ACC ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Right isue of the summer 2024 ISSUE

CULINARY MASTERS

Teeing up a Fairway of Flavor





Finding the Right **Space**

1948-2023

ACC's New Path to Education

Finding **Connections**

Board of Regents

'BEL SANCHEZ, **CHAIR** JODY DROEGE, **VICE CHAIR** DR. PATTY HERTENBERGER, **SECRETARY** DR. JIM CRUMM MICHAEL HOOVER BREAH KNAPE MIKE PYBURN YVETTE REYES-HALL DARREN SHELTON

ACC Leadership

PRESIDENT ROBERT J. EXLEY, PH.D.

VICE PRESIDENT OF Administrative services Vacant

VICE PRESIDENT OF Workforce & Strategic Initiatives DR. Stacy Ebert

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTRUCTION & ACADEMIC SUPPORT DR. MARY JOVE

VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES JOHN MATULA

VICE PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Kelly Klimpt

VICE PRESIDENT OF Human Resources DR. Kelley Peatross

VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH WENDY DEL BELLO

The Second Seventy-five



Welcome to a milestone moment in the history of Alvin Community College! Although we missed those who couldn't join us at the ACC 75th Anniversary Celebration on April 30th, it was a profound honor to commemorate our distinguished past alongside my predecessors, Dr. Rodney Allbright (1976 – 2014) and Dr. Christal Albrecht (2014-2021). Their remarkable contributions have set a standard of excellence and dedication to student success that continues to guide us at ACC.

As we celebrated our first 75 years of exceptional growth and achievement, we are equally excited about the future. What better way to embark on the next 75 years than by launching our inaugural, fully- accredited Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management?

In today's discourse about the value of higher education, the focus often shifts to the cost rather than the worth of a four-year degree. At ACC, our commitment to affordability remains unwavering, ensuring that our education remains a valuable asset that significantly enhances the career and life trajectories of our students.

Our dedication extends particularly to first-generation college students. My own journey began much like theirs, at a community college that offered an accessible pathway to higher education. From my Associate of Arts through my Doctorate of Philosophy, the impact of that education has been transformative, extending benefits across generations.

This year, we proudly introduce our first bachelor's degree program, an exciting new chapter that promises to extend our legacy of community service and educational excellence well into the future.

Besides our new degree program, Dolphin Nation continues to buzz with incredible opportunities, all detailed in this edition of Right Now Magazine.

Your future starts now! Fall registration is open with classes beginning on August 26.

Fins Up!

Rohert 9. Eday

Robert J. Exley, Ph.D

Right **Now**

Summer 2024 • Issue 5



Read Online Here

Right Now Magazine is published semiannually.

Address correspondence to: rightnowmag@alvincollege.edu

Magazine Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF SCOTT TURNBOUGH

WRITERS BAILEY FARMER JOHN TOMPKINS SCOTT TURNBOUGH

COVER PHOTO Levi Boniol

PHOTOGRAPHY LEVI BONIOL BAILEY FARMER MELISSA FLEMING CECILIA RESENDEZ JOHN TOMPKINS

GRAPHIC DESIGN BROOKE DIENST KYLE UPTON

DIGITAL DISTRIBUTION DACIA HENDERSON KEVIN QUILLER

PRINT DISTRIBUTION CAMMY GUGGISBERG

COPY EDITORS WENDY DEL BELLO CAMMY GUGGISBERG SYDNEY HILDENBURG

_	_
4	Find
6	Mal
12	We: Plar
14	AC
16	Cul
24	Ape W/in

 $\mathbf{18}$



CONTENTS

ding the Right Space

king a Difference Since 1948

stward Bound: ACC Unveils Innovative ns for Manvel

C's New Path to Education

linary Masters: Teeing up a Fairway of Flavor

Apex of Achievement: ACC's Esports Wins National Championship



by John Tompkins

A s a young, single mother, Crystal Mantilla drifted from one career option to another, finding it difficult to decide what was best for her and her family.

"At the time, I was pretty lost," she said. "I tried nursing, human resources and business management. It was just not my calling."

While working at a call center, her boyfriend encouraged her to enroll in Alvin Community College's Drafting and Design Engineering Technology program.

"That seemed interesting," she said. "That month, I registered for the next semester. From there on, I loved it."



