

Right Now



*Moving Forward
with **Logistics***

ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE <small>aspens institute</small>	2011
	2013
	2015
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INSIDE

*Education is a
Family Affair*

*New Beginnings Turned into
Fresh Start for ACC Student*

*5 Reasons
You Belong at ACC*

A Bright Horizon: Embracing the Positive Future of AI

One of the most exciting aspects of serving here at Alvin Community College is to encourage, support and live in a world of exceptional intellectual curiosity. We strive to be a high-performing institution through embracing innovation and the entrepreneurial mindset. Please keep this in mind as you read the following essay.

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands as a beacon of hope, heralding a future replete with positive transformations. As we navigate this brave new world, it's crucial to envision the boundless potential that AI holds and the positive impacts it can bestow upon society, economy, and our daily lives. Let us peer into this promising horizon through the lens of optimism and innovation.

To comprehend the promising future of AI, we must first acknowledge its ability to revolutionize numerous sectors. Healthcare, for instance, will undergo a profound transformation through AI-powered diagnostics, predictive analytics, and personalized medicine. AI can analyze vast amounts of medical data, detect patterns, and offer more accurate diagnoses. This will undoubtedly enhance patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and potentially save countless lives.

Moreover, AI's integration in education holds immense promise. It can personalize learning experiences, adapting to individual student needs and optimizing teaching methods. Through AI, educators can identify areas for improvement and tailor curricula to enhance comprehension and engagement, fostering a generation of empowered learners.

In the realm of business and industry, AI offers unparalleled opportunities for growth and efficiency. Through automation, predictive analysis, and enhanced decision-making, businesses can optimize their operations, reduce costs, and deliver superior products and services. This will foster economic growth, creating a ripple effect of prosperity and innovation across global markets.

However, to realize this positive future, we must ensure responsible and ethical AI development and deployment. Transparency, fairness, and inclusivity should be the pillars guiding the advancement of AI technology. Striking a balance between innovation and ethical considerations will be crucial in building trust and maximizing the benefits of AI for all of humanity.

The future I envision for AI is one where it augments human capabilities, enabling us to achieve unprecedented heights. It's a future where AI acts as a catalyst for positive change, enhancing our lives, society, and the world we inhabit. As we embark on this journey, let us remain vigilant, steering the course towards a brighter, more harmonious future—one in which AI is a driving force for the greater good of humanity.

This short essay is the product of ChatGPT, a tool created by OpenAI that generates content after receiving a given prompt, with a short introduction written by me.

What was the prompt, you ask? I simply typed in "Write a 500-word essay on the positive future for ChatGPT in the voice of Robert J. Exley." The essay was produced in less than two minutes. I am impressed with how well this short essay captures

my personal hopes and beliefs. I am also keenly aware that it is an exciting tool but I alone am responsible for assuring its accuracy in capturing my voice and the content.

ACC executive leadership is encouraging our leaders throughout the college to dive into and better understand AI's advantages for each of their areas of responsibility. This includes instruction, student services, business operations, and marketing to begin. We are exploring how to help students embrace this new technology as they enter their careers. I am eagerly looking forward to how ACC will take advantage of the evolving technologies as we serve students and support the greater community.

Our future at Alvin Community College is definitely a bright one!



