Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Tana Baker, Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer, 3600 N. Garfield, SSC 129, Midland, TX 79705, (432) 685-4781, tbaker@midland.edu; Natasha Morgan, Director Human Resources/Payroll, 3600 N. Garfield, PAD 104, Midland, TX 79705, (432) 685-4534, nmorgan@midland.edu. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/nondisc.html or call 1 (800) 421-3481.
Dear Friends,

On March 6, 2020, Midland College closed for what we thought would be our annual Spring Break—just one week. During that week, the COVID-19 virus spread rapidly throughout the U.S., and on Friday, March 13, I met with the administrative team to discuss how Midland College could best continue educating and serving our students while ensuring their health and safety and also protecting employees and campus visitors. The uncertainty of the spread of COVID-19 resulted in decisions that changed the way we work and engage with students and the community.

We converted as many courses as possible to online for the remainder of the semester and the summer. Courses in our Applied Technology and Health Sciences areas that required hands-on skills instruction, labs and clinical instruction were suspended until it was possible to resume teaching in a much more controlled and safer environment. We postponed or canceled many traditional spring semester activities including the annual commencement ceremony, student recognitions, employee retirement receptions and events such as the Phyllis and Bob Cowan Performing Arts Series and Davidson Distinguished Lecture Series.

COVID-19 may have closed our buildings, but many visitors continued to enjoy walking, jogging, bike riding and picnics on our beautiful campus grounds. Midland College employees also made tremendous efforts to ensure that classes and services were still available to current students, potential students and the community in online and virtual environments. Throughout the four months that Midland College’s buildings were closed and most employees were working from home, we remained only one call, email, instant message and video call away.

In addition, we continued to assist students through the College’s Support Our Students (SOS) program, as well as federal dollars through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). As you will read in the following pages, these programs were more important than ever during the recent decline in the West Texas economy.

On July 13, we gradually re-opened Midland College facilities. Employees and students are wearing face masks and practicing social distancing. In addition, we have instigated rigorous college-wide sanitation procedures as well as other protocols for health and safety. We will continue to employ these practices when the fall semester begins on August 24.

Because of the wonderful generosity of donors, Midland College continues to benefit from a healthy endowment. Our students can pursue education and training for rewarding careers because of the numerous scholarships that you make possible. Thanks to you, Midland College has been an unqualified success for almost 50 years. In this time of uncertainty, we will serve our mission by providing quality programs and courses, relevant workforce development, continuing education and personal and cultural enrichment for West Texans. Midland College is your college, and we are here for you.

Steve Thomas

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
STEVE THOMAS, PH.D.
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"I can’t say enough good things about everyone at Midland College. I am so blessed to have met some of the best people I have ever known at the college. I feel truly blessed. It was all possible because of a God who loved me enough to help me through it all. Now I have a job that I can call a career."

Levi Garcia
2020 graduate, Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology

"Receiving my degree will be a great accomplishment. I am so excited for my family to look at me and say, 'if she could do it, I can do it too.' It makes me feel good that they can call me and ask me questions, and I can give them valuable advice about higher education. It is nice to know they are proud of me and they appreciate my experience and recommendations. One day I hope my sisters and brothers will also go to college because I started them on this path with my example. I am proud to say I will graduate college from MC, and I can save lives with my degree."

Martha Herrera
Respiratory Therapy student
“I’m so glad that I made the decision to become a teacher. My ultimate goal is to get a master’s degree in Education in a few years. Education can open a lot of doors. I want to help make children’s lives better.”

Mayra Garcia
2019 graduate, Associate of Arts in Teaching

“I had a lot of support from my high school teachers and counselors, and the Midland College professors were awesome. They treated us just like other college students. We were in the same classes as traditional college students. I was in the Honors program and really enjoyed completing the extra projects that were required for Honors students.”

Cody Vasquez
2017 graduate of Early College High School at Midland College

“The program at MC made me a very well-rounded nurse. The instructors did an excellent job of guiding me and letting me know the quickest way to accomplish my goals. I’ve always looked up to healthcare professionals. It’s pretty amazing to be a part of their team now.”

Ashley Gonzales
2015 graduate, Associate Degree Nursing
“Midland College has its own unique identity and culture. This campus opens up a lot of options. Once you find what you want to do, everything is here to get you started on your way.”

Brandon Kruse
2020 graduate

“I will never forget my time at Midland College. I credit a lot of who I am to my two years at MC.”

Joe Wielbruda
Member of Chaps Baseball Team, 2009-2011

“Midland College was the perfect choice. It was close to home, provided a great education and made sense financially.”

Jacob Nichols
Student, 2012-2014

“I should have come back to MC years ago. If you are contemplating going back to school, it is ultimately your personal decision; however, you need to have support. If you do not have someone believing in you or if you do not believe in yourself, then it is going to be difficult. The support here at MC is extraordinary. The encouragement comes from the other students, faculty and staff. I discovered that I can accomplish things I never thought would be possible, like being published in an academic journal. After this experience I am more confident in my writing.”

Angela M. Villegas
2019 graduate

“The support I’ve gotten from people at Midland College is truly amazing. I am so grateful that Midland College is here for students like me. The professors and staff really seem to understand that students are from all different walks of life. Never in my life have I felt so empowered. This is my chance to make a better life for my son. I want to be an example to him that if you put your mind to it, you can do anything.”

Tiffany Stott
Paralegal student

Paralegal student
MIDLAND COLLEGE BY THE NUMBERS
TOTAL STUDENTS: 8086 (FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS)

ONLINE ONLY
22%

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Midland College to convert most courses to an online format; however, even before the pandemic, MC had 1,780 students taking only online courses.

FACULTY
841
TOTAL FACULTY
Full Time Faculty ...........16%
Adjunct Faculty ...........16%
Full Time Staff ............16%
Part Time Staff ............32%

DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED

STUDENT DEBT

EMLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE

< 5  5-10  11-20  21-30  > 30
20% 16% 6% 3%
1,807 high school students enrolled in dual credit courses, and 322 students were enrolled in Early College High School at Midland College. These students were able to take both high school and college courses simultaneously.
Four years ago, Midland College began offering a unique and innovative concept for students interested in becoming physicians. During the accelerated seven-year Primary Care Pathway medical program, students spend two years at Midland College, one year at the University of North Texas (UNT) and four years studying at UNT Health Science Center’s Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM). Along the way, they participate in clinical internships with Midland Health.

