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NORTH HARRIS MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

WINTER 1995

Internships are a 'win-win' for everyone

Photo by Deborah Spenella

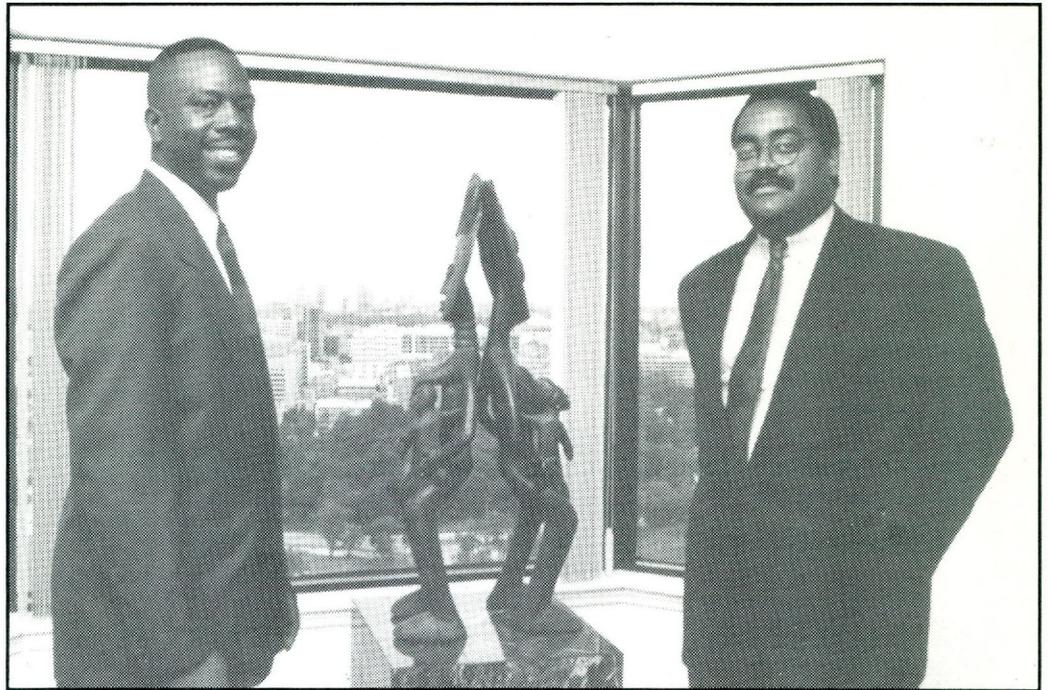
A key word in community colleges today is "partnerships," and there are perhaps no better examples of education-business partnerships in the North Harris Montgomery Community College District and its service area than the colleges' numerous internship and co-op programs.

Students at every college in the district, and in virtually every discipline, have opportunities to earn college credit while gaining invaluable practical experience in the workforce. The benefits from such programs extend to employers, as well, who receive qualified help at no monetary cost.

"We believe that co-ops and internships are integral parts of a student's education," says Penny Westerfeld, Technology Division Head at Kingwood College. "Our advisory boards have all supported the idea of internships, that also provide jobs for our students. Real business world 'practice' for students allows for additional guidance and learning with the experts both in industry and at the college."

The newest District internship is a political science course offered to students at all four colleges (North Harris, Kingwood, Tomball, and Montgomery). Students in the course work in the offices of local, state and national legislators, serving in such areas as writing to constituents, helping to draft and research bills and writing speeches, according to Carolyn Davis, Professor of Political Science at North Harris College.

"We describe this program as a 'win-win' for everybody," Davis says. "It's a win for elected officials, because they get very qualified help at no cost; it's a win for taxpayers; and it's a win for students, because they get valuable work experience, contacts and recommendations."



Thomas Curvey, left, economics and government major at North Harris College, is gaining valuable work experience as an intern for Senator Rodney Ellis, right.

Amar Sood, a 20-year-old business major at North Harris College who is working for U.S. Rep. Gene Green, says the internship has allowed him to get a behind-the-scenes look at politics. And Thomas Curvey, a 30-year-old economics and government major at North Harris College, says working in state Sen. Rodney Ellis' office has given him insight about the way Ellis addresses the concerns of African-American leaders and lobbyists. "Once you graduate, you still may not know what is expected of you in the work place," Curvey says. "The internship gives you an idea of the level of competency needed."