Sincerely,

Robert J. Exley, Ph.D.
President



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Fall 2023 • Issue 4

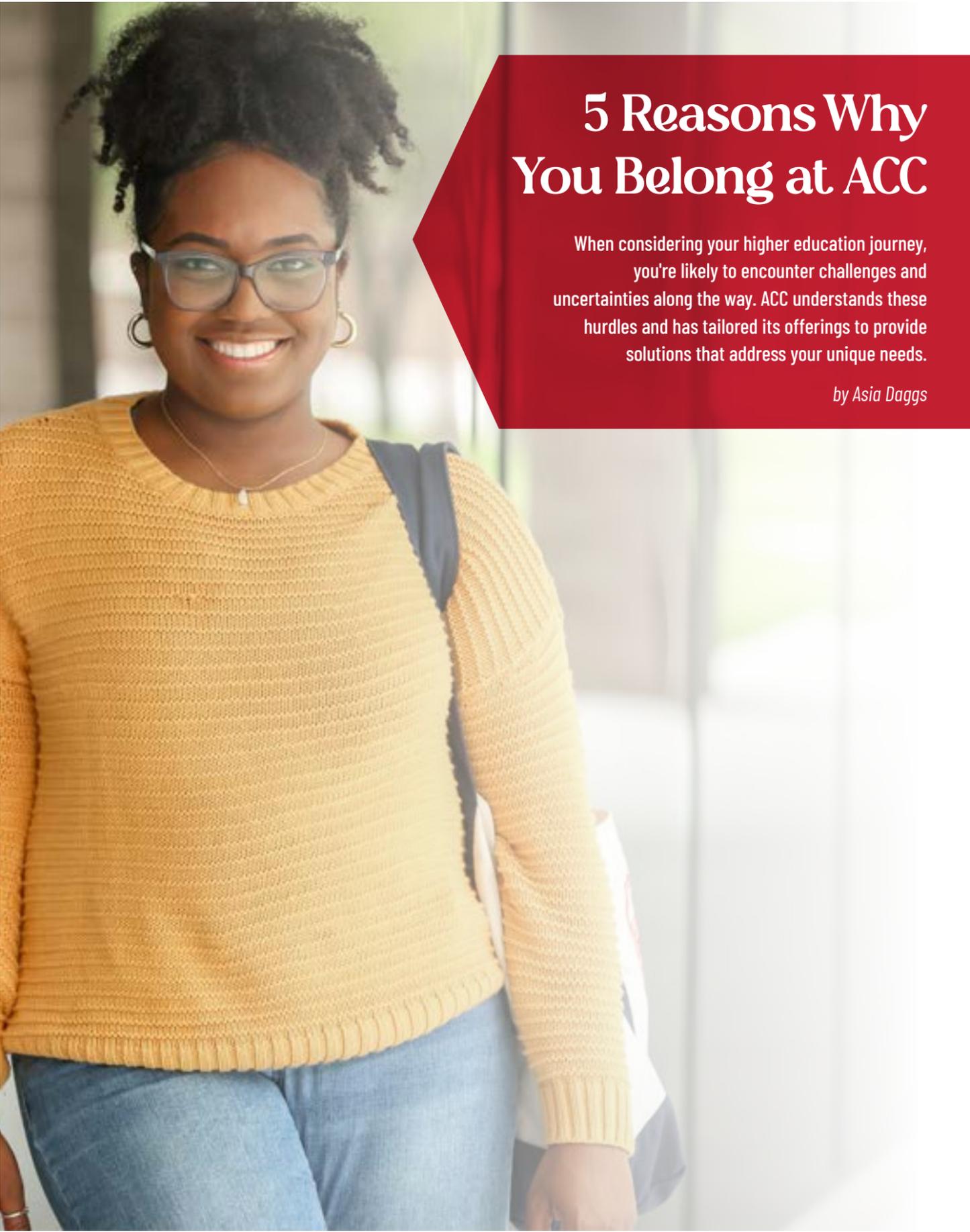


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5 Reasons Why You Belong at ACC

When considering your higher education journey, you're likely to encounter challenges and uncertainties along the way. ACC understands these hurdles and has tailored its offerings to provide solutions that address your unique needs.

by Asia Daggs

Higher Education, Lower Tuition

ACC's tuition is a fraction of what you would pay at four-year colleges. By attending ACC for your first two years, you can significantly reduce your tuition costs while still receiving a high-quality education. With our affordable tuition rates, access to financial aid and scholarships, and the option to live at home, you have the opportunity to save thousands of dollars per semester or year in tuition expenses!