Mantilla is now working as a designer for the NASA Artemis Program, which aims to re-establish a human presence on the Moon.

"It's just an incredible experience," she said. "It's exciting and mind-blowing."

Drafting and Design Engineering Technology involves various disciplines to develop designs for industrial applications using 3-D software, printing and design equipment. Training in the program prepares students for piping, mechanical, architectural, civil and structural design.

ACC offers a two-year Associate Degree in Applied Science in Drafting and Design Engineering Technology, as well as two certificate programs. Mantilla enjoyed the program because it merged creativity with technical processes.

"I love that it's different projects and different tasks," she said. "I like how you follow certain steps in design. I've always been crafty, and I've always been curious."

With the Artemis Program, Mantilla is assisting with the exploration of ice at the Moon's southern pole.

"We pretty much want to answer questions on how we can store, handle and eventually send these icy materials out to researchers for further studies," she said. "I get the opportunity to work with and assist an engineer with my design skills."

The labor market for Drafting and Design Engineering is intense, with starting salaries ranging from \$39,000 to \$53,000 a year. Job placement for graduates at ACC is usually 100 percent. "I was thinking this was a better set of skills, and I could earn more," she said. "I was thinking I would see what happens and what doors would open."



After working with engineers at NASA on the Artemis Program, Mantilla said she gained a lot of experience, not just in her chosen career but also in the manufacturing process. She became inspired to continue her education and further develop her skills.

Mantilla recently enrolled in the Engineering Program at ACC.

It's just an incredible experience. It's exciting and *mind_blowing*.

- Crystal Mantilla

Making a Difference Since

by John Tompkins

A lvin Community College celebrated 75 years of providing quality education and career training to the region. ACC began in 1948 as a small institution dedicated to providing affordable education, and over the decades, it has grown into a vibrant hub of learning, offering a diverse range of programs and opportunities that benefit both students and the community.

Generations of students have walked its hallways and earned their education in its classrooms, each of them contributing to its legacy in unique ways. From renowned alumni making their mark in various fields, to dedicated faculty shaping young minds, the college's story is woven with tales of perseverance, innovation and community spirit.

The college will continue to thrive as a vital educational institution, serving students with a wide range of academic and workforce programs, and contributing to the region's educational and economic vitality. ACC honors its rich history while embracing the future.

LOOKING BACK.

MOVING FORWARD.



State Representative Ed Thompson



Commemorative Marker

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION RECAP







Alumni Testimonials from ACC's very own Board of Regents



Jody Droege

Class of 2011 Regent since 2014

Associate Degree in Business Administration - ACC

In 1992, I began an Associate in Business Administration but paused due to family and work demands. Determined to finish, I returned in 2009 for a Business Management degree to aid in making educated decisions in my business. My education at ACC has contributed to not only mine but my family's success as well, both in business and in life.



Dr. Patty Hertenberger

Secretary

Class of 1971 Regent since 2016

Associate in Liberal Arts - ACC

I met my husband at Alvin Junior College in 1969. Returning years later to thank those who helped me, I was asked to start a fashion merchandising program for the college. The college became a major part of my life when I agreed to teach the program. After 39 years, I retired in 2015.



Breah Knape

Class Of 2002 Regent since 2024

Associate Degree in General Studies - ACC Sam Houston State University

ACC was pivotal in my career and personal growth, offering diverse subjects that enhanced my critical thinking and communication skills. The flexible schedules and supportive faculty helped me balance studies with work. Lifelong friendships and professional connections, along with a strong academic foundation, enabled my transfer to SHSU.



Yvette Reyes-Hall

Class of 1987 Regent since 2022

Associate Degree in Accounting - ACC Texas A&M University

ACC provided a smooth transition into college life with a supportive environment that boosted my confidence. The affordable education allowed me to pursue my goals without overwhelming debt. ACC's diverse and inclusive atmosphere gave me the tools and support needed for academic, professional and personal success. Without ACC, I wouldn't be where I am today.



Dr. Jim Crumm

Class of 1980 Regent since 2018

Associate Degree in General Studies - ACC Texas A&M University

The smaller class sizes facilitated interaction with instructors, teaching me how to communicate effectively with them. This skill greatly benefited me at A&M, opening many opportunities as I completed my degrees there. In my free time, I continue to be a member of the ACC Jazz Concert Band and Pit Orchestra.

