

NEWSLETTER



Office of the President:

February reflected continued progress and alignment across Coastal Bend College. The College advanced initiatives that expand access, strengthen academic and workforce pathways, and improve student outcomes, including new workforce aligned training partnerships and the establishment of clear transfer pathways in high demand fields. These efforts reflect a focused commitment to ensuring students have structured routes to completion and career opportunity.

At the same time, Coastal Bend College continues to demonstrate accountability and execution through disciplined planning and operational effectiveness. As we move forward with strategic planning, enrollment and scheduling improvements, and regional partnerships, our focus remains clear to deliver meaningful results for students and the communities we serve.

— Dr. Zachary Z. Suarez
President

Progress in Action

February reflected sustained progress across the College, as several priority initiatives moved forward in instruction, student access, and institutional effectiveness:

Academic Growth:

Coastal Bend College launched a new workforce partnership with Goodwill Industries of South Texas that expands access to education through industry aligned training. This collaboration supports individuals who are building skills for immediate employment while seeking long term economic mobility.

Through this partnership, participants in Goodwill programs can earn college recognized credentials from Coastal Bend College, creating a direct bridge between workforce training and higher education. These credentials validate job ready skills and provide clear pathways for continued education and career advancement.

Progress in Action Continued...

Student Access:

This month, Coastal Bend College joined Texas A&M University–Kingsville in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Javelina Engineering Academy. This partnership creates clear and structured engineering pathways that allow students to begin at Coastal Bend College and transition seamlessly into bachelor's degree programs.

Through aligned curriculum and advising, the Academy reduces barriers, increases transfer certainty, and prepares students for high demand engineering careers while keeping regional talent close to home.

Operational Excellence:

In February, Coastal Bend College was named a 2026 Top Community College by Education Insider, recognizing strong student outcomes, workforce aligned academic pathways, expanded tuition free access, and meaningful regional impact. This designation reflects the College's continued commitment to accountability, execution, and student success.

Voices with Purpose



Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Lisa C. Bowman- Bowen —

Professor and Faculty Lead, Criminal Justice / Forensic Science: Crime Scene
Division Chair of Public and Professional Services

Highlights

- Transitioning 11 Criminal Justice and Forensic Science courses to Open Educational Resources (OER), creating an estimated \$80,000–\$100,000 in student savings.
- Expanded hands-on learning with a dedicated experiential forensic lab, designed for both laboratory work and full crime scene simulations.
- Added a second FARO Focus 3D Scanner, giving students greater access to advanced forensic documentation technology.
- Enrollment and graduate outcomes have continued to grow since 2020, with students successfully transferring or entering entry-level technician roles.



What's ahead?

- Completion and Board consideration of Coastal Bend College's five year Strategic Plan
- Completion of a comprehensive viability study of the Pleasanton location to assess program alignment, community needs, and long range operational effectiveness
- Review and improvement of course scheduling models for Fall 2026 to increase flexibility, access, and on time completion for students
- Implementation of fast track enrollment and advising events for graduating seniors in partnering high schools to accelerate college readiness and access

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