Technical and Workforce Careers

ACC offers a wide range of technical and workforce programs that prepare you for high-demand careers in areas such as Nursing, Process Technology, Biotechnology, Truck Driving, and more. These hands-on degree and certificate programs give you the skills needed to enter the workforce quickly and excel in your chosen field. ACC offers over eighty degrees and certificates in eight Career Pathways. You choose the path to help you reach your destination. We'll provide the roadmap, along with the assistance at every turn to help ensure your success.

Learning at Your Pace

At ACC, we recognize the importance of flexibility. Whether you prefer to learn in-person or online, we offer diverse course options that cater to your schedule. Choose from 16, 8, and 4-week courses to align with your pace and commitments. This adaptability empowers you to tailor your academic experience to your own needs, making it easier to balance education with work, family, and other responsibilities.

Transfer Opportunities

Does your path to success lead to transferring to a university to earn your Bachelor's degree? If so, ACC is here to travel that path with you. Transitioning to a four-year university can be a daunting prospect, but ACC has you covered. We have established agreements with numerous colleges and universities, streamlining the transfer process and ensuring that your hard-earned ACC credits seamlessly transfer to the receiving institution.

Community Engagement

We understand that college is not just about academics; it's also about building a sense of belonging and forging meaningful connections. ACC encourages community engagement through clubs, organizations, and volunteer opportunities, helping you build lasting connections. Whether you're interested in joining a club, participating in community service projects, or networking with like-minded individuals, ACC provides a supportive environment where you can nurture relationships that can enrich your personal and professional life for years to come!

To learn more, visit: alvincollege.edu

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EDUCATION IS A FAMILY AFFAIR



by
John
Tompkins

It is true that education is built on helping students on their individual journey but it has been more of a family matter for the Clark family.

The Santa Fe family has had six students in the past 10 years take courses at Alvin Community College and it has helped each of them find their path towards their career.

"It has given them so many opportunities," said Sherry Clark, the children's mother. "It gave them an important commonality. It was also very important to them."

Her six children: Samuel, Rebekah, Israel, Hannah, Charity and Faith all attended courses at the college at one point or another.

Sherry and her late husband Ken Clark, a former Galveston County Commissioner, always felt an education was important for their future and their children took advantage of those opportunities at ACC.

When they first enrolled, Sherry said that ACC staff members made it clear that college courses were demanding and that her children would have to be dedicated in order to succeed. As a family that values education, the college played an important role in educating her children and preparing them for their careers.

Israel took courses at the college before entering the U.S. Navy, where he is now a Corpsman First Class.

Rebekah also took Dual Enrollment courses at ACC prior to seeking a Bachelor's Degree and was named to the Dean's List and President's List. She was also active on campus, serving with the Student Government Association. She will earn her Bachelor's in Primary Education from the University of Houston-Clear Lake this December.

Hannah started her undergraduate classes at ACC and then transferred to Lamar University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and later earned a Master's

Degree at the University of Texas at Arlington. She is serving as a social worker with Galveston County.

The youngest of the Clark children, Faith, began at ACC through the Dual Enrollment program and earned an Associate's Degree in Health Sciences. She will continue her education at ACC to pursue an Associate's Degree in Nursing. Samuel began attending classes at the age of 16 as a Dual Enrollment student and became the college's youngest president of the Student Government Association. He also served on the Southeast Texas Association of Community College's advisory board and was active with Student Life on campus throughout his time at ACC.

Samuel also completed several Honors projects in many of his classes.

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLOWED ME TO BE ENGAGED FULLY WITH THE STUDENT BODY, EVEN AS A DUAL CREDIT STUDENT.

- Samuel Clark

"Alvin Community College allowed me to be engaged fully with the student body, even as a dual credit student," Samuel said. "The teachers and administration made the entire process understandable and straightforward."

After taking 56 hours at ACC, Samuel transferred to Texas Tech University where he earned a Business in Agriculture Degree with a 3.98 GPA.

