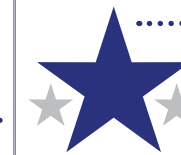


2012 Leroy Estes Excellence in Innovation Award Winners

Jo Ann Sharp (counselor), **Dona Crow** (administrative assistant), and **Paula Whitman** (faculty).

Region V Softball Tournament

The **Vernon College Softball Team** advanced to the Region V Tournament under first year coach **Melvin Jenkins**.



Infielder **Blair Murphy** was named **2nd team All Region** and represented Vernon College at the All Star game.

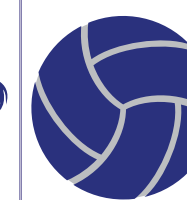
College National Finals Rodeo

Keely Jo Weger (goat tying), **Cody Goretzen** (saddlebronc), and **Dylan Henson** (saddlebronc) represented Vernon College at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. **Keely Jo Weger** placed 8th in the nation.



Volleyball Conference Champions

The **Vernon College Volleyball Team** was named regular season conference Champions of the Northern Junior College Athletic Conference with a 32-7 overall record.



Volleyball team member and outside hitter **Kristina Rankovick** was named **2nd Team ALL-AMERICAN**.

BENEFACTOR of the YEAR 2012

Bob and Anna Wright Family Awarded a 2012 Benefactor of the Year Award by the Council for Resource Development in Washington, D.C.

On November 10, 2013 members of the Bob and Anna Wright Family were awarded a Council for Resource Development (CRD) 2012 Benefactor of the Year Award at the organization's annual conference in recognition of their 40+ year partnership with Vernon College and our Vernon College Foundation.

Bob and Anna's children and their families travelled to Washington, D.C. to attend the November 10, 2012 event. Representing the College and the Foundation were Dr. Todd Smith, Chairman of the Vernon College Board of Trustees and his wife Glynda and Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, College President, and his wife Susie.

Vernon College President, Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, stated, "Vernon College is very fortunate to have such longtime and steadfast supporters as the Bob and Anna Wright family. Bob and Anna, along with their children Gail, Cheryl, and Kelly have supported numerous building projects and scholarship programs at Vernon College over the years. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know Bob and to work with him on the "Bob and Anna" Chaparral Baseball facility prior to his passing. I have enjoyed my opportunities to visit with Anna and I appreciate her many contributions to Vernon College, including as a former faculty member and foundation board member. As I have spent time visiting with Gail, Cheryl, and Kelly, I have been impressed with their interest in the community and in Vernon College. I am excited for them to receive such an honor."

Since Vernon College first opened its doors in 1972, Bob and Anna Wright and, subsequently their children, have been partners in the education of Vernon College students. Anna joined the faculty that opening year as the first Sociology Instructor, and is a founding member of the Vernon College Foundation which she served on until 2006. For more than 30 years, Bob and Anna have made significant gifts to the College, including naming the first building on the campus—The Wright Library, updating library facilities, softball and baseball field upgrades, and a significant investment in technology that provided the College with its first Distance Education facility. They have created eight endowed scholarships, the most significant of which is the Bob and Anna Wright Area High Schools Scholarship which is awarded to graduating seniors from the high schools in the Vernon College twelve county service area. Each of their three children is instrumental in the life of the College as well, serving on the Foundation Board and creating their own endowed scholarships. The entire family serves as an inspiration to others who have joined them in making their own investments in Vernon College.

Each year, CRD recognizes the outstanding contributions of seven donors, nominated by the institutions they support, across the country who have made a difference to their community colleges. These donors are chosen for their dedication, commitment and pride in their community colleges. The CRD Benefactor Award is the only national showcase to recognize donors to the nation's community colleges and is held as part of the organization's annual conference.

