WC ranked among nation's top community colleges
Spring arrived early at Weatherford College, and we welcome it with open arms.

In this issue of the Hilltop we are proud to share with you the news that Weatherford College is gaining national attention as one of the best community colleges in America. Smart Assest named WC the 19th best two-year college in the nation out of 565 public colleges, and Schools.com ranked us sixth best in the state. Those are both achievements to be proud of.

We are also proud of our Phi Theta Kappa students who are working on a campus-wide project this semester to create tactile maps to aid in the mobility of the visually impaired on campus. These students witnessed a need by one of their members and took it upon themselves to find a solution.

Also in this issue we recognize Dana Orban as the 2015 Staff Member of the Year, feature Judy McAnally as the newest member of the WC Board of Trustees and highlight a groundbreaking at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center for their new Pioneer Park, a collection of historic Parker County log cabins. The Center is located on Weatherford College property, and the Board of Trustees approved additional land use for the Center to establish the log cabin village.

In closing, I continue to invite all those interested to visit WC for a tour of our beautiful campus. This is your college, and we look forward to the opportunity to share our accomplishments with you.

Kevin J. Eaton, Ed.D.
President

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Folks in Parker County know how valuable Weatherford College is to the community, and now that message has spread nationwide.

In 2015, WC appeared on several “best of” lists including SmartAsset’s 2015 list of the nation’s best community colleges. As reported by The Huffington Post, SmartAsset ranks WC 19th in the nation out of 565 public, two-year colleges.

Rankings were based on graduation and transfer rates, in-state tuition cost, the ratio of the average starting salary to the overall cost of education and the student-teacher ratio. In 2015, the graduation and transfer rate for WC students was 39 percent and the student-teacher ratio was 18:1.

As for tuition, this is the third year in a row for the per-credit-hour cost to run $80 for in-district students, $124 for out-of-district students, $98 for out-of-district students in Wise County, $115 for out-of-district students in Granbury and $176 for out-of-state students.

“The dollars we received from the state this last year we are feeling comfortable that we can remain at the same price,” said Andra Cantrell, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Affairs. “Our rates fall just below the state average.”

The website Schools.com places WC as the sixth best community college in the State of Texas using qualifiers such as graduation and transfer rates, financial aid support, affordability and accessibility.

“Weatherford College is known for its unique history and notable facilities, including a large, well-equipped fine arts center complete with a 500-plus seat theater,” writes Aimee Hosler in the Schools.com article. “What really sets Weatherford apart, however, is its student-centered philosophy. The college offers weekend and evening programs designed to make education more accessible to parents and full-time workers. Perhaps more notable though, is that it also offers on-campus housing, which can be a major perk for students seeking a more traditional college experience or hail from outside the region.”

Coyote Village opened in the fall of 2003 replacing older dorms which had existed since the campus was constructed in 1969. Coyote Village features apartment-style two- and four-bedroom suites to accommodate 280 students.

WC President Dr. Kevin Eaton said the college’s national and state rankings speak volumes.

“We have always taken pride in our college, but it is nice to see that others recognize the outstanding work that has been achieved by this storied institution,” Eaton said. “Our recent campus improvements have added one more layer of excellence to go along with our incredible faculty and staff. We are blessed to have a Board of Trustees that has allowed us to spend reserve dollars to improve our infrastructure. I would like to thank all of our employees for their dedication and our community for their continued support. Without these two groups, none of this would be possible.”

The quality and cost of a WC education along with the perks of campus life are attracting national attention.

by Crystal Brown

The quality and cost of a WC education along with the perks of campus life are attracting national attention.
Elke Barfield of Weatherford passed away Feb. 21. She was 71 and worked at WC 19 years before retiring.

Michael “Mike” Brown of Weatherford passed away Nov. 25. He was 63. He had taught agriculture for 35 years, served as rodeo coach and collegiate livestock judging coach at WC.

Jason L. Buechler of Weatherford passed away Nov. 22. He was 30.

Peggy Ann Burnett of Arlington passed away Nov. 21. She was 84.

