

# AROUND

# THE BEND

YOUR SOURCE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF COASTAL BEND COLLEGE

Spring 2024

Volume IV: Issue I

the  Joe  
Barnhart  
*Foundation*

INTRODUCING  
**B.E.A.M.S.**  
BARNHART ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS  
AND MUSIC SERIES

The Piano Man's Piano Man  
Jeff Jacobs to Perform

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**Coastal Bend**  
COLLEGE

Alice

Beeville

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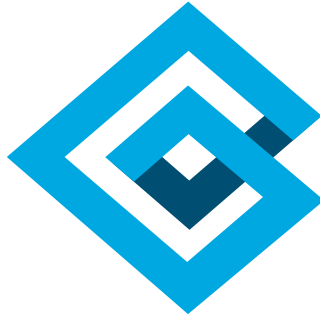
**coastalbend.edu**

Coastal Bend College is a leader in providing quality education for lifelong learning by dedicating its resources to promoting a learning-centered environment that empowers its students to reach their highest potential and become responsible members of the global community. CBC is located in Alice, Beeville, Kingsville, and Pleasanton, Texas. Coastal Bend College is your choice destination at four locations.

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# Coastal Bend COLLEGE

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



**Dr. Justin Hoggard**  
President  
Coastal Bend College

In the spring semester of 2023, Coastal Bend College submitted its report for accreditation reaffirmation. This is a long process whereby the college must prove compliance with approximately 80 standards covering almost every aspect of the work the college does. During the writing process, the institution uses this document as a self-study and an opportunity to address any issues we perceive to be deficient.

After submitting the report, the college began preparing for the visit, which occurred in October. The result of the visit was encouraging and an overall success. To complete the visit with no recommendations is difficult, but more importantly, colleges attempt to avoid falling short on any core requirements. CBC did well with respect to recommendations as we only received three, none of which were core requirements.

This is a testament to the work and preparation the college does. We are in a continuous improvement loop with the where we pay specific attention to our strategic plan that we use to help shape our budgeting process. When we create our next strategic plan beginning next fall, we will take a similar approach focusing on student success and experiences while simultaneously keeping accreditation in our focus.

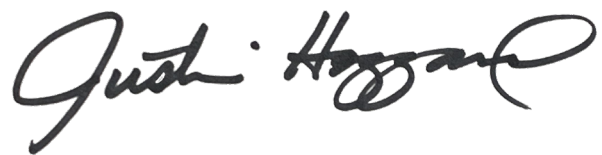
One of the college's guiding lights for the last 20 years has been the work the college has done with Achieving the Dream (ATD). In February, Dr. David Byrd, Vice President of Student Success and the Director of Transfer Education/Pathways Coordinator, Christi Morgan, represented the college at their annual conference where, in addition to all the information and guidance that is presented, the two team members represented CBC in receiving the Achieving the Dream Network Legend Award. We are quite fortunate that college leaders before us saw the wisdom in this organization. We continue their commitment to ATD and look forward to continuing this momentum.



Keeping in line with continuous improvement, the college is going through some structural changes as we begin to pay *fantastic attention to detail* with respect to everything we do, but with laser focus on the student experience and success. Part of this transition is dividing out the responsibilities from the Provost to the Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Dreand Johnson and the Vice President of Student Success and Engagement, Dr. David Byrd. Additionally, we have put our IT department with Institutional Effectiveness and Research who reports to Dr. Michelle Lane. Our Marketing and Public Relations department led by Amanda Ramirez and our site directors at Alice, Kingsville, and Pleasanton were moved to the Foundation under Paul Cantrell. This is a pilot project where we have put together under one umbrella several of our community outreach efforts to determine if this project could become a permanent solution for public and community outreach.

We have been recognized over the past year for many successes. Our determination and efforts have been beneficial to the college, the communities, and students we serve. However, we still have plenty of corrections to make. We are not perfect by any means, and we have acknowledged it. However, in the words of Vince Lombardi, “Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

-SUCCESS HAPPENS HERE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Haggan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Dr. Hoggard Receives PTK Paragon Award



*Photo (L-R): Dr. Hoggard pictured with CBC students and PTK officers Cristina Miranda, Jacqueline Thompson, and Stephanie Cantu-Trevino at the Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst convention in Columbus, Ohio in April 2023.*

Coastal Bend College President Dr. Justin Hoggard has been honored with the esteemed Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Paragon Award for New Presidents, recognizing his exceptional dedication to student success and

commitment to fostering high-quality learning environments.

Recipients of the PTK Paragon Award are nominated by students on their respective

campuses, underscoring the direct impact Dr. Hoggard has had on the student body. This recognition, bestowed only once in a president's tenure, commends his active engagement with Phi Theta Kappa students and his commitment to providing enhanced opportunities and pathways to completion, transfer, and employment.

Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, commended Dr. Hoggard for his role as a student success champion, directly influencing the college experience for student, “[Your students] know you are working hard to provide them more opportunities and stronger pathways to completion, transfer, and employment. They know you support their learning, and as a result, they have had a better college experience because of you.”

Christi Morgan, Lead Advisor for Coastal Bend College's Rho Lambda chapter of PTK, echoed Dr. Tincher-Ladner's sentiments, “Dr. Hoggard truly cares about students and their success. He is genuine in his words and actions, and it is both refreshing and inspiring to have a president who, at his core, is working for students and our communities.”

The award will be presented at the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention from April 4-6, 2024, at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Hoggard stated, “This is a total surprise. I think about everything that goes into my role, and at the end of the day, my number one priority is CBC's students. Since my arrival we have attempted to make every effort to ensure that we are doing everything we can, I can, to ensure that they are our focus. Being nominated by students makes this the most appreciated accolade I could receive. I am humbled and grateful for this recognition.”

Dr. Hoggard assumed the role of CBC President in November 2019. Under his leadership, the college has achieved numerous national recognitions, including being recognized as a 2023 Leader College by Achieving the Dream.

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society that recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students, fostering leadership development and promoting the exchange of ideas. For more information, visit [PTK.org](http://PTK.org).





