

# WTC News

## WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

# Happenings in Campus

**September 21**  
Lady Dusters vs Ranger Junior College  
Ranger

**September 24**  
3 on 3 Basketball  
Dorm Court  
7pm

**September 26-28**  
SGA Regional Conference  
Big Spring

**September 27**  
Westerners vs Midland JC  
3pm, Moffett Field

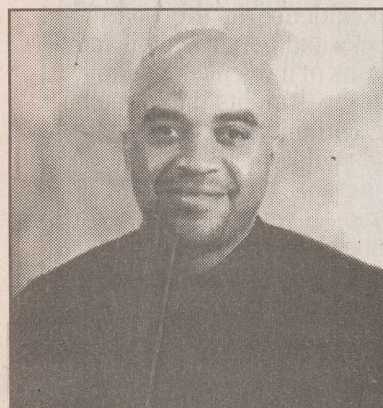
**September 28**  
Lady Dusters @ UTA Round Robin Tournament  
Fort Worth

**October 5**  
2nd Annual WTC SGA Golf Tournament  
Contact Pro Shop

Weekend, Sept. 21-22, 2002

Western Texas College, 6200 College Ave. Snyder, TX 79549

## A Note from the President



Dr. Greg Williams

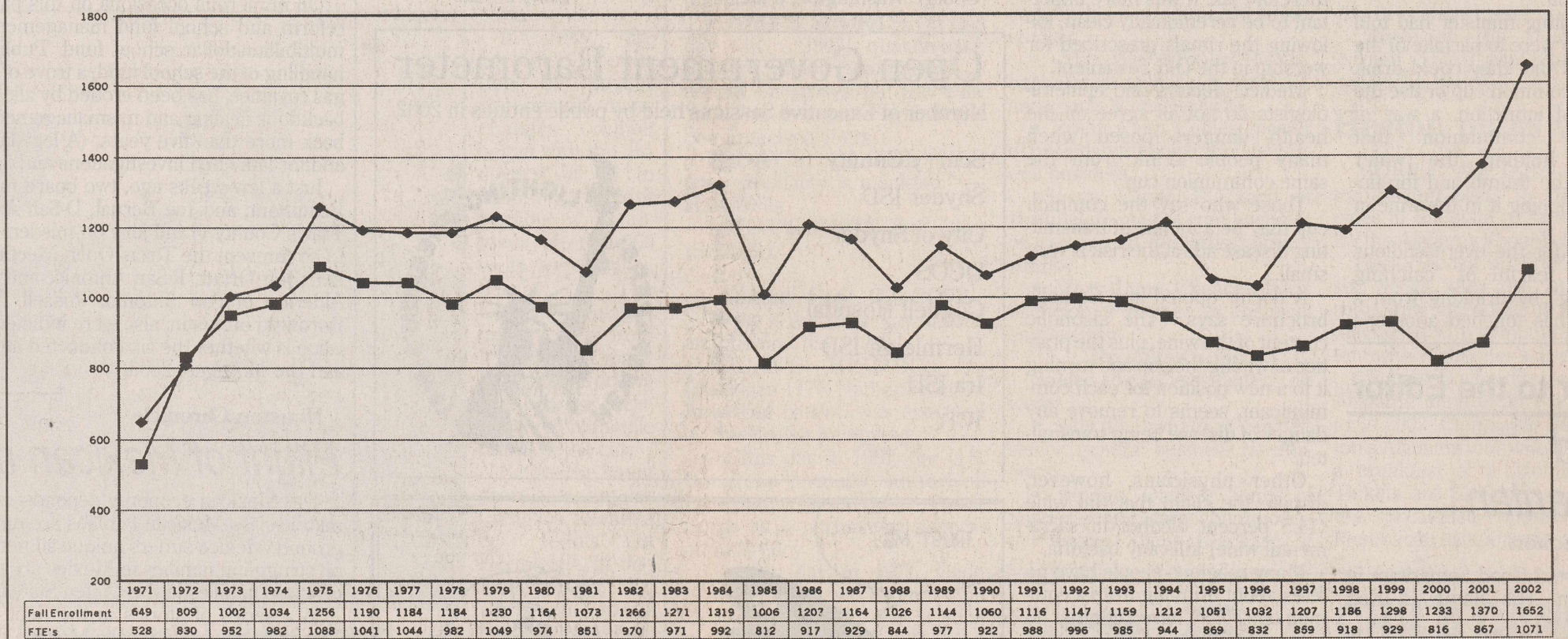
I would like to begin this column by thanking the people of Snyder for your assistance and aid in getting Western Texas College back to fulfilling our original mission, which is to serve all citizens of Scurry and neighboring counties. Yes, I know that we struggled for a time, but now we are back on tract and working to be even better. Again, for that I thank you for your kind words of support; your sharing of facilities and staff; your willingness to take the courses we offer; and finally, I thank you for the contributions and participation that you have provided as we have worked hard to raise money for new programs and new students. As you have probably heard and hopefully noticed, Western Texas College has returned to its roots, while at the same time taken full advantage of the new possibilities and ideas that exist in the today's higher education world. And for that commitment to honor our history while grasping our future, we have been greatly rewarded with the best enrollment numbers in the school's history! For past and for this most recent success, I reach out my hand of thanks and appreciation to you, a community that has fully embraced its college.

