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VOLUME 2, No. 2 NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT SPRING 1994

Keeping ahead in a changing world

SUCH INITIATIVES AS partnerships with area chambers of commerce, Tech Prep and workforce development mark the North Harris Montgomery Community College District as one of the most visionary community college districts in the nation. While NHMCCD is planning for the future, it is also concentrating on the present by using new technology to train students for career and academic success today.

The term "new technology" may conjure up images of computer students learning to use the latest software and biotechnology students using a sophisticated microscope. Although images such as these are accurate, the colleges are also using technology in less obvious ways.

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CISD and college partners in CollegeNow

Nondestructive testing

North Harris College, for example, is using technology in its welding program, where students are being trained to test the strength of welds using "nondestructive" methods. In "destructive" testing, the strength of a weld is tested in a bender; "nondestructive" testing involves equipment that uses sound waves, magnetic particles and dyes to determine the strength of welds, explains Gail Phillips, Math Instructor.

"In the real world, you can't use destructive testing," Phillips says. "If you were working on the Alaska pipeline, for example, you couldn't use the destructive method. There's always a need for welding inspectors, and this modern equipment allows us to teach these courses to industry standards."

Small Business Awards Banquet set for May 9

Well-known Houston entrepreneur Robert Sakowitz will be the keynote speaker for the Business and Industry Council's Eighth Annual Small Business Awards Banquet, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Greenspoint.

Tickets may be purchased from BIC members or by calling the Center for Business and Economic Development at 591-9320.

BIC is a business advisory board for the North Harris Montgomery Community College District. Last year's Small Business Award winners were Donna McVeigh (North Region), Seth Lincoln (Central Region), Wayne Holland (West Region), Josh Hargrave (East Region), and John Gossett (West Central Region). Channel 2 business reporter Bebe Burns received the Business Advocate of the Year Award.

Instrumental in recording notes

NHC's music courses are benefiting from technology as well. A sequencer, which produces and records 125 instrumental sounds, enables students to "play" virtually any instrument and record the music on simultaneous tracks. Hence, one student can use a piano to produce the equivalent of an entire orchestra. "The sequencer gives us more interesting music," says Jean Neary, Music Program Coordinator. "Usually, in a music theory class when you write something, you play it only on a piano. This way, you get to hear different instruments playing these compositions."

The college also has a Musical Instrument Digital Interface, which enables students to play music on a piano and have it recorded instantly as written notes on a computer. Another program, called Guido, enables students to hear a melody, play it back, and tell them immediately if what they played was correct.

Sound, motion and graphics

At Kingwood College, multimedia (sound, motion and graphics) computer technology is helping make lessons more vivid. All computer labs have one computer with an LCD panel, which allows the computer screen's image to be projected on a large screen. The panel also enables VCRs, laser disks and CD ROMs to be connected to the computer.