# Read Across America Community Event

“For our CBC students, this presents an invaluable opportunity to effect positive change within their communities. As aspiring educators, this event affords them the chance to witness firsthand the profound impact they can make, not only on the lives of their students but also on the broader community they serve.”

*Dr. Patrick McIver, CBC Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education*



Coastal Bend College extends its gratitude to the community for their enthusiastic participation in the recent Read Across America Night, held on February 28th, 2024, at all CBC locations. The event, organized by Coastal Bend College’s Early Development and Education Department, celebrated the birthday of the beloved children’s author, Dr. Seuss, and aimed to promote early literacy and family engagement in education.

Families from across the region joined in the festivities, which included interactive reading sessions, storytelling, refreshments, and photo opportunities with Dr. Seuss characters. All CBC locations were well attended, featuring Early Childhood Education students manning various reading activities and Dr. Seuss-themed games.

In addition to the fun-filled activities, the event also featured presentations on the importance of literacy in local communities. Workshops were conducted

to empower parents with effective techniques to engage their children in reading, emphasizing the role of parents as active participants in their children’s educational journey.

Reflecting on the importance of early literacy, Dr. Patrick McIver, CBC Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education emphasized, “The enduring impact of early literacy transcends childhood and extends into adulthood. Adults equipped with solid literacy skills enjoy enhanced career opportunities, increased earning potential, and an improved quality of life. It’s crucial to emphasize that early literacy is not solely about teaching children to read but also about nurturing a genuine love for reading and learning, a goal at the core of Coastal Bend College’s Early Literacy Program.”

Coastal Bend College remains committed to fostering a culture of literacy and educational excellence within the community. Events like Read Across America Night exemplify the college’s dedication to supporting the educational journey of students of all ages.







CBC - Beeville



CBC - Kingsville



CBC - Pleasanton



CBC - Alice





# FALL 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES



Commencement Keynote Speaker: Ray Martinez III  
President & Chief Executive Officer of the Texas Association of Community Colleges



Nursing Pinning Keynote Speaker:  
Rev. Idotha Battle





# DECEMBER 14TH, 2023



Marybeth Boatman and her son Samuel completed their degree requirements and walked the commencement stage on the same day.

**"It's never too late to graduate!"**

**~ Marybeth Boatman**





## CBC's Vocational Nursing Program

Coastal Bend College's Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) Program, offered at all CBC locations, goes beyond traditional teaching methods. It's a comprehensive three-semester course that immerses students in every aspect of nursing, from classroom theory to hands-on lab sessions and real-world clinical experience.

A standout feature of the program is the utilization of cutting-edge technology, including HAL S5301, a state-of-the-art robot that replicates human physiological functions. HAL's capabilities are extraordinary—it can engage in conversations, simulate bleeding, urinate, sweat, and mimic various bodily functions.

The integration of HAL into the curriculum elevates the standard of training at CBC. Students not only grasp the theoretical aspects of nursing but also gain practical experience in a simulated environment mirroring real-life scenarios. This immersive

approach ensures graduates are well-prepared to navigate the challenges of their professional careers.

A standout feature of the program is the intensive clinical experience offered in the final semester. With students spending three days a week in clinical settings at various healthcare facilities throughout the community, they gain invaluable hands-on training. CBC Nursing Director Maria Cantu underscores the significance of this clinical exposure and states, "I tell [students] that it's a long job interview. Often before our students graduate they're hired."

With the current nationwide shortage of nurses, the timing couldn't be better for aspiring healthcare professionals to embark on their journey. Graduates of the CBC LVN program are positioned to make a significant impact in the healthcare industry, meeting the pressing demand for qualified nurses in our communities.



# CBC Pioneers Quality Matters Initiative to Enhance Student Learning Experience

Coastal Bend College celebrates a significant milestone in its pursuit of educational excellence with the successful completion of the inaugural cohort of faculty members in the "Design Your Online Course" (DYOC) training under the Quality Matters (QM) framework. This transformative initiative, made possible through CBC's Title III grant, marks a pivotal moment in the institution's commitment to enriching the student experience through high-quality online education.

Led by a cohort comprising Dr. Lisa Bowman-Bowen, Maria Cantu, Dr. Mark Carbajal, Kathleen Cuyler, Rebekah Cuyler, Loana Hernandez, Joel Lopez, Luz Miranda, Kelly Rea, Lynn Southerland, and Virginia Wall, the DYOC training immersed participants in the principles of online course design aligned with QM standards.

Kelly Rea reflected on the significance of the training, stating, "The best part of the QM training for me was learning about course alignment. In my course redesign, I'm spending a good amount of time making sure course/module objectives, instructional materials, learning activities/assignments, tools,

**"I have already begun to implement what I have learned in the courses... I'm looking forward to making the online portion of my courses more engaging, enjoyable, and educational."**

**Virginia Wall**

**CBC Director of Radiologic Technology**

and assessments all align in the best possible way for students to do well in the course."

Joel Lopez echoed the sentiment, emphasizing the importance of aligning course learning objectives with instructional materials to ensure consistency and quality across all educational modalities. "By designing my course, what that allowed me to do is if I do have some adjuncts to also teach the same course that I do. So being the lead instructor, I could just say here, you have the freedom to teach this material the way you like to present it. But ultimately, this is what the parameters are because we know that it's meeting a high quality, especially once it's been approved and it's met peer review standards," Lopez stated.

The DYOC training not only equips faculty members with the tools and knowledge to enhance course design but also fosters a collaborative learning environment where peers can share challenges, best practices, and insights. Kelly Rea highlighted the camaraderie within the cohort, stating, "Our cohort is small, so it's been great to learn from my peers. We get to share our challenges, our best practices and we're learning together, which is just a nice little bonus from this training program."

As CBC prepares for the next phase of online course transformation, the institution remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that every student receives a consistent and high-quality educational experience, whether online or in-person. With the support of CBC's Title III grant and the dedication of its faculty, the journey towards educational excellence continues, guided by the principles of Quality Matters.

## CBC's New Chief of Police



October 30, 2023, marked a significant day in the history of Coastal Bend College as Dr. Celvin G. Walwyn was officially sworn in as the new Chief of Police. The ceremony saw Chief Walwyn joined by his wife, Antoinette, as Pastor Larry Collins delivered the invocation and Bee County Judge Trace Morrill administered the oath of office.