Advantages to the program include monetary and time savings, summer enrichment experiences and active mentoring. Students who earn A’s and B’s in all courses, and who meet all participation criteria for the program, are not required to take the MCAT medical school entrance exam.

The program is rigorous, but extremely successful.

“Because of the program’s accelerated pace and stringent grade requirements, there is always some attrition,” Joseph Schenkman, MC associate professor of Biology and Primary Care Pathway coordinator said. “Seven students graduated from MC this past May and will enter UNT in the fall; five students are beginning their second year at MC. We anticipate approximately 20-25 program participants entering MC for fall 2020.”

Schenkman said that many of the students currently at MC are very active in the Midland community and on campus. Students participate in community volunteer service to gain a sense of how they will best be able to serve Midland and the surrounding rural communities as physicians. They participate in medically relevant activities including shadowing local physicians.

“Healthcare professionals also serve as guest speakers in classes, and we plan extracurricular activities for the students, such as suturing and sterilization techniques,” Schenkman explained.

The very first cohort of students who entered the program four years ago are now enrolled in the second year of medical school at TCOM in Fort Worth. Next summer, they will begin clinical rotations in the Midland area.
With the ever-increasing demand for engineers in the workplace, in February 2019, Midland College partnered with Concho Resources and Texas A&M University (TAMU) to start the Concho-Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Midland College. Academy students are both MC and Texas A&M scholars for a period of at least one year and then transition to the TAMU main campus in College Station after they qualify and choose their specific engineering field.

During the 2019-2020 school year, nine students comprised the first Aggie cohort at MC. Students took MC core courses, primarily math and science, and a TAMU engineering class. The cost savings of taking MC courses and the smaller class sizes give students the opportunity to succeed in college, especially during the critical first year. While the first cohort of students had the opportunity to transition to Texas A&M for the fall 2020 semester, most of them decided to remain at MC an additional semester due to the COVID-19 uncertainty that looms over all educational institutions.

MC and TAMU personnel anticipate 20 freshmen qualifying to be in the second cohort during the 2020-2021 school year. To qualify for the program, students must be Calculus ready; most do so by taking Math 1314 (College Algebra) and Math 2412 (Precalculus) as dual credit courses while in high school. The 2019-2020 cohort of students were all from Midland and Odessa; however, this year’s students consist of not only Midland and Odessa high school graduates, but also rural West Texas communities, El Paso and Houston.

TAMU has academy partnerships with six other Texas community colleges; however, only two of them—Midland College and Blinn College—provide on-campus residence halls. MC has gone a step further in its residence hall arrangement by establishing a supportive study/living environment for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) majors. Midland also stands out from the other academies as having had a high percentage of first-year students qualifying for ETAM (Entry to a Major) and qualifying a high percentage of students that express an interest in the program.

MC and TAMU expect continued growth and success in the program.
STUDENTS SWEEP SKILLS USA DISTRICT AWARDS
Midland College (MC) students won a total of 25 medals during the SkillsUSA District 2 competition held in San Angelo on Friday, February 28.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The program helps students excel in leadership, technical and occupationally related skills.

High school students from Lee High School and Midland High School taking Midland College dual credit courses in Automotive, Collision/Refinishing, Diesel and Energy Technology took home nine gold, seven silver and nine bronze medals.

“I am proud of the hard work and dedication of our students who participated in this competition,” Assistant Professor of Automotive and Diesel Technology Erick Gutierrez said.

Billy Wiggins - 1st place in diesel equipment technology, 1st place in automobile maintenance and light repair, 1st place in automotive tool identification, 3rd place in automotive quiz bowl

Arnulfo Natividad - 1st place in automotive service technology, 2nd place in automobile maintenance and light repair, 3rd place in automotive quiz bowl

Jonathan Garcia - 2nd place in diesel equipment technology, 3rd place in automobile maintenance and light repair, 3rd place in automotive quiz bowl

Alberto Gonzalez - 3rd place in diesel equipment technology, 3rd place in automotive quiz bowl

Uriel Robles - 1st place in automotive refining, 1st place in collision appraisal

Jordan Galvaldon - 2nd place in automotive refining, 3rd place in collision appraisal

Yoali Villa - 2nd place in collision appraisal

Ruben Galindo - 1st place in collision repair

Job Cabral - 3rd place in collision repair

Jeremiah Null - 1st place in mechatronics

Juan Padilla - 1st place in mechatronics, 2nd place in automotive tool identification

Manuel Ortega - 2nd place in mechatronics, 3rd place in automotive tool identification

Alexander Velasco - 2nd place in mechatronics

1: Jonathan Garcia, 2nd place winner of the District 2 diesel contest, tests the engine controls on a John Deere backhoe.

2: (left to right) Matt Batista, John Deere corporate instructor and contest host/judge; student winners Alberto Gonzalez, Billy Wiggins and Jonathan Garcia; and Erick Gutierrez, Midland College assistant professor of Automotive and Diesel Technology.
Last fall, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded Midland College a $40,000 grant for having the top Adult Education and Literacy program in Texas. There are 36 adult education programs in Texas serving 90,000 participants, and TWC named MC’s program the best in the state.

“TWC has increased requirements for data-driven excellence and placed additional emphasis on allowing adults a chance at meaningful education and careers,” Lynda Webb, MC retired associate dean of Adult Education, said. “Midland College stepped up and met the challenge of increasing enrollment and completing educational goals for all the adults in the region. One in four adults in Midland County is non-literate, and each year Midland College’s Adult Education and Literacy program serves more than 1,000 adults in this community with skills training and educational opportunities.”

Incredible instructors at MC teach English language, math, reading, writing and workforce training instruction to help adult students acquire the skills needed to earn a high school equivalency diploma (GED®) and succeed in college and/or the workforce.

