

JANUARY 2026 EDITION



COUGAR'S CALL

# NEWSLETTER



## Office of the President:

Coastal Bend College has always answered a clear call: to expand opportunity, strengthen our region, and place students at the center of everything we do. That call began in Bee County and today reaches across the entire Coastal Bend—connecting campuses, communities, employers, and families through the power of education.

The Cougar's Call Newsletter is designed to keep our internal and external partners informed, aligned, and engaged. Each month, we will share timely updates, highlight measurable progress, and reaffirm the purpose that guides our work. Together, these pillars reflect how we are creating bold circumstances for student success—now and for the future.

Thank you for answering the call with us, and welcome to the inaugural edition of The Cougar's Call.

— 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:

Coastal Bend College is moving forward with the development of a new **Associate of Applied Science in Project Management**, designed to prepare students with in-demand, transferable skills applicable across multiple industries. Curriculum development and workforce alignment efforts are underway to ensure graduates are prepared for immediate employment and continued academic advancement. In parallel, the College has begun exploring avenues for a future **Bachelor of Applied Science** at Coastal Bend College, expanding long-term pathways for students seeking advanced credentials within the region.

## Progress in Action Continued...

### Student Access:

The College continues to advance the Coastal Bend Promise Program, a regionally focused initiative with the goal of offering tuition-free associate degrees to eligible students, reducing financial barriers and expanding access to higher education across Bee County and the broader Coastal Bend. Building on that foundation, Coastal Bend College is strengthening the Cougar to Jaguar pathway, designed to support a tuition-free bachelor's degree option for students who complete their associate degree and transfer through the partnership.

### Operational Excellence:

Coastal Bend College is actively transitioning toward expanded use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to reduce the cost of instructional materials and improve educational access for students. This work includes faculty support, course redesign, and quality assurance efforts to ensure affordability is paired with academic rigor.

Together, these initiatives reflect a focused commitment to execution, accountability, and student success—creating a clear, affordable pathway from access to completion.

### Voices with Purpose



Our strength lies in our people and the communities we serve.

From faculty innovating in the classroom, to staff strengthening processes behind the scenes, to students balancing work, family, and coursework—each success story reflects a shared commitment to opportunity across the Coastal Bend.

Our communities are not just where our campuses are located; they are active partners in our mission, shaping the programs we offer and the futures we help build.

Future issues of The Cougar's Call will spotlight these voices—faculty, staff, students, and community partners—and the collective impact they are making throughout the region.



## What's ahead?

- Continued rollout of strategic initiatives aligned with student success, workforce readiness, and regional economic needs
- Expansion of competitive performance and engagement programs, including Mariachi, Women's Soccer, and Cougar Active Life community activity programming
- Enhanced community and partner engagement opportunities across all Coastal Bend College service locations
- Key institutional milestones supporting long-term stability, innovation, and sustainable growth

**Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay engaged.**