The event was attended by esteemed guests including Beeville Police Chief Kevin Behr, Bee County Sheriff Alden Southmayd, Coastal Bend College Board of Trustees Vice Chair Eloy Rodriguez, and numerous CBC faculty and staff. Chief Walwyn's journey to this position has been marked by dedication and excellence. Born in the

Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, he grew up in the United States Virgin Islands and Houston, Texas. His educational background is as impressive as his professional accolades, holding a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master of Science in Security Management, and a Ph.D. in Public Safety with a specialization in Leadership, all earned with the highest honors.

With 37 years experience in law enforcement, Chief Walwyn's expertise is extensive. He has served in various capacities, including attachments to Federal Law Enforcement agencies in the Houston area and as a Sexual Offender Surveillance Detective in Orlando, Florida.



*Bee County Judge Trace Morrill administered the oath of office.*

Among his many honors, Chief Walwyn has been recognized as the Orange County Florida Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year multiple times, received the State of Florida Difference Maker Award from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, and earned the title of 100 Club Officer of the Year in Texas, among others.

Chief Walwyn shared insights into his vision for CBC and his approach to campus safety, "My plan for CBC is to build on what was already built by [former CBC Chief of Police] Kevin Behr," he noted. "He put some things in place, and he left a blueprint, and I'm following the blueprint."

"I love the place," he expressed warmly. "The people here, they are very outgoing. The civility... It's something that I have not encountered anywhere else in terms of the friendliness and the willingness to assist."

His proactive approach to fostering a safe environment is evident from his first days on campus, "I began by going into the cafeteria every morning for breakfast, lunch, and dinner within my first two weeks so that the young people, the students would see me," he explained.

"I recognize that not everybody is going to like law enforcement and that not everybody is going to have had a good experience with law enforcement. My plan here at CBC is to educate and create an awareness of public and campus safety."

"All I ask is that you do the right thing," he emphasized, "You do the right thing. I will go out of my way to make sure you are okay, but you have to help me to keep this in balance."

As he embarks on this new chapter, Chief Walwyn's commitment to the safety and well-being of Coastal Bend College is unwavering. With his wealth of experience, dedication to community engagement, and proactive approach to law enforcement, the campus can look forward to a secure and supportive environment under his leadership.

Chief Walwyn is primarily located at the CBC-Beeville location but regularly visits all CBC sites and conducts safety trainings. He is also connected to local law enforcement and first responders, ensuring a collaborative approach to campus safety.



*Pictured L-R: CBC President Dr. Hoggard, Antoinette Walwyn, Chief Walwyn, Beeville Police Chief Kevin Behr, Bee County Sheriff Alden Southmayd, and Pastor Larry Collins.*





# Jeff Jacobs to Headline B.E.A.M.S.

## *Barnhart Entertainment, Arts and Music Series*



*Dubbed "the Piano Man's Piano Man", Jacobs played keyboard for Billy Joel and was a member of the band Foreigner.*

Kevin J. Keller

Rock and blues pianist Jeff Jacobs will headline the Rinaugural show in the Barnhart Entertainment, Arts and Music Series (B.E.A.M.S.) on Thursday, March 28, at the Gertrude R. Jones Auditorium on the campus of Coastal Bend College.

The Barnhart Entertainment, Arts and Music Series is a partnership between the Joe Barnhart Foundation and the Coastal Bend College Foundation aimed at bringing a variety of educational and entertaining shows to the Beeville area.

The series is being funded by a grant provided by the Barnhart Foundation.

“We are excited to partner with the Barnhart Foundation to launch the Barnhart Entertainment, Arts and Music Series,” said Coastal Bend College

Foundation Executive Director Paul Cantrell. “We look forward to the opportunity to bring the Beeville area some really fun and engaging shows that will both entertain and educate.”

Jacobs, formerly a member of the band Foreigner and a keyboardist for Billy Joel, will headline the first show in the series later this month on the college’s Beeville campus.

Jacobs played with Foreigner for 17 years after he was offered a spot in the band by frontman Mick Jones, who first saw Jacobs when he was the producer on Billy Joel’s Storm Front album. Jacobs played keyboards on “We Didn’t Start the Fire,” which was Joel’s third single to reach No. 1 in the United States on the Billboard Hot 100.

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**“I always enjoy college audiences. I'm looking forward to playing at Coastal Bend College. ”**

**Jeff Jacobs**

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Jacobs has played and toured with Joel, Foreigner, Julian Lennon, Lou Gramm All Stars, Heather Hadley, Twista, Sugar Blue, Phil Ramone, Dan Korchmar, Laura Brannigan and many others.

Jacobs will take the stage at 7 p.m. on March 28. Doors for the show open at 6 p.m.

Tickets for the show will be available for purchase online at [coastalbendcollege.ticketleap.com/jeffjacobs](http://coastalbendcollege.ticketleap.com/jeffjacobs) for \$5 each.

For more information, or to order tickets over the phone, call 361-354-2348.





THE COASTAL BEND COLLEGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS



  
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TEXAS VODKA



**GRADY C. HOGUE**  
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**PRESENTED BY LIVE OAK TEXAS VODKA**

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Beeville Country Club | Beeville, TX

*Shotgun start 9 a.m.*

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Soft drinks provided | Beer & mixed drinks also available

**Format: Four-person scramble**

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Email [kjkeller@coastalbend.edu](mailto:kjkeller@coastalbend.edu) | Call 361-354-2348





# Dennis Gaxiola Brings the Laughs

## *CBC Comedy Series Presents 2nd Show*



Gaxiola has made more than 20 national television appearances, including Comedy Central's Laffapalooza with Jamie Foxx, Stand Up Revolution with Gabriel Iglesias, STARZ Network's First Amendment Stand Up with Martin Lawrence, TBN's Praise the Lord Comedy Specials, Show Time at the Apollo, BET's Comic View, Que Locos and the Latin Kings of Comedy Tour with the legendary Paul Rodriguez.