"The experience I had at ACC allowed me to earn a full ride scholarship when I proceeded to Texas Tech University, out-competing students much older than me for incentivized leadership programs," he said. Charity also started at ACC as a Dual Enrollment student at the age of 15 so she could prepare for entering a Nursing program. While at ACC she became involved outside of the classroom.

"As a student, I secured a position in the Student Activities department, marking one of my earliest professional experiences. This position taught me invaluable time management skills while balancing high school, college, and work commitments. It also allowed me to tap into my creative side, as well as challenging me to network in order to recruit students for various events."

With the help of staff members including counselors, faculty members and former Dean JoAn Anderson-Hildebrandt, she explored many different career opportunities and they helped her find the path to Nursing. She was an excellent student in the classroom, making the Dean's List and receiving the Presidents Award.

Even though Charity was a student at ACC, she also discovered that she enjoyed working to help other students excel in their classes.

"As I delved into science-based courses, I discovered a genuine passion for learning and teaching others," Charity said. "This passion extended to tutoring fellow students and creating comprehensive test guides."

Charity also participated in Honors courses, took part in several projects and attended conferences. She would go

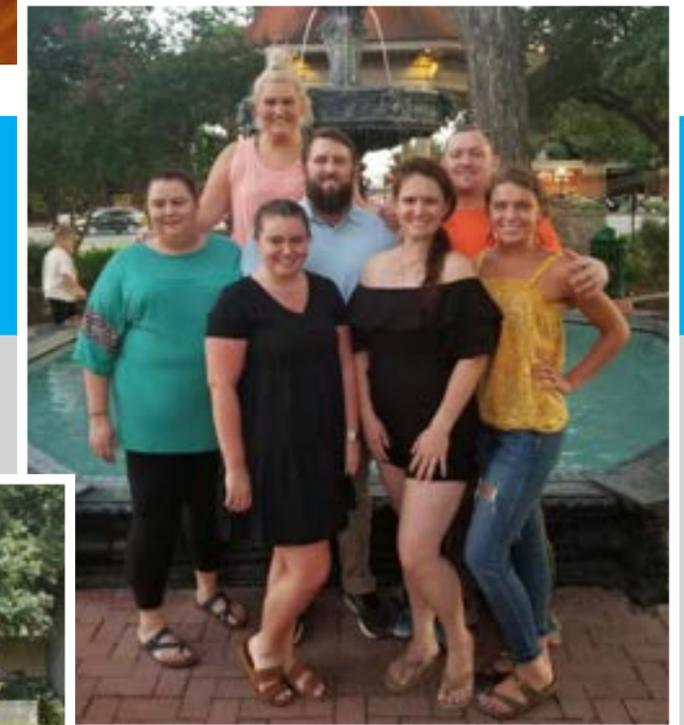
on to finish her Nursing education and received a Bachelor's Degree from University of Texas Medical Branch. She is now the Director of Nursing with Connect Pediatrics in Fort Worth.

"The study habits cultivated at ACC have continued to serve me well in various management roles I've held and in my current position, where I am responsible for developing most of our educational materials and clinical policies and procedures," Charity said.

As she watched how ACC provided the opportunities and education to build their careers, Sherry Clark felt it was time for her to expand on her horizons as well. She recently returned to school to pursue her education.

"They inspired me," Sherry said with a laugh. "We've always been very competitive."

Charity Clark
Phi Theta Kappa Induction



Clark Family Vacation



Charity Clark shown with Dr. A. Rodney Allbright, Past President
2009 President's Award



Samuel Clark shown with other officers
Student Government Association

SAVE THE DATE

Alvin Community College
75th Anniversary
Community Celebration

Tuesday, April 30, 2024
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Ceremony starts at 5:30 p.m.

Help us honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future.



Future Home of

ACC | West

Alvin Community College is excited to announce ACC West – A Center for Innovation and Workforce Training.