“Approximately 200 students enroll in GED® courses each fall and spring semester,” Valerie Hall, Midland College GED® coordinator, explained. “We teach courses at the main campus, Teen Challenge in Midland, the Midland County Detention Center and the Williams Regional Technical Training Center in Fort Stockton. In addition, Midland College offers GED® courses in Spanish at the MC Cogdell Learning Center.

“In January 2014, TWC increased requirements for GED® programs so that they would meet college and career readiness standards. Programs became much more rigorous, and MC took the requirements very seriously. Each student who enrolls in GED® courses is assigned an Adult Education navigator. Navigators serve as advisors to the students for two years. They provide career coaching, help with college entrance requirements and coordinate meetings with MC department chairs.”

Hall said that students have the option of taking GED® courses in either the morning or evening. The curriculum consists of four classes taught each 16-week semester. The four classes cover all parts of the GED® test as well as the TSI college entrance exam. In 2019, 75 percent of students who participated in the MC program and passed the GED® exam also passed the TSI college entrance exam.

In addition to the lecture-style courses, MC Adult Education staff also offer tutoring sessions. There is no charge to the students for either the classes or tutoring. The program is 100 percent funded through a grant from TWC.

“We are very proud that the GED® program at MC is focused on college pathways,” said Hall. “Going through the program and passing the GED® exam is not easy. When the students pass the exam, they have definitely ‘climbed a mountain.’ The new program is tough; it’s not your grandfather’s GED®. Whether a student wants to pursue a bachelor’s degree or concentrate on a certificate or associate degree targeting a specific career, our program is designed to help them reach their goals.”

Pictured left to right are Valerie Hall, GED coordinator; Lynda Webb, retired associate dean, Adult Education; and Luisa Nail, ESL Adult Education coordinator.
Midland College's focus on education and the local community is embodied in its free GED® classes. Prep classes for the Texas Certificate of High School Equivalency (TxCHSE) test, known as the GED® exam, are offered in Midland and Fort Stockton. During the school closure due to Coronavirus, all GED® prep classes were held online.

MC's GED® prep classes have helped hundreds of students like Kervette Starling, Kaitlin Parker and Nicole Arizpe.

"A lot of people think the GED® is demeaning, but everybody is not on the same timeline," Starling said. "My father passed away from sickle cell anemia when I was 18 years old. I wanted to go straight to college, but I was thrown into reality. I always connected with the lyrics from the great rapper T.I. In one of his songs he wisely explains when you have responsibilities, you do not have time to dream."

Parker was in a similar situation.

"I had my son when I was 16 years old," Parker said. "I raised my baby the best way I knew how—I quit school and got a job."

Nicole Arizpe is the daughter of naturalized Mexican citizens. She grew up in Midland and attended Midland schools until she dropped out in the 9th grade. She married Sebastian, and the couple have three children. Sebastian owns a landscaping company.

"When I would be in the car driving down Garfield and pass the Midland College sign that reads, 'Your College,' I would think to myself, 'Midland College could be my college,' but it was always just a wish," Arizpe said.

Kervette Starling, Kaitlin Parker and Nicole Arizpe, said that the GED® was a steppingstone for pursuing higher education.

"No one in my family has ever gone or graduated from college," Starling said. "I want to be an example to my family. I want to inspire the younger generations."

"My goal in taking MC's free preparation classes was to create a better life for my family," Parker said. "I kept thinking, 'I have to get an education so I can get a job.' I do not want to be a bartender or waitress. I am a Mom. I want to do something my son can respect."

Arizpe took Midland College GED® prep courses because she promised her oldest son that she would get a high school diploma. In May 2012, she passed the GED® exam.

Today, Kervette Starling and Kaitlin Parker are Midland College students. Starling is studying Kinesiology, and Parker is taking prerequisites to enter the nursing program.

"I had to show up for myself," Parker said. "No one else was going to do it for me. At the end of the day without an education, you are only hurting yourself."

"Before I registered for GED® prep classes I caught myself thinking, 'College? I cannot do that. My ship has sailed,' Starling said. "When I was 18 and I did not go to college right out of high school, I started..."
believing it was not for me. But MC’s GED® prep classes helped me gain confidence. It is hard to believe in yourself sometimes. I know a lot of people coming from a lot of different backgrounds, cultures and situations. The people around them are not breathing positivity into their lives, but MC can be that support for you. I believe my life is a journey. I am always asking, ‘What is next?’ I am so glad MC was there to help me in this part of my life, and the marathon continues.”

“When I passed the GED® exam, I remember thinking, ‘Okay, I’ve done it—now I have a high school diploma!’” Arizpe said. “I wasn’t thinking of going to college right away.”

However, staff at MC’s Cogdell Learning Center saw the potential in Arizpe who said that she had always wanted to be a nurse. They encouraged her to apply to Midland College and enroll in prerequisite nursing courses. Cogdell staff also helped Arizpe obtain the Bill Pace Cogdell Scholarship.

In December 2017, Nicole Arizpe graduated from Midland College’s Associate Degree Nursing program. She became the first person in her family to graduate from college, and she obtained a job as a nurse at Midland Memorial Hospital where she still works today in the post-surgical unit. Then, this past May, eight years after she made that telephone call to the MC Cogdell Learning Center inquiring about classes for a high school equivalency diploma, Nicole Arizpe graduated with honors and a 3.93 GPA having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing!

Arizpe summed up the feelings of most people who have successfully passed the GED® exam: “Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try. Then it takes guts, effort and drive!”
Artists are renowned for their creativity and innovation. Throughout history, they have adapted to changes in technology and have created amazing artistic creations.

The Midland College (MC) Art program is embracing 21st-century digital technologies with the purchase of several new pieces of equipment designed to streamline and enhance MC students’ educational experience.

This new equipment includes two new high fire kilns, a 3D potter, a micro 3D printer and a Cricut cutting machine, which will allow students an entirely new way to visualize the creative process and allow for a higher level of detail. Also, the art program has added a new GlowForge laser cutter/etcher. The GlowForge can cut and etch a wide range of materials and has many real applications for design and fabrication.