### *Kevin J. Keller*

**D**ry Bar Comedy sensation Dennis Gaxiola had the audience in stitches during the second installment of the Coastal Bend College Comedy Series on Oct. 14 at the Gertrude R. Jones Auditorium on the Beeville campus.

Gaxiola visited Beeville to headline the event as part of a trip through South Texas. He headlined a charity event in Corpus Christi Oct. 13, played golf at the Beeville Country Club with Coastal Bend College President Dr. Justin Hoggard and several other local dignitaries on the morning of Oct. 14, headlined the CBC Comedy Series show that evening, then headlined another charity event in Pearsall on Oct. 15.

Ticket holders raved about Gaxiola's performance following the show, including City of Beeville Chief of Police Kevin Behr, who Gaxiola unexpectedly made a part of the show.

The former CBC Police chief, at one point during the show, couldn't contain his laughter and let out a loud "squawk," which caught Gaxiola's attention and had the veteran comedian laughing on stage along with those around Behr.

After the show, Gaxiola signed autographs and took photos with ticket holders in the lobby.

The Coastal Bend College Comedy Series, in its first year, featured shows from Brad Upton in April and Gaxiola in October. The next show will feature Chad





*Pictured L-R: CBC Foundation Senior Administrative Assistant Kevin J. Keller, CBC President Dr. Justin Hoggard, Dennis Gaxiola, CBC Foundation Executive Director Paul Cantrell*

Thornsberry and is slated for May 30, 2024. Tickets for the show will be available online at [tinyurl.com/chadthornsberry](https://tinyurl.com/chadthornsberry) or by calling 361-354-2348.

The first year of the series was sponsored by Live Oak Vodka, Blake Fulenwider Chrysler Dodge Jeep & Ram, Beeville Medical Clinic, L&F Distributors,

Coastal Bend Publishing and Kicker 106.

All proceeds from the first year of the series benefit student scholarships at Coastal Bend College. For more information, call the Coastal Bend College Foundation office at 361-354-2348 or email [foundation@coastalbend.edu](mailto:foundation@coastalbend.edu).



*CBC Comedy Show attendees and Gaxiola fans Paul and Diane LaRoche claimed the first set of tickets as soon as they became available for purchase and secured a backstage meet and greet with Gaxiola as well.*





# The Bees are Back!



*Kevin J. Keller*

There's a buzz around Beeville, and with good reason.

The Coastal Bend College Foundation is proud to announce the return of its wildly popular bee sculpture fundraising program.

The original bee sculpture, which can be seen fully painted and decorated throughout Beeville, will once again be available for purchase through the Coastal Bend College Foundation. Sculptures are available for purchase for both businesses and individuals.

"We are excited to bring this project back after a hiatus," said Coastal Bend College Foundation Executive Director Paul Cantrell. "These sculptures have been a hit with numerous people throughout Beeville and we hope that this program can continue to create a buzz about town and about the programs here at Coastal Bend College."

All proceeds from the program benefit student scholarships at Coastal Bend College.

The bee sculptures feature a large bee with its wings raised high while perched atop two flowers. The flowers sit atop two mounting poles that can be mounted on any number of surfaces, but a concrete



base is recommended for long-term stability.

The reintroduction of the program also includes an updated pricing structure, which includes options ranging in price for \$2,500 to \$4,500. The Queen Bee package is \$4,500 and includes a fully painted bee with artistic input from purchaser on colors and designs with scripting and wording allowed in predetermined areas. The Honey Bee package is \$4,000 and includes a fully painted bee with artistic input on color and designs with scripting and wording allowed in only one predetermined area. The Worker Bee package is \$3,500 and includes a fully painted bee with artistic input on colors with no scripting and wording permitted. The Queen Bee, Honey Bee and Worker Bee packages each include a clearcoat sealant finish.

“The updated pricing was a necessity to ensure that we are able to adequately compensate the artists, who are at the heart of this project and the ones who make the bees come to life,” Cantrell said. “The artists are the lifeblood of the project and they deserve to be rewarded for their commitment and dedication to creating a lasting impact through this program.”

An unpainted bee is also available for purchase for \$2,500.

Delivery is included with all purchases through the program.

The Coastal Bend College Foundation is also seeking artists for the project. Artists will be compensated for their work in painting the bees and will be responsible for bring the purchaser’s vision to reality on the sculptures.

For more information on the program, to purchase a package or to become an artist, email [foundation@coastalbend.edu](mailto:foundation@coastalbend.edu) or call 361-354-2348.



# CBC's Dental Hygiene Program Hosts Annual Free Sealant Day

**“To me, a sealant day is a wonderful way to promote oral health and support the community's well-being.”**

**Duyen, CBC Dental Hygiene Freshman**



*For more than 10 years, students of the CBC Dental Hygiene program have offered Sealant Day to the community.*

The Coastal Bend College Dental Hygiene Department hosted its annual free Sealant Day on February 24th, in honor of National Children’s Health Month. Students in the CBC dental hygiene program completed \$6374.00 worth of dental care, including taking 7 sets of x-rays and placing 76 sealants. These sealants, thin coatings applied to the chewing surfaces of back teeth, play a vital role in preventing tooth decay, particularly in children.

The significance of Sealant Day lies in its emphasis on preventive care. By offering these services free of charge, the CBC Dental Hygiene Program aims to

empower individuals and families to take control of their oral health. Sealants act as a protective barrier, keeping out germs and food debris, thus reducing the risk of cavities.

Sealant Day is just one of the many initiatives undertaken by the CBC Dental Hygiene Program, demonstrating their commitment to promoting oral health and making a positive impact within the community.

***For more information, visit [coastalbend.edu/dental](http://coastalbend.edu/dental).***

# Affordable Dental Care at CBC: A Win-Win for Community and Students

Members of the community and surrounding areas are invited to take advantage of the low-cost dental services available through Coastal Bend College's Dental Hygiene Department on the Beeville campus. Led by seasoned faculty and staff, students enrolled in the CBC dental hygiene program hone their skills while serving the community.