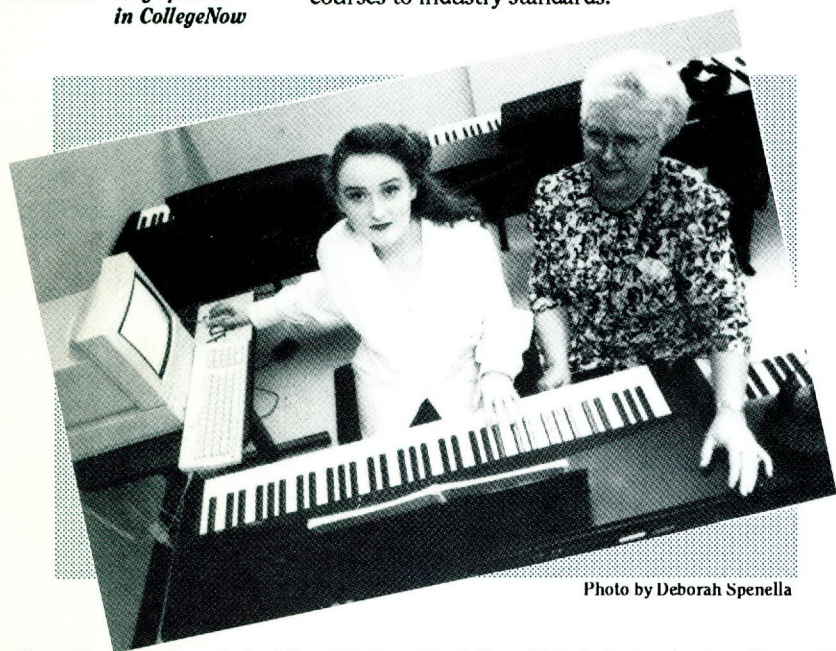


Photo by Deborah Spenella

North Harris College student Sarah L. Crowder, left, and Music Instructor Jean Neary. The Musical Instrumental Digital Interface (computer) enables students to play music on a keyboard and have it recorded instantly as written notes appear on the computer screen.

Training tailored for today's demands

WHEN THE CHINA National Oil Development Corporation wanted its top executives to learn more about free-market economies, the company chose to send them to the North Harris Montgomery Community College District. The training was so successful that another group of Chinese executives followed.

Training the Chinese executives is only one example of the numerous training sessions the District conducts for businesses. The District is continually reaching out to form new partnerships with the business community, and one of the most important tools in that effort is the Corporate Training Committee (CTC) of the Business and Industry Council.

The CTC advises the Center for Business and Economic Development on how the District can best market its business-training services. Through surveys and the business experience of members, the committee recommends to CBED the types of training it believes is needed to meet today's demands.

Businesses have training options. They can conduct training within their own companies, contract training through private firms or contract training

through community colleges. Jim Dickinson, CTC Chairman and a Senior Human Resources Assistant for the Kroger Co., believes NHMCCD offers distinct training advantages.

"The community college is more cost effective, because it can better custom tailor training needs," Dickinson says. "Additionally, the college has a greater depth of resources than training companies. So many instructors are in the workforce themselves, that they help keep the training up to date and meaningful."

According to Dickinson, NHMCCD's desire to form a lasting relationship with businesses is a major plus. "The District isn't just trying to sell a product; it's trying to form partnerships," he says. "An enduring partnership is beneficial for both the college district and business community."

Adds Pat Chandler, Business Training Representative at Kingwood College: "Our purpose is to help employers make employees more effective. We want to form a partnership with businesses to increase the effectiveness of their workforce in a constantly changing technological age."

Chandler and Pam Stanley, Business Training Representative at Tomball College, note that the District can find instructors to teach virtually every subject.

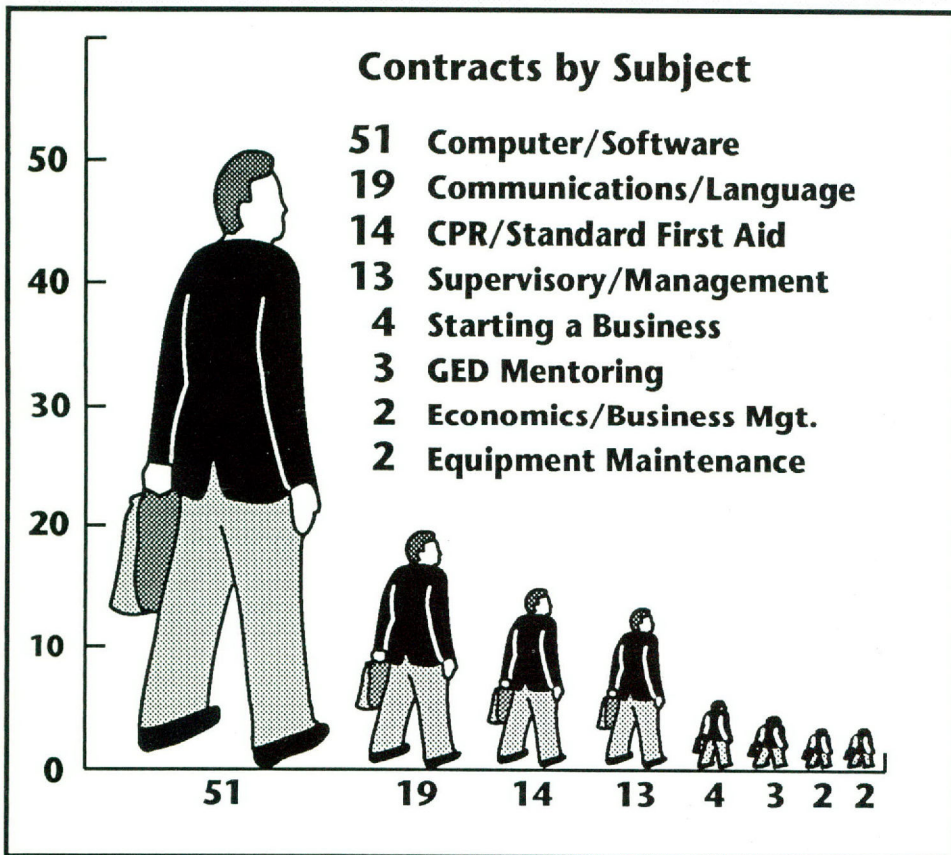
Business training by CBED ranges from computer instruction to teaching conversational French to American businessmen and women. Other types of courses include computer, customer service and effective-presentation training. No matter what type of course a business requests, business training representatives customize the course to specifically fit that company's needs.