Bob and Anna Wright Family



Vernon College Honor Roll of Donors

Vernon College and the Vernon College Foundation expresses sincere appreciation to all those that have made gifts, grants, pledge payments, and gifts-in-kind to help us achieve our goal of providing an outstanding education to our students. On behalf of the entire Vernon College community, thank you for your contribution during 2012-2013 (*September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013*). **You are truly Partners in Excellence!**

Alumni

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Chris* and Toni Bell³
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 Roy and Gretta Hogan Foundation
 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
 Snell Charitable Foundation
 The Lockett Foundation

The Priddy Foundation
 Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation,
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 The Priddy Foundation Donor Advised Fund
 Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation,
 The Priddy Foundation Matching Gifts Fund



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Archer City Independent School District
 City of Iowa Park
 Daughters of the American Revolution,
 Western Trail Chapter
 Iowa Park Alumni Association
 Iowa Park Consolidated Independent
 School District
 Iowa Park Evening Lions Club
 Lockett School Reunion
 Matador Cattle
 Nortex Regional Emergency Medical Services
 Providers Association
 North Texas Regional Advisory Council
 Northside Alumni
 Rock Crossing Baptist Church
 Rotary Club of Iowa Park

Rotary Club of Vernon
 Throckmorton Independent School District
 Urgent Care and Occupational Health
 Centers of Texas, P.A.
 Vernon Bridge Club
 Vernon Business and Professional
 Women's Club
 Vernon College Cosmetology Department
 Vernon College Employees' Forum
 Vernon College Faculty Senate
 Vernon College Surgical Technology
 Student Association
 Vernon Retired Teachers Association
 Wichita Falls Independent School District
 Yamparika Club



* Alumnus/ae

† Deceased

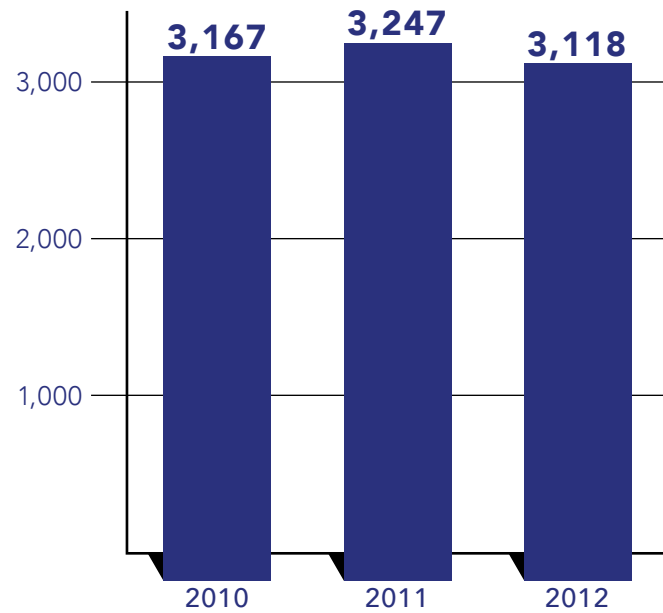
1 Member of the Vernon College Foundation Board of Directors

2 Member of the Vernon College Board of Trustees

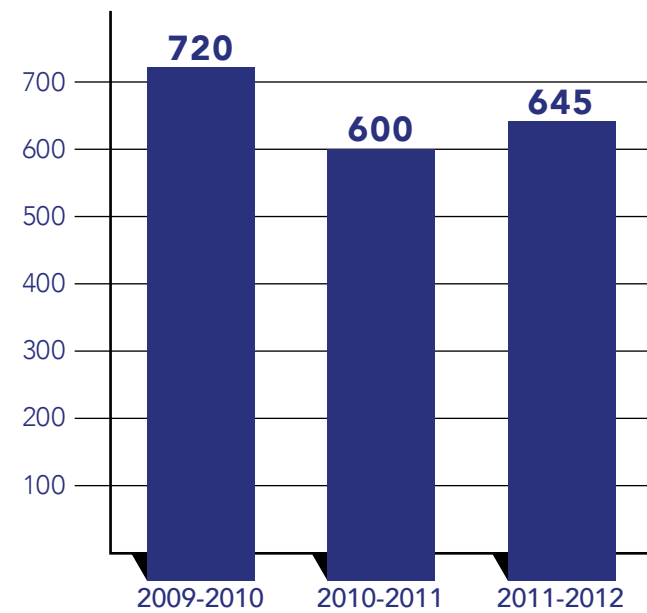
3 Member of the Vernon College Faculty and Staff

We appreciate every contribution and do our very best to ensure the accuracy of this list.
 Please notify us of any concerns or errors at (940) 552-6291, ext. 2299.

