



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

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**YEAR IN REVIEW  
2024 EDITION**



# LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2024 EDITION

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Lamar Institute of Technology Year in Review  
is published by the LIT Communications and  
Marketing Department

# A MESSAGE

FROM PRESIDENT SIDNEY VALENTINE



As we look back on 2024, I am proud of the accomplishments and impact Lamar Institute of Technology continues to have on Southeast Texas. Since our founding in 1995, LIT has been committed to providing affordable, quality degree, certificate and workforce

programs that respond directly to the needs of our community and help create pathways to high-demand, well-paying careers for our graduates.

The strength of LIT lies in the dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff, who are invested in the success of our students. Many of our faculty members bring years of hands-on experience in the industries they teach, offering a practical, real-world perspective that connects classroom learning to the skills needed in today's workforce. Our staff also works to ensure that students have access to the resources that support both their academic journey and their professional aspirations.

We are fortunate to have strong partnerships with local industry leaders and alumni who actively engage with LIT. These connections provide valuable mentorship, internship opportunities and insight into the careers our students are striving to enter, further ensuring that our graduates are career-ready and equipped for success.

As we look to 2025, it is an exciting time for LIT. Our campus continues to grow, offering enhanced student life experiences, expanded academic programs and innovative facilities. We remain dedicated to being a resource for the Southeast Texas community, helping to develop a skilled workforce that drives our region's economic vitality.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Lamar Institute of Technology. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the future of our community.

Sincerely,

President, Lamar Institute of Technology

# AT A GLANCE

2024 FISCAL YEAR

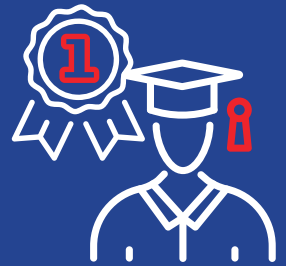
**11,410** UNDUPLICATED ENROLLMENT

6,380 CREDIT | 5,030 NON-CREDIT



**51% INCREASE**  
IN ENROLLMENT  
2020-2024

**60%**  
OF STUDENTS  
**RECEIVE**  
FINANCIAL AID



**81%**  
FIRST  
GENERATION  
STUDENTS

**47% ↓**  
DECREASE  
**IN TUITION**  
SINCE 2021

**\$1,770**  
PER 15 CREDIT HOURS



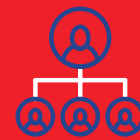
**1,193**  
DEGREES AWARDED

**518**  
CERTIFICATES

**165**  
ASSOCIATES

**384**  
ASSOCIATES OF  
APPLIED SCIENCE

**126**  
CORE COMPLETED



**196**  
STAFF

**89%**  
JOB PLACEMENT RATE



**20,452**  
ALUMNI COUNT



**258 FACULTY**  
171 ADJUNCT | 87 FULL-TIME



# ACCOLADES

## STUDENT ACCOLADES

### PROCESS OPERATING TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS SEE SUCCESS AT NAPTA

Out of a field of 24 teams, two of LIT's Process Operating teams secured top positions in the prestigious North America Process Technology Association National Troubleshooting Competition, held at the College of the Mainland in Texas City on April 18-19.

Collin Canada, Brittan Netherland, and Jacob Garza emerged as the first-place team, while

Caden Castilaw, Leonardo Rodriguez, and Patrick Clay achieved a second-place finish.

"The fact that LIT placed the top two teams is incredible. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements and their representation of LIT on a national stage," said Marty Day, faculty advisor. "The problems are not revealed to the teams until the night before the competition begins. Having to troubleshoot units you have never operated is very difficult for a seasoned operator, much less a student."



### AMBASSADOR PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

Five students were selected in September to serve as the college's first official student representatives, coined the Golden Eagle Ambassadors.

The ambassadors participate in recruitment and student events. The goal of the program is to give students the opportunity to cultivate their leadership and collaborative skills and help them develop professionally.



Carlee Loncon



Kyle Medina



Jeremy Pelican



Kallee Dotson



Kelley Duong

# FACULTY & STAFF ACCOLADES

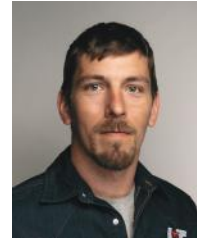
## INSTRUCTORS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRS ATTAIN HARVARD HIGHER ED TEACHING CERTIFICATES

Instructors and department chairs successfully attained the Higher Education Teaching Certificate program from Harvard University Online throughout the summer.

