

## from the desk of Neeta Sane



There is no better time for HCC to be essential in the life of our community than now. The current economic environment has compelled many in the Houston area to reevaluate their knowledge and

skills, and in doing so, they know they need to get the education necessary to compete for the many new and different jobs our area offers. Many residents of the greater Houston area are turning to HCC for the education and training they seek. This past school year, HCC passed an enrollment milestone when our unduplicated enrollment reached over 60,000 per semester, the largest in our history.

Educational opportunities also expanded this past year for the Alief community when that

community voted to join our district. Enrollment at the new Alief Campus on Hayes road has increased 25% as Alief students enjoy lower tuition. As part of the Service Plan, HCC and Alief ISD are spending their summer preparing for the fall opening of the Alief Early College High School. A permanent facility is still to be built. One hundred to 125 students are expected to register for the Fall 2009 semester and will attend classes in temporary buildings.

Students in the Early College program tackle a rigorous course of study and by the time they graduate, they will have earned not only their high school diploma, but an HCC associate's degree as well. Having earned two years of college credits, the students can then enter a state university at the junior level. The program saves students two years of tuition costs and two years of study after high school.

HCC observed another milestone as over 3,000 students graduated from the college in May and over 1,300 of those came to the commencement ceremony and walked across the stage to receive their associate's degree, certificate or GED. Speakers throughout the

ceremony commended the graduates in front of a 5,000-plus crowd at Minute Maid Park. They recognized that graduation for each student would not have been possible but for their determination, hard work and ambition, and that HCC acknowledged each and every graduate with a great deal of pride. And a new tradition began with the 2009 Graduation ceremony – HCC's new alma mater made its debut. The song, "Always Grateful," was written and arranged by HCC's Dr. Aubrey Tucker for this HCC graduation class of 2009 and for the graduation classes to come.

The college congratulates the students who have the drive and ambition to follow through to graduation. HCC is making every effort to connect with those who have been traditionally underserved and unfamiliar with an education culture. Your success and that of your family and community depends upon your determination to follow through with your goals. HCC is ready to help you realize those goals.



### HCC Reports on Progress in Alief

June 2009 Update

In November 2008, 82% of Alief residents voted to bring Alief into Houston Community College's District. HCC has been working with the community to implement the promises the HCC Board of Trustees made in the HCC Alief Service Plan that was developed with input from the community. We are pleased to provide you with an update on the progress we've made, and will continue to involve you and keep you informed on the promises made, promises kept and promises for tomorrow.

HCC Alief Service Plan	HCC Actions since Annexation	Status
HCC will reduce tuition by 50% for Alief residents effective January 2009.	Students now receive 50% reduction in tuition.	Completed ✓
HCC will leverage tax dollars to benefit the community, providing low-cost, high quality programs at a low tax rate.	Alief residents are receiving a return of \$5.10 for every \$1 of taxes invested in HCC.	Completed ✓
HCC will offer Dual Credit academic programs for Alief high school students.	Alief high school students are taking advantage of free Dual Credit courses.	Completed ✓
Upon annexation, Alief residents will have representation on the HCC Board.	Alief residents are represented on the HCC Board by Trustee Neeta Sane, who serves District VII and is the 2009 Vice Chair of the Board.	Completed ✓
HCC will work with Alief ISD to address the community's request to develop an Early College High School.	The HCC Board approved an MOU with Alief ISD for the Early College High School on April 16, 2009.	Completed ✓
	The Early College High School will open to the first class of high school students in September 2009, providing the opportunity to obtain a high school diploma and a college associate's degree simultaneously and tuition free.	Completed ✓
HCC will complete the Alief Campus on Hayes Road.	HCC hired a master planner and system architect to assess the campus needs.	In Progress
HCC will develop resources to ensure students are prepared with 21st century workforce and academic skills.	HCC initiated a discussion with students, faculty and the community and engaged an architect to begin work on the preliminary design for the outdoor learning center.	In Progress
HCC will expand career and technical vocational pathways for the community.	HCC is working with Alief business and community leaders to identify new programs and courses that the businesses need.	In Progress
HCC will work with community partners to develop child care support for students.	HCC is contacting community partners to explore ways to provide expanded access to child care services and early learning opportunities.	In Progress
HCC will have the capacity to expand its offerings of hundreds of programs and courses.	HCC is working with stakeholders in the community to identify the new courses that will be offered next year.	In Progress
Plans for early college, career and technical pathways and dual credit programs will be proposed in conjunction with the Alief Independent School District and presented to the HCC Board of Trustees by Dec. 2009.	Plans for the Early College High School are considerably ahead of schedule, and will be open for the 2009-2010 school year.	In Progress

## Questions from the Community

### Will HCC set up a program to assist with at-risk or students in need in Alief?

HCC is in the process of contacting the HCC Foundation and the Alief Independent School District to discuss a program or assistance that would help these students in need. Already in place is the Opportunity 14 Scholarship program that pays tuition, fees and books for two years of study at HCC for qualifying students.