The Hanley Charitable Trust provided funds to purchase this equipment, which is part of a new MC Art technology initiative. The Hanley Charitable Trust will also provide funding for a new filament-based 3D printer and a 3D scanner.

The goal is to allow experimentation with technology, material and artistic potential.

Michael Richardson, MC associate professor of Art, sees the addition of this new equipment as a means to help students develop new skills and discover additional ways to create 3D Art. It will be a merging of the handmade art object with the virtually designed and printed art object.

"The addition of this new technology puts us at the cutting edge of what’s going on right now with virtual design and 3D printing," Richardson said. "For ceramics, we can use that specific medium to design, create, and fire new student creations. It is an exciting time."

This fall, Midland College will expand its academic programs by offering a hybrid course format in Art which will combine on-campus (hands-on) and online coursework. The new equipment will enable students to create/design using the software at home or in the computer lab and then to render their projects on site.

"This equipment will allow students to print things that would be impossible or very difficult to throw on the potter’s wheel or even to hand build," MC student and part-time employee Jayce Barrett said. "People can design something on their computer, print it and then incorporate it into their work."

1: Jayce Barrett creates pottery using new GlowForge laser cutter/etcher.
2: Michael Richardson, associate professor of Art, displays pottery designed and created using new 3D technology.
Every year during Homecoming Week, Midland College recognizes an alum of the year who is distinguished in profession and community – exemplifying leadership and ethical standards. The awardee models the accomplishments, spirit of service and broadened perspectives fostered by the MC educational experience.

“We are excited to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our most dedicated alumni leaders,” Taylor Shorb, MC director of Development and Alumni Relations, said. “This year’s recipient has strengthened our MC community through his extraordinary contributions and service.”

The 2020 Midland College Alum of the Year recipient is Jeremiah (Jeremy) Blair. An MC enrollment navigator, Blair helps students make sure they have submitted the necessary paperwork so they can register for classes. When Jeremy Blair talks about his job as an enrollment navigator at Midland College, he says he has unique advantages.

“It helps that I graduated from Midland College,” Blair said. “I can honestly tell interested students that this is a great place to go to school. I am also a people person which is something that I get from my dad. I tell a lot of jokes. Humor helps me break the ice with prospective students and make them feel comfortable. Every part of my job at MC is focused on getting students and their families excited about the college experience.”

A competitive swimmer in high school and captain of the swim team, Blair graduated from Midland High in 2011. Following graduation, his college experience at Midland College started immediately in the fall of 2011.

When it came to calculating the cost of his MC education, it was an easy equation. While at MC, Blair received the coveted Legacy Scholarship. While attending MC, Blair also volunteered at the Midland Community Theatre.

Since childhood, Blair had always wanted to be a filmmaker. After attending school at MC, he transferred to Texas Tech and earned a degree in Psychology with a minor in Film Studies. He now hosts a weekly podcast called “Reservations with Raine and Jeremy” where he and his friend analyze and deconstruct different films.

“I remember the first time I met Jeremy,” Julia Vickery, MC vice president of Student Services, recalled. “He was full of energy and excitement. I knew he would be a perfect MC ambassador. To have him now as an employee of MC is a fabulous ‘pay it forward’ event. Jeremy consistently influences students through encouragement and excitement. It is a blessing to be a part of that circle.”
Fifty-one Midland College students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society on Monday, February 24. The 2020 PTK class represents the largest induction ceremony held at MC.

PTK is the oldest, largest and most prestigious honor society servicing two-year colleges around the world. Membership is based on superior academic achievements and is conferred only by invitation to students who have a minimum 3.5 grade point average. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members.

“This is a wonderful day for these students and Midland College,” PTK Advisor and Professor of Government Dr. Terry Gilmour said. “This achievement is a reflection of the hard work they have done to reach this milestone.”

Midland College PTK Officers conducted the ceremony. Vice President of District One, Texas Region, Dusty Ellis, administered the PTK oath. MC Vice President of Instructional Services Dr. Damon Kennedy gave the keynote address.
In January, Dr. Damon Kennedy, MC vice president of Instructional Services was named as a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society’s 2020 Administrator of Distinction. He is one of 26 recipients nationwide for 2020.

The Distinguished College Administrator Awards are presented to vice presidents, deans and directors serving at post-secondary institutions who have shown strong support of student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership and service among high-achieving students.

Kennedy began his academic career as a student at Midland College. He later received a B.A. and M.A. in American History from The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and a Ph.D. in American History from Texas Tech University. He started work at Midland College as an adjunct professor of History in 2004 and after two years became a full-time professor of History. In 2015, Dr. Kennedy was promoted to the position of Dean of Social/Behavioral Sciences & Business and then promoted to vice president of Instructional Services in 2018.

“It is a privilege to be able to work so closely with a dynamic group of Midland College students who have embraced, informed and advanced the mission of our institution,” Kennedy said. “What makes this award so special is that the nomination comes from Midland College students. None of this would be possible but for the tremendous efforts of those same PTK students, Dr. Terry Gilmour and the many other faculty and staff supporting their work.”

"IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO WORK SO CLOSELY WITH A DYNAMIC GROUP OF MIDLAND COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO HAVE EMBRACED, INFORMED AND ADVANCED THE MISSION OF OUR INSTITUTION”

Dr. Damon Kennedy
The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has selected Midland College student Jacob Edwards as a 2020 Coca-Cola Gold Leaders of Promise Scholar. This scholarship is designed to provide community college honor students throughout the U.S. with financial resources to help defray educational expenses as they complete their higher education goals. Each awardee receives a scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Eligible candidates for the honor must be members of the national community college honor society Phi Theta Kappa. Dr. Terry Gilmour, Midland College professor of Government and director of the MC Honors program, explained that each year the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation receives more than 1,100 applications from throughout the U.S. Edwards was one of only 50 recipients selected by a panel of independent judges. Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholars are chosen based on outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated leadership potential.

During his time at Midland College, Edwards was not only involved with the Honors program, but also president of Midland College Students in Philanthropy. In the fall, he will begin studies at the University of Texas, Permian Basin toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

“Jacob is very deserving of this award,” Dr. Gilmour said. “He not only excels in his academic studies, but also possesses strong leadership abilities. All of us at Midland College are extremely proud of him.”