Fall Headcount Total Credit



Academic Year Dual Credit/Concurrent Unduplicated Enrollment

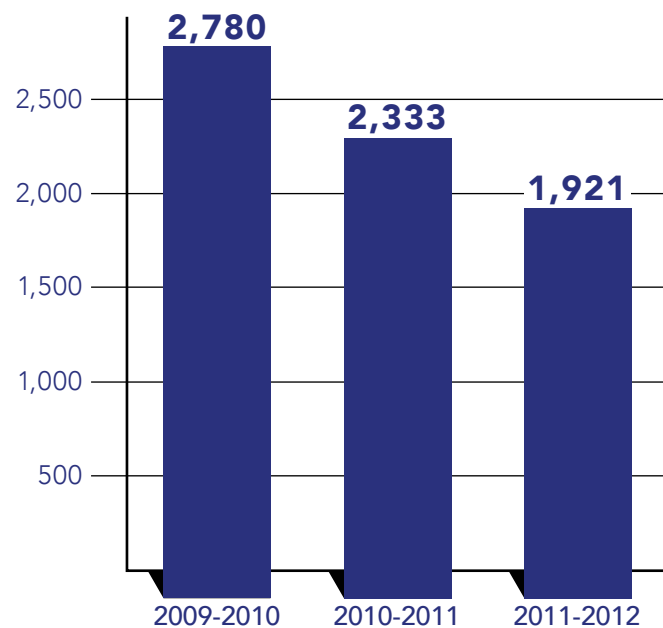


Graduation and Persistence Rate

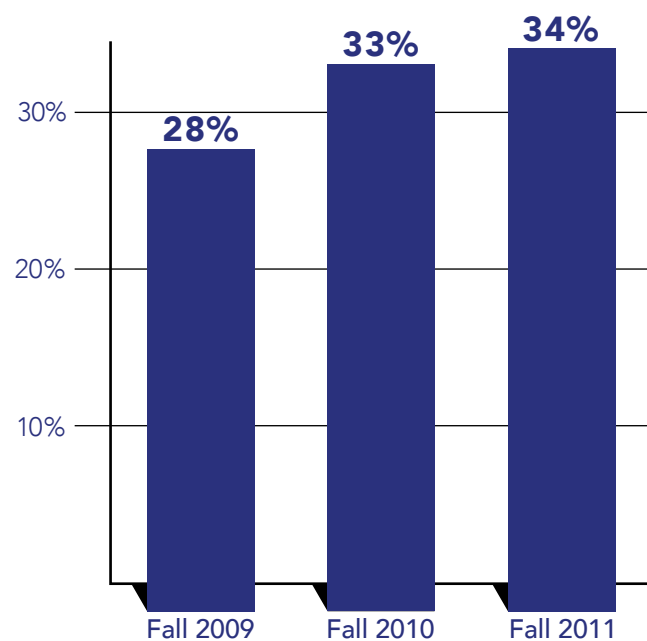
Entering Fall Cohort Year	Vernon College first time/full time students	3 Year Graduation Rate			4 Year Graduation Rate			6 Year Graduation Rate			6 Year Graduation and Persistence Rate		
		Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges
2008	231	32.5%	24%	13.3%									
2007	311	17.7%	22.6%	12.8%	24.8%	28%	19.4%						
2006	323	22.0%	24.4%	12%	28.5%	29.4%	18.4%						
2005	305	19.3%	21.1%	11%	22%	25.4%	16.9%	34.1%	34.5%	29.2%	42.6%	42.4%	42.5%
2004	278	25.5%	22.9%	11.1%	28.1%	26.9%	17%	34.2%	34%	29.2%	41.7%	42.6%	42.4%
2003	313	20.4%	22.4%	12.1%	22.7%	27.7%	18.3%	31.9%	35.5%	30.4%	39.3%	43.3%	42.9%

