



League of Women Voters  
of Plano/Collin County  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

# Voters Guide

## May 8, 2010, Local Elections Collin College

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Early voting – April 26–May 4, 2010

Election day – Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide includes contested races in which two or more candidates are running. All candidates for the respective offices were invited to participate. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, “No response from the candidate” is printed. Responses were limited to 100 words and truncated with /// after the 100<sup>th</sup> word. The candidates appear in alphabetical order.

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### **Candidates for Collin College Board of Trustees, Place 1**

*6 year term, elected at large. Responsible for Collin College priorities and policies.*

#### **David Hammel (Incumbent)**

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

I have served a 6 year term on the Collin College Board of Trustees and am running for re-election. I have worked diligently on the Budget and Finance Committee, the Campus Facilities, Construction and Real Estate Committee, and the College Foundation Board. My qualifications are:

- PhD, Engineering and Economics
- 31 years Senior Management, 3 Fortune 500 Companies
- U.S. Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
- Governor's Task Force to Develop Texas Energy Policy
- 15 years, City of Parker Mayor, City Council, P&Z
- Collin County Planning Board, Commissioners Court
- Metroplex Mayors Association
- Plano Rotary
- Plano Library Foundation Board
- CITY House Board President

2. How can the college keep tuition affordable for its students during this economic downturn?

During my tenure as a Trustee, the Collin College Board and President developed sound fiscal policies and performed on-going strategic planning and forecasting. This effort yields annual cost effective results and thus lowers tuition costs. Tuition

rates are set to be the lowest for in-county residents and affordable for out-of county and out-of-state students. The College Foundation Board conducts very successful fund raising efforts for scholarship awards for deserving students unable to fund their education. Collin College currently offers the lowest tuition and fees in Texas.

3. How can the college cooperate with other colleges and universities to ensure smooth transitions for students who move between colleges?

The Collin College President, Board of Trustees, and Faculty and Staff have successfully developed partnerships with most of the major University and College systems in Texas. Pre-admission requirements were established and met by both Collin College and the University and College Systems. The University and College Systems love our students because they are prepared for upper-level class work and the higher education pipeline.

4. Do you support cooperative programs with local high schools? In what ways?

I have been intimately involved with the Board of Trustees in supporting Collin College cooperative programs with local high schools including:

- "Destination College," a Dual Credit work study program for college readiness
- "Global Tech," one of our Strategic Goals, emphasizing high demand programs (engineering, accounting, computing, healthcare)
- "Weekend College," supporting those who work, or are otherwise committed during the week, to attend classes on the weekend to earn College credits.

5. How can the college meet the needs of its students who are preparing to work in the current business community?

With the support of the Board, Collin College stays current with the educational needs and work requirements of the business community. The College develops workforce education and training requirements and provides education/training and/or finds applicable appropriate alternate training sources.

6. How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

With the leadership of its President and Board of Trustees, Collin College maintains a high quality, desirable work environment in one of the most highly regarded institutions of Higher Learning in the U.S. We provide competitive salaries and benefits and keep them competitive. The Board of Trustees in March doubled the Health Insurance Reserve to ensure the adequacy of health benefits for the staff and faculty. The continued growth of the Collin College system and its outstanding reputation provide exceptional opportunities for all employees. Three Collin College Professors have been nationally recognized as U.S. Professor of the Year.

7. What are the most important issues you think will come before the college in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

Collin College must continue to meet the higher education needs of a rapidly growing populace in the North Texas region. The President and Board of Trustees

will continue to develop additional curricula and campus expansions when appropriate and in a fiscally responsible manner. Collin College will continue to provide a high quality affordable education.

## **Nancy Wurzman**

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

I am an attorney with 16 years of experience handling, contracts, litigation, corporate governance, labor and employment, and other legal disciplines that are important to the business of Collin College. I have an MBA in risk management and finance as well as experience owning and operating small businesses, giving me both an academic and a practical understanding of finance and business management. I have a BA in education, and my major civic involvements have revolved around working with students in educational activities. I am a graduate of Leadership Plano where I learned the challenges of running public institutions.

2. How can the college keep tuition affordable for its students during this economic downturn?

There are three keys to keeping tuition affordable in this economic downturn. First, we must minimize spending on support services by eliminating waste and redundancy. Second, we should evaluate all programs at the college and only keep those that are successful, well-utilized, relevant, or that serve a specific purpose in the College's mission. The cost of discontinued programs can be re-allocated to new programs and ones with proven results. Third, we must look to cutting-edge technology to expand our reach of educational services and avoid expansive capital expenditures on new campuses or facilities, especially when not supported by demographics.