The purpose of the initiative is to provide a corporate college and expand workforce training opportunities. The corporate college will offer comprehensive training solutions to facilitate reskilling and upskilling initiatives. ACC is partnering with local corporations to design tailored programs that address specific skill gaps within their workforce.

This new location, 11800 Magnolia Parkway, will assist ACC in meeting the demands generated by the growth in that region. Having a presence on the west side of the college's district has been a long-standing goal for the college board of regents, and this facility represents a significant step toward achieving that vision.

ACC will develop short, flexible courses, workshops, and certification programs that align with industry trends and emerging technologies.

The facility will be versatile by hosting instruction and training in fields such as allied health, marketing, project management, business analytics, entrepreneurial programs, web design, and more.

It will feature collaboration spaces that can be used for a wide variety of functions including classrooms, Allied Health education spaces, staff offices, and even an arena for virtual/augmented reality training. Additionally, an opportunity to connect with student services will be available for the community.

The anticipated opening date for this new facility is 2024.



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CNC Machinist

- 8-month program
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Commercial Driver's License

- 4-week program
- Class A & B with Endorsements
- \$49,920 2022 median pay*

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- 4-month program
- \$44,820 per year median pay*

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- 8-month program
- \$47,180 2022 median pay*

Patient Care Technician

- 9-month program
- \$35,740 2022 median pay*



alvincollege.edu/cewd

*www.bls.gov

MOVING FORWARD WITH LOGISTICS

by John Tompkins

One of the most central elements to any operation, whether it's a hospital, warehouse or an office is ensuring that workers have the supplies they need.



When ACC student Holden Reine saw first hand how businesses move inventory, supplies and products, he became fascinated by the process. "The only way to keep things moving is through logistics," he said.

"Just about any business, any company has supply chain and logistics," he said. "It's not just one area and there's different divisions within logistics."

Reine enrolled in the Logistics, Materials and Supply Chain Management program at ACC and graduated in 2023.

"It's a constantly growing and changing industry that will always need people,"

Reine said. "Any company that exists needs logistics."

ACC first launched its Logistics, Materials and Supply Chain Management Associate in Applied Science program in 2021. Workers in logistics require several skills such as management, operations, purchasing, acquisitions, contract development, transportation and more. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that jobs in Supply Chain Management are expected to grow 5 percent by 2029.

"Think about your every day life," said Michael Fernandez, Logistics, Materials and Supply Chain Management

instructor. "Whether it's food, clothing, furniture, whatever it may be. You wouldn't be able to have anything without Supply Chain management."

Reine said what attracted him to the profession was watching the complex movement and storage an organization needs to function.

Before he was able to finish his degree, Reine secured a job with a medical supply company helping to move computer equipment, supplies, spare parts and medical devices. "Supply Chain Management focuses on several aspects of operations that includes supplies, raw materials and equipment but also inventory of finished products," he said.

"It was interesting to me the impact you can have on a product," he said. "You can make it and then that product goes anywhere around the world and you're the one who made that happen. That's something that fascinated me."

One important skill to learn in Logistics is flexibility. Supply Chain Management involves using different software platforms utilized by different companies for their operations.

"As long as you are comfortable navigating that, you can fit into any position," Reine said.

"One unique challenge of the profession is that logistics experts have to be able to interact and work with many different professionals in finance, engineering, purchasing and more," Fernandez said. "And those challenges are never routine. They have to bring everybody's goals together. Every day is a different day. There's so many different areas you can explore."

"The demand for workers in logistics has grown significantly in the past few years especially with the supply chain issues that have gripped global industry," Fernandez said. Some of those problems included difficulties in shipping containers, shortage in commercial truck drivers and effects from the Covid pandemic.

While some of the issues have been addressed, it has changed how professionals in Logistics operate.

"Now you have to order supplies a few months to a year ahead of time," Reine said.

"The more advanced preparation will ensure the company's operations continue in the foreseeable future and Logistics, Materials and Supply Chain Management experts make that possible," he said.