"We need to look at what the client expects to happen when the training is completed. It's up to us to identify exactly what they need," Stanley says. "When the training is completed, we talk with clients to find out if they have reaped the benefits they expected."

As CBED seeks to reach more businesses and keep its training up to date, the CTC is there to guide the efforts. "This committee is very task-oriented," Dickinson says. "It's a focused group that really wants to get things done."

Other members of the committee are: Lynn Beckwith, co-owner of Beckwith Automotive; Dr. Lee Murdy, Vice President of Administaff; Dave Billings, owner of Billings Jewelry; Owen Parker, owner of Casa Olé Restaurants; Carl Joiner, partner in Joiner Partnership (Architects); Steven Vaughan, President of Texas National Bank; Mike Malone, President of O'Brien Manufacturing; and John Weisner, owner of Weisner Buick/Pontiac/GMC. Stanley, Chandler and North Harris College Business Training Representative Carol Burnett also serve on the committee. ★

Helping employers make employees more effective



Source: Center for Business and Economic Development Contract Training Report—Sept. 1, 1992 to Aug. 31, 1993



Message from the chancellor

Dr. John E. Pickelman

Workforce development: Vital to survival in the '90s

THIS PAST SUMMER, at the request of the Texas Association of Community Colleges, the Texas House and Senate passed a bill adding workforce development to the statewide community colleges' mission. Actually, workforce development has always been one of the primary missions of community colleges, but now public schools, businesses, community, and governmental organizations are joining the colleges in that effort.

The North Harris Montgomery Community College District recognizes that workforce development can't work without real partnerships. Everyone is a stakeholder in workforce development, which is vital for economic survival in the '90s. While virtually everything we do in NHMCCD is designed to foster workforce development, there are several areas within our District in which workforce development is being pursued specifically.

An effective partnership

The NHMCCD Business and Industry Council Workforce Development Committee is an example of an effective college-business partnership. The committee researches the types of companies that will exist in the 21st century and the skills those companies will need. That information drives curriculum development and determines how the District can better serve industry.

NHMCCD is also the fiscal agent for the Gulf Coast Tech Prep Consortium and the Gulf Coast Quality Workforce Planning Region. Tech Prep places high school students on specific career paths and provides dual high school/college credit. The District's Board of Trustees recently approved Tech Prep agreements with a number of area independent school districts. The Gulf Coast Quality Workforce Planning Region brings educators and business leaders together to research current and emerging careers that are most in demand.

Other workforce development initiatives include GED, workplace literacy and adult basic education. All of these efforts are aimed at helping the area retain jobs, create new ones and making sure the students we train today will be able to meet the job skills of the 21st century as the United States competes in a global economy. ★

Profiles

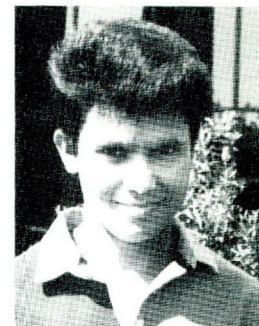
Q: How has attending college in the NHMCCD changed your life?