3. How can the college cooperate with other colleges and universities to ensure smooth transitions for students who move between colleges?

To ensure smooth transitions for Collin College students, our courses must be rigorous enough to satisfy the requirements at other colleges and universities so that credits will transfer fully. We must help our students determine the basic required courses at the school to which they intend to transfer to design a course of study at Collin College that mimics what freshmen and sophomores take at that college. We should expand our university pre-admissions program that allows students to take the first two years at Collin College and be guaranteed automatic admission to a university when admission requirements are met.

4. Do you support cooperative programs with local high schools? In what ways?

I fully support cooperative programs with local high schools because they benefit students across the spectrum of abilities. Expanding dual credit programs will allow more high school students to take college credits in their junior and senior years so

they can meet basic requirements at universities at lower tuition rates, which decreases the total cost of their higher education. I also support programs with high school students who fall short of college readiness by creating programs that reach out to provide developmental education at an earlier stage, so that these students are better prepared for the transition to college.

5. How can the college meet the needs of its students who are preparing to work in the current business community?

In addition to providing subject knowledge and technical skills, the college must prepare students for working in the business community by reinforcing general workplace-readiness skills of diligence, demeanor, and integrity that make them good employees. The college should expand cooperative education and apprenticeship programs to give more students real-world experience that allows them to develop their workplace skills, network with potential employers, and support themselves through college in jobs that can become careers. We should encourage businesses to increase their stake in the educational process to help us provide them with local employees who will help their businesses excel.

6. How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

To attract and maintain a distinguished faculty, we must allow our teachers the academic freedom to create courses that make the best use of their knowledge and experience in ways that maximize higher-level learning. The faculty must have the college's commitment to making sure that students who register for their classes are prepared for the challenges of educational rigor by enforcing pre-requisites and requiring developmental education completion. The college must make the financial investment in its faculty by ensuring that salary and benefit plans are competitive and commensurate with our desired level of excellence.

7. What are the most important issues you think will come before the college in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

1. Minimizing the total cost of providing a quality education without raising tuition or taxes:

We must find ways to cut expenses and defer non-essential capital expenditures to keep college affordable and maintain the lowest possible burden on taxpayers.

2. Determining the future path of the college:

Although we have developed partnership programs with regional universities in the Higher Education Center to provide access to bachelors' degree programs, the tuition rates put these programs out of the reach of many students. We must carefully consider becoming a four year college with a financial model that works without raising taxes.

## **Candidates for Collin College Board of Trustees, Place 2**

*6 year term, elected at large. Responsible for Collin College priorities and policies.*

**Jenny McCall**

Unopposed

## **Candidates for Collin College Board of Trustees, Place 3**

*6 year term, elected at large. Responsible for Collin College priorities and policies.*

### **Earnest R. Burke**

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972-516-4252

1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

I have 21 years experience as an Insurance Agency Owner and 8 years as Manager of Financial Planning and Consolidations. I have served as Plano Housing Authority Board Chair, Plano MLK Celebration Committee Chair, Plano Rotary Club Annual Golf Tournament Chair benefiting the Hendrick Scholarship Foundation and the Youth Program Committee Chair for the Passport to Success Program at the Douglass Branch of the Boys & Girls Club. These activities have afforded me the opportunity to provide uplift and inspiration through service and provided a foundation to benefit the Collin College Board of Trustees.

2. How can the college keep tuition affordable for its students during this economic downturn?

The college has frozen tuition for the last three years and lowered tuition this year. Maximizing facilities usage will help stabilize cost and reduce the need to build new buildings or send students miles away to other campuses. Weekend college with a full complement of classes offered will create an environment where students can utilize existing facilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and collaboration with other entities that utilize similar services such as payroll processing, technology services, transportation services, energy services should be considered as alternatives measures to assist in cost containment.

3. How can the college cooperate with other colleges and universities to ensure smooth transitions for students who move between colleges?

Collin College is one of the Leaders in the state of Texas with 10 (ten) pre-admissions agreements with major universities. To move forward in this progression, Collin College must aggressively engage in an alliance with the Texas State University system, not currently a part of the pre-admissions agreements offered at Collin College.

Collin College must continue to forge alliances within the state of Texas and look at potential opportunities beyond the state lines. The vision to expand articulation agreements with other Major Universities is one of the keys to future growth.

