

# ALACRITY

Alacrity (ah LACK rah tee) Cheerful willingness to overcome obstacles



## Two More Jack Kent Cookes!

Angelica Fuentes and Jessica Velazquez win 2 of Nation's 75 JKC Full-Rides



They excelled in research, academics, and biomedical studies. Angelica maintained NTCC's national lead since 2012 in Guistwhite Awards; Jessica directed our prize-winning film. Angelica excelled in hands-on chemistry, and proved she could be a charismatic speaker. Jessica published one essay in a state journal, and became our Boe nominee with another.

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### Honors Highlights

- ❖ The Best in Transfer Scholarships
- ❖ Special Friends, Special Program
- ❖ National Awards
- ❖ Regional Awards
- ❖ #1 in Guistwhites
- ❖ A Website with Insights on Northeast Texas

## Our Generous Friends of Honors Northeast

For the first time, an honors benefactor has agreed to finance an entire presidential scholarship for the year. Texas Heritage National Bank of Daingerfield, Texas, with offices also in Omaha, Ore City, and Sulphur Springs will give one of the top achievers of Honors Northeast greater financial leverage and status as a privately endowed scholar in 2016-2017. Left to right are Mr. Dwyatt Bell, CEO of THNB, Brenda Howard, Senior Vice President, and Jonathan McCullough, Vice President for Development at Northeast. We look forward to naming our Texas Heritage National Bank Scholar later this summer!



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## Friends of Honors



We are indebted to anonymous donors for another remarkable Thank-You Dinner at Los Piños.



We thank Dr. Paula Archer for arranging another IBM matching grant and John and Jan Bryan for their special contribution.



We also thank: Dr. Charles Florio, Karen Harmon, and Dr. Mary Hearron for other very generous donations; Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery for introducing us to the Shakespeare Festival below.



## Honors Northeast as a Regional Vanguard



Students fail; 18-19-year-old scholars really can't. And by taking risks, and asking anomalous questions, there is the possibility of compiling some creative, and compelling works of scholarship. This last spring at the Texas State Historical Association, above, and the Great Plains Honors Council, below, Northeast had an anomalous windfall of awards than centered on the above group: left to right, Gabriela Quezada, Hector Zuniga, Melody Mott, Andrew Yox, Emmalea Shaw, and William Jones. Quezada, and Jones won two of the six GPHC poster awards, for their work on the Texas Centennial of 1936, and Quasi-Criminality! Zuniga won a first-ever 1st-place (\$400) State of Texas Caldwell Award in the Junior-Senior division for his work on Governor William Hobby, who he also played in our \$600 Caldwell-Award-winning film. Mott was the first person in our college's history to win a Smallwood Scholarship (\$500) and while she was at it, a 2<sup>nd</sup>-place Caldwell (\$300) for the lower division. Shaw won a 3<sup>rd</sup>-place Caldwell for her pioneering work on school integration in Northeast Texas which she related to sports. Two other high points of the TSHA: Jessica Velazquez saw her first publication in *Touchstone*, and Andrew Yox won the top financial award of the TSHA: the \$5K Bryan Leadership in Education Award.



## WANT TO HELP?

Contact: Dr. Jonathan McCullough at 903-434-8115 or

Dr. Andrew Yox at 903-434-8229 or ayox@ntcc.edu

# Spring Happenings



**Angelica Fuentes**, above, provided NTCC with its 5<sup>th</sup> Guistwhite Award in 5 years. The \$5K Guistwhite is oft considered the foremost award for academic merit, and NTCC leads all other colleges in the U.S. since 2012 in winning them! Thanks Angelica.



Left, William Jones received from Dr. Mary Hearron, the \$200 Chitsey Award, an annual prize for the 1<sup>st</sup> year scholar who most exceeded expectations. The award commemorates a former donor, Elizabeth Chitsey, whose descendants have had a profound role in education in NE Texas.

Above: We will miss retiring honors professor, Dr. Shirley Clay, and our founding Honors Committee member, Bob Fenton.