The offerings at the Coastal Bend Dental Hygiene Clinic go beyond basic dental maintenance. Patients can benefit from thorough screenings for oral cancer, proactive measures like fluoride treatments, and even nutritional counseling for improved oral health. The clinic also provides convenience by furnishing dental records, such as X-rays, to patients and their personal dentists upon request.

What makes this service truly remarkable is its dual impact. For community members, it's an opportunity to access essential dental care at a fraction of the usual cost.

For students, it's an invaluable chance to gain hands-on experience under professional supervision.

Coastal Bend College's Dental Hygiene Program has garnered a reputation for excellence, drawing aspiring dental professionals from across the nation. The high demand for admission speaks volumes about the program's quality and the caliber of education it provides.

The next time you're due for a dental check-up, consider Coastal Bend College's Dental Hygiene Clinic. Not only will you receive top-notch care at a reasonable price, but you'll also be supporting the education and growth of tomorrow's dental professionals.

*For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 361-354-2555.*



**Scan here to schedule  
an appointment.**



# A Tale of Two Authors

## *CBC Faculty, Sisters, and Fellow Authors*

Coastal Bend College is known for nurturing talent across various disciplines, but it's not every day that two faculty members release novels within the same year, let alone within the same family. Meet Kathleen Cuyler, an English professor, and Rebekah Cuyler, an assistant professor in government and history, who have both delved into the realm of fiction, each offering readers a unique journey through their imaginative worlds.

### **Kathleen Cuyler: Journey Through the Blackwick Series**

Kathleen Cuyler, fondly known as Kathy among colleagues and students, takes readers on an enchanting adventure with her debut novel, *Forever Is Eternity: First in the Blackwick Series*. Set against the backdrop of 1930s England, the story revolves around eighteen-year-old Betty Talbin, a servant to affluent relatives. Trapped in the dreary confines of

her reality, Betty finds solace in the pages of books, which become her portals into the worlds of her favorite books.

In a stroke of fate, Betty discovers she's not alone in her ability to traverse the boundaries between fiction and reality. The Inter-Story Intercessors, a clandestine society, reveal themselves, joining Betty on a perilous quest to rescue her cousin from the clutches of an evil vampire and to save the universe from titanic dragons. Cuyler weaves a tapestry of adventure, friendship, and self-discovery, posing questions about empathy, self-confidence, and sacrifice.

"I've always been fascinated by the power of literature," says Cuyler. "With Betty's journey, I wanted to explore the idea of finding one's inner strength through the magical world of books. There's a bit of Betty in all of us, yearning to break



Pictured L to R: Kathleen Cuyler, Author of *Forever Is Eternity: First in the Blackwick Series*, and Rebekah Cuyler, Author of *The Planet of Darkness: Book I: The City of the Dark Tyrant*

free from the confines of our circumstances and embrace our own heroic journey."

Kathy's journey into the world of publishing was not a solitary one. She credits her sister, Rebekah, for encouraging her to put pen to paper and pursue her dreams of becoming an author. "Rebekah's unwavering support and belief in me were instrumental," Kathy reflects.

### **Rebekah Cuyler: Unveiling the Dark Tyrant's Realm**

Rebekah Cuyler, known by her pen name Tirzah Darnell, takes readers on a riveting odyssey through her science fiction dystopian debut, *The Planet of Darkness: Book 1: The City of the Dark Tyrant*. In a universe shrouded in authoritarian control, the Dark Tyrant reigns supreme over the eponymous planet, forbidding any thought of escape to the Planet of Light.

Enter our protagonist, a propaganda specialist torn between loyalty to the regime and an insatiable curiosity about the forbidden world. As rebellion simmers beneath the surface, he embarks on a quest for truth, risking everything he holds dear in the process. Cuyler's narrative delves into themes of power, conformity, resilience, and the pursuit of truth in the face of oppression.

"The inspiration for this story came from my fascination with the complexities of power dynamics and the resilience of the human spirit," shares Cuyler. "Through the protagonist's journey, I wanted to explore the courage it takes to confront entrenched systems of control and the sacrifices one must make in the pursuit of freedom and truth."

### **A Tale of Two Realms: Connecting Through Fiction**

Despite their differing genres and themes, Kathleen and Rebekah's novels share a common thread—the power of storytelling. Through their imaginative

worlds and compelling characters, both authors invite readers to embark on journeys of self-discovery.

As Coastal Bend College celebrates the literary achievements of its faculty members, Kathleen and Rebekah continue to inspire both students and colleagues alike, proving that within the realm of fiction lies the boundless potential to explore the depths of human experience and imagination.

Both books are available through Amazon and most online book retailers.



*Kathy pictured with two former CBC students, Amanda Govella and Aislynn Walsh.*

Kathy's journey from educator to published author has been deeply intertwined with the support and involvement of her students at Coastal Bend College. Recognizing the potential within her classroom, Kathy actively engaged her students in the creative process, inviting them to participate as beta readers for her debut novel, *Forever Is Eternity: First in the Blackwick Series*.

Among these students were Amanda Govella and Aislynn Walsh, whose enthusiasm and constructive criticism played a pivotal role in shaping Kathy's manuscript. Aislynn reflected on the book, stating, "It was an adventure I didn't want to leave."

In turn, Kathy has been a staunch advocate for her students' creative endeavors, encouraging Amanda, Aislynn, and others to explore their own writing aspirations.





# Achieving the Dream



## Celebrating Success: Coastal Bend College Honored by Achieving the Dream

Coastal Bend College has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious 20th-anniversary award from Achieving the Dream (ATD), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing community colleges as centers of equity and mobility in their communities. This recognition comes in the form of the Network Legend Award, which commemorates CBC's longstanding partnership with ATD since its inception in 2004.

The Network Legend Award is a symbol of CBC's unwavering dedication to improving student outcomes and promoting equity in education. Over the past two decades, CBC has actively collaborated with ATD and its network of colleges to implement innovative strategies aimed at addressing the evolving needs of students and communities.

CBC's journey with ATD began in 2004, marking the college as one of the 15 institutions recognized for their longevity and sustained commitment to the principles of ATD.