Scan to read their full testimonials, or visit: alvincollege.edu/75



FINDING ONNECTIONS

hen students and workers think about the importance of networking, they often see it as a skill for office workers. However, Alvin Community College Welding Coordinator Leroy Brigman emphasized that it's crucial to develop contacts and maintain relationships, regardless of the job.

When Brigman first started as a welder, developing connections with others helped build his career.

"The contacts are what keep you working," he said. "The reputation you have is what's going to get you to that next job. This industry seems big, but it's small and very tight-knit."

Brigman initially worked as an auto mechanic but eventually found work assisting in a welding shop, where he developed his skills as a welder. He later started his own business as an independent welder. Through a friend, Brigman secured his first job working on a rig in Abilene.

One early connection was with a fellow welder named Jeff Stewart. Brigman's friendship with Stewart led to an opportunity in pipefitting in 2013, and they maintained contact after their first meeting.

"Jeff had a lot of experience and a lot of contacts," Brigman said. "He gave me 30 phone numbers. Those contacts helped me continue my career."

Brigman's journey to ACC started with a position at an industrial company in Freeport. After moving his family there, they became part of the community.

"It made us local people," he said. "We started to grow roots, networked and met people."

Through community connections, Brigman met the Director of Industrial Programs at ACC and was eventually hired as an instructor. He transitioned from being a career welder to training and mentoring future welders in 2018. "I was unsure if I'd made the right choice for a week," he said.

Then a young student struggling with family issues approached him. Brigman worked with the student to keep him in school and finish his education.

While it's important for Brigman to pass on welding skills, he also wants students to learn from his experiences and mistakes. Working as an educator made Brigman feel like he was answering a calling of faith to help others.

"I needed that experience with my career and coming to a place like this to mentor the students here," he said.

Not long after becoming an

educator, Brigman encountered a familiar face. His friend Jeff Stewart is now the head of the Western Texas College Welding program.

"He's now doing the same thing I'm doing," Brigman said.

The two friends, who both transitioned from oilfields to classrooms, decided to create a contest for students from local schools to compete and test their welding skills. The first Gulf Coast Community College Welding Showdown was held in November 2023 and included 42 students from seven colleges throughout the state.



Brigman said the competition will continue to grow and serve as an early networking opportunity for welding students.

"That's what this industry is all about," he said. "It's about passing the knowledge you have along to the next person."



alvincollege.edu/welding-technology

It's about passing the knowledge you have along to the next person.

- Leroy Brigman

Evening classes

coming this fall!

Westward Bound

ACC UNVEILS INNOVATIVE PLANS FOR MANVEL

by Scott Turnbough

n the heart of Manvel, a new chapter is unfolding for education and workforce development. Alvin Community College, known for its 75 years of dedication to innovation and student success, has embarked on a journey westward by signing a fiveyear lease agreement and securing all approvals from the City of Manvel for a second home with nearly 15,000 square feet on Magnolia Parkway. This isn't just an expansion; it's a beacon of opportunity and value for the west side of ACC's service area, aptly named ACC West.

At first glance, ACC West will be a testament to modern educational spaces. From digital technology labs buzzing with activity to the quiet focus of the biotechnology lab, every inch will be designed to foster learning and collaboration. The campus will include an open collaboration space, state-of-the-art classrooms, allied health labs and a virtual reality arena that promises to bring real-world scenarios to life in the classroom. With plans to accommodate students' day and night, ACC West is poised to become a hub of education and career development.

ACC West will be more than just a place of learning; it will be a bridge to ACC's future.

"ACC West represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide

accessible, high-quality education to all corners of our service area," said Dr. Robert Exley, President of ACC. "This new site will not only address the educational needs of our growing population but also align our programs with the evolving demands of the workforce."

At the heart of ACC West is an innovative approach to education. A variety of programs, from Patient Care Technician to Business and Marketing courses, are designed to meet the evolving needs of the workforce. The Entrepreneurship program promises to cultivate new ideas and support business growth through traditional classes, seminars, workshops, as well as mentorships.