4. Do you support cooperative programs with local high schools? In what ways?

Yes. Vocational education or cooperative programs have bridged the gap for many high school students and other individuals over the past half century. Skills' training has become even more critical as the country has experienced record

unemployment. Collin College has an alliance with the Frisco Independent School District, Career and Technical Center which offers joint credit for many courses.

I believe development of relationships with local independent school districts should be encouraged to establish a baseline for college readiness. Student readiness is a critical topic that must be discussed because of the curriculum demands in the college environment

5. How can the college meet the needs of its students who are preparing to work in the current business community?

Developing partnerships with the business community to establish internships and/or mentor programs in specific areas of business to provide hands on experience, familiarity with the business, how it operates and customer service needs. The partnerships would be mutually beneficial in that it would create opportunities for Collin business graduates to gain practical knowledge of the business and for the business to invest in future leaders and potential company executives.

6. How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

The current base salary at Collin College, with a Master's Degree is \$2,000 lower than a K-12 teacher with a Master's degree. The ability to keep and attract good teachers will be based on competitive pay and a work environment that promotes staff creativity through the fulfillment of the passion to develop young minds. To accomplish the goal of attracting and retaining good instructors and the award winning instructors currently on staff, Collin College will have to be at the leading edge of competitive compensation.

7. What are the most important issues you think will come before the college in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

College affordability will be a major issue moving forward in planning for future growth and development. Collin Board of Trustees must develop creative measures to contain cost while generating revenue. We need to expand strategic corporate partnerships and alliances to include specialized training normally outsourced, to be performed within the Collin College system.

Future expansion to counties currently not serviced by Collin College will be important in the next three to five years. A well defined higher education system attracts business owners when skilled labor is a necessity. Educational growth promotes economic growth and opportunity for all concerned.

## Larry Wainwright

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

An original associate faculty member, I have the experience of working with past and present faculty, deans and administrators. In the twenty-one year association with Collin College, I have taught: Personal Finance, Introduction to Business and Small Business Finance.

A business owner since 1990, I have experienced changes in economic conditions that required modifications to our business plan. Cutbacks in salaries, staffing and overhead are not popular, but necessary to keep the business operating at profitable levels. The ability to respond to future opportunities and withdraw from established norms are my strong suit.

2. How can the college keep tuition affordable for its students during this economic downturn?

Rather than look at the current economy as a downturn for the college, I see the economic challenges as an opportunity. Universities continue to struggle with tuition rates as enrollments fluctuate. Collin College enrollment has experienced a different trend.

While college funding remains difficult, the demand for a college education remains high. Collin College enrollment has reached its highest level and growth will continue by offering higher education classes through cooperative programs with the University of North Texas, Texas Women University, Texas A&M Commerce and the University of Texas Dallas.

3. How can the college cooperate with other colleges and universities to ensure smooth transitions for students who move between colleges?

Collin College must work with colleges and universities to ensure that classes meet the institution's degree requirements. This is the key element of the cooperative program.

Cooperation between the university and Collin College enables students to make four year degree plans and manage the cost of their college education.

4. Do you support cooperative programs with local high schools? In what ways?

Yes, for students who have demonstrated academic maturity, Collin College can be an excellent path to a college degree. Setting high criteria for high school students ensures success at the college level.

The risk of the cooperative program is placing high school students in college courses before they are academically prepared. The result will reduce the student's confidence in future courses.

Collin College can benefit as well. While high school students are showing their abilities through the cooperative program, Collin College has the opportunity to demonstrate excellent educational opportunities.

5. How can the college meet the needs of its students who are preparing to work in the current business community?

What is the value of a Collin College degree? If the degree doesn't provide the tools for employment, what is its value? Collin College should be the center of the business community. Not only to help students find employment, but also assist local business find qualified employees. Job placement is vital.

Hiring high profile members of the business community as associate faculty is one step to staying abreast in Collin County business. Instructors become contacts for job seeking graduates and counselors for students.

6. How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

Pay competitive salaries, seek funded research projects and promote cooperation with business community. Keep a balance of full-time and associate faculty. Provide full-time faculty status to notable professionals to encourage participation, stability and credibility to the teaching ranks.

7. What are the most important issues you think will come before the college in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

Conversion from community college to four year college is the largest challenge facing Collin College. In 1985, Collin County Community College was a non-accredited educational entity offering basic courses. Most courses were not transferrable and enrollment was small.

Today, Collin College is offering a cooperative college program with local universities. The key for success is to work with the universities, not compete with them for students. With enrollment over 46,000 students, Collin College is a source of talented students universities are willing to compete for.