The Higher Education Teaching Certificate program, an intensive eight-week course, equips educators with effective postsecondary teaching methods. Under the guidance of experts, participants explored various pedagogical approaches, researched effective learning strategies and developed portfolios encapsulating their skills.

## WELDING DIRECTOR ATTAINS AWS INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

Robert Jones, Program Director for Welding Technology, attained his American Welding Society (AWS) Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) certification. The process to acquire the credential assesses professionals on their expertise in welding codes, inspection techniques, and quality control procedures. Jones joins an elite group of professionals recognized globally for their knowledge and skills in welding inspection, quality assurance and safety. As a CWI, Jones is now officially able to inspect welds for correct technique, ensuring that the results meet standards and are performed under proper safety regulations.



## COLLINS RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dr. Maegan Collins, General Education and Developmental Studies Department Chair, was named a recipient of the 2024 Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award. The recognition honors those who give their time and talents to the community and encourage others to volunteer.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

The following outstanding employees of the year were awarded for their exceptional work and dedication to the college at the annual holiday and awards luncheon on December 6: **Trazarra Stelly**, Full-time Faculty; **Harry Morgan**, Adjunct Faculty; **Gerardo Rodriguez**, Full-time Staff; **Marcus Cooper**, Part-Time Staff; **David Thornhill**, volunteer; and **Ken Mason**, President's Award.



## PHI THETA KAPPA 2024 INDUCTEES

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recognizes the academic achievement of two-year college students. To be eligible for membership, a student must complete a minimum of 12 hours of associate degree course work, have a current GPA of 3.5 or higher and an overall GPA of 3.0.



# CAMPUS UPGRADES

## NURSING PROGRAM APPROVED IN OCTOBER

LIT begins the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing in the Spring 2025 semester, after receiving its final approval from the Texas Board of Nursing on October 24.

**We are proud to have developed a program that will address the high demand for nurses in Southeast Texas and the nation. This is a start to a long line of LIT nursing professionals that will go on to make a difference in our community. - Dr. Sid Valentine, President**

Graduates of this degree program are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing and become a licensed professional nurse (RN).

“It is a priority at LIT that working students are able to maintain jobs and provide for their families while advancing their career,” Dr. Leann Chisolm-Springer, Nursing Program Director, said. “Classes during the week are limited to one to two days and the 784 required clinical hours are available in the evenings and on weekends. With a full course load, students can complete their degree in less than two years.”

## ADDITION OF WORKFORCE AND ALLIED HEALTH TRAINING CENTER PROVIDES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The college celebrated the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Workforce and Allied Health Training Center on November 6. Faculty, staff, students, elected officials and community members gathered to celebrate the unveiling of this state-of-the-art facility.

The 51,981 square-foot, three-story center is designed to meet the growing demand for healthcare and workforce professionals in the region. The facility features innovative spaces, including nursing skills and simulation labs, a simulated pharmacy for commercial and hospital settings, workforce development classrooms, and a large multi-purpose classroom. The center also houses an industry partners lab, providing opportunities for collaboration with local businesses to receive workforce training.

The center also includes student-focused spaces such as a testing center, seating areas, and a terrace. Study stations throughout the facility allow students to collaborate on projects and engage in coursework outside of class hours.



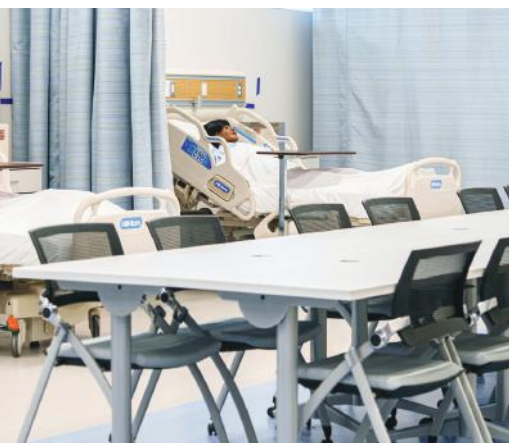
## CONSTRUCTION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER NEARS COMPLETION

LIT began construction on a 15,000 gross square foot Advanced Technology Center on February 26, with plans for completion in Spring 2025. The center will aid in the addition of developing programs including mechatronics, electrical, computer engineering technician, mechanical engineering technician and plumbing. The completed center will provide innovative learning spaces to include lecture classrooms, technical labs, multi-purpose industrial training spaces, and a high bay area lab that mimics industry environments.