Phi Theta Kappa also named Edwards and MC student Kerrie Brown to the All Texas Academic Team. They were two of 100 students from across Texas who were selected for this prestigious honor.
This past spring Midland College was proud to recognize and honor writing excellence with two contests—the Midland College Nonfiction Writing Contest and the Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry Contest.

“The MC English faculty were very impressed with the entries for both of these contests,” Dr. William Christopher Brown, MC department chair of Language Arts, Philosophy, Humanities and Technical Writing, said. “We applaud the winners’ achievements and their fortitude to persevere and excel, especially during the obstacles placed upon them by the COVID-19 pandemic during this semester.”

**Nonfiction Writing Contest** – The Nonfiction Writing Contest is a new competition this year and includes categories of Narrative Nonfiction, Feature Stories and Research/Essay Reports.

In the Narrative Nonfiction category, Michelle Sanchez won 1st place with “What He Taught Me;” Faith Dolan won 2nd place with “(Dis)ability;” and Christian Bell won honorable mention with “Essential Lessons in Nature.”

Angel Quiñonez-Bustamante’s work entitled “Life-long Mentorship” won first place in the Feature Stories category; Allyson Murillo-Rankin won 2nd place with “A Teaching of Faith;” and Hena Patel’s “What My Best Friend Taught Me” received honorable mention.

The winners in the Research Essay/Reports category were Ariel Brown, 1st place, “Praxiteles: Intentional Sexualization or Projection?” Jada Strilchuk, 2nd place, “Behind the Scenes of an 80s Classic;” and Priscilla Lopez, honorable mention, “Processes for Land Technicians/Landmen.”

**Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry Contest** – Stanley Levitt established the Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry in 1988 to honor the memory of his wife.
Hilda Simmons Levitt who took poetry writing classes at MC for many years. The Levitt’s daughter, Carol Schwartz, continues to underwrite the contest.

Kairah Hendricks won the grand prize and a cash award of $600 for her poems “Home” and “Human.” Camila Justus wrote “Daughter of an Immigrant” and won 2nd place and $400. Gabrielle Rubio won 3rd place and $200 for “Catchin’ Feelings” and “Trapped?” Fourth place and $100 went to Marisol Tarin for “In the Night.” Rachel Howard and Jaylene Partida won Honorable Mention for “Serenity” and “For Granted” respectively.

Lawrence Musgrove, professor and chair of English and modern languages at Angelo State University, served as the judge for this year’s Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry Contest.

1: Jada Strilchuk, 2nd place, Research Essay/Reports
2: Faith Dolan, 2nd place, Narrative Nonfiction
3: Allyson Murillo-Rankin, 2nd place, Feature Stories
4: Ariel Brown, 1st place, Research Essay/Reports
5: Michelle Sanchez, 1st place, Narrative Nonfiction
6: Angel Quiñonez-Bustamante, 1st place, Feature Stories
Midland College is proud to claim one of Texas’ longest-serving community college board of trustee members. Kenneth (Ken) Peeler joined the MC board in 1972 and retired in January 2020. In early March, Midland College celebrated Peeler’s commitment and service to the college with a reception in the Allison Fine Arts Building McCormick Gallery.

“As MC was taking shape, a couple of my friends on the Midland Independent School District board came to see me,” Peeler recalled. “They asked me to serve on the original board for MC. I was honored to even be considered, and I accepted immediately.”

Peeler has a bit of a “pioneering” spirit. Throughout his life he has seemed to seek out “founding” opportunities. He originally came to Midland in 1951 to work for the then-startup Midland 66 Oil Company. He started as a bookkeeper and rose to the rank of president selling the successful company several years ago. More than 10 years after getting MC off the ground and looking for a new challenge, Peeler became a founding chairman for Community National Bank.

Ken was married to his wife LaVoe for 69 years before she passed away in 2017. They have two sons and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

“LaVoe was as interested in Midland College as I am,” Peeler said. “She actually came up with the name ‘Pepe Paisano’ for the mascot. I do not know how she thought of it, but she named him and it stuck.

“LaVoe was also very active in the art department. She took classes, and her art has been on display in McCormick Gallery. I don’t mind telling you I think she was a ‘doggone’ good artist, too.”

After LaVoe’s passing Ken created the LaVoe and Kenneth Peeler Early College High School at Midland College (ECHS@MC) Scholarship.

“I created the Peeler ECHS@MC Scholarship because a lot of the ECHS graduates were the first in their families to get a college degree,” Peeler explained. “After that first group of ECHS students got their degrees, a lot of their parents came back and enrolled in classes in MC. Their children were their inspiration, and the education they all received from MC prepares them to do bigger, better things in the community.

“I am so thankful that I was able to devote my time to MC as a member of the Board of Trustees, and I am thankful that, in turn, it helps make such a difference in the community. Being a trustee has been a good experience for me. It has been very rewarding. I am extremely proud of MC. I think it has done so much for Midland, and Midland has done so much for the College.

“I am so proud of this city; I would not want to live anywhere else. It has been good to me, and I hope to have made it a better place. I was blessed to be in the position to do a lot of for Midland. I am just lucky I was able to be so involved.”

"PEELER HAS A BIT OF A 'PIONEERING' SPIRIT"
SCOTT KIDWELL APPOINTED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES
KIDWELL SWORN IN AS NEWEST TRUSTEE TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERM OF KEN PEELER

At their March 17 monthly meeting, the Midland College (MC) Board of Trustees elected Midland attorney and energy executive Scott Kidwell to fill the unexpired term of Ken Peeler who retired from the Board this past January after 47 years of service. Ken Peeler’s son, Midland County Court-at-Law Judge K. Kyle Peeler, administered the oath of office to Mr. Kidwell during the meeting in the Gibson Board Room of the Pevehouse Administration Building on the Midland College main campus.