Marliese Pady, medical office specialist major, Kingwood College



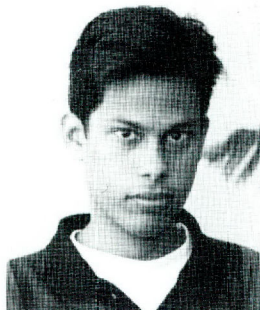
"I'm a single parent with three children. Considering that I was a high school dropout, getting a better education will enable me to provide a better life for my children and myself. I hope to eventually work for Kelsey-Seybold."

Motaher Hossain, computer information systems major, Tomball College



"I think Tomball College is better than a university I attended in Arkansas. The teachers are so friendly. I'm getting all the help I need from the counselors, the learning lab and computer lab."

Saanjeet Persad, criminal justice major, North Harris College



"I came here from Trinidad in 1991. Because the classes are not overcrowded, I have been able to get more attention from the instructors. I've also been culturally enhanced by NHC, having served as treasurer of the International Student Organization on campus. I've met many other students from around the world."

Kristy Mayfield, psychology major, Montgomery College



"I was recently separated and went to work at a convenience store, because that's all I knew to do. Going to school here has given me confidence. I have support, and I don't feel so alone. From here, I want to enter the Coast Guard, and the college is a stepping stone."

Maxim

North Harris Montgomery Community College District

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to inform the community-at-large of all the great things happening in the North Harris Montgomery Community College District.

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Heroes credit college with influencing their lives

CINDY SETTLE SAVED a life; Larry Alford refused to let life's misfortunes end his dreams. Both are heroes in their own ways, and North Harris College has been influential in their lives.

It may be years, if ever, before Ellisha O'Guinn realizes she owes her life to Settle. As the minutes-old infant lay motionless and not breathing on the floor of her aunt's car, she couldn't know she was soon to be rescued by Settle, a neonatal nurse and 1990 graduate of NHC's nursing program.

The baby's mother and aunt were hurrying to the hospital in the predawn hours of Sept. 13 when the impatient infant decided to make an early appearance. They pulled into a gas station in Shepherd to get help. About the same time, Settle was at the station, stopping for gas on the way to work at Conroe Regional Medical Center.

The baby was blue from a lack of oxygen, but Settle's training at NHC and hospital experience enabled her to act expertly and quickly. She stimulated the baby

into taking its first breath and cut the umbilical cord. "When I first saw the baby, I could tell right away it needed some help," Settle says. "I would have been more excited if I weren't used to working with babies."

Settle says her training at NHC "was tough, but I felt it was a good program. They really prepared me for the challenges I've faced in nursing."

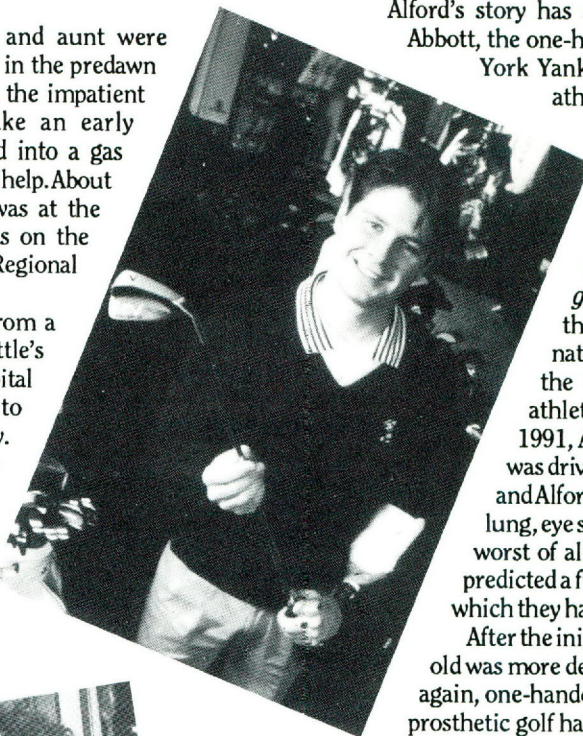
Alford's story has some parallels to that of Jim Abbott, the one-handed pitching star of the New York Yankees. Like Abbott, Alford is an athlete, but unlike Abbott, who was born without a right hand, Alford lost his left arm below the elbow as the result of an auto accident.