At Kingwood College, biotechnology students such as Domingo Torres III, 33, who is on an internship at M.D. Anderson Medical Center, are discovering that internships complement the classroom instruction they receive. "This is a setting where someone can go into a field with a two-year

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Only the best faculty will do for MC

College completes research project on a unique type of matchmaking

The North Harris Montgomery Community College District, using a \$69,000 School-to-Work grant, has completed a research project on partnerships between educational institutions and business and industry.

NHMCCD's Center for Business and Economic Development (CBED) is administering the grant received in March from the state. The grant is the result of the federal School-to-Work (STW) Opportunities Act, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton this past spring.

STW components include Tech Prep (directed paths of high-school studies lead-

ing to community colleges and associate's degrees with advanced skills certificates), apprenticeships, cooperative education (part-time jobs for students in their field of study), career academies (integrated academic and vocational education) and school-based enterprises (students produce and sell goods or services). The overall goal of STW is to form direct links between education and employment with internships, community partnerships and by matching students with employers.

pleted its research in December. The team presented an official report to the state in January.

The team conducted the research by surveying partnerships around the world and by visiting partnership sites in Portland, Ore., Austin, El Paso, and the Spring, Katy and Goose Creek school districts. "Those sites had some exemplary programs," says Laughter, who is the grant administrator. "In many of these partnerships, businesses can tap into schools to create opportunities that may not have happened on their own."

Some partnerships studied were broad-based, with representatives from several educational institutions and businesses. Others were direct links between specific

school districts and companies or industries. In El Paso, for example, the school district has a partnership with plastics companies, a growing source of jobs in the area.

Although the grant paid for research only and not implementation, Laughter believes NHMCCD can find a way to implement many of the ideas gathered from the research.

The research gathered by the CBED team is also being put into a software package that will be available to educators and business people. Laughter said the research will help colleges to direct students into career paths needed most by business and industry in the years to come.

"We're finding that businesses are interested in these partnerships because they realize that young people need to come to the work place with a different set of skills, different expectations and a better understanding of the career they are entering," Laughter says.

"I think the only way to ensure this happens is to forge strong partnerships between businesses, high schools and community colleges." ★

'... businesses are interested in partnerships because they realize that young people need to come to the work place with a ... better understanding of the career they are entering.'

Ray Laughter, Executive Director, Center for Business and Economic Development

ing to community colleges and associate's degrees with advanced skills certificates), apprenticeships, cooperative education (part-time jobs for students in their field of study), career academies (integrated academic and vocational education) and school-based enterprises (students produce and sell goods or services). The overall goal of STW is to form direct links between education and employment with internships, community partnerships and by matching students with employers.

NHMCCD was the only institution in Texas to receive an STW grant to study partnerships. Grants were issued to other state institutions to study such aspects of STW as legal issues and overcoming barriers.

A research team composed of Ray Laughter, CBED Executive Director, Jackie Crowley, Project Coordinator and Kathy Torrey, Administrative Assistant, com-

1994 Scholars Awards' recipients are recognized for their contributions

The 1994 Scholars Awards for Excellence, sponsored by the North Harris Montgomery Community College District Foundation and *Sun Newspapers*, concluded in November and was a major success, says Foundation Executive Director Susan Cooper.

Honored in the program's second year were Dr. Bonnie Longnion (Education), Dr. John L. Margrave (Science & Technology), J. Barry Shevchuk (Medicine), Nancy Battle (Community Service & Humanitarianism), W.W. Thorne (Community Design & Development), Marty Craig (Cultural Enrichment), John Wiesner (Business & Industry), T. Gerald Treece (Law), and Tomball Mayor H. G. "Hap" Harrington (Government).

Recipients received their awards at three receptions held in their honor at North Harris College. Cooper says approximately 500 people attended the receptions, with another 200 participating in the selection committee meetings held at the District Office. "Many of the people at the receptions had never been on one of our campuses, so this was a great way to introduce the community to our college district," Cooper says.

Cooper says the purpose of the Scholars Awards program is to recognize excellence throughout the NHMCCD service area. "We are recognizing citizens in our community who can serve as role models and who have dedicated their lives to making our community a better place to live," she says. ★



Message from the chancellor

Dr. John E. Pickelman

Best investment for the future is to invest in your employees

There's a story about Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra, who was once trying to impart some tips on hitting to a young player. After a few frustrating attempts to get his ideas across, Berra said, "Just watch me do it."