Kidwell is senior vice president of Administration for Concho Resources. In this role, he oversees the company’s governmental affairs, human resources, real estate, security and community reinvestment organizations as well as several other administrative areas. Kidwell joined Concho in 2011 and has held various roles within the company. Prior to joining Concho, he was a shareholder at Lynch, Chappell & Alsup, PC.

Kidwell currently serves as chair of the New Mexico Oil & Gas Association, chair-elect of the Permian Basin Petroleum Association, a member of the Texas Oil & Gas Association Board of Directors and president of the Midland Downtown Park Conservancy. He is also a past president of the Midland County Bar Association.

Kidwell holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas Tech University and a Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law.

“Scott will be a fantastic addition to the Midland College Board,” Midland College President Dr. Steve Thomas said. “He brings with him some great experience as a community leader and business executive. I look forward to working with him as Midland College approaches 50 years of providing higher education, workforce training and cultural enrichment opportunities for the residents of West Texas.”

Mr. Kidwell will serve on the MC Board of Trustees through 2020. Kidwell’s At-Large Place 9 position will be on the November 2020 ballot, along with the Place 7 At-Large position currently occupied by Will Green and the Place 8 At-Large position occupied by Ralph Way. MC Board of Trustees members are elected for six-year terms.
On the morning of September 10, 2018, Members of the June and Frank Cowden, Jr. family, as well as Midland College Trustees and MC Foundation Board members, broke ground for the newest Midland College facility—the June and Frank Cowden, Jr. Dining Hall. Twenty months later, in May 2020, construction of the building was completed.

MC students and employees are anxiously awaiting the beginning of the 2020 fall semester when the new dining hall will open its doors and thereby significantly increase the number of students, faculty and staff who can be comfortably seated for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dining hall includes the Beal Family Patio, which is an outdoor dining area, and the Midland Rotary Community Room. A commercial kitchen accommodates campus dining and catering.

Thank you to all donors who made the June and Frank Cowden, Jr. Dining Hall possible!

Photos by Doug Avery, MC Business and Economics Professor
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Dr. Andrea Zabel  
Elizabeth Zenteno  
Kathryn Zimmerhanzel
The first half of 2020 marked unprecedented times for the United States. Americans are suffering from the economic decline brought about by the Coronavirus. West Texans are suffering even more with the added downturn in the energy industry—the economic mainstay of Midland and of the majority of Midland College students. Midland College staff are answering the call to help students in these changing times.

More students than ever have turned to MC’s Support Our Students (SOS) program for emergency relief. From January through May 2020, the SOS program disbursed approximately $2,000 to MC students who suddenly found themselves struggling because of the loss of jobs.

MC Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Director Tana Baker coordinates the SOS program. She explained that in addition to financial assistance, staff in MC’s Student Life Office who maintain the SOS program also advocate with other MC programs and local community organizations for student assistance.

“We refer students to faculty for tutoring (specifically math),” Baker said. “We have referred many to Legal Aid, COVID Unemployment Relief, Texas Workforce Solutions, and we provided a link regarding renter and homeowner eviction relief law and applying for state benefits.

“I attempt to refer students wanting assistance with rent and utility bills to local community resources. There have been so many requesting assistance. I feared that if I helped one with SOS monies, I would need to help all and by doing so would have drained the account in about two days!”

Baker said that she also helps students find assistance for depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns.

“I added an area asking mental health questions on the SOS request form,” Baker said. “The form reads, ‘Tell us how you are feeling,’ and then gives options for ‘excessive anxiety, uncontrollable crying, stress, depression,’ etc. I felt that if we could get an indication about our students’ mental health during the quarantine, then we would be able to help them utilize campus and community resources. Of course, this is all optional and when answering their request, I give them the option to contact MC’s counseling office.”

In April, the federal government implemented the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which provided funding to higher education institutions to provide emergency financial aid grants to students whose lives were disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Julia Vickery, MC vice president of Student Services, led an MC employee team representing Instructional Services, Student Services, Administrative Services and the Institutional Advancement office to determine how best to get the CARES funding to students who qualified. Then, Wendy Kane, MC dean of Student Life, contacted all qualified students.

“The amount of funding students receive depends on how many credit hours they were taking in the spring semester,” Kane explained. “We decided to give an additional stipend to those students who were enrolled in Health Sciences and Applied Technology courses and were unable to finish courses online because of hands-on clinical or lab requirements. Many of these students were about to graduate and begin careers. Because they were unable to complete required healthcare clinicals and/or lab hours, they had to put career plans, and, therefore, the potential for increases in income on hold.”
As of June 19, the MC Financial Aid office had distributed $133,150 to MC students. Staff began disbursing a second round of funding to students in early July.

“Several students have told us that the CARES funds made a huge impact in providing basic necessities for their families,” Kane said. “The funds also helped to pay for laptop computers and Internet connection for students who suddenly found themselves having to take online courses.”

“In recent weeks, we have been getting requests through the SOS program from students enrolling for the fall semester asking for help to pay tuition and fees,” Baker said. “I have referred them to the financial aid and scholarship websites. I have a feeling that tuition, fees and books are going to be the biggest request in the days to come.”

Erin Casey-Richardson, MC associate director of Scholarships, confirms Baker’s suspicions about assistance for fall classes. “We have received almost twice as many scholarship applications as we had at this same time last year,” Casey-Richardson said.

“Midland College is fortunate to have employees and donors who deeply care about helping students,” Rebecca Bell, executive director of the Midland College Foundation, said. “Many employees donate to the SOS fund through payroll deductions, and donors very generously gave monetary gifts to this fund during our end-of-the-year campaign. Our scholarships also continue to grow thanks to grants, honorariums, memorials and estate planning gifts. Our students benefit from this generosity, which in turn helps provide the West Texas community with a skilled workforce, educated citizens and better economic stability.”
Midland College Salutes 2019-2020 Retirees

These employees’ service to Midland College students and the Midland community represent a combined 395 years of service!