Alford, whose story was featured in a recent *Reader's Digest* article, was ranked among the top 16 junior golfers in the nation and had planned to attend the University of Houston on an athletic scholarship. But in August 1991, Alford lost control of the car he was driving on I-45. The car flipped over and Alford suffered serious injuries to his lung, eye socket, jaw, shoulder, ankle and, worst of all, a crushed left hand. Doctors predicted a full recovery, except for the arm, which they had to amputate below the elbow.

After the initial shock, the resilient 18-year-old was more determined than ever to play golf again, one-handed if necessary. He investigated prosthetic golf hands, but found them primitive, unable to flex at the wrist. But a psychologist friend of the family, who later married Alford's mother, designed a functional hand that would permit him to play golf seriously. A ball socket in the hand had inflatable air pockets, so the grip could be tightened. After months of adjustment, the hand functioned well enough for Alford to receive a scholarship to Sam Houston State University.

During his recuperation, Alford enrolled in classes at NHC. "Attending North Harris College was a good move for me," he says. "I wasn't well enough to live on my own yet." Though he only attended the college one semester, Alford became a believer in the school. "I absolutely loved it," he says. "I tell everyone I meet to go to NHC before they go to another school."

Now in his second semester at SHSU, Alford says he is playing his best golf since the accident, and he expects his team to win the conference this year. His determination already has made him a winner. ★



Above:
Larry Alford

Below:
Cindy Settle





Photo by LaNae Ilseing

Linking up with the Old West

'People had a code; ... right and wrong was much clearer on the frontier.'

Link Hullar, Liberal Arts, Business, Health & Physical Education Division Head

The towns in Hullar's novels are fictional, but are composites of actual towns of the Old West. And while the characters are fictional, there are some familiar names. In one of his books, Kingwood College President Steve Head becomes Marshal Steve Head of Kingwood, Colo.

BEN CARTWRIGHT, MATT Dillon and Bret Maverick took television viewers on fictional journeys to the Old West, and now Link Hullar is doing the same thing via the often more compelling medium of literature.

Hullar, Liberal Arts, Business, Health & Physical Education Division Head, has written five Western novels. The 39-year-old Decatur, Ala. native writes in a traditional style that has made his books more popular in England than the United States. "About 20 years ago, most Western fiction took a turn toward 'adult' novels," Hullar says. "They are very weak on plot and characterization, but very strong on sex and violence." In England, Hullar's novels have caught on because "Europeans love the Old West," he says.

Reading Westerns has long been one of Hullar's hobbies, and he devours them with the same fury displayed by John Wayne riding to the rescue. "I've read thousands of Westerns," Hullar says, adding that his shelves are full of still more Western novels waiting to be read.

Hullar, who is a historian, says he usually doesn't have to do a lot of research before he writes his novels. "I do brush up on details, but history isn't the main emphasis of my novels — entertainment is," Hullar says. "However, when I write about Palo Duro Canyon, it's based on my personal experience of riding through the canyon on horseback."

Hullar's son and daughter also appear in books, as does his friend Dean Wolfe, a history instructor at Kingwood College.

It's clear that Hullar has fun writing novels. In his most recent Western, *Bones, Bullets and Badmen*, a couple of college professors from the east coast undertake an archeological expedition in Texas and find themselves among bandits and other challenges of the Old West they haven't encountered before. As the book opens, the professors, who have been robbed, are walking down the road in their underwear. "I inject a lot of humor into my books," he says.

There's more to Hullar's novel than what readers see. He develops each character by first writing the individual's personal history, then refers back to that history as he writes the book. "The book doesn't dictate the character, the character dictates the book," he says. "If the person rings true, he'll tell me what he's going to do next as I write the book."