Like the player receiving advice from a proven professional, students attending North Harris Montgomery Community Colleges have opportunities to learn from industry professionals through internships and co-op programs, enabling them to graduate with more than "book knowledge." Unlike the baseball player learning from Berra, however, these students do much more than just watch. Internships, clinicals and co-op programs give students hands-on experience, providing them with a practical understanding of what it takes to succeed in the work place.

Internships, clinicals and co-op programs are partnerships that are beneficial not only to students and the college district, but to the businesses where students work. Companies often tell us they have a shortage of qualified workers in technical fields, and providing work experience for our students is a way they can prepare some of their own future employees. Companies also receive the immediate benefit of qualified help, that in most cases, they don't have to pay for.

Furthermore, there's nothing like the infusion of fresh ideas to invigorate an organization. Many NHMCCD co-op programs require students to complete a number of special projects for the companies they work for. This aspect of the programs provides invaluable experience for students and gives companies the luxury of getting projects accomplished at no cost.

We believe that some of our best partnership "professors" are those in business and industry who recognize the value of a community college-educated employee, and who invest time and energy in helping students gain experience in the work force. I commend those individuals and companies who are partners in training workers to compete successfully for jobs in a global economy. ★

District Link

Profiles

Q: How is what you are learning in the classroom helping you in your job?

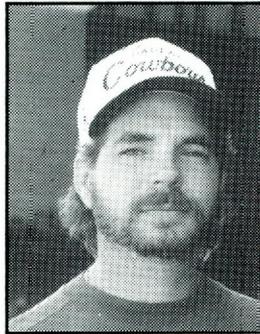
Thomas Curvey, business administration major, North Harris College



Through the college, I am making many important connections that I never would have made at a four-year college. The instructors here know

me personally, and that has made a big difference to me today and for my future.

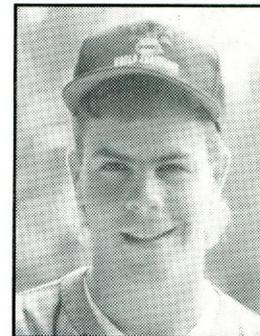
Tom Taylor, media specialist major, Kingwood College



In my work, experience is essential and I get plenty of it here at Kingwood. I'm not only working on another degree but I'm also learning my

trade, which is very important in any industry.

Russell Wisenbaker, business administration major, Tomball College



I work at Budget Rent-A-Car. Going to school here has given me insights into the real business world, so I have a better understand-

ing of what needs to be done at work and why.

Tonya C. Pierson, criminal justice major, Montgomery College



I've learned that several classes I've taken have helped me communicate with the public. It's made me realize the meaning of

other aspects of society.

Photos by Deborah Spenella

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NHC invites you to experience England

For anyone who has always wanted to visit England, or even those who have been there before and yearn to return, this could be the trip of a lifetime.

North Harris College President Dr. Sandy Shugart, English Professor Patsy Gray and Art Professor/Fine Arts Division Head Deborah Ellington will lead a tour of England June 8-17. For the majority, the journey will be just for fun, but tourists can earn one hour of graduate credit through Goddard University in Vermont or three hours of undergraduate credit from North Harris College.

The tour will include visits to London, Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon, Runnymede, Bath, Stonehenge, Salisbury, Windsor, Dover, and Canterbury. Among the highlights will be stops at Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle, Eaton College, Oxford University, Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, the Roman Baths, the Norman Castle, and Canterbury Cathedral.

The three tour leaders are uniquely qualified to show tourists insights of England. Gray grew up with a love for English literature, Shugart lived in England as a young man and Ellington is an expert in English

arts and architecture. Their enthusiasm for the nation's history and culture is contagious.

"I've spent my life studying English literature," Gray says. "It's been an intellectual and emotional passion of mine since I was a little girl. I love everything about England, from the notion of courtly chivalry to double-decker buses and palace guards who won't smile."

Ellington, who has been leading tours of England for eight years, "provides the best tour I've ever seen — she knows what she's doing," Gray adds.

Theater buffs will have the opportunity to see a Shakespeare performance by the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as two other current hits. Most nights will be spent in London, but there will be side trips and several nights outside the city, Gray says.