*Texas Small Community Colleges consist of a peer group designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board based on "like" comparisons, primarily institution size. Members are: Clarendon, Frank Phillips, Galveston, Howard, Northeast Texas, Panola, Ranger, Vernon and Western Texas

Non-Funded Continuing Education and Personal Enrichment Enrollment



College Bound Graduates from 12 County Service Area High Schools who chose Vernon College



Vernon College Completers and Transfers to a Senior Institution within Six Years

Entering Fall Cohort Year	First Time Students Total	Non Transfer Completers Students	Transfer Students	6 Year Transfer and Completion Rate of First Time Students			Six Year Academic Year
				Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	
2006	810	111	334	54.9%	47.5%	36.1%	2011-2012
2005	785	92	328	53.5%	49.2%	36.7%	2010-2011
2004	707	91	234	46.0%	47.1%	35.1%	2009-2010

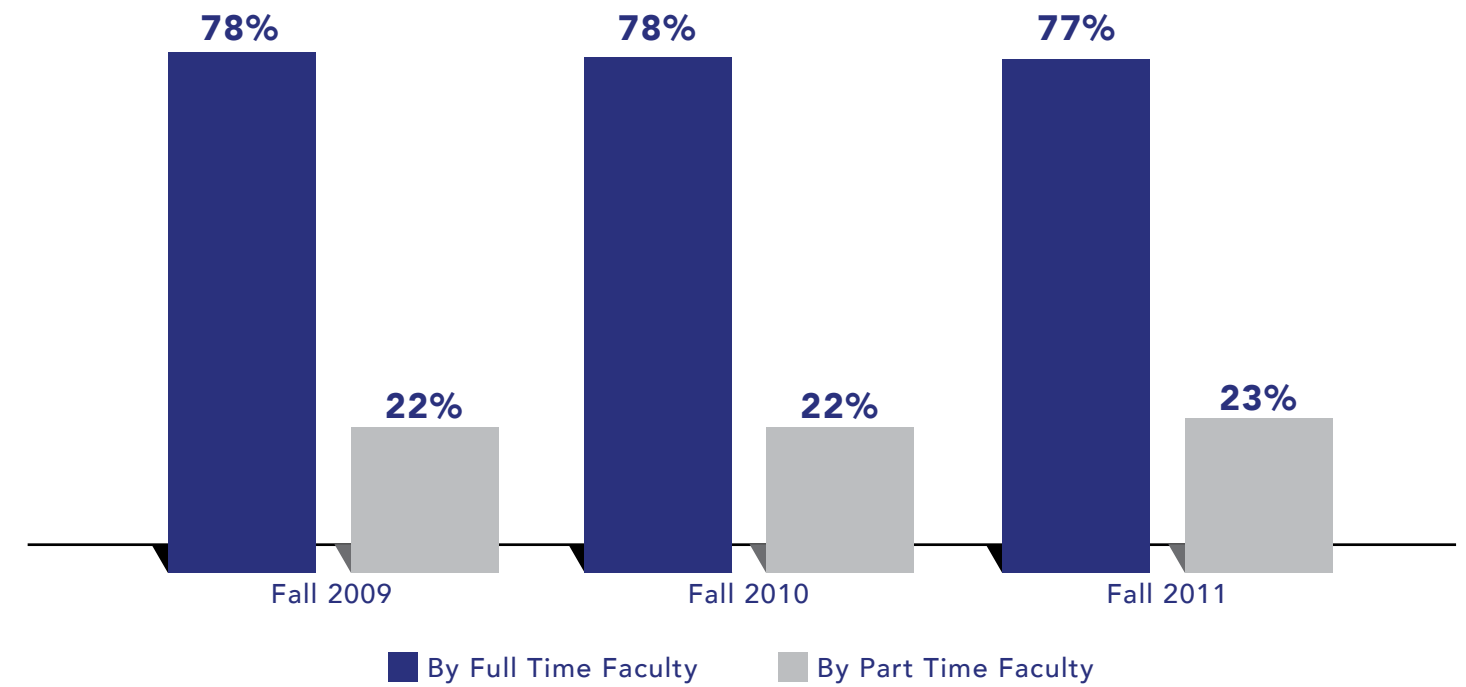
93% Career and Technical Placement Rate
Over a three academic year period
2008-2011