Last February, CBC achieved another significant milestone by earning the designation of Leader

College, a distinction reserved for institutions that demonstrate excellence in whole-college reform and student success initiatives. Leader Colleges like CBC serve as beacons of best practices within the ATD Network, driving positive change and inspiring collaboration among peer institutions.

One of the hallmarks of CBC's leadership within the ATD Network is its proactive approach to knowledge-sharing and collaboration. As part of a community of over 300 colleges, CBC actively engages in dialogue with peers, exchanging ideas, and sharing evidence-based strategies for student success.

This recognition underscores the college's enduring commitment to excellence and its unwavering dedication to student success. As CBC continues its journey of transformation and innovation, it remains firmly positioned as a leader in higher education, inspiring positive change and making a lasting impact on the lives of students and communities alike.

## Faculty in Focus



Coastal Bend College English Professor James Bryan Cornelius recently had one of his latest short stories accepted for publication. The title is “House of Faro.” It will appear in the March 2024 edition of Down in the Dirt magazine, which is a division of Scars Publishing. Mr. Cornelius has also had other stories published in several literary publications over the years including Xavier Review and Mobius Journal. His first book titled The Masters Workshop Collection received favorable critiques. It is available on Amazon and through selected retailers.



Dr. Michael Wang, Associate Professor of Math at Coastal Bend College, recently earned his doctoral degree in educational leadership from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. His dissertation highlighted the effectiveness of MyMathLab in college algebra. Using meta-analysis, Wang's research revealed MyMathLab's advantage over traditional college algebra instruction.

“A meta-analysis was used in my research to study how effective MyMathLab (MML), a computer-assisted math software, works overall in college algebra,” Wang said. “Essentially, a meta-analysis is a study of studies. This approach was chosen because it combines different samples from different primary studies in the literature that have already investigated the research topic.

“Conducting a meta-analysis naturally increases the sample size of participants and increases the statistical power of the study, which means more accurate generalizations can be made about the target population,” he added.

Dr. Wang's dissertation research has been selected for presentation at the American Educational Research Association conference in Philadelphia in April 2024.



## President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa Inspires at CBC's Fall Convocation



*PTK President & CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner*

**D**r. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, delivered an inspiring address at Coastal Bend College's Fall 2023 Convocation at CBC's Beeville location. Captivating the audience with her insights into student completion outcomes and innovative student engagement techniques, Dr. Tincher-Ladner's visit marked another milestone in the ongoing collaboration between Phi Theta Kappa and Coastal Bend College.

This appearance comes on the heels of a groundbreaking partnership between Coastal Bend College and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), announced in January 2023. The initiative, valued at over \$250,000 throughout its three-year duration, aims to establish an honors college, designed to broaden access to honors coursework specifically among minority students. The collaboration was welcomed with enthusiasm by CBC President Dr. Justin Hoggard, who emphasized the commitment to academic excellence, equity, and creating opportunities for all students.

Dr. Tincher-Ladner stated, "I'm completely impressed and blown away by just the sheer number of student success professionals that work here."

The program will be available to high-achieving students who maintain a minimum 3.5 GPA after completing 12 college credit hours. In addition to academic rigor, the program will offer leadership opportunities, access to competitive scholarships, and personalized transfer and career coaching. Faculty and staff will also benefit from professional development opportunities, enhancing institutional effectiveness, research capabilities, and fundraising initiatives.

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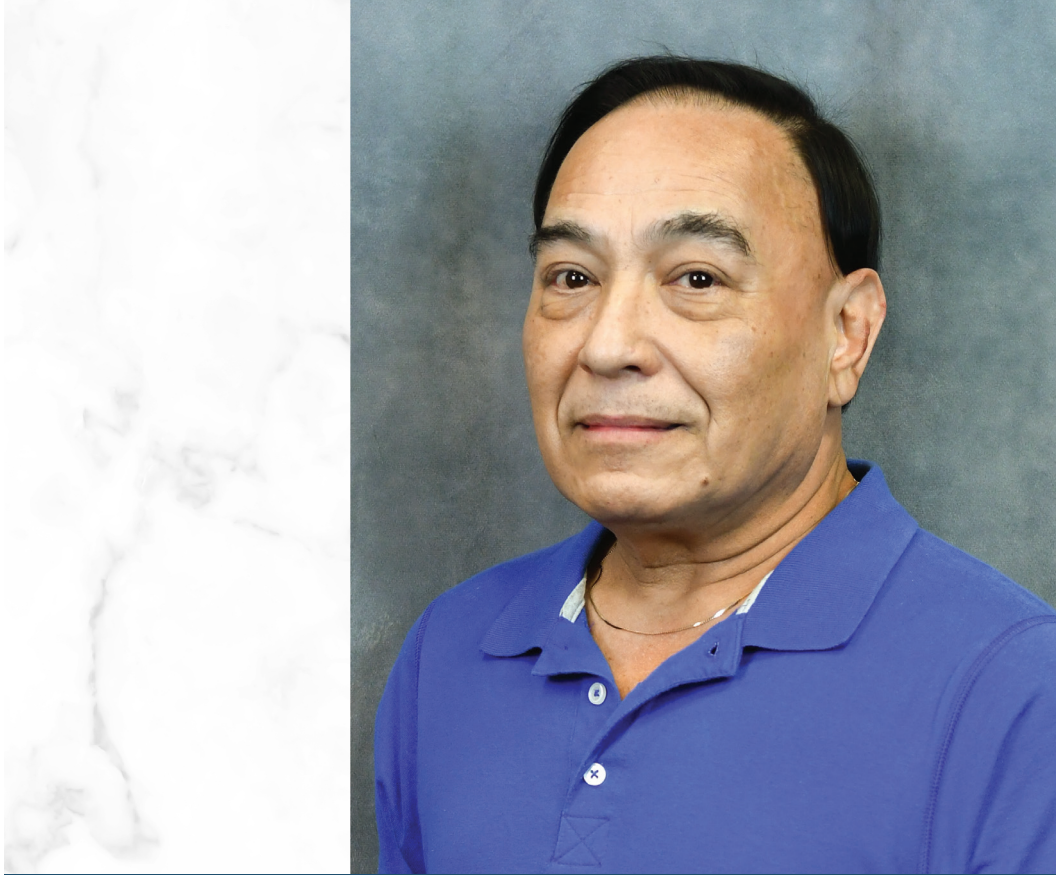
**“Coastal Bend College has the largest Phi Theta Kappa chapter in the United States. There's over 700 high-achieving community college students in this community.”**

**Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner,  
President & CEO  
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society**

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Phi Theta Kappa, recognized as the premier honor society for students at associate degree-granting colleges, remains dedicated to acknowledging academic achievement and fostering leadership among its members. Comprising over 3.8 million members across nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with around 240,000 active members in U.S. colleges, Phi Theta Kappa continues to be an influential force in shaping the academic landscape.