## EXPANDING TO LIVINGSTON

LIT, in conjunction with partnering schools, Lamar State College Orange and Lamar State College Port Arthur, celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the Texas State University System Polk County Center in Livingston, TX on Wednesday, August 14. Starting in Fall 2024, LIT offered a range of workforce and continuing education courses including Quickbooks, CPR and English as a Second Language.



# INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

## WORKFORCE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION DEVELOPS NEW OFFERINGS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past fiscal year, LIT's Workforce and Continuing Education Department has experienced notable growth. Thanks to over \$700,000 in grant funding, the college expanded access by offering free or reduced fees for seven existing programs and developed five new certificates.

For the first time, the department introduced a bilingual welding program, beginner and intermediate ESL courses, certifications in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician and Appliance Repair Technician.

Through the Safety Awareness Institute, the department collaborated with industry leaders across Southeast Texas to upskill workers in Electrical Controls, Basic Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Heavy Equipment Operation. Close partnership with Baptist Hospital helped to develop a Leadership Skills Training for Managers in Healthcare. Additionally, course offerings were expanded to the TSUS Polk County Center.

**662** | WORKFORCE CERTIFICATIONS







## NETWORKING WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

ExxonMobil employees who graduated from LIT programs returned to their alma mater to pass on helpful tips, guidance and share their experiences transitioning from school to the workplace.

## PROJECT INTERVIEWS PREPARE FOR THE JOB HUNT

ExxonMobil conducted project interviews at LIT to assist technology students in learning the best approaches for employment interviews. Students had the opportunity to hear from ExxonMobil employees on how to present themselves professionally during interviews, resume tips, and general ways to increase their chances of landing a job in the future.



“ExxonMobil is proud of its longstanding partnership with LIT. Through funding scholarships and important equipment to offer our next workforce the hands-on learning they need, offering co-ops and internships, or by hosting mentorship events for our staff to develop connections and offer guidance to current students, ExxonMobil is doing our part to ensure that when students graduate from LIT, they have tools to succeed in the workforce. We also collaborate with faculty in the technology department to help keep their curriculum up to date with our industry needs and for us at Exxon to learn how we can adapt from their feedback. *-Mike Mustian, ExxonMobil*”



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## FOUNDATION & DEVELOPMENT

### FOUNDATION, EXXONMOBIL GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$140K

The ExxonMobil LIT Foundation Golf Tournament, held on October 18, had its most profitable event in history. With the support of 20 sponsors and 65 teams, over \$140,000 was raised for student scholarships. New this year, the LIT Foundation hosted the “Swing for Scholarships” social on October 17 at 5 Under Golf Center. Attendees participated in a hole-in-one challenge and mingled with industry partners over refreshments. The top 12 qualifiers in the challenge earned a chance to win \$1,000,000 by attempting to make a hole-in-one at the ExxonMobil LIT Foundation Golf Tournament the following day.

### SALUTE TO THE REAL AMERICAN HEROES

The LIT Foundation hosted the 23rd Annual Salute to the Real American Heroes event on September 5, honoring Southeast Texas first responders, veterans, and military personnel. Proceeds from the event benefit the LIT Foundation and provide scholarships to students majoring in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Criminal Justice, Emergency Medical Technology, the Regional Police Academy, and the Regional Fire Academy at LIT.

### SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC

The LIT Foundation hosted the 17th Annual Sporting Clays Classic on March 23 at the 1 in 100 Gun Club. This year, the event had 57 teams in attendance and platinum sponsors included ExxonMobil Beaumont, Golden Pass LNG and Provost Umphrey Law Firm.



**\$8.1** MILLION  
IN ENDOWMENTS





## TRUNK OR TREAT

LIT welcomed faculty staff, students and the community to attend the second annual Trunk or Treat on October 29. The campus decked out their vehicles and donned costumes to celebrate the fall season and give out candy.

## EXXONMOBIL BEAUMONT ISD STEM NIGHT

LIT faculty and staff attended the ExxonMobil Beaumont ISD STEM Night showcasing our programs to students from the local community. The LIT team provided engaging hands-on activities, offering students a closer look at the practical applications of STEM in various fields.



**\$767,000**  
**OF GRANTS RECEIVED**



In celebration of Giving Tuesday on December 3, representatives from ExxonMobil Beaumont presented a \$40,000 check to support the ExxonMobil Scholarship that benefits students in STEM programs.



On November 20, the annual Tree Lighting, sponsored by Entergy, featured family activities like crafts, carolers, photos with Santa, hot cocoa, and a wreath auction.



**\$439,384**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AWARDED**  
IN THE YEAR 2024



2024