What is it about the Old West that appeals to readers? "The West was what could be termed an extra-legal society," Hullar says. "People did what was right, because it was right. People had a code; they stood for something, and right and wrong was much clearer on the frontier. The traditional Western appeals to me because good triumphs over evil.

"In a society where we can't seem to deal with the criminal element, we can find some relief in the Western novel." ★

Hullar's Westerns can be purchased at Bargain Books at 22776 Cypresswood.

Computer Graphic Arts:

An artist's palette on a computer screen

YOU COULD HAVE a Boeing 747 landing in your back yard, put your office desk in the middle of a forest or place yourself on the moon alongside Neil Armstrong.

These are among the capabilities of such computer graphics programs as CorelDRAW! version 4.0, the software package being used in Tomball College's new computer graphics course. Although the whimsical is possible, it's the practical that students are learning.

Computer graphics software includes a myriad of features, including drawing, painting, photography enhancement, and desktop publishing. "CorelDRAW! has the highest ratings with its drawing program," Art Instructor Earl Staley says.

Essential tools for art majors

According to Staley, computer graphic arts is an essential for art majors. "All commercial art is done with computer graphics programs," Staley says. "It is another artist's tool that art students should know how to use, whether they're going to be transferring to a four-year university or working for someone else."

Computer graphics software has numerous uses. A photograph, for example, can be scanned into the computer. Elements in the photo can then be altered;

age lines can be erased, the sky can be brightened, clouds can be added, and elements (people and things) can be added or removed. Photos and other images can be changed to reflect psychedelic, impressionistic and other styles. Hundreds of colors are available, or artists can mix their own colors.

Students can work with scanned images or create their own using the drawing and painting features. A paint brush stroke can be sharpened, softened, faded at the end of the stroke and made transparent.

How popular is the computer graphics course with students? "The class goes crazy — we have to chase students out the door," Staley jokes.

Learning valuable skills

Students are having fun using the software, but more importantly they're learning a marketable skill. Staley anticipates that the college will offer Computer Graphics I, II, III and IV beginning this fall, and students who complete all four courses should be qualified to work for an advertising agency, Staley says.

"I think being able to offer computer graphics attracts students and offers them things they can't get at many other colleges," Staley says.

Computer graphics student Wilma Sharp, 49, believes the software encourages creativity. "This is another artistic tool and you can do things faster," she says. "Right now, I'm working on setting up a billboard."

Faith in technology

Another student, 42-year-old Betty Kelly, is an artist whose first love is painting. "I'm trying to get a certificate so I can get a job and continue to paint," she says. Although the painting and drawing abilities of computer graphics software are impressive, Kelly says the computer will never make oil paint, brushes and canvas obsolete.

As an artist's tool, Staley says the invention and widespread use of computer graphics is on a plane with the invention of oil-based paint.

"We have put our faith in the future of technology," he says. "Our District has the foresight to see the importance of acquiring the latest computer graphics arts technology."

Computer graphic arts courses are also offered at other NHMCCD colleges. ★

*Below:
Art Instructor Earl Staley demonstrates the capabilities of a popular computer graphics software program.*



Photo by LaNae Ilseeng

COLLEGE NOW!

CISD students get early college start

GEORGE ALLEN, THE late coach of the Washington Redskins, was often quoted as saying, "The future is now." Several hundred Conroe Independent School District high school students will soon be able to identify with that statement by taking college courses through Montgomery College's new

CollegeNow program.

CollegeNow, a new partnership being planned between CISD and Montgomery College, will enable high school students to enroll in college-credit courses and receive dual college and high school credit. According to Montgomery College President Bill Law, CollegeNow will benefit students, high school and college faculty, taxpayers and the North Harris Montgomery Community College District.

"The closer we get to integrating the high school and college curriculum, the more sense it makes," Law says. "I'll do anything to be partners with high schools, so we can have a better understanding of the challenges they face in preparing students, and they can have a fuller understanding of what's expected of students at the college level."

Although the agreement between Montgomery College and CISD isn't official yet, Law says that's only a formality. "It's beyond the idea stage," he says. "We're now discussing how we will make it work."