It's a constantly growing and changing industry that will always need people.

- Holden Reine



alvincollege.edu/logistics-supply-chain

You can check out the full interview with Holden Reine on the ACC Podcast, available wherever podcasts are found.

We had a DISASTROUS DAY at ACC and it went Great!

by Justin Morgan
Instructor, Associate Degree Nursing

Working in healthcare is like joining a team. Everyone has specific roles to play, but ultimately everyone is working toward a common goal: the well-being of those entrusted into our care. The challenges that the healthcare team faces are unique and require members to be excellent communicators and collaborators, even in the most stressful situations. At ACC, we prepare students for a variety of

healthcare roles including Neurodiagnostic Technicians, Polysomnography, Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography, Health Information Management, Pharmacy Technician, Respiratory Therapy, Vocational Nursing, Associate Degree Nursing, and Emergency Medical Services.

Our educators work diligently to ensure that graduates are prepared to join the workforce by incorporating

realistic learning opportunities into the curriculum at every opportunity. To create a realistic work environment, faculty and staff from the various health care departments came together to develop an interdisciplinary simulation activity which we called Disaster Day.

This activity allowed students to function within a mock hospital setting and participate in patient care. This venture was made possible by individuals invested in our students' success and willing to go above and beyond to create this awesome learning opportunity. The simulated activity incorporated over 40 "patients" that were portrayed using actors and manikins in a variety of settings.

Members from the Brazoria County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), ACC's theater department, and





volunteers from the community helped to create a level of realism that is hard to achieve in the academic world. Self-Made Towing, a local towing company, donated a car to be sacrificed for the car crash pre-hospital scene.

In addition to the simulation activity, students also had the ability to participate in several mini educational sessions that showcased specialty departments within the healthcare team. Speakers included members of the Kangaroo Crew, Lifegift, Shriners, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist from UTMB, and a Trauma Injury Prevention specialist from UTMB. But arguably the most popular educational session was the one that was hosted outdoors by members of Petroleum Helicopters International when they flew their helicopter onto campus to showcase and talk about air-medical transport. After the students made their rounds through the educational sessions,

they had the opportunity to meet with representatives from HCA, Harris Health, Methodist, UTMB, Memorial Hermann and Cypress Woods Care Center for a job fair which included onsite interviews and led to several positions being secured. Disaster Day was an excellent showcase of teamwork and collaboration from the faculty and staff at ACC to provide this unique educational experience for our students. Student Services and the Marketing Department came together to provide lunch and t-shirts for the 250+ students that participated. We look forward to next year's Disaster Day!

“
Overall, I had a great experience. The actors were amazing and made every bit of it as realistic as possible.
”

- ACC Student



alvincollege.edu/pathways/college-career-pathways

EDUCATION CHANGES EVERYTHING.

ACC to offer our first Bachelor's degree!

*Bachelor of Applied
Science in Business
Administration and
Management.*

COMING FALL 2024!

Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the Department of Education. Not eligible for Financial Aid until all approvals are complete.

Culinary Corner

by Chef Laura Trigo
Instructor, Culinary Arts



Spice Pumpkin Cookies

- 1 ½ cups fresh or canned pumpkin puree
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¾ cup unsalted softened butter
- 1 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons Steen's pure cane syrup
- 1 ½ teaspoons pure vanilla extract