Licensure and Certification Pass Rate

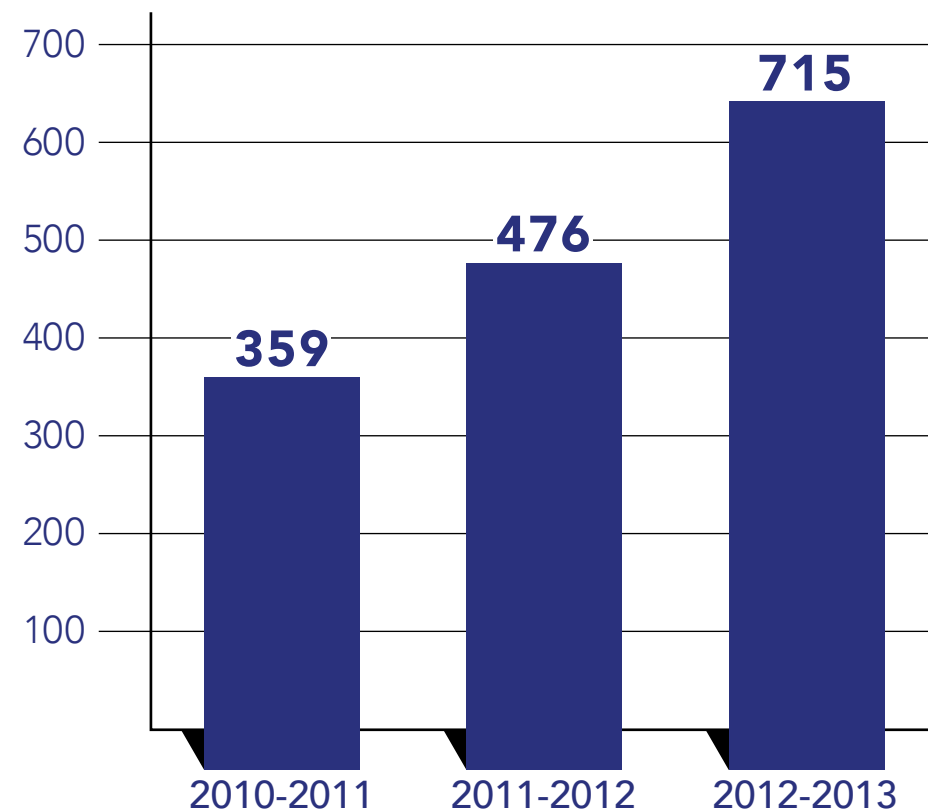
Academic Year	2009-2010			2010-2011			2011-2012		
	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges	Vernon College	Texas Small Community Colleges	Texas Community Colleges
Percentage Passed	89%	91%	90%	85%	91%	89%	94%	91%	89%

*Licensure/Certification Rate is the overall average rate for all Vernon College programs: Cosmetology, General and Instructor; Criminal Justice, Police Academy; Dental Assisting; Emergency Medical Technical - Basic, Intermediate and Paramedic; Fire Science, Firefighting; Health Information Technology; Law Enforcement, Corrections Academy; Medication Aid; Nurse Aid; Nursing - Licensed Vocational Nurse and Registered Nurse; Pharmacy Technician, Assistant; Phlebotomy; Real Estate; Surgical Technology; Welding

