

Collin College

NISGTC NEWSLETTER Winter/Spring 2015 Edition

Upcoming EVENTS

February 9 & 10: **LINKEDIN** /
SCC I-230 (Monday) PRC
H-123 (Tuesday) // 6-8p.m.

February 23 & 24:
PREPARING IT E-FOLIOS / SCC
I-230 (Monday) PRC
H-123 (Tuesday) //
6-8 p.m.

March 2 & 3: **CAREER
CHANGERS** / SCC I-230
(Monday) PRC H-123
(Tuesday) // 6-8 p.m.

March 18: **EFFECTIVE
PRESENTATIONS** / PRC F-142
// 6-8p.m.

March 23 & 24: **PERSONAL
BRANDING FOR JOB SEEKERS** /
SCC BB-118 (Monday)
PRC F-142 (Tuesday) //
6-8 p.m.

March 26: **IT
ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP** /
PRC F-142 // Time TBA

March 30 & 31: **INTERVIEW
SKILLS** / SCC H-225
(Monday) PRC L-243
(Tuesday) // 6-8 p.m.

RSVP to all events to
469.365.1832 or
DSUKUT@COLLIN.EDU

Collin College Awarded

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

Since its creation in 1965, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has worked to achieve excellence for the college education of Texas students by providing leadership and coordination for the Texas public post-secondary education system.

Their Recognition of Excellence program is designed to showcase models of excellence in the education community and highlight the outstanding work of Texas faculty and administrators. At their most recent quarterly meeting on January 22, Collin College was chosen as a recipient for their leadership of the DOL TAACCCT Round 1 National Information, Security, and Geospatial Technologies Consortium (NISGTC) grant. The honor primarily focused on the grant's development of open education resources in information technology (IT) with heavy focus on business and industry leadership so that graduates are workforce-ready.

To date, Collin College has led the development of over 50 online, open source courses and associated virtual laboratories. The courses can be found on the Department of Energy's National Training & Education Resource digital platform. By summer, there will be close to 100 courses on this platform. The virtual laboratories allow students to complete their assignments 24/7 in an environment that mimics the workplace. These improvements along with free career services, targeted workshops, and job development services are preparing students for high-paying careers in IT.

On her passion for the program, Dr. Ann Beheler stated "IT is one of the industries that affords an opportunity for people who did not believe they could be successful in college to obtain a certificate and a high-paying entry-level position after only four or five courses. The student can then stack other certificates and/or a degree onto the entry-level certificate to obtain an even better position. This makes a difference for that student, their family and generations to come."

Meet the Newest CAREER COACHES

Meet Tracy Clinton and Jim Kirkpatrick, the DOL Grant's newest Career Coaches.

Tracy comes to us from Memphis, TN at Victory University where she was an Academic Advisor. She has a Bachelors degree of Business Administration, Marketing, Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy and over 11 years of experience in counseling and coaching people in group and individual settings. She is currently working on connecting IT students with local IT professionals in the Mentoring Partnership program.

When she's not serving at Collin, she can be found in the kitchen trying and creating new recipes. Other interests are photography, walking, dancing, traveling, hanging out with loved ones and most of all, spending time with her beau, Antonio.

Jim joins us from Delta Dallas where he worked as a recruiter. Jim has a Bachelors of Physical

Education and a Masters of Principal Leadership from UTA. In addition to 7 years of recruiting experience, he is also a 20 year education veteran in teaching. He and his wife, Anna, have 3 college graduates and an 8th grader. When not working, Jim is a big sports fan cheering on his favorite local teams: the Cowboys, Rangers and Mavericks.

Jim and Tracy are both excited to be Career Coaches at Collin College, working with Information Technology students and professionals. They are focused on helping participants complete certificates and degrees and then on placing them in high paying careers.



Student Spotlight

GAIL STAFFORD

Meet Gail Stafford. In 1988, when GIS was still called Computer Mapping, Gail helped digitize an entire county. After receiving a dual Bachelors of Geography and Computer Science and 2.5 years experience in GIS, she left the workforce to raise her children. Now that her children are grown, she has returned to Collin College to earn a certificate in Geospatial Information Science in May 2015.



While earning her certificate, Gail utilized NISGTC's program and services and found employment with North Central Texas Council of Governments as a GIS Intern. There, she conducted online research to update the Development Feature Database for Dallas' 16-county region.

"Apply to everything and don't turn down opportunities because the commute is long," Gail advises fellow students. "Be an excellent student so that you can use your professor for a reference."

Gail initially was wary of re-entering the job market but received encouragement from Collin College Career Coach Diana Sukut regarding her marketability in the workplace. Since then, she has attended a workshop on LinkedIn, participated in mock interviews and most recently, was a part of a GIS employer visit, which she said was her favorite NISGTC activity so far.

This past December, Gail was offered a full time position at North Texas Municipal Water District in Wylie, cutting her commute by 2/3. Her new position as Information Systems Assistant utilizes GIS as part of her duties, with part office work and part field work. In addition to her Bachelors of Computer Science, she said it was her GIS experience that caused her application to stand out as well as NISGTC's program that was "instrumental in the improvement" of her outlook.

"Show your enthusiasm for the field," says Gail. "Find some way to utilize GIS in your spare time. Employers like that."

Student Spotlight

CHERYL THOMAS

Meet Cheryl Thomas. With a background in Technical Sales for Texas Instruments, computer science was a natural fit for her interests, so she enrolled in Collin College to earn her Associates Degree. Through a computer class visit by the DOL Grant Team, Cheryl was introduced to the many NISGTC services available and has since utilized career coaching, tutoring sessions and all the workshops on resume writing, LinkedIn and interviewing.

"Being in today's job market is vastly different from what the job market was when I last looked for employment some twenty years ago," says Cheryl. "I was able to

prepare an effective resume and cover letter, and learn where to find and apply for positions. My interview skills were reviewed and feedback was provided to improve my abilities." Cheryl states that the one-on-one advising and the mock interviews were the most beneficial. Since participating in NISGTC, she has landed a new job at Georg Fischer Piping Systems.

"I felt increasing my knowledge in IT, a dynamic ever-changing field, would improve my job marketability and increase my ability to earn a higher income," Cheryl states. "Both have come true for me."



Resume Writing TOP TEN TIPS

1. Have a **LINKEDIN** Page. Include the URL in your contact information.
2. Create a new **PROFESSIONAL EMAIL** account with your first and last name.
3. **DO NOT START WITH** an **OBJECTIVE** statement.
4. Have a **PROFILE AREA** with a **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**.
5. **CUSTOMIZE** your resume **FOR EACH POSITION** for which you are applying.
6. Use **GOOD KEYWORDS** using the **JOB DESCRIPTIONS**.
7. Have a section for your **TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS** in addition to your education section.
8. Show at least **10 YEARS** of relevant **WORK EXPERIENCE**.
9. Try to keep your resume to **1 OR 2 PAGES**, but don't forget to include some contact information on each page in case they get separated.
10. **DO NOT USE PRONOUNS** when describing yourself.

SEE A VIDEO OF THIS LIST AT
[FACEBOOK.COM/NISGTC](https://www.facebook.com/nisgtc).

For more help with your resume, schedule an appointment with a career coach today.



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