Radene Fowler Christian of Mabank passed away Oct. 31. She was 73.

Jerry Ernest Cockburn of Springtown passed away Oct. 4. He was 80.

Mary Ann Cox of Weatherford passed away Nov. 13. She was 92.

Melba Olene Crow of Weatherford passed away Feb. 19. She was 81.

Robert Nodell Dennis of Springtown passed away Oct. 14. He was 72.

Shayla Mae Dickson passed away Jan. 8. She was 31.

Nelda Gatnings of Fort Worth passed away Oct. 23. She was 92.

Sandra Anne Irvine Haydon of Weatherford passed away Dec. 2. She was 69.

William “Bill” Allen Jenkins passed away on Jan. 3. He was 53.

David I. Jewell of St. Petersburg, FL, passed away Sept. 28. He was 80.

Kenneth W. Neill of Friona passed away Dec. 23. He was 93.

Lillie Richards Payne of Weatherford passed away Jan. 21. She was 89.

Timothy (Tim) Poston of Weatherford passed away Feb. 15. He was 69 and was a Criminal Justice Instructor at WC for 26 years.

Jimmy Bryan Powell of Weatherford passed away Oct. 30. He was 30.

James Robertson of Norman, OK, passed away Oct. 9. He was 82.

Paulette Shook of Fort Worth passed away Dec. 26. She was 66.

Joyce Maxine Walker of Brock passed away Feb. 3. She was 87.

Bradford “Brad” Whittier Tibbitts of Weatherford passed away Jan. 23. He was 74 and had taught and served as Academic Dean at WC. Brad retired in 2011 and was named Professor Emeritus after 38 years at WC.
A CAMPUS VISION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

by Crystal Brown

The meandering walkways and rise and fall of topography on the Weatherford College campus create a pleasing appearance to the eye, but these features do little to assist visually impaired students like Michael Browne.

While Browne described his first visit to WC as "disastrous," he and his fellow Phi Theta Kappa honor society members are working on a project to improve the campus experience for others with visual impairments.

The students started a project in the fall to create large print and braille maps of the college. Once completed later this semester, maps will be available for visitors or new students learning their way around campus. Additional maps will be located inside each building entrance which will provide detailed information from the person’s current location.

So far, the students have produced a prototype map of the bottom floor of the Boyd Technology Building with maps of other buildings to come. Each tactile map will go into detail about which entry a person has entered, where storm shelter rooms are located, what classrooms are on what side of the hallway and if there are any stationary objects to be wary of like benches lining the hallways.

Phi Theta Kappa member and close friend of Browne’s, Weston Decker, said this campus project was chosen in order to provide a more independent experience for those with visual impairments.

“Our decision for this project was to recognize and address issues for those who are far too often overlooked in society," Decker said. “As a sighted person it’s hard for me and the others to go about our day realizing what it’s like to not see. That’s where Michael played the ultimate role in this project’s success. He has shown every single one of us how to see the world as if we were to never see it again.”

Browne, now 24, lost his sight during his sophomore year at Weatherford High School following a head injury. And although he has needed to redirect his life’s path, he approaches life with a robust sense of humor.

One of the first stories Browne will share with new friends is how he was a licensed and insured driver for a full year after he lost his sight since his first driver’s license arrived in the mail following his injury.

"Why do you think they have braille on the drive-through ATM," he laughed.

Joking aside, braille and a walking cane have become integral parts of his life.

“When you lose your eyesight (at a young age) they teach you visual impairment skills for living in elementary through high school,” Browne said. “You also take O&M, orientation and mobility, and that teaches you to travel with a cane. So you are taught through all of those years. But I lost my eyesight my sophomore year in high school, so I only had about two-and-a-

continues with Special Project on page 8.
1. Dana Orban was in tears before her name was even called as the 2015 Staff Member of the Year which includes round-trip airfare for two to anywhere in the continental United States and $1,000 from the WC Foundation. “I feel so honored to win the Staff Member of the Year for 2015,” Orban said.

Orban is the Math and Social Science Secretary and was praised by both department chairs for her hard work and dedication.