Steen's Syrup Cream Cheese Icing

- 3 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tablespoons unsalted softened butter
- ¾ cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Steen's pure cane syrup
- pinch ground cinnamon (about 1/8 teaspoon)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone baking mats. Set aside.
2. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, ground cloves, cayenne pepper, and ginger together in a large bowl. Set aside.
3. Using a hand mixer or a stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream the softened butter and both sugars together on medium speed until smooth, about 2 minutes. Add the egg and mix on high until combined, about 1 minute. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Add the Steen's syrup, vanilla, and blotted pumpkin and mix on high until combined. Mixture will look a little curdled.
4. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, then mix on low speed until combined. Dough is thick and sticky. Scoop onto the baking sheets.
5. Bake for 14-15 minutes or until edges appear set. The centers will look soft. Remove from the oven and allow cookies to cool.
6. Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a paddle or whisk attachment, beat the cream cheese in a medium bowl on medium-high speed until smooth and creamy. Beat in the butter until combined. Add the confectioners' sugar, Steen's syrup, and a pinch of cinnamon (about 1/8 teaspoon), then beat on low speed until smooth and creamy. Dip the tops of the cooled cookies into icing or spread it onto each cookie with a knife.



FINDING LOST TIME

Tiempo Perdido

by John Tompkins

It's really satisfying hearing it once you have it in a good place. There's nothing like it. The human element that makes every performance slightly different is interesting.

- Nathan Hames

While he's taking courses through the ACC Communications program, student Nathan Hames struggled to find a way to communicate while trying to compose a song.

"I was having really bad writer's block," he said. "I could not come up with an idea. I couldn't come up with any inspiration until one day I literally tapped a rhythm on a table."

Hames would take that tapping and turn it into a bass rhythm for his composition "Tiempo Perdido" or "Lost Time."

The inspired song was performed by the ACC Community Band during their 2023 Spring Concert.

"That rhythm is kind of the basis of the entire piece," Hames said. "It's almost similar to a big band piece style where you have the main melody and then have other sections coming in with their own thing."

He worked with his instructors in the Music Department. Hames said he needed their expertise to help with composing the song.

Hearing it in the ACC Theatre played by the Community Band was exciting and was inspiring. Rehearsing the song helped him build it into a better composition.

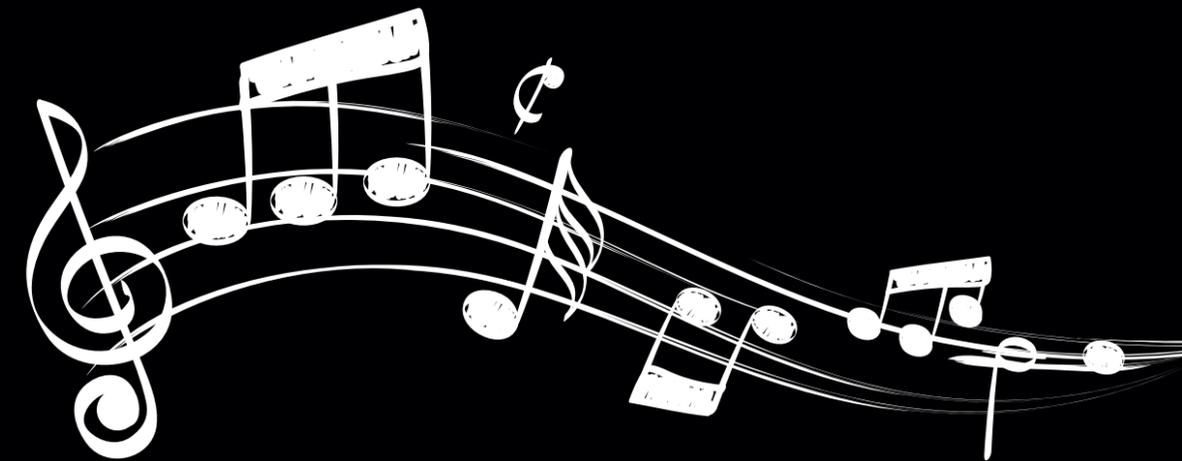
"It was very interesting and I learned a lot," Hames said. "It's really satisfying hearing it once you have it in a good place. There's nothing like it. The human element that makes every performance slightly different is interesting."

While Tiempo Perdido has now been performed, Hames is not done with changes to the arrangement. He is attempting to change some of the key signatures in the song, hoping to make it better.

"It is still being improved and updated," he said.