Bahola Edwards  
Assistant to the President/Secretary to the MC Board of Trustees (38 years of service)

Pam Saunders  
Secretary to the Vice President of Information Technology (20 years of service)

Emma King  
Circulation Clerk, Fasken Learning Resource Center (45 years of service)

Kent Moss  
Department Chair, Art (35 years of service)

Christy Garza  
Technical Services Manager (19 years of service)

Dr. Michael Jordan  
Music Faculty (39 years of service)

Dr. Diane Allen  
Department Chair, English & Philosophy (11 years of service)

Dan Buckley  
Webmaster (34 years of service)

Sylvia Stephens  
Cosmetology Faculty (15 years of service)

David Kemp  
Energy Technology Faculty (8 years of service)

Dr. Glenda Lindsey-Hicks  
English Faculty (39 years of service)

Gena Nicholson  
Department Chair, Developmental Math (18 years of service)

Helen Peetz  
Associate Degree Nursing Faculty (11 years of service)

Linda Ramirez  
Testing Center Clerk (7 years of service)

Joan Williams  
Periodicals Clerk, Fasken Learning Resource Center (25 years of service)

Lynda Webb  
Associate Dean of Adult Education (18 years of service)

Sylvia Gray  
Instructional Designer (13 years of service)
“What we have once enjoyed deeply we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”
-Helen Keller

Dr. Leslie Williams

Dr. Leslie Williams was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on June 27, 1951 and passed away on March 18, 2020 at her home of over 18 years in Kerrville, Texas. She and her husband, Rev. Stockton Williams met in 9th grade at Lamar Jr. High in Austin, Texas, and married in St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Austin, on December 30, 1976.

Williams had several different careers, including middle school and high school teacher, then college professor and dean. In particular, she taught English courses at her beloved Midland College for some 24 years, including 9 ½ years as dean and professor in Midland and 15 years in Kerrville as an online professor.

She published several poems and academic articles and eight books including six non-fiction Christian books and two Christian fiction titles. Her personal favorite was Night Wrestling: Struggling for Answers and Finding God. Her latest two books, When Anything Goes and Emblem of Faith Untouched: A Biography of Thomas Cranmer, were well-respected and the latter received an award as one of the outstanding theological books of the year.

Dr. Williams enjoyed a final career as an artist. She was a member of Gentileschi Aegis Gallery Association of San Antonio.

To honor Leslie’s love of arts and humanities, her husband Rev. Stockton Williams has donated a bench, which has been placed in front of the Allison Fine Arts Building at Midland College where it will serve as a tribute to the many lives she inspired though her teaching, writing and art. Two bricks will also be placed in her memory in the MC Court of Honor at Beal Plaza—one donated by Rev. Williams, and the other donated by MC Dean of Fine Arts & Communications Dr. William Feeler.

Chaparral Circle Endowment Fund
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Dr. Pamela Howell
Jean Jones
Josh Knight

Chris & Fred Newman
Ema Rivera
Rev. Stockton Williams

Jerry Mills Faculty Development Fund
Dr. Terry & Bruce Gilmour
Cindy Jane Cochran

Cindy Cochran was born on December 27, 1951 in El Paso, Texas and passed away on December 28, 2019 in Midland.

In 1974, Cochran found her lifelong profession and love as an educator at Greenwood ISD. Her work experience included teaching at various junior high schools and high schools in Midland County before she found the job of her dreams in 1998 as a biology laboratory instructor at Midland College. She served admirably at MC until her retirement in 2013. By her own estimate, she taught over 8,000 students in her classes. She knew and remembered each one. She spent many hours worrying over her lesson plans and her students’ performance trying to help everyone understand her teachings.

Cochran was a proud member of the Texas State Teachers Association and for 35 years generously supported local, regional, national and international science fairs where she influenced tens of thousands of students, especially females, to cultivate careers in science.

Joshua Hicks

Joshua C. Hicks, 18, passed away suddenly on April 2, 2020. He was an honor student at Midland College, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and active in MC’s music program.

“Joshua was a very bright and thoughtful young man,” Dr. Terry Gilmour, director of MC’s Honors program and professor of Government, recalled. “We had several long conversations about his participation in the Honors Program at Midland College and later about membership in Phi Theta Kappa. He truly wanted to understand the benefits of participating in both of these academic endeavors. Shortly after he was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa last February, he emailed me indicating that he would like to take on a leadership role. There is no doubt that he would have made an excellent leader.”

A brick will be placed in the Midland College Court of Honor at Beal Plaza in memory of Joshua Hicks.
Doris Muehlbrad was born on August 30, 1935 in Greenvine, Texas and passed away on March 9, 2020 in Midland.

In 1976, Dr. Al G. Langford, the first president of Midland College, hired Muehlbrad as his secretary. She retired in 2000 as special assistant to the president. Her employment at Midland College also led to her second career as a cake decorator.

In 1978 the college was looking for something special to launch their newest building. Muehlbrad volunteered to create a cake in the shape of Chaparral Center. Her finished product was so detailed and delicious that she was hired for all future cakes the college needed.

After retiring from Midland College Muehlbrad opened her cake business known as Cakes by Doris, which flourished for the next 16 years.

“When I began working at Midland College, Doris was one of the first people I met,” Rebecca Bell, executive director of Institutional Advancement and the Midland College Foundation, said. “She impressed me by her professionalism and knowledge of EVERYTHING about MC. I could tell immediately that she truly loved her job and believed in the community college mission. She probably never knew this—but 30 years ago, she was a wonderful inspiration to me as I began my career at MC.”

Willard “Will” Wayne Luft

Will Luft was born on July 18, 1949 in Froid, Montana and passed away on May 23, 2020.

Luft began his career working as a lab tech in various hospitals in Montana and then moved to Anchorage, Alaska where he met his wife Rita. He began working at Midland College in November 1984 and retired as Technical Supervisor – Breath Alcohol Testing in January 2007. Luft administered the MC Continuing Education Intoxilyzer training program for criminal justice professionals.

After retiring, Luft spent 6 months of every year working on his trucks and tractors and helping to plant and harvest wheat in his homeland of Montana.

Will was a father who taught the values of hard work, integrity, perseverance, and being sensible and frugal, often having his daughter as his worker and pupil of his many life lessons. Luft loved root beer, ice cream, cantaloupe and a good hamburger steak. He will be missed for being a friend and family member who stuck to his values and worked hard.