### What type of workforce program if any, will be added to the Alief campuses, now that annexation is in effect?

Additional workforce programs that are in alignment with the area's workforce needs and that will benefit the Alief Community are in development.

### There is not enough signage to let residents know where the campus is located; will more signage be added either on the building or on nearby streets?

More signage, with the intent to make the Alief Campus more visible to area residents and drivers, will soon be in place.

### Will there be any types of partnerships with employers located in the Westchase district for potential employment opportunities?

Southwest College is looking into a partnership with the Westchase Management District and Westchase Community Association to aid in job placement during or after a workforce or associates degree has been completed.



**Student Spotlight: Dieu Na Nguyen** came to the U.S. from Vietnam only six months ago and she is already in her second semester at HCC. She is studying Accounting at the Alief Campus and plans to transfer to the University of Houston for her bachelor's degree and then on to graduate school for her MBA. Dieu Na hopes to become an auditor for businesses.

**Student Spotlight: David Williams** is in his first year of study at HCC. He is currently working towards his Emergency Medical Technician certification and plans on taking a year of sociology. His goal is to become a paramedic. **Faculty Highlight: Jo Blair** is the librarian at the Alief Campus. She has been training students to be information-users for the past four years, teaching them research skills that are not only valuable in their academic life, but also skills they will use after leaving HCC as they further their education or enter the workforce. Before becoming the full-time librarian for Alief, Ms. Blair was an adjunct librarian for 17 years. **Faculty Highlight: Mary Page** wears many hats for HCC. She is a counselor at Alief and an adjunct professor of psychology, and has worked at several different campuses as such since 1996. Ms. Page is currently the president of the Faculty Senate for the 2008-2009 school year, having also served in 2000-2001, and the Faculty Counseling Forum Chair. She also served as the Counseling program chair from 1997 to 2001.



P. O. Box 667517  
Houston, TX 77266-7517

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*HCC seeks to provide equal educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.*

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# REGISTER NOW FOR CLASSES

## HCC offers a wide variety of programs and courses

Learn about the many programs that the Alief Campus and the Alief Continuing Education Center offer. HCC prepares students for success through an award-winning curriculum, the state's largest number of exemplary Career Training programs, and a vast array of continuing education programs. Whether you want to upgrade your skills, start a new career or take courses that transfer to universities, you'll find the right program for you at HCC.



**HCC Alief Campus**  
2811 Hayes Road  
Houston, TX 77082

### Courses at the HCC Alief Campus

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Accounting                        | Foreign Languages – <i>Chinese, French, Spanish</i> |
| Art                               | Geology   |
| Biology                           | Government  |
| Business Administration           | Guided Studies                                      |
| Business Technology               | History   |
| Chemistry                         | Mathematics   |
| Child Development                 | Mathematics, Developmental                          |
| Communication Science, Journalism | Philosophy  |
| Computer Science Technology       | Physics   |
| Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement | Pre-Engineering                                     |
| Digital Communication             | Psychology  |
| Drafting and Design Technology    | Sociology   |
| Economics                         | Spanish   |
| English                           | Speech  |
| English, Developmental            | Teacher Education                                   |
| English, Foreign Speakers         |   |



**HCC Alief Continuing Education Center**  
13803 Bissonnet  
Houston, TX 77083

### Courses at the HCC Alief Continuing Education Center

- |   |                                    |                                       |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Business  | Certified Nurse Aide - CNA         | Spanish I & II                        |
| Accounting & Quickbooks   | Child Development                  | Construction                          |
| Banking   | Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) | Plant Design Management System (PDMS) |
| General Office Skills   | Medical Billing Clerk              | General Continuing Education          |
| Professional Secretary (CPS) and Certified Administrative Professional Review (CAP) | Medical Receptionist               | GED – Math                            |
| Project Management  | Medical Terminology                | THEA Math                             |
| Real Estate   | Information Technology             | THEA Reading and Writing              |
| Real Estate MCE Courses   | .NET Programming Training          | Public Service                        |
| Real Estate Property Management Scholarships  | A+ Certification - Computer Repair | Law Enforcement                       |
| SAP & PeopleSoft Business Systems Training  | C# Computer Programming            |                                       |
| Small Business - SCORE Writing  | Internet Fundamentals              |                                       |
| Health Careers  | Keyboarding                        |                                       |
|   | Microsoft Certification Training   |                                       |
|   | Languages                          |                                       |
|   | English as a Second Language       |                                       |