Western Texas College's commitment to you is to continue what we are doing and to get better and more active in the community as time goes on. I realize that we have been quite visible latterly, and that is by design. Still, while we plan to increase our activities in the community, we never wish to become annoying. Please remember that our goals and requirements force us to be proactive. Our plan is simple. We want to be the best community college in the country. How long that will take, I do not know, but my challenge to the faculty, the staff, the administration, and myself is to be the best. In order to become the best college possible, we must continue to plan, work hard, and remain as current as possible in all areas of our work. Again, I feel that we are on the right path to achieve our goals.

My vision for WTC includes a campus atmosphere that is welcoming and pleasing to our community; facilities on campus that will both attract students and make our community proud; and a college that stands out in the minds of our citizens as a place that we can all be proud of. I hope that you will continue to stand with us as we deal with some of our growing pains. We will make some mistakes; we will drop a few balls from time to time; but in the end you will notice that our plans are to push the envelope until we are indeed the best. Therefore, we request your patience, your support, and your business, but most of all, we want to earn your respect.

## Fall Enrollment Highest in WTC History

Fall Enrollment and FTE's 1971-2002



By Jim Clifton  
Dean of Student Services

It's September, Western Texas College has completed its Fall registration for the year, and the final numbers are in. In terms relative to those of us in education the types of numbers we look at, and what they mean, are critically important to funding from the State. Many people do not realize that the money a student pays to an institution is only about one-third of the cost of attendance. The State of Texas pays another third through a funding formula, and the last third comes from district taxes. It is that formula that the enrollment report is inextricably tied to. Texas allocates a certain amount to education for all public institutions, then says it will provide a percentage of it based on contact hours. In the past few years, colleges have been funded somewhere between 61 and 72 percent of the formula.

There are a couple of tables of information that accompany this narrative, and if you take a minute to study them very closely, you may begin to understand just how much growth WTC has experienced in the past two years. While total enrollment numbers are the highest since the college opened in 1971, 1652 students, the true success story comes with an explanation of "full time equivalencies" (FTE's). We take the total number of contact hours, seat time so to speak, of all the students, and divide it by twelve, the number of hours it would take to be a full time student, hence, an equivalency.

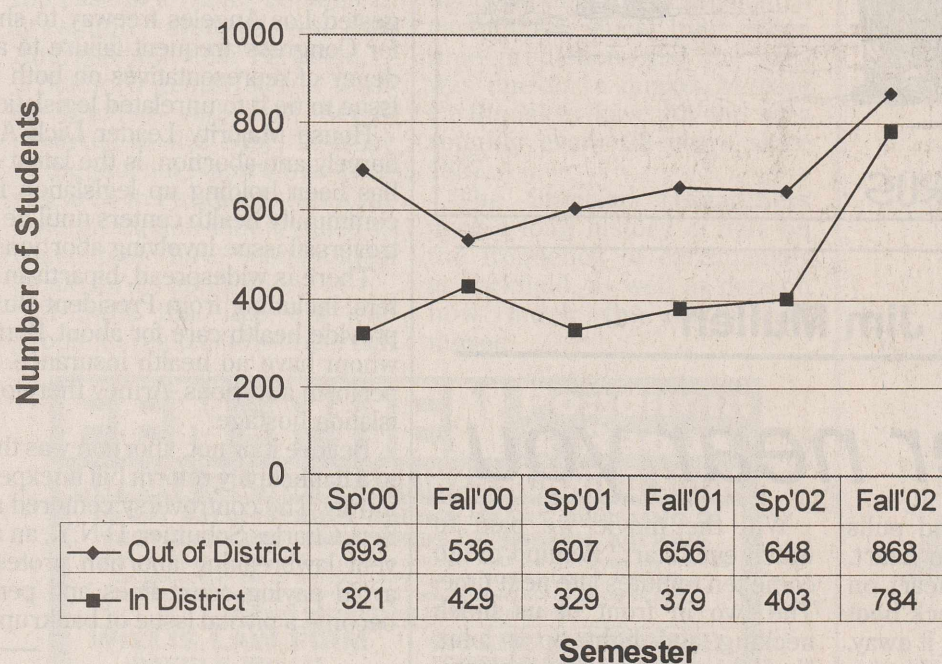
Since the school opened, the highest number of FTE's we've ever had was 1087, in 1975. If you'll remember your youth, or perhaps a history class for those of you who are younger, this was right after the Viet Nam conflict ended, and there were many federal assistance dollars out there to help veterans and displaced wage earners. This year, WTC

has been blessed with 1071 FTE's, its second highest record, and this in a time of resource scarcity. If our track record is any indication, our contact hours for this next spring may exceed 300,000 for the first time in our history. We have over 300 more students attending the college this semester from inside Scurry County than we did last Fall, and over 400 since the Fall before that. While there are lots of small factors that have led to this type of positive growth, the big picture is that WTC is serving its taxing district exactly as its founders intended. Not only that, but the diversification of educational delivery has enabled us to reach over 500 other students from outside the district, some of them in as many as 46 high schools, and others in even more remote locations.