IN MEMORY OF WILL LUFT

Chaparral Circle Endowment Fund
Ema Rivera

IN MEMORY OF DORIS MUEHLBRAD

Chaparral Circle Endowment Fund
Sylvia Brown
Ema Rivera
Dr. Deana Savage
& Glenn Brown

Support Our Students (SOS)
Rebecca Bell
Dr. Pamela Howell
Laura Van Husen was born on June 2, 1950 in Wichita Falls, Texas and passed away on July 31, 2019 in Midland. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. The most important things in her life were God and her family. She also treasured her time with her friends. Van Husen loved to play games of any kind and spent untold hours doing so with all of her children and grandchildren. She adored the water, was a high school swimmer and spent as much time at the lake and the beach as she could.

She had a lifelong love affair with math and loved teaching all levels of math to any willing student. Countless Midland College students credit Mrs. Van Husen with teaching them how to really “understand” math.

“Laura Van Husen was an exemplary teacher,” Dr. Margaret Wade, MC retired dean of Math & Science, recalled. “She was exceptional in her knowledge and love of mathematics; yet, she also recognized that others might not share her passion. She was patient, kind and caring. Students respected her and felt the welcoming comfort of the environment she created in the math lab. I had the greatest respect and trust of her judgment. I lost a wonderful friend at her death.”

In her memory and to pay tribute to the huge impact that Van Husen had on MC students, the Midland College Math department has named a scholarship as part of MC’s Math Mentoring program as the Laura Van Husen Math Excellence Scholarship. Each spring the scholarship will be given to a student who displays exemplary qualities through the Math Mentoring and peer tutoring program.

“Those who really knew Laura know that it is impossible to describe her briefly,” Alma Brannan, development Math professor, said. “Laura had a beautiful gift of seeing everyone through the lens of their potential. She could also make you believe in yourself in a way you never thought possible. Her encouragement and her belief in you made you want to achieve. Her former students still come by the math lab just to say thank you for what Laura helped them achieve—quite a statement since she retired 10 years ago.”

**IN MEMORY OF LAURA VAN HUSEN**

**Math Mentoring Program, Laura Van Husen Math Excellence Scholarship**

Rebecca Bell  
Rita Nell & David Diffie  
Sharon & Wilson Hiedelberg  
Jennifer & Dr. Paul Mangum  
Gena Nicholson  
Catherine Norwood  
Lori L. Thomas  
Dr. Russell Van Husen  
Karen & Roy Williamson
Thank you to the many donors who gave gifts in honor of the wonderful physicians in Midland during the 2020 Doctors’ Day campaign.

Every February, members of the Midland Medical Alliance assist the Midland College Foundation staff with preparing and mailing special requests to give a “Valentine” to members of the medical community. The funds received from these honorariums are used to support scholarships for MC’s health-related programs. Because of the giving “hearts” of the Midland community, $24,370 was raised for Doctors’ Day scholarships in 2020.

In Honor of Joseph Abijay, MD
Cecilia Miranda & Danny Hutchison

In Honor of Greg Adkins, DVM
Charlotte & William Christy

In Honor of Sudhi Agrawal, MD
Veronica & Kirk Fritschen

In Honor of Russell Akin, MD
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Mary de Compiegne
Nancy & Jay Isaacs
Wanda Nix
Robert Thames
H. A. Tuck

In Honor of Scott Akins, MD
Fran Dawson
Doris Redfern

In Honor of Alan Alderson, DVM
Brenda & Donald McClure
Jane Wolf

In Honor of All Physicians
Debbie & Rick Reese

In Honor of Asif Ansari, MD
Cece & A. J. Brune
Rebecca Watson

In Honor of Marcy Askins, RN, MSN, APRN
Jenny & Phil Ebensberger
Robert Thames
H. A. Tuck

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Fran Dawson
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Robert Case, MD
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Gerardo Catalasm, MD
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Rosanna Catalasen, MD
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Anand Cholia, MD
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Kenneth Peeler
Bonnie Stewart

In Honor of
Paul Chilka, MD
Donna & Robert Landreth
Barbara & Don Nichols

In Honor of
Mark Cox, DDS
H. A. Tuck

In Honor of
Robert Chappell, MD
Dale & Jon Stasney

In Honor of
Richard Culbert, MD
Lois & Richard Folger

In Honor of
Carl D'Agostino, MD
Susannah & Briggs Donaldson
Juanice & Jim Welsh

In Honor of
Donald Davenport, DO
Sharon & Wilson Heidelberg

In Honor of
John Dean, MD
Lois & Richard Folger
Margaret Purvis
Juanice & Jim Welsh

In Honor of
Sri Deme, MD
Juanice & Jim Welsh

In Honor of
David DeShan, MD
Lois & Richard Folger
Dr. Pamela Howell

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Jessie Dickens, MD
Leann & Hal Brenner
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Jeanne Beach
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Wanda Nix

In Honor of
Wade Clay, DDS
Sarah & Ron Holcomb
Lisa & Michel Stevens

In Honor of
Kevin Cook, MD
Linda J. Cowden

In Honor of
Daniel Copeland, MD
Rebecca Watson

In Honor of
David Copeland, MD
Nancy & Jay Isaacs

In Honor of
Donald Cotton, MD
Kim & Rabon Bewley

In Honor of
Michael Courter, DDS
Nancy & Jay Isaacs

In Honor of
Mark Cox, DDS
H. A. Tuck

In Honor of
Donald Crockett, MD
Dale & Jon Stasney

In Honor of
Richard Culbert, MD
Lois & Richard Folger

In Honor of
Sapna Chilka, MD
Donna & Robert Landreth
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Enjoy the performance in your home while Wayne delivers his unique style of off-the-cuff entertainment.

Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 p.m.

Do you want to help Wayne with his performance on September 8?

Please send the title of a song that doesn’t exist, and Wayne will provide the music and lyrics on the spot. Wayne will also answer your questions.

Send song titles and questions to waynebrady@midland.edu

Song titles and questions accepted until 7:30 p.m. on September 8.