A complementary partnership

CollegeNow could be implemented in several ways, Law explains. Options being considered include: conducting college courses at high schools during regular high school hours; conducting college courses before or after regular high school hours; and having high school students come to the Montgomery College campus for classes. The first option — courses during regular school hours — is the most attractive, according to Law. "It recognizes that high school and college learning are not separate activities, but rather they build on each other," he notes.

Among course subjects being considered are English composition, mathematics, science, sociology and psychology. Computer applications courses are also a logical area for partnerships. Students taking college courses could meet requirements for high school graduation, as well as for high school electives.

Most courses would be taught by current high school teachers who meet the college's requirement of having a master's degree and 18 credit hours in the field they are teaching. "We know that many teachers in the Conroe Independent School District have advanced educational credentials appropriate for college-level courses," says Law.

The high school-to-college transition would be eased because high school students will attend a course five hours a week for 18 weeks. (Regular college students complete the same courses in three hours per week for 16 weeks.) But Law emphasizes that the high school students will be held to the same standards as regular college students and that course content won't be altered. "The instructor will clearly teach from the college syllabus," he says.

Law expects high school students to benefit by getting a head start on college and having their interest in school elevated by facing greater academic challenges. He believes CollegeNow can decrease drop-out rates and increase the number of high school graduates who continue their education at Montgomery College.

'...high school and college learning are not separate activities, but rather they build on each other.'

Bill Law, Montgomery College President

According to Law, there's also a major financial benefit to be gained for the community. "The out-of-pocket savings to taxpayers will be significant," he says. "I envision several hundred high school students each year taking courses in a dual high school-college credit mode. Some students will graduate from high school with 24 to 30 college hours, which will save a full year's college tuition."

Faculty from both high schools and the college should benefit, as well. "I've never been disappointed by putting faculty from high schools and colleges together," Law says. "They'll learn from each other and the result will be good things for students." ★

Keeping ahead

Continued from page 1

"Textbook publishers are now putting their ancillary materials on tape and disk, and instructors can pick out the slides they want on the laser disk and CD ROM drive," says Penny Westerfeld, Technology Division Head. "Multimedia adds so much to the curriculum. It's a motivating tool that is intriguing to faculty and students alike."

The college isn't limiting its multimedia usage to the Technology Division. The college has formed a multimedia team consisting of English, history, computer and psychology instructors to develop multimedia uses in the classroom. "The great thing about multimedia is that all faculty can use it to enhance their instruction," Westerfeld says.

Saving lives of animals

At Tomball College, veterinary technology students are learning how to use a new blood-pressure monitor that can help save the lives of animals during surgery. According to Dr. George Younger, Coordinator of the Veterinary Technology Department, more than half the human and animal deaths during surgery are caused by anesthesia.

"The blood-pressure monitor alerts veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians if an animal is in

trouble," Younger says. "Not only is the blood-pressure monitor important from the standpoint of taking care of animals in surgery, but it's important as a teaching aid. When the students leave Tomball College, they'll be able to use the machine in veterinary practice."

Universal access to PLATO

Many students entering college need developmental math and English courses. At Montgomery College, those students have the advantage of universal access to PLATO basic skills software. Because every computer in the college's Conroe Center is tied to one network, software can be accessed from any computer in the building. A recently added third computer lab gives students even greater access.

"Based on talking to the faculty, it appears that students are doing better in their developmental classes," says Kenne Turner, Dean of Academic Services. "Students seem to be eager to use the equipment. As an example, one of our students wasn't able to continue taking an intermediate algebra course because it conflicted with her work schedule. She continued to work with the PLATO program, however."

Turner sums up the role of technology in the District: "Technology in itself is not our goal. But like any other tool, it helps us better support the students." ★

Calendar of events

★ **May 9**

Business and Industry Council Small Business Awards Banquet

★ **May 14**

Commencement

★ **May 16**

Kingwood College May term registration

★ **June 1-2**

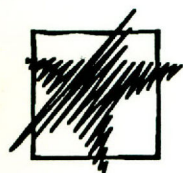
Summer I registration

★ **June 6**

Last day to register for Summer I

★ **July 13**

Summer II registration



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