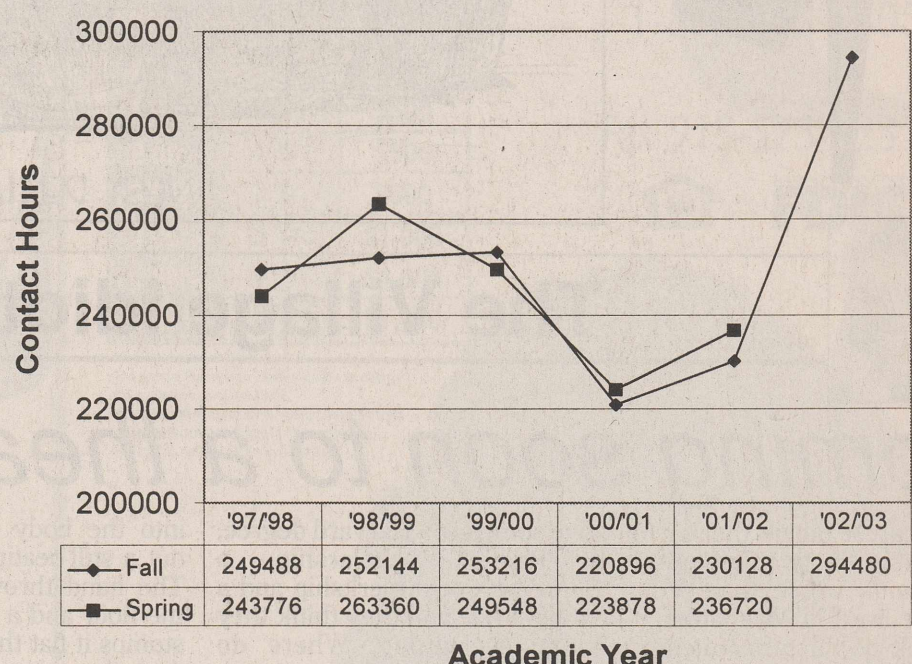
I recently attended an enrollment workshop in San Angelo and listened to several other community colleges lament growth that did not meet their expectations. I also heard a couple of universities state that their projections were not reached. WTC met its goal of 12% growth and exceeded it by another 13%! This isn't all due to sports programs either. Students attending WTC brought with them over \$48,000 in designated scholarships (not from the usual WTC student services funds). This is a testimony for the quality of the students this college is attracting now. Not only has the institution maintained a low cost of attendance and fostered a quality level of instruction, but it is also being sought as a feeder school for some major universities.

There is much more that can be said about the future for Western Texas College, a lot of it pretty detailed and involved, but all of it headed the right way. Consider your own directions, and come be part of the excitement.

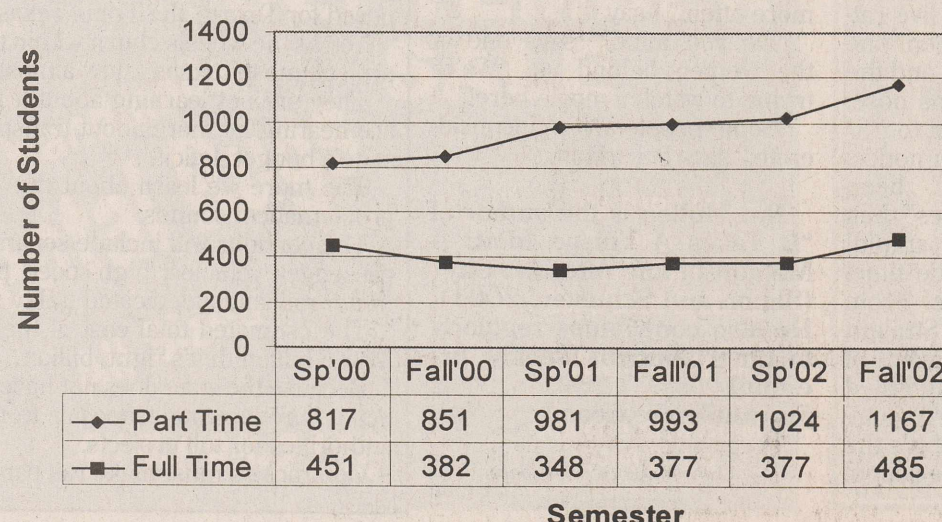
### In District and Out of District



### Contact Hours



### Part Time and Full Time



### Total Enrollment and FTE's