One of the most exciting features will be the virtual reality arena, offering first responders and healthcare providers immersive training experiences. "The virtual reality arena is cutting-edge technology that will revolutionize the way we train our students," said Dr. Stacy Ebert, Vice President of Workforce and Strategic Initiatives. "This technology will allow students to train individually, or in teams, through simulated immersive experiences and give exposure to scenarios that will prepare them for real-world challenges in ways traditional methods simply cannot."

The Corporate College located at ACC West will provide custom training opportunities, further strengthening the bond between education and industry. As the college anticipates growth over the next five years, the vision for ACC West is clear: to be a place of connection and innovation. ACC West represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide accessible, high-quality education to all corners of our service area.

- Dr. Robert Exley

"ACC West will be a hub of collaboration and innovation, where educators, students and business and industry join forces to achieve remarkable outcomes," Ebert said. "Situated closer to many of our industry partners, this location will facilitate workbased programs, allowing students to earn while they learn. Our business and entrepreneurial courses will nurture new ideas and support the growth of emerging businesses. Additionally, ACC's Corporate College offers customized training solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of our industry partners."

In Manvel, the doors of ACC West will open a new era of education, opportunity and value. As the community looks on, it's evident that this expansion is more than a physical space—it's a promise of growth and possibility.



by John Tompkins

A lvin Community College will embark on a new path in education when it begins offering a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management in Fall 2024.

"The Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Management is specifically geared to train students to work in a variety of businesses as higher-level business managers and administrators," said Dr. Mary Jove, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Academic Support. "It also serves as a catapult for budding entrepreneurs who wish to develop or grow their businesses or for budding executives who wish to propel career mobility."

To be eligible, students must have completed an associate degree in any area of study from an accredited institution. Research on feasibility began in Spring 2021 and was conducted by a task force of ACC instructors and staff members. According to data from the Community College Baccalaureate Association, over 150 community colleges in 24 different states now offer a Bachelor's Degree.

"I am delighted that ACC is joining the growing number of community colleges now offering the Baccalaureate degree," said Dr. Robert Exley, ACC President. "Throughout my career, I have often heard students express their wish that we would offer Bachelor's Degrees because they love the college and hate to go somewhere else. We offer excellent academics as a two-year college. We embrace our students, support our students and believe in our students. To serve them through the completion of their four-year degree is simply wonderful."

Offering a Bachelor's Degree to ACC students will provide an affordable education for those who want to join the business administration workforce at a fraction of the cost of earning it from a university.

> The use of veteran benefits for this program is subject to VA approval. Eligibility for benefits will commence once official approval is granted.

Bachelons



The BAS in Business Administration and Management is specifically geared to train students to work in a variety of businesses as higher–level business managers and administrators.



alvincollege.edu/businessadministration/bachelor





Dr. Mary Jove, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Academic Support

Masters Teeing Up a Fairway of Flavor

ulinary

by Bailey Farmer My experience as an ACC student at the Masters was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking.

- Miguel Soliz

Villanueva's experience at the Masters was particularly memorable, not just for the highpaced environment but for the camaraderie and recognition she received.

"Most people there are from very big universities or high-end culinary schools, so that was a fun thing to talk about, considering we were coming from a community college," Villanueva shared.

This experience led to an invitation for Villanueva and Soliz to work at the U.S. Open golf tournament in June 2024, a testament to their hard work and dedication. ACC's commitment to student success, highlighted through these extraordinary experiences, reinforces its reputation as an institution that provides quality education and empowers students to achieve their dreams and make a lasting impact in the community.

"When I started this journey, I was uncertain about my career path. I always had a passion for cooking but wasn't sure how to channel it. Under the mentorship of Chef Trigo, my passion transformed into a clear direction. Chef Trigo is awesome and played a significant role in my development. Her encouragement and belief in my potential were crucial in building my confidence and skills," said Soliz.

Chef Trigo's mentorship was pivotal in Villanueva's success as well.

"She was the biggest part of my learning, and I am so glad to have found someone who saw the potential in me," Villanueva said. "Sometimes Chef Trigo jokes with me and says, 'The first day of class you didn't know how to crack a boiled egg, and now you're cooking at the Masters.""