Percent of Contact Hours Taught

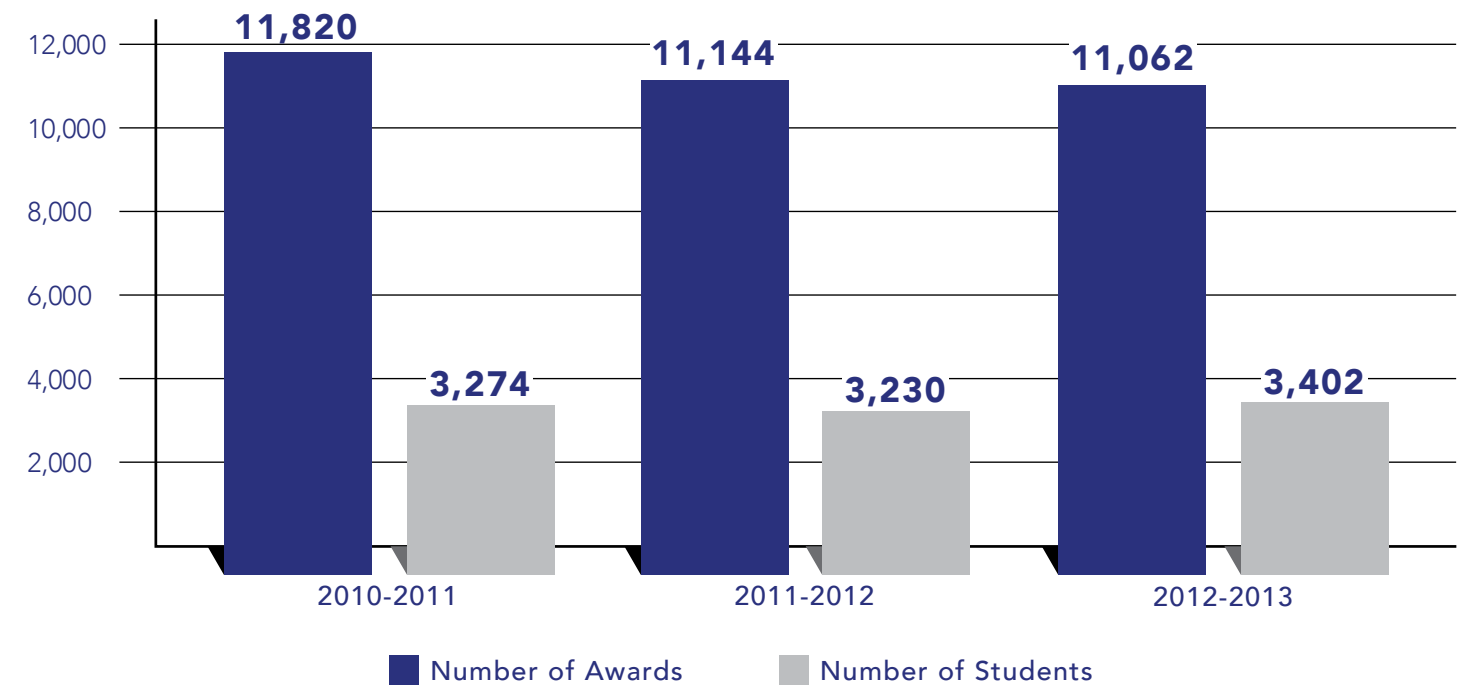


Scholarships Awarded



Financial Aid

Number of Awards and Students by Academic Year





RODEO

2012-2013 proved to be another successful year for the Vernon College Rodeo Team. Two members of the Men's team qualified for the College Nationals Final Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming; Cody Goertzen and Dylan Henson for Saddle Bronc. The Men's team finished 4th in the Southwest Region. The Women's team worked hard and finished 5th in the Southwest Region. Keely Jo Weger qualified for the College Nationals Final Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming in Goat Tying, finishing 8th in the nation. Chad Smith stepped in as the new Head Rodeo coach in January 2013. Additionally, several Vernon College Rodeo Team members are now competing for four year institutions: Shelby Jansen, Texas Tech University; Keely Jo Weger, Eastern New Mexico University; Lon Danley, Odessa College; Cody Goertzen and Dylon Henson, Southwestern Oklahoma State University.