“She is dedicated to her job and the departments that she works for,” said Mathematics Chair Shirley Brown. “Dana is wonderful employee and an asset to the Mathematics Department.”

2. WC music instructor Ric Flauding was the featured guest artist at the Rock Valley College Jazz Festival in Rockford, Illinois, in February. Rock Valley has two jazz bands, which both performed Flauding’s compositions including the premiere of “Soli Deo Gloria.” Also performed were Flauding’s “Moonlit,” “Cal & the Gang” and “Sonny.” Flauding conducted each piece in the festival finale concert and performed on other pieces conducted by Ken Stein. He also taught a clinic on improvisation composition and judged the festival band competition.

3. Dr. Scott Tarnowieckyi was recently published in Border Wars, The Civil War in Tennessee and Kentucky. His peer-reviewed entry, Descent into Anarchy: The Evolution of Irregular Warfare in the Lower Green River Country of Kentucky, is the second chapter of the book.


5. High school students from surrounding districts converged on the WC campus on Feb. 5 to put their wits to the test in the annual Coyote Area Math Championship.

Students competed in pre-calculus and calculus competitions. The day also included a motivational talk by Nick Reynoso, a supplier quality engineer at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. Pictured is the first place winner in the Calculus competitions: Brewer High School – (Bojana Ivanic, Sarah Clark, David Grafford-Gaby, Boozziel Chavez)

6. Judge Craig Towson swears in Judy McAnally, the newest member of the Weatherford College Board of Trustees. McAnally was appointed to the board in December to fill the unexpired term of Don Allen, who passed away earlier in 2015. She was sworn in Feb. 11.
7. WC theatre students performed in the production of "Everyman" in February. They also performed this play for the Texas Community College Speech and Theatre Association Texas Play Festival on March 2 hosted by Tarleton State University.

8. WC Board Chair Frank Martin, far right, participated in a groundbreaking for Pioneer Park, a log cabin village being established at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. Weatherford College provided space on college property directly behind the Center for the village which will start off with four historic Parker County log cabins.

9. International students share information from their home countries with other WC students during Multicultural Week.
During his senior year of high school his O&M teacher brought him to WC several times but told Browne he needed more time to learn the campus layout.

Since coming to WC in 2011, Browne has had to be creative in navigating the campus. While he can continue to receive O&M services from the State of Texas, to do so he must maintain a full-time course load which he said is difficult due to the extra study time required when using braille books and re-listening to audio recordings of lectures.

“Every time I went full time my GPA dropped,” Browne said. “Many people can’t understand the time it takes a sighted person to study, for a visually impaired person it takes double or triple that time.”

Fortunately, the WC campus community stepped in to help Browne navigate campus. A variety of people, including the Office of Disabilities, the Campus Police Department and random students and staff have helped guide him from place to place. Lighthouse for the Blind, a non-profit that serves the visually impaired, is assisting him as well.

In addition to his studies, Browne is also a work-study student for Dean Michael Endy who said his office will work with Browne to extend this project to all WC campuses.

“Obviously, providing tools to increase independence for our visually impaired constituents improves the college for those individuals,” Endy said. “To me, the greater gain is in the investment of the students in the college, for the benefit of the college as a community. While the majority of our students will never need those tools and many will never know any more about them than that they exist, the fact that they perceived this need and chose to act to meet the need speaks volumes about these students and our institution. This is an immediate, real-world application of higher education in action.”

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### Demographics

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<th>Spring 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1228 Students</strong></td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Credit Hours: 5.14</td>
<td>1131 Students</td>
<td>1041 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Age: 16.5</td>
<td>8% Internet Classes</td>
<td>6% Internet Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age Range: 13-19</td>
<td>146 Students</td>
<td>41 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1078 Students</strong></td>
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<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Credit Hours: 5.06</td>
<td>High School Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Age: 16.45</td>
<td>1134 Students</td>
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Benefactors ($10,000 and above)
James and Dorothy Doss Foundation, Dr. Sumant and Sheela A. Kumar, Michael Feely Memorial Scholarship/ Dan and Marsha Feely, Plains Capital Bank, Nancy and Richard Stuart, Rena Mae Woody, Mary Zielinski Estate

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Continued on next page

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SPRING 2016 • FINE ARTS EVENTS

APR 1
SPRING JAZZ CONCERT
BEGINs AT 7:30 P.M.