For more information about CBC's ongoing collaboration with PTK, visit [coastalbend.edu](http://coastalbend.edu).



# Ray Benavides

September 12, 1958 - March 9, 2024

*With deep sorrow, we share the passing of Ray Benavides, a cherished member of our Coastal Bend College community.*

*For over forty years, Ray's presence in the CBC Library enriched the lives of students and staff alike. His commitment to knowledge and kindness left an indelible mark on our institution and he will be greatly missed.*







## News from the Cougar Den

### Season Recaps with CBC Athletic Director Vinnie Garza

#### **CBC eSports**

The 2024 Spring League is off and running! The CBC eSports Spring league promises to be an exhilarating experience for all competitors and supporters of the team.

The team is currently in the NJCAA ranks on a new platform called LeagueOS. There are currently 15 student-athletes, and we are currently competing in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Mario Kart 8, Call of Duty: Gunfight, Call of Duty: Warzone, Fortnite, Overwatch 2, and Rainbow Six Siege.

CBC eSports is also planning to host a Recruit Day on Friday April 12th, inviting schools from around the area. Students will have the opportunity to tour the CBC campus, learn more about our academic programs and students can also register for classes. Participants in the recruit day will have luxury of showcasing their skills in our CBC Esports Arena and possibly earning a scholarship.

#### **CBC Men's Soccer**

After a record-breaking season in the Fall, the Cougars are looking to build off this success in the spring. This Spring, Men's Soccer looks to raise the standards even higher while challenging new goals.

Following the loss of key players like Oriordan and Murphy, it is an absolute must to replace this talent. The Cougars have added seven new faces this spring – Juan Valencia, Seamus Kelly, Arthur Prates, Gianni Moforte, Joao Gallo, Jonathan Tornell and Kai Miyata. These players have been recruited from all over the globe; including Columbia, Ireland, Brazil and Japan with the first week of practice under their belt, we are very excited to see what these new lads can bring to strengthen the squad.

The Cougars are scheduled to play some tough competition in the Spring including two NCAA D1 teams, two D2 teams and a top NAIA side. The aim of a tough spring season is to get the players prepared

***For more information about the CBC Athletic Department, visit [www.cbcatletics.com](http://www.cbcatletics.com).***



for playing top competition and be comfortable and competitive at the highest level.

While we look to improve on our previous season, we also look to maintain our standards in the classroom. After another excellent semester in the classroom, men's soccer named 13 athletes on the Dean's Honor Roll – obtaining a 3.5 GPA or above. This semester the boys are working hard to increase those numbers, putting in the work both on and off the field.

CBC Men's Soccer Coach Steo Cummins said, "With the additions we have brought in, training in the spring is just as competitive as the fall. New players want to prove their worth and the returning lads are trying to nail down their starting positions. It's exciting to see different players stepping up and proving they deserve to be here." He added, "We have scheduled a really tough Spring semester to test the boys against the best and show them what it takes to get there. It is also a great way to showcase our players against top 4-year universities."

### **CBC Women's Volleyball**

The Coastal Bend College volleyball team had an exhilarating 2023-24 season filled with ups and downs, fierce competition, and moments of sheer brilliance on the court.

The season kicked off with high hopes and aspirations for Coastal Bend College as they embarked on a journey to compete against formidable opponents in their conference and beyond. With a dedicated roster of talented athletes and a coaching staff committed to excellence, the team set its sights on

achieving success both individually and collectively. Throughout the season, Coastal Bend College showcased its resilience, determination, and skill in numerous exhilarating matches. The Cougars returned to the Region XIV Regional Tournament and went up against Panola College and came up short but fought hard until the very end. Several players emerged as standout performers throughout the season, showcasing their talent and versatility in various positions. Our starting setter Madison Wade was selected by the Region XIV volleyball coaches as an All-Region Honorable Mention.



Overall, the 2023-24 volleyball season was a rollercoaster of emotions for Coastal Bend College. While they experienced their fair share of triumphs and tribulations, what truly defined their season was their unwavering spirit and commitment to excellence. Each match was a testament to their dedication, passion, and love for the game.

### **CBC Women's Basketball**

The Lady Cougars have had one of their best seasons in history to date, with 8 wins under their belt, including three conference victories and their first-ever trip to Regionals as a seeded team.

Coach Purswell remarked, "This team is very fun to be around and coach. They have played very hard and can really score the ball this year. We have guards everywhere who attract attention on dribble penetration, and we are fourth in NJCAA in made







*Head Coach Nathan Purswell and Assistant Coach Josline Hernandez pose with the 2023 - 2024 CBC Women's Basketball team.*

three-pointers so everyone can shoot. We have battled all year, but when we get our full team on the floor, it is great. Just great young ladies who work hard and buy in."

The Lady Cougars started off 3-0 for the first time in school history, defeating Howard, Southwestern Christian College, and LSU-Eunice. However, injuries plagued them for the rest of the first semester, never fielding the same 13 players after giving top 25 Temple a tough game in the first three quarters. The first semester ended with a 3-7 record.

Coming out of the break, the Lady Cougars split their first two games before heading into conference play. They finished with a 3-13 conference record, securing wins against Paris and Jacksonville twice. Notably, against Paris, they scored 101 points, the most in school history against an NJCAA Division 1 opponent. They also held Blinn to just 8 points at their place, who eventually won the regional tournament.