In addition to expert tour guides and heavily discounted prices, a distinguishing characteristic of this tour will be its lack of restriction.

"A lot of free time is factored in," Gray says. "This is not the kind of tour where you are snatched from bus to trolley to tour site and back to the hotel.

People can shop, sleep in or even sit in a pub all afternoon. They can choose to modify the tour as they please.

'I love everything about England, from the notion of courtly chivalry to double-decker buses and palace guards who won't smile.'

Patsy Gray, North Harris College English Professor

"We want folks to have a good time and to learn something while they are having a good time."

Gray believes people who have never been to England have missed learning about and experiencing the historical and cultural roots of America. "It's not just the language, but our notions of democracy, government and fair play," she says. "I think when we go to England, we get a better sense of who we were, and that gives a clearer sense of who we are."

The cost of the trip to England is \$1,681, which includes air transportation and ground transportation, tours, hotels, three plays and two meals a day. Reservations are \$85, with an additional \$400 due within 30 days and the balance due 90 days before departure. Reservations should be made as soon as possible. For details and tuition/credit information, call Ellington at 443-5646.

A member of the Royal Scots Guard at Edinburgh Castle

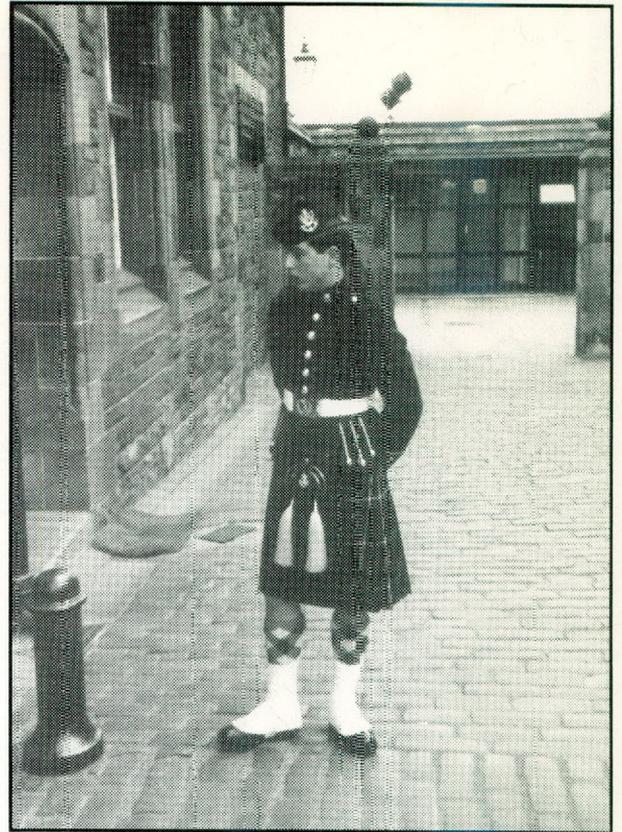


Photo by Deborah Ellington

Journey to England, June 8-17. Reserve your spot now!

Making education a family affair

They are Kingwood College's version of The Three Musketeers — one for all and all for one.

In what might be a first for the college, a grandmother, her daughter and her daughter's daughter are enrolled in credit classes. Ila Berne Toney, 60, Tina Thorson, 40, and Kristina Thorson, 23, share the experience of studying for a big test and laughing together at lunch in the college cafeteria.

While the three Conroe-area residents each have their own reasons for attending Kingwood College, they agree that the experience has drawn them closer together. The three poke good-natured fun at each other as though they were each other's college roommate or best friend. "It's nice to all be in college together — we're never lonely," Tina Thorson says. "Study time is a problem, though — somebody has to watch Kristina's baby."

Toney, who holds a master's degree in teaching English as a Second Language, says she returned to college to earn an associate's degree in desktop publishing. She previously taught school for two and one-half years and worked in the real estate field for 10 years. Now she plans to go into a desktop publishing business with her daughter, who is majoring in psychology and computer graphics design.

"Kingwood College is wonderful because the instructors act like real people — they don't talk down to you just because they have advanced degrees," Tina Thorson says.

Toney, who is enrolled in a Spanish course along with her granddaughter Kristina Thorson, joked, "Yeah, you could even call them by their first name. I bet I could get away with that in Spanish." Kristina Thorson jokes, "My grandmother hangs around with me so she can get through the class. I tutor her frequently."