Hames enjoys making music but he is planning on a career in video production and editing. He also enjoys other media development including audio, photography and music.

"I just want to find something where I can blend all of this together," he said. "Communication and production is a nice balance between having creative freedom and having technical skills."



alvincollege.edu/music

To hear more of Hames' interview along with selections from the song, please download the ACC Podcast, available wherever podcasts are found.

New Beginnings Turned into *Fresh Start* for ACC Student

by John Tompkins

“ This program opened so many doors for me, without New Beginnings I would be right back where I came from.

- Andres Nino

As Andres Nino neared the end of his sentence as an inmate with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, how he would support himself and his family weighed heavily on his mind.

It is difficult for former inmates to find work after incarceration and Nino knew it would be a struggle. He was able to turn his life around through the New Beginnings initiative at Alvin Community College by enrolling in the Welding program.

“This program opened so many doors for me,” Nino said. “Without New Beginnings I would be right back where I came from.”

New Beginnings provides training and education to students recently released from incarceration or who are soon to be released.

Nino spoke about his experiences with a small crowd during a recent visit by Texas Workforce Commissioner Alberto Trevino III.

“It gives them the hope and the courage to become better,” Trevino said. “I’m excited to see their future and their independence moving forward. I think it’s vital that we equip Texas workers with the skills needed to excel.”

ACC was one of 18 colleges to receive support for New Beginnings from the Texas Talent Connection Grant program in 2021. The Texas Workforce Commission awarded \$350,000 to the ACC program to help reduce recurrence and provide job opportunities for incarcerated students. The funding has gone towards providing training and job placement for up to 100 students.

“This program supported by the Texas Talent Connection has added truck drivers to the roads, line-men to the power grid, counselors to help those



Left: Andres Nino, ACC Welding Student, Right: Pareshkumar Patel, Grants, Project Specialist

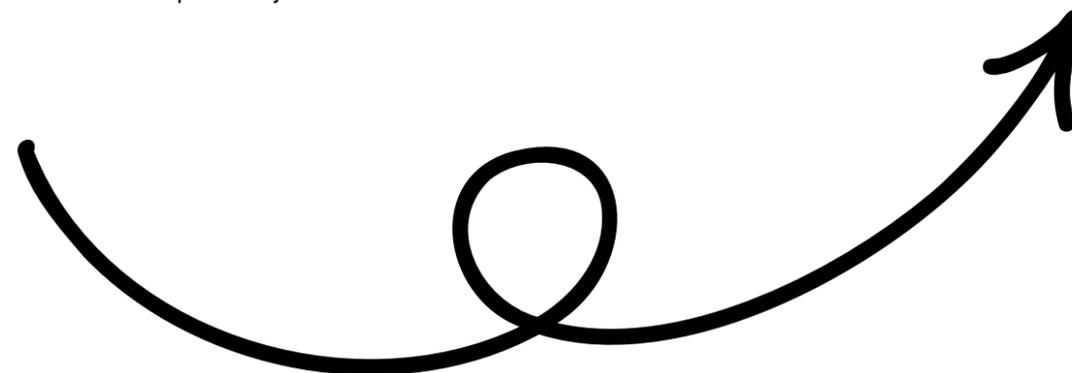
with addiction issues, chefs to the restaurants, welders to the construction industry, and educated entrepreneurs to the economic health of the state,” ACC President Dr. Robert J. Exley said.

Nino is set to graduate from the program in a year. Programs such as New Beginnings lay the foundation and gives hope for incarcerated students to change their lives and the lives of their families.

“I want this program to continue for other students,” he said. “This program provides opportunities that didn’t previously exist.”

The Texas Talent Connection Grants are awarded by the Texas Workforce Investment Council and administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. They were created to support innovative education and workforce skills training programs that lead to successful job placement, increased wages, and improved job retention, as well as programs serving workforce populations with special needs.

For more information, email: reentry@alvincollege.edu





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