

THIS WEEK
www.midland.edu
(432) 685-4500



**Celebrating 35 Years of
Excellence in Action**
— 1972-2007 —

BACHELOR OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY
Midland College now offers a Bachelor's degree in
Organizational Management serving individuals with
Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees.
www.midland.edu/bachelor

MC hosts hearing for Commission for a College Ready Texas



Top, left: MISD Superintendent, Sylvester Perez; bottom, left: Interim ECISD Superintendent Hector Mendez; Above, from left: UT Austin English Professor and CCRT member Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley, MC Vice President of Instruction Dr. Rex Peebles, founder and president of JumBurrito and CCRT member Jose Cuevas, Secretary of the Board for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Lorraine Perryman

Governor Rick Perry appointed the Commission for a College Ready Texas (CCRT) in March, 2007, to provide a forum to exchange views on aligning high school curriculum with college standards. On Tuesday, August 14, Midland College hosted a regional meeting of the CCRT to which well over 100 local elected officials, school district administrators and educators attended.

Attendees gave testimony on the following topics: the importance of preparing students for college and career, specific ideas about the measures of college readiness, and actions the State of Texas can take to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in higher education.

The meeting was hosted by Midland College Vice President of Instruction Dr. Rex Peebles, founder and president of JumBurrito and CCRT member Jose Cuevas, Secretary of the Board for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Lorraine Perryman, and UT Austin English Professor and CCRT member Dr. Linda Ferreira-Buckley.

Midland Independent School District Superintendent Sylvester Perez' comments addressed the "silent epidemic" of a high school drop out rate which has reached 31 percent for Ector and Midland school districts. He also said that we must expand our "one size fits all" brand of public education, suggesting that the 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. class day be more flexible, with online or evening classes for the nontraditional students. He and other speakers also identified the need to address the importance of Pre-K and early childhood education.

Vertical teams have been organized by the CCRT with high school teachers and college instructors to determine the best strategies to better prepare high school students for college, and, ultimately, close the gap between these two levels of education.

New Cogdell Scholarship recipients awarded

Bill Pace Cogdell did not go to college until he was 80, proving that it is never, ever too late to get an education. Before he died in 1997, he gave generously to Midland College both in funding scholarships, and building MC's presence in South Midland.



Josie Montañez shares her college experience with the new Cogdell Scholarship recipients

This past week, 15 students gathered for an orientation session about the benefits of being recipients of the Bill Pace Cogdell Scholarship and the many resources Midland College offers to help students succeed.

The scholarship will not only pay for all tuition, books and fees towards their Associate degree, but the same towards completion of their Bachelor's degree, whether that is through MC's Bachelor of Applied Technology program or at UTPB. The scholarship is funded by the generous gift of Mr. Cogdell to provide a college education to students with financial need. Mr. Cogdell's gift was so large, that the interest alone allows the college to award scholarships to over 40 students at MC or UTPB every semester. Since its inception, the scholarship has helped over 35 students get their two-year degrees, and 10 earn their four-year degrees.

Josie Montañez is also living proof that it is never too late to get an education. This mother of three became a student at MC in 2000 when she was 30 years old. She had always wanted to go to college and certainly wants the same for her children. But, she asked herself, "How can I expect my kids to go to college if I don't?"



Back row, from left: Cogdell Learning Center Director Liz Zenteno, Tony Garcia, Daniel Carrasco, Karla Montes, Christres McGruder, Melanie Cantu, Reuben Ochoa and Cogdell Learning Center Community Liaison Adriana Jaso
Front row, from left: Teresa Venegas, Trancito Morrison, Hector Villarreal, Amanda Sosa, Maria Carmen Barrera, Veronica Carruth and Sallie Diaz

Getting an education has changed Josie's life. "Without an education it is very hard to have doors open for you," she says, "this college has opened doors for me." Josie is now the Media Manager/Specialist in the MC Media Services department where she has been employed full-time since last June.

Before she pursued a college education she was only eligible for minimum wage jobs. Now her salary has increased greatly, but more importantly, she has benefits and insurance. In the past, she spent entire days waiting in clinics before her sick children could see a doctor. Now, she has access to reliable and affordable healthcare for her children.

And thanks to the Cogdell scholarship, Josie now has access to a bachelor's degree, which she is steadily earning. She hopes to graduate from MC within the next three years with her Bachelor of Applied Technology degree. All the while she has been able to keep her full-time job and provide a happy, safe home for her children.

Getting an education has given Josie not just financial security, but it has changed her life in ways she never could have imagined. "I am a better person, a better parent ... a better human being," she said.



MC invites WWII veterans to Ken Burns event

The Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series

welcomes Ken Burns, award-winning documentary filmmaker, to MC on Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. Burns first appeared at MC in 2000, so his presentation this fall is a return engagement to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series. FREE tickets are available at (432) 685-4526.

PBS will begin airing Mr. Burns' forthcoming documentary, *The War*, on September 23. Six years in the making, this seven-part series tells the story of the WWII through the personal accounts of men and women from four quintessentially American towns.

Thirty-minute previews about the making of *The War* will air at the following dates and times on PBS: Sunday, August 26 at 9:30 p.m.; Tuesday, August 28 at 10:30 p.m. and Wednesday, August 29 at 9:30 p.m.

MC would like to extend a special invitation to WWII veterans, and others involved in the WWII effort, to attend this event. Reserved seating will be provided for WWII veterans the evening of October 9, and all of those who do attend will be acknowledged and honored with special thanks. WWII veterans are encouraged to call (432) 685-4526 to get their FREE tickets. When calling, they should identify themselves as WWII veterans for special seating tickets. Or, tickets can be ordered online at www.midland.edu/events.

BRIEFLY

Registration for free ESL classes begins August 20

MC's free ESL program will register interested students at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. sessions starting Monday, August 20 at Casa de Amigos, 1101 E. Garden Lane. Registrants need to bring a picture I.D. and social security card. The last day to register is Thursday, August 30. Please call (432) 685-4566 for more information.

Computer Fundamentals course begins August 28

MC's Workforce Continuing Education offers a Computer Fundamentals course for the beginner. The course meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15 - 9:15 p.m., August 28 - September 13, at the Advanced Technology Center. The course fee is \$155 which includes all course materials. For more information, or to register, please call (432) 697-5863 or visit us online at www.midland.edu/workforce.

Workplace Solutions courses begin August 28

Workplace Solutions offers **Accounting & Finance for Non-Financial People**, designed to provide the non-accountant with instruction in the basic principles of accounting and finance. The course meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., August 28 - September 6 at the Advanced Technology Center. The course fee is \$99. For more information, or to register, please call (432) 697-5863.

Job Track Medical Assisting program begins September 10

A Medical Assistant is a valuable member of the healthcare team who is responsible for performing daily clinical procedures to keep doctor's offices, hospitals and clinics running smoothly. Midland College offers certification in Medical Assisting, Nurse Aide and Phlebotomy in a fast-paced, nine-month program which begins September 10. Please call (432) 699-3016 for more information.

Midland College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1886 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree, associate degrees and certificates.

Midland College is an equal opportunity employer/educator.

This page is produced by Midland College.



Leave an enduring legacy to the Midland College Foundation

Please contact:
Eileen Pivetz, Executive Director
(432) 685-4526
epivetz@midland.edu

www.midland.edu/foundation