The three women say the personal attention they receive from Kingwood College professors and the small-college atmosphere has enhanced their learning experiences. "I can walk down the halls here and know just about everyone," Tina Thorson says. "I think the North Harris Montgomery Community College District is tuned in to people's needs."

Toney believes the relatively small class sizes at the college make it an ideal place for occupational training of transfer students. "I've long been sold on students taking their first two years of higher education at a community college," she says. "Here, you've got only about 20 students in a class, and that makes a difference." ★

'... North Harris Montgomery Community College District is tuned in to people's needs.'

Tina Thorson, Kingwood College student



Kingwood College's version of "The Three Musketeers" are left to right: Tina Thorson, 40, Kristina Thorson, 23, and Ila Berne Toney, 60.

Photo by Deborah Spenella

Mary Rose accepts a commemorative plaque from Dr. Roy Lazenby at a ceremony opening the Rose Rock Collection at Tomball College.



Donated rock samples represent the collection of a lifetime

For Tomball College Professor of Geology/Chemistry Hulon Madeley, a rock is worth a thousand words in teaching students in geology courses. That being the case, the college now possesses the equivalent of millions of words after a Champions-area family donated the extensive rock collection of the late Dr. Ed Rose, who died in 1992.

The collection, which includes more than 3,000 samples collected from all over the United States, represents the lifetime passion of Rose, who was a geophysicist with Shell Oil Co. Rose family vacations were often spent in the pursuit of rocks, according to his wife, Mary, who selected Tomball College over the Colorado School of Mines because she thought the collection would be better utilized here.

Madeley says the collection contains samples from the three scientific classifications of rocks — igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Many of the rocks, he says, were collected from the Appalachian and Rocky mountains, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and the west coast.

"Many of these were ores of valuable minerals such as cinnabar (mercury), galena (lead), sphalerite (zinc) and numerous, very excellent quartz crystals," Madeley says. "Some of the samples have been placed in laboratories at the college for students to study. Others are of museum quality and will be rotated on display."

Observing rocks is science at its purest form, with students forming conclusions from observation, Madeley says. "Students benefit much more from being able to observe rocks, rather than just reading

about them and looking at pictures," he says. "Otherwise, the learning is abstract."

Madeley says the features of a rock help students determine its history. "For instance," he says, "the minerals in the rock often tell you the temperature and pressure that formed the rock. If the rock used to be liquid, the size of the crystals tell you how fast the rock cooled.

"If the rock contains fossils, those fossils tell you how old the rock is, as well as the conditions of the water in which the rock formed. Were the waters clean or dirty? Were they quiet or turbulent and how deep were they? Were the waters warm or cold?"

Madeley says that prior to receiving the Rose Collection, the college had rock samples, but not of the variety and quality as his collection. "The best teaching samples I have are those from the Rose Collection and those I have collected myself over the past 35 years," Madeley says, noting that students in physical and historical geology classes will study the rocks.

The collection was valued by the Roses at \$5,000, but in terms of their education potential, the rocks are priceless, Madeley believes. "We now have a superior set of teaching materials, and all of the money in the world won't buy the best samples," he says. "They have to be personally collected from all over the world.

To a geologist such as Rose or Madeley, rocks that seem ordinary to most people are like valuable diamonds. "I deeply appreciate the collection," Madeley says. "There is a whole lot of his life represented in those samples. Much of my life and his life is represented in those samples." ★

The extensive rock collection of the late Dr. Ed Rose was donated to Tomball College. The collection includes more than 3,000 samples collected from all over the United States.

The search continues for those who are the 'real essence' of a college

Searching for faculty candidates to staff the new Montgomery College, President Bill Law recently dangled his fishing line into the waters of the Internet and got about 800 bites in little more than a month.

While construction workers continue to fashion steel, bricks and mortar into a state-of-the-art facility just north of The

Information Technology Conference in Houston and plans similar interviews at national conferences in San Diego and Chicago.

Each interested faculty candidate receives a brochure about the college containing such information as the future plans for the college, including the opening of the University Center in 1996, the North Harris Montgomery Community College District Value Statements, and a

have exciting, interesting things to look at are, in fact, more enthusiastic about portfolios."