A lvin Community College is celebrating the remarkable achievements of its Culinary Arts students who have excelled locally and gained invaluable experiences on national and international stages. Brennan Bertrand, Eden Villanueva and Miguel Soliz demonstrate the transformative opportunities provided by ACC as they embraced challenges and leveraged their comprehensive education to compete for and secure prestigious internships at the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia, showcasing their skills and dedication on a global platform.

To enhance the already impressive ACC Culinary Arts program, the college sent Chef Laura Trigo, Department Chair, to Ireland on a culinary tour. There, she made connections and met mentors, opening a world of opportunities for her students – including a prestigious internship at the Masters Golf Tournament.

Bertrand, Villanueva and Soliz embarked on the tough, three-month application process for the internship in Augusta, Georgia. Each was selected for this incredible opportunity, and once at the Masters, they were assigned to specific restaurants or food pavilions.

Bertrand worked alongside six renowned chefs from Italy at Isabella's Italian Restaurant in Augusta which represented the international exposure ACC students are gaining. Villanueva took charge of the flat-top



Miguel Soliz • Eden Villanueva • Brennan Bertrand

grill at Augusta's Seafood and Brunch Restaurant, the largest at the Masters, while Soliz managed a section at a new hospitality venue, once again highlighting the diverse opportunities available to ACC students.

"My experience as an ACC student at the Masters was both exhilarating and nerve-wracking," said Soliz. "Most of the other interns were strictly from culinary schools while I came from a community college. It was intimidating to work alongside people who had been honing their culinary skills since high school. However, this challenge pushed me to showcase my abilities and grow as a chef."



Evening classes coming this fall!



by Miguel Soliz, Culinary Arts Studen

Amish White Bread

2 cups warm water 2/3 cup white sugar 1 1/2 tbsp active dry yeast 1/4 cup olive oil 1 1/2 tsp sea salt 6 cups bread flour

Directions

- 1. Dissolve sugar in warm water, then stir in yeast. Let yeast proof until it starts to resemble foam, about 10 minutes.
- 2. Mix oil and salt into yeast mixture. Incorporate flour one cup at a time.
- 3. Knead dough on lightly floured surface until smooth.
- 4. Place in well-oiled bowl, cover the dough with a little bit of olive oil.
- 5. Place a damp cloth over the dough and allow it to double in size, for approximately one hour. After its double punch dough down to release some of the air that has built up.
- 6. Knead for a couple of more minutes, divide dough into two loaves and place in well-oiled loaf pans to rise for an additional 30 minutes.
- 7. Bake loaves at 350 for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool thoroughly before slicing.

Egg Salad

- 8 hard boiled eggs (separate yolks from whites) 1/2 cup mayonnaise 1 tsp mustard (brown mustard suggested)
- 1 tbsp relish
- 3/4 tsp paprika
- Salt & pepper to taste (white pepper suggested) Optional: green onions

Directions

- 1. Mix all ingredients thoroughly, except the egg whites.
- 2. Dice the egg whites and stir into mixture until just combined. This will make for a better texture as opposed to a mushy spread.
- 3. Place in container with lid. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before enjoying.



GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE: ACC'S EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES by Brian Ayres

CC has long been a cornerstone for aspiring healthcare professionals, offering robust health education pathways, including Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The EMS program is meticulously designed for a wide range of students, providing essential training through its EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic courses. This comprehensive approach ensures that students are well-prepared for the EMS industry and can provide critical care in emergencies.

Our EMS program is structured with three certification courses that build on each other, allowing students flexibility in their pathways:

- *EMT (Emergency Medical Technician):* This first-semester foundational course prepares students for entry-level positions in the EMS field, focusing on basic emergency care skills and knowledge.
- Advanced EMT:

Building on the EMT certification, this course delves deeper into emergency medical practices, equipping students with advanced skills needed for more complex situations.

• Paramedic:

The pinnacle of EMS training at ACC, the Paramedic course offers an in-depth curriculum that prepares students for the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care, including advanced medical procedures and critical decision-making skills.







Recognizing the importance of lifelong learning and professional development, ACC's EMS program has expanded its offerings to include continuing education courses. This summer, we launched a specialized training course for paramedics in critical care life flight transport, addressing high-stakes environments.

ACC's EMS department received a \$250,000 TRUE grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This grant funded advanced training mannequins and an augmented reality system for the EMS lab. These immersive simulations allow students to engage in realistic scenarios, enhancing their learning and preparedness for realworld emergencies.