APR 4-26
ART SHOW ALL DAY EVENT

APR 11
ART RECEPTION

APR 15
DR. HYEYOUNG SONG PIANO RECITAL
BEGINs AT 7:30 P.M.

APR 19
SPRING CHOIR CONCERT
BEGINs AT 7:30 P.M.

MAY 1
MAY 6
MAY 7
MAY 7
APRIL 28, FALL 2016
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

APRIL 28, 29 & 30
MAY 1
SPRING DRAMA SHOW
"THE SECRET IN THE WINGS"
APRIL PERFORMANCES BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.
MAY PERFORMANCE BEGINs AT 2 P.M.

STUDENT PIANO RECITAL
BEGINs AT 1 P.M.

OPERA WORKSHOP PRODUCTION
BEGINs AT 7:30 P.M.

VOICE RECITAL
BEGINs AT 6 P.M.

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Supporters (up to $99)

Class Notes

Rhett Butler ('15) began a five-month study abroad program in Australia in February. Rhett is an engineering major at Texas Tech University studying at the University of Newcastle.

Jack “Chris” Blair and his wife, Emily, welcomed the birth of their second baby boy, Adrian Rogers Blair, on Oct. 19. The Blair family lives in Fort Worth.

James Brownlee ('98) directed WC's production of “Everyman” in February. James is now teaching speech and drama at WC after grad school at Texas State University. He and his wife, Erin Mallory Brownlee, met in the WC Theatre Department as students.

Daniel Flores ('10) was named 2015 Rookie of the Year by the Euless Fire Department. His unit also won the Distinguished Unit Award and he won a Life Saving Award. Daniel graduated from the WC Fire Academy in 2010 and earned his EMT Basic and Paramedic certifications in 2012.

Dr. Molly Clark Harris ('95) is now Assistant to the President at Grayson College in Denison. She had spent the previous seven years as a WC faculty member and sponsor of Phi Theta Kappa.

Anna Eastman ('15) is now a Substance Abuse Counselor for Star Council in Mineral Wells and Cleburne. She studied in WC's Human Service Provider/Substance Abuse Counseling Program.

Kayleigh Goff Langford ('13) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Texas Tech University in December with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Kayleigh is a graduate of WC's LVN and ADN nursing programs.

Shaun Martin and Robert Searight, as part of the jazz group Snarky Puppy, won a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album Feb. 15. It's the group's second Grammy and Martin's fifth. Shaun and Robert both played in WC's Jazz Band in the late '90s.

Dr. Nicholas Sambaluk has published his first book, The Other Space Race: Eisenhower and the Quest for Aerospace Security. He is an Assistant Professor of Military Science and Technology at Purdue University and a research fellow for the Army Cyber Institute at West Point.

Cadee Tew and Landon Williams will be married on April 29. The couple met at WC while competing on the rodeo team. Both athletes qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo during their Weatherford days.
## BASEBALL

### MARCH
- 5  Tyler
- 9  *N. Central Texas
-14  Eastfield
-19  *Temple
-25  *Cisco
-30  *Grayson

### APRIL
- 6  *Ranger
-13  *Hill
-23  *McLennan
-28  Texas Wesleyan

### MAY
- 4  *Vernon

### SOFTBALL

#### MARCH
- 9  *Ranger
-12  *Vernon
-19  *Temple

#### APRIL
- 6  *Ranger
-13  *Hill
-23  *McLennan
-28  Texas Wesleyan

#### MAY
- 4  *Vernon

*Denotes conference games

Baseball plays at Roger Williams Ballpark
Softball plays at Stuart Field

www.wcathletics.com

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FRIDAY, APRIL 15, AT 11:30 A.M. DOSS STUDENT CENTER

$20 TICKETS IN ADVANCE, $25 AT THE DOOR

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