Law says he spends at least 20 to 30 minutes reviewing each portfolio. Division heads, expected to be hired by late January, will conduct initial interviews, with Law interviewing finalists. He expects to make final recommendations to the Board of Trustees between February and May 1995.

Since Montgomery College's inception in 1992, Law has remained steadfast in his philosophy about extending learning beyond the classroom. In reviewing portfolios, he looks for evidence of instructors using technology to accomplish that objective.

"We want to 'off-load' the rote teaching that makes learning boring and use classroom learning for higher-order skills, analysis, comparative evaluation — the things employers tell us are important," he says. "We want to move instruction up a notch. What we need to provide is a real education process that adapts to whatever the world of work looks like."

Law plans to include faculty in decision-making processes about programs and curricula. "Despite our excitement about the opening of the new facility in August 1995, there is a part of me that says the real opening of the college will be August 1996, when we have had a chance for a group of high performers to work together for a year," Law says. "Their complementary strengths will create something new in and of itself."

One of the largest challenges facing community colleges across the country is retention of students. Law says he expects faculty members will develop some innovative approaches to keeping students in college until they graduate.

"We want to be very candid about using all the opportunities given us to improve student retention," he says. "I think we can do better. I have a lot of ideas, but it will take a lot more ideas from faculty. We want everybody to buy into understanding the problem, so that everybody can buy into the solution." ★



Montgomery College President Bill Law, right, and Mary O'Neil, Vice President of Educational Programs and Resources, inspect the building of the new college, due to open in fall 1995.

Woodlands, Law and Mary O'Neil, Vice President of Educational Programs and Resources, are busy trying to find the best professors to fill the initial 54 faculty openings. To do that, they are using an innovative approach in recruiting and evaluating faculty candidates.

Law believes faculty members are the real essence of a college. "In all the fun we've had designing buildings for the past two-and-a-half years, the real test will be putting together a high-performing team," he says.

In addition to receiving applications through the Internet, Law interviewed candidates at the recent League for Innovation

list of items applicants should include in a portfolio.

Portfolio items include credentials, syllabi, evidence of how the faculty member communicates and challenges students beyond the classroom and uses technology, and a list of community activities.

"The people applying seem very enthusiastic toward the portfolio approach," Law says. "When we decided to go that route, one of our concerns was that putting together a portfolio would be an onerous task that would cut down on interested candidates. We're finding just the opposite."

"The very best candidates are very interested to show their wares. The people who

Student interns apply learned skills in the business world

Continued from page 1

degree and get a good feel for what that field will be like," Torres says. "The things I do at M.D. Anderson tie directly to what I've done in class. I've been exposed to many techniques and doctors who help me and impart valuable information."

Dr. Michael Rosenblum, the Director of the Office of Education at M.D. Anderson, says the biotechnology students from Kingwood College he sees are energetic, qualified and interested. "They have good skills when they come on board, and we enhance those skills," he says. "We place Kingwood College students in four or five different labs where our faculty are working on products in the biotechnology field. They get really good hands-on experience, a one-on-one relationship with a faculty mentor and good experience to put on a résumé."

Tomball College Veterinary Technology's internship, called a "preceptorship," allows students to work at designated sites in Southeast Texas. The students work 40 hours a week applying what they have learned in the classroom.

'They [interns] get really good hands-on experience, a one-on-one relationship with a faculty mentor and good experience to put on a résumé.'

Dr. Michael Rosenblum, Director of the Office of Education, M.D. Anderson

"To put that student in an outpatient position, having to deal with customers as well as patients, enables the student to understand not only the profession of veterinary medicine but the business of veterinary medicine," says George Younger, D.V.M. and Professor of Veterinary Technology at Tomball College. "When students complete the preceptorship, they are better able to market their skills."

Most veterinary outpatient clinics specialize in treating specific types of animals, such as horses or household pets. Some preceptorships are performed in laboratory settings at hospitals and research centers. "Students have an opportunity to work in an area they will be interested in working in for the rest of their lives," Younger says. ★

Calendar of events

★ **Feb. 16**

In-Service Day

★ **March 20-26**

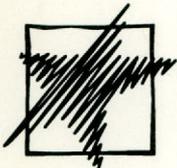
Mid-Semester Break

★ **April 18**

BIC Banquet

★ **May 13**

End of Semester



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