Through this grant, student stipends are also being provided for summer and late fall EMT tuition. This financial support is pivotal in removing barriers to education, enabling more students to pursue their passion for EMS without financial strain.

With its comprehensive course offerings, innovative training tools and unwavering support for students, the EMS program equips students with the skills needed for immediate employment while also laying a strong foundation for their future careers in Emergency Medical Services. For students aspiring to make a meaningful impact in the emergency healthcare field, ACC's EMS program is an exceptional gateway to success.

The Marty Family Scholarship

Since the ACC scholarship was established in 2020, more than \$60,000 has been donated to help students, according to Murray.

by John Tompkins

hen it comes to philanthropy, few causes are more rewarding than supporting education. Marla Marty Willey and her brother, Matt Marty, discovered this firsthand when they sought a meaningful cause to support through the charitablefund established by their mother.They were delighted to find opportunities to assist students eager to earn an education.

"I wanted to set up an education

scholarship after our charitable endowment fund was established," Willey said. "My parents stressed the importance of education while my brother and I were growing up. Our parents were very proud of both of us when we graduated from college. I know they would be in favor of helping students in this way."



Their mother, Sharon Marty, originally established the fund in 2000 from the sale of property eir father. Pete

There are some students who would not have been able to complete or begin their paralegal journey without these funds.

- John Murray

previously purchased by their father, Pete Marty. When Sharon passed in 2004, Marla and Matt sought out worthy causes to support.

They collaborated with Paralegal Director John J. Murray to establish the Marty Family Scholarship, which has already provided vital support for students in need within the Paralegal program.



"These funds have been used to award excellence, recognize service in the community and provide emergency funding for critical life events students have encountered," he said.

The scholarships have addressed a variety of needs, including the purchase of computers, supporting internships and helping students navigate financial obstacles.

"There are some students who would not have been able to complete or begin their paralegal journey without these funds," Murray said.

Student Stephanie Burton emphasized the impact of the scholarship on her life. "Being awarded this scholarship and grant meant so much to me as I am a single mom of two, and finances are tight," Burton said. "These funds helped tremendously



FOUNDATION 281.756.3600 accfoundation

with my educational expenses to further my paralegal education."

Brittney Turnquist, who works full time, found it challenging to balance being a mom, working and attending school. "The scholarship I received has not only allowed me to continue classes at ACC but also lit a spark in my motivation," she said. "I've almost given up on school several times, either because I didn't have the money or I was burned out. Getting awarded one of the Marty Family Scholarships has allowed me to keep going and reach my academic goals. I honestly don't know if I'd ever finish my degree without the support from the scholarship."

Earning a college education can sometimes be delayed by unforeseen obstacles. When April Murphree and her husband's vehicles both broke down simultaneously, attending classes seemed almost impossible. With the assistance of Murray and the scholarship board, Murphree received financial assistance for repairs.

"I wasn't sure how this was going to impact my ability to get to and from Alvin for classes. I live an hour away," she said. "It had a huge impact on us, and we are so grateful for the generosity."

Stories like these are why the Marty family chose to support education, Willey said.

"I hope our contributions enable students to continue with their education in ways that might not have been possible otherwise," she said. "I also think it's important to acknowledge hard work and success. Our donations accomplish both of these ideals. I'm glad that we can help students at ACC!"

The ACC Foundation helps administer memorial scholarships, providing much-needed financial backing for students. More than 50 scholarships are awarded to deserving students every year.

281.756.3600 accfoundation@alvincollege.edu

COMMENCEMENT





APEX OF ACHIEVEMENT:

ACC's Esports Wins National Championship

by John Tompkins

hen Anthony Washburn first discovered that he could play video games for Alvin Community College, he didn't think he'd wind up a national champion.

"I chose to play Apex Legends since I felt that I was extremely talented at it," he said. "I essentially played every day and competed when I needed to."

Washburn, an ACC Dual Enrollment student at Alvin High School, represented the college's Finz esports team and won the NJCAA Tier 3 national title in Apex Legends against Spoon River College on April 24. Preparing for this tournament was a challenge as the college was finishing up construction of its esports arena, said Huff Mann, E-sports coach. Washburn learned to play the game using the LeagueOS platform, which is used in competition.