VOLLEYBALL

The 2012 Vernon College Volleyball team had a stellar year that could go down as one of the best in the College's record books. The Lady Chaps put up a regular season record of 32 wins and only 7 losses and were crowned regular season conference champions. They were named the number one seed going into the regional tournament held at Brookhaven College in Dallas. Putting up a great effort, they ended up losing to Temple College in the championship and were only 4 points away from going to the National Tournament. In this very memorable season, Kristina Rankovic was named 2nd Team All-American. After her successful season, head coach Valerie Armstrong was presented an opportunity to move on to an NCAA Division 1 school and is now the Assistant Coach at Alabama State University. In April 2013, Cole Tallman was named the new Head Volleyball Coach. Additionally, two Lady Chaps Volleyball Team members went on to compete at four year institutions: Caroline Reis, College of Central Florida; Tiara Kelley, Alabama State University.



BASEBALL

Baseball competes in the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference, which is the equivalent of the American League East of the MLB. The Chaparral Baseball Team went 18-35 during the 2012-2013 campaign and were 10-22 in conference finishing 8th. The team continues to move student-athletes to the next level of competition. Former team members now competing at four year institutions are: Jason England, Blake Scannel and Jaime Gurrola, University of Sciences and Arts of Oklahoma; Alex Richardson, Prairie View A&M University, and Mike Sordia, New Mexico Highlands University.



SOFTBALL

After 17 years, the 2012-2013 Vernon College Lady Chaps Softball Team began charting new ground when Melvin Jenkins came in as only the second head coach in the 18 year history of the VC Lady Chaps Softball Program. In his first year, Coach Jenkins led the team to the regional tournament, continuing their proven success for the last 15 out of 17 years. Blair Murphy was selected as All-Region and represented Vernon College at the All-Star weekend in the fall of 2013. Additionally, three Lady Chaps Softball Team members went on to compete at four year institutions: Devon Duncan and Shelby Melvin, Northwood University; and Danielle Guerra, Texas A&M-Commerce.



Grainger Foundation

Enters Educational Partnership with Vernon College

For the past two years, Vernon College has received grants of \$10,000 through the Grainger Community Grant Program. These grants have been used to support scholarships for students in the College's HVAC, Industrial Automation, Machine Technology and Welding Programs. A total of 20 scholarships have been awarded to date.

The College received the grants upon the recommendation of Ms. Deborah Rosenbaum, Branch Manager, W. W. Grainger, Inc. in Wichita Falls. Ms. Rosenbaum and her colleague, John Govea presented the 2013 grant check to Vernon College earlier this year.



Staff Awards

Vernon College employees Stacy Lallmann, Student Billing Accountant, and Melissa Elliott, Director of Financial Aid, were recognized at the South Central POISE Users Group (SCPUG) annual conference for their efforts in assisting with the development and improvement of the Student Billing and Student Financial Aid modules of the PX ERP. This recognition is called the "Libby" award, which is short for "Libby Annulis Memorial Distinguished Service Award".



Dr. William Leroy Estes

Excellence and Innovation Awards



The three honorees for the 2012-2013 year were Paula Whitman, Math Instructor; Dona Crow, Administrative Assistant/Counseling; and JoAnn Sharp, Counselor. The honorees are Vernon College faculty and staff who, selected by a committee of their peers, are following Leroy's example and adding their own contributions of innovation and excellence.

Innovation and excellence, both words and their meanings are synonymous with Dr. William Leroy Estes. As a founding faculty member at Vernon College, Leroy spent his entire academic career developing innovative ways to help his students learn. He strived for excellence in himself as well as his teaching and he expected nothing less of his students. He continually encouraged them to do and be their best. When he retired, Dr. Estes left big shoes to fill and inspires all of us daily to follow in his footsteps.

The Surgical Technology Program

Receives National Recognition

The Vernon College Surgical Technology Program received the annual merit award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) for achieving at least an 80% pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination for the cycle of August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013. Graduates who obtain national certification as a CST demonstrate their understanding of the best competencies for safe patient care in the operating room. The CST is widely recognized in the health care community as the foremost credential for surgical technologists in the nation. It is required for employment within many local, state and national health care organizations.