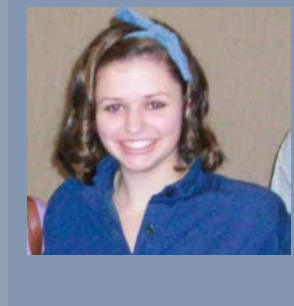


## Other National Awards



In 2003 when Cheryl Chase won the first recorded Coca Cola Scholarship at NTCC, then Vice President Doug Crawford compared it to making the na-

-tional playoffs. Since 2010, it has become more of an expectation, with our students making the top 200. However, the work of Presidential Scholars **Morgan Capps**, and **Isaac Burris**, left, gives us nothing to be blasé about. Capps, a winner of the Coca Cola Silver Award, and Burris, the Gold, were award-winning essayists who presented at the national level, inspired our films, and encouraged their fellow scholars in Honors and Phi Theta Kappa.



### McGraw Hill Poster Contest

Cassia Rose (above) won \$400 and a \$175 book coupon from McGraw Hill for her work on "Fear Factors," examining how friendships allay anxieties. We thank Celine Koch of McGraw Hill for funding, and fourteen Friends of Honors from the community who donated at least 2 hours each to judge the contest.

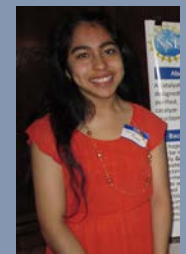
### Elizabeth Griffin

2nd Place  
\$300



### Angelica Fuentes

3rd Place  
\$200



### Cailee Davidson

4<sup>th</sup> Place  
\$100



## Spring Trip



It was a brilliant January day. We hiked in the Heard Wildlife Sanctuary, dined at Urban Rio in downtown Plano, visited the Plano museum's electronic marvels, the Stonebriar Mall, and watched the spirited Allen American hockey team. Above, left to right, bottom to top: Emma Shaw, Angelica Fuentes, Marisol Bautista, Morgan Capps, Melody Mott, Cassia Rose, Cassandra Martinez, Ryan Mendoza, Gabriela Quezada, Steven Vaught, Alecia Spurlin, Cailee Davidson, Presley McClendon, Laney Jordan, Isaac Burris, Genesis Quezada, William Villalobos, and Hector Zuniga. Our thanks again to Drs. Jim and Paula Archer for financing these superlative cultural activities.

## Academic Excellence



Cassia Rose above earned the distinction of having taken all the Honors Seminars in her two years at NTCC, and having earned the highest GPA. William Jones was the high scorer among those involved in the other honors seminar, StatPsych. Rose has been our brilliant conversationalist and film star, and, Jones will be one of the key scholars to watch in 2016-2017.

## Query: <NTCC Honors>



*Andrew Yox*  
*Honors Director*

Thanks be to God, and beyond that to our PAST (Patrons, Administrators—including webmaster Shane, Scholars, Teachers), and the present, we have a website with unique regional promise. Query <NTCC Honors> on the web, and you will find the only site in existence with prize-winning essays, poems, and films all on Northeast Texas!

(Challenge Question with extra credit of a \$20 reward. Find another region of the world that has a site like ours—perhaps with accessible prize-winning works such as ours, poetry, history and films. Email me for your award!)

Why is this important? It is part of our NTCC Board-of-Trustees-approved honors mission to “enhance the vitality” of our “community.” But more than that, regional culture like any healthy person stands in need of expression, of use, of legitimacy, and purpose. There are great traditions to celebrate and other traditions to question. There are people who want to know what our culture is so they can enter it and better understand it. When we have reference points, we can instill a patriotism for our college and region that is based on facts and public awareness.



### Honors Committee:

David Rangel,  
Joy Cooper,  
Robert Fenton,  
Isaac Burris

### Honors Professors:

Dr. Shirley Clay  
Dr. Andrew Daniel  
Dr. Melissa Fulgham  
Dr. Mary Hearron  
Dr. Paula Wilhite



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