"He worked from home while the arena was under construction," Mann said. "Anthony learned the platform and it was extremely helpful for the team. We were able to hit the ground running."

Washburn played the title match in the esports arena located in the Student Center. His championship win is the first for the Finz, which is in its second year. Other players participated this year in Valorant, Overwatch 2 and League of Legends.

In the team's first year in 2023, a group of players reached the national final in Valorant but came up short. While the Finz's success has been rapid, there is always room to improve, Mann said.

"We're really full steam ahead right now," Mann said. "We've done a good job of getting the team off the ground. We need to build on it, though. We're always looking for new players." Playing for an esports team was a bit of an adjustment, Washburn said. The tournament competition uses a different format than he was used to playing.

"The competitive scene is nothing new to me since I have competed and won numerous professional scrims and tournaments," he said. "But this was a little different for me because it's normally a 3v3 or battle royale with 20 teams of 3 and not 1v1."

Once he finishes his diploma at Alvin High School, Washburn plans to remain at ACC to complete his Associate Degree. Then he hopes to pursue a Bachelor's Degree at either Texas Tech University or the University of Houston.



REAL WORLD TRAINING

Continuing Education Workforce Development

Biotechnology Technician

- 12-week program
- Level 1: Materials Handler (6 weeks)
- Level 2: Core Tech (6 weeks)
- \$51,430 median pay 2023*

Certified Nursing Assistant

- 3-month program
- \$38,130 median pay 2023*

CNA to LVN Bridge

- 1-year program
- \$59,730 median pay 2023*

CNC Machinist

- 8-month program
- \$53,180 median pay 2023*

Commercial Driver's License

- 4-week program
- Class A & B with Endorsements
- \$54,320 median pay 2023*

Dental Assistant

- 4-month program
- \$46,540 median pay 2023*

Medical Office Billing & Coding

- [,] 8-month program
- \$48,780 median pay 2023*

Patient Care Technician

- [,] 9-month program
- \$38,130 median pay 2023*

*bls.gov/ooh/





Discover the Many Benefits of Alvin Community College!

When it comes to college, there are a lot of options. You deserve a quality education that won't break the bank, plus faculty and staff who care about your success. At ACC, we deliver all of that and more!



alvincollege.edu/catalog

PSEIMHBRME	5
EFRE HTGEWSI	
UANSA	
SBKLAELTAB	<u> </u>
YLCEC	
QCBLETRUALA	
ILTDMRALE	
LIBALEPKLC	4

FOUNDATION

Register today, classes begin soon!

\$500 First Step Award

Application Deadline: August 16

To apply, you must be taking your very first college course ever, have a high school diploma or GED and be enrolling in Fall 2024.

Does not apply to Dual Enrollment, CEWD or TDCJ programs.

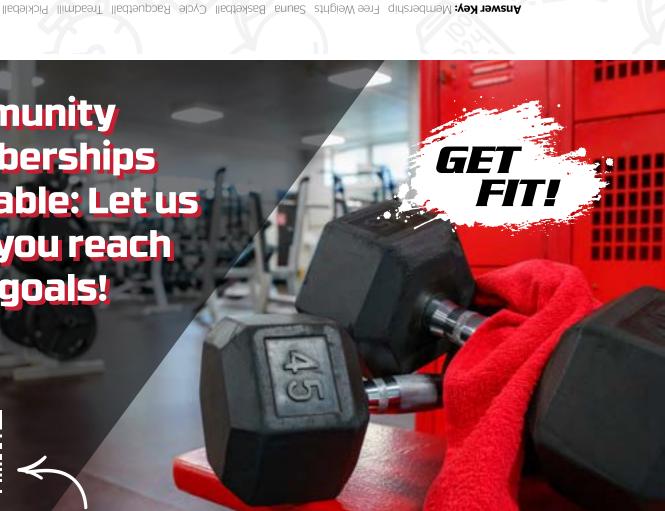
Scan below to apply!



Community Memberships available: Let us help you reach your goals!



Scan for more information or to become a member!







3110 Mustang Rd Alvin, TX, 77511-4898



AlvinCollege.edu



info@alvincollege.edu • 281.756.3531

Alvin Community College is an Equal Opportunity Institution.