Individually, JayDee Zamora leads NJCAA Region 14 in three-point percentage and ranks 18th in NJCAA in that category. JayDee also received honorable mention all-conference selection. She finished the season with 12 PPG, shooting 40.9% from the field, 41.8% from beyond the arc, and 72.2% from the free-throw line, while also averaging 4.6 RPG, 1.9 APG, and 1.4 SPG. Eliza Rodriguez set a Coastal Bend game record with 14 assists and also earned Region

14 All-Conference selection, averaging 12.5 PPG on 44.6 FG%, with 5.3 RPG and 4.5 APG. Notable losses among the sophomores include Jordan Shephard, Jenesis Nichols, Alexes Rocha, Ja'Nyla Kennedy, Cieara Dinwiddie, Sydney DeDe, and Mariella Gonzales, who contributed significantly to the team. Additionally, the Lady Cougars had five freshmen—Diane Lara, Britzeida Snachez, Eliza Rodriguez, Tyra Thompson, and Treasure Upson—who made valuable contributions.

"This team was so connected and had so much chemistry. I will miss them so much as a collective unit." Coach Purswell added, "Individual accolades come from the strength of the team, and this is just an all-around very strong team for us. Everyone contributes every day."

As the 8th seed, the Lady Cougars punched their ticket to the Regional tournament for the second time, facing Angelina as the number one seed. Although they fell short with a final score of 75-63, the Lady Cougars showcased resilience and determination. Sydney DeDe led the team with 14 points, followed by Ja'Nyla Kennedy with 11 points, and Alexes Rocha and Eliza Rodriguez with 10 points each. JayDee Zamora and Alexes Rocha both contributed 5 rebounds for Coastal Bend, and JayDee Zamora finished with 5 assists as well.

Coach Purswell concluded, "Not the ending anyone wants, but only one champion of NJCAA can be crowned, and only one NJCAA Region 14 tournament winner. We are so proud of all this team's accomplishments and accolades. I appreciate all of your hard work and am looking forward to your future successes. Also, thank you, Coach Hernandez, for all you did for us this year."

***CBC eSports, Baseball, and Softball are currently in season. Visit [cbcathletics.com](http://cbcathletics.com) for schedules and the latest updates.***

***For more information about the CBC Athletic Department, visit [www.cbcathletics.com](http://www.cbcathletics.com).***



## CBC Men's Basketball Brandon Martinez Named Head Coach

President Dr. Justin Hoggard and Athletic Director Vicente Garza elevated Brandon Martinez to full-time head coach of the CBC Men's Basketball program on March 18, 2024. Martinez served this past season as the interim head coach for the Cougars. Martinez, previously CBC's assistant coach prior to the departure of Robert Byrd to Kilgore after the 2022-23 season, has played a vital role in turning around the program.

"I am extremely honored to be named the head men's basketball coach here at Coastal Bend! While this year was special, I am excited and eager to continue my coaching career in a great community like Beeville," said Martinez. "I want to thank my wife and kids for supporting me in my pursuit of becoming a head coach. I want to thank my players, staff, and Coastal Bend's administration for the trust they have in me to lead the men's basketball program."

Martinez led the Cougars to a 15-16 overall record this past season and a birth in the Region 14 Conference tournament as a 10th seed. The Cougars finished the season first in Region XIV Conference in scoring offense and had an NJCAA D1 All-Region, All-Conference player in Jeremiah Anderson.

In 2022-23, he helped guide the Cougars to their most wins in school history (19) and a fifth seed in the conference tournament, also the school's highest rank heading into March.

"I look forward to creating new relationships, and building on the culture we've established these past two years. Coastal Bend College is heading in the right direction and I'm blessed to be a part of it."





# Cougars In the Community



*The CBC Lady Cougars visited the Boys and Girls Club of Beeville to catch a K-2 Lady Spurs game on February 1st.*

"I'm particularly proud of our involvement with the Boys and Girls Club. Both of our Men's and Women's basketball programs have enjoyed their time with the youth basketballers and love sharing their knowledge of the game.

It was great to have the Lady Spurs of the Beeville Boys and Girls Club youth basketball league visit and experience a collegiate basketball game. The Lady Spurs were pumped up and loud all game long. Our CBC Women's Basketball team then returned the favor and visited the Lady Spurs to cheer them on. Such as a great way for our youth and community to become connected and supportive of one another.

The recent events and activities we organized not only provided meaningful experiences for the children involved but also showcased the values of teamwork, leadership, and mentorship that are central to our athletic program. Looking ahead, we

are excited to continue our community engagement here in Beeville and Bee County!. We're planning to introduce more interactive activities that foster connections among students, faculty, and our neighbors around the service area this summer!"

-Vinnie Garza, CBC Athletic Director



*The local youth basketball team also attended a CBC Lady Cougars' game on January 31st.*

**For more information about the CBC Athletic Department, visit [www.cbcatletics.com](http://www.cbcatletics.com).**





"Both CBC Baseball and CBC Softball were swinging for flavor as they were volunteer BBQ Judges for the Annual Bee County Area - Go Texan BBQ Cook off in Associations with Bee County Junior Livestock and Homemaker Show event! Our baseball and softball teams traded bats for BBQ forks as they hit a home run judging the best grills in town."



**SUPER BOWL**  
WATCH PARTY!

**KC** **SF**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH!**  
Catch The BIG Game in the SUB!  
Free Snacks | Free Drinks | GAMES  
NFL Madden Tournament  
Doors Open @ 2PM

**WV** **SUPER BOWL**



"The Residence Life Super Bowl watch party was a fantastic event that brought our residence life community together in a fun and engaging way. It was great to see students, faculty, and staff enjoying the game and each other's company."





**SUCCESS**  
happens here.



# Coastal Bend COLLEGE

**Alice**

704 Coyote Trail  
Alice, Texas 78332  
(361) 664-2981

**Beeville**

3800 Charco Road  
Beeville, Texas 78102  
(361) 358-2838

**Kingsville**

1814 S. Brahma Blvd  
Kingsville, Texas 78363  
(361) 592-1615

**Pleasanton**

1411 Bensdale  
Pleasanton, Texas 78064  
(830) 569-4222

[coastalbend.edu](http://coastalbend.edu)