

MARCH 2026 EDITION



COUGAR'S CALL

NEWSLETTER



Office of the President:

Coastal Bend College continues to move forward with purpose. Guided by a clear commitment to student success, institutional effectiveness, and regional impact- we reflect on the progress made in the month of March. One theme stands out: strategic decision-making.

"We are using data to inform our decisions moving forward."

This approach is shaping how we evaluate our programs and plan for the future. From academic pathways to student success outcomes, our work is grounded in measurable results and a shared vision for continuous improvement.

The Cougar's Call remains an opportunity to highlight that process and reaffirm our commitment to serving our students and communities with excellence.

— Dr. Zachary Z. Suarez
President

Progress in Action

This past month marked continued momentum across the College, with several key initiatives actively advancing across instruction, student access, and institutional effectiveness:

Academic Growth:

The division of academic affairs continues to expand pathways that create new opportunities for Coastal Bend College students. The College is finalizing an agreement with Acadium to expand academic offerings. This partnership will allow Coastal Bend College to offer upper-level coursework in areas such as mathematics and biology- courses not traditionally available at the two year level. This will strengthen transfer readiness and alignment with programs such as the Javelina Engineering Academies agreement, which was signed into effect in late February of this year.

Progress in Action Continued...

Institutional Effectiveness:

The 2024-2025 Annual Performance Report is available on the Institutional Effectiveness webpage. In the report, readers will find data for the past academic year such as the numbers of degrees and certificates awarded by the College, and student success rates across various teaching modalities. These outcomes reflect the College's commitment to quality instruction while continuing to drive improvement through data-informed strategies. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research is also leading development of the College's next five-year strategic plan. Focus groups are being established to gather stakeholder input, and early drafts have received strong support from leadership.

Operational Excellence:

The March Board of Trustees meeting marked an important milestone in governance. The College has successfully addressed a backlog in TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) policy review and adoption. The College is now fully current on all required policies. Moving forward, new or revised policies will be addressed proactively, reinforcing continued accountability and operational efficiency.

Voices with Purpose



Coastal Bend College recently hosted its inaugural Diamonds of Distinction celebration in honor of March being Women's History Month. The event featured a panel of distinguished speakers who shared personal and professional insights, including:

- **Mercy Flynn, Nurse Practitioner**
- **Laryn Willow, Owner of Hidden Gem Salon**
- **Virginia Wall, Director of Radiology, Coastal Bend College**
- **Carmen Salazar, Captain, Beeville ISD Police Department**
- **Dr. Yolanda Ramirez Franzen, Retired Orthodontist**

Through meaningful dialogue and community engagement, the event highlighted the impact of women leaders across the Coastal Bend Region and reinforced the College's commitment to elevating voices that inspire and empower future generations.



What's ahead?

- Continued use of data-informed strategies to support student success outcomes
- Expansion of academic pathways aligned with workforce transfer needs
- Ongoing development of the five-year strategic plan through stakeholder input, ensuring priorities reflect both institutional goals and community needs
- Increased community engagement, reinforcing Coastal Bend College's presence and impact across the region
- Strengthening governance and operational processes, with continued focus on accountability and growth

Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay engaged.