



WTC Drama Proudly Presents

Brian Friel's

"DANCING AT LUGHNASA"

Opening Thursday, February 20

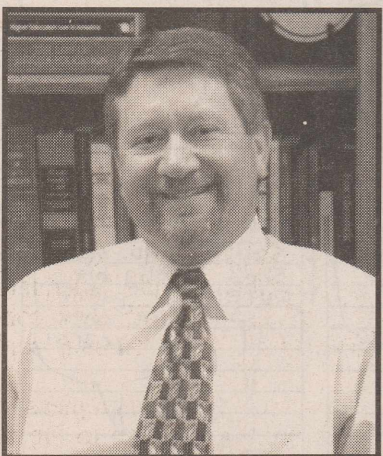


Sunday, February 16 2003

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

WTC No Longer West Texas 'Best Kept Secret'

By Jim Clifton
Dean of Student Services



When I first came to Western Texas College I kept hearing something about the school being the "best kept secret" in West Texas. It puzzled me why it ought to be a secret at all, with the wonderful opportunities that the college offered. Turns out that this was a reflection on the enrollment numbers that had flattened out over the years, and a general statement of status quo.

How things have changed! With the mandate of the state's Closing the Gaps initiative, combined with a weak economy, institutions of higher education in Texas have seen

increased enrollments, and Western Texas College in particular has come to stand above the rest. Three years ago our Fall enrollment was at 1233 students. This past Fall we broke not only our own attendance records at 1652 students, but placed third in the state in growth. Out of fifty community colleges, including Dallas, Houston, and even San Antonio, little old WTC grew faster. This Spring we exceeded our Fall record to enroll 1685 students.

We have gained students, and through the efforts of a service oriented staff, have kept more of the students that enrolled. Our statistics show us that we used to lose 16% of the students that enrolled during the course of the academic year. These days we have reduced that to just over 5%. Recruiting has paid off, and retention is getting better. The state of Texas holds us accountable for our attrition rate, and I'm proud to say that

many are finding a quality in our instruction that isn't present in larger colleges, and are deciding to stay with us. For example, we are gaining out-of-district students, those from out of Scurry County, two to one over in-district students. In other words, those who have more convenient options are still choosing WTC over other schools.

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Western Texas College reaches out to forty-four high schools, teaches to 32 other colleges, and receives courses from 12 other colleges in an effort to provide the best to its students. This kind of service has paid off, and the sort of growth we are experiencing is definitive proof that the college is doing something right. The number of credit hours we generate is manipulated in a funding formula by

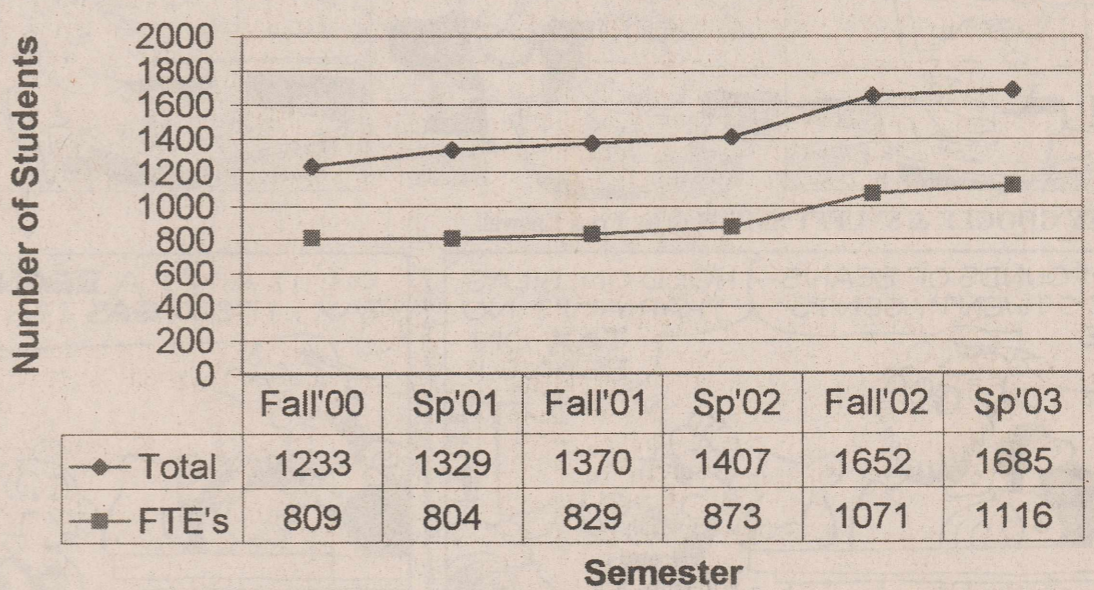
the state, and provides WTC with about 30% of the cost of attendance for a student. Tuition pays for about another third, and local taxes the remainder.

I mention this to tell you that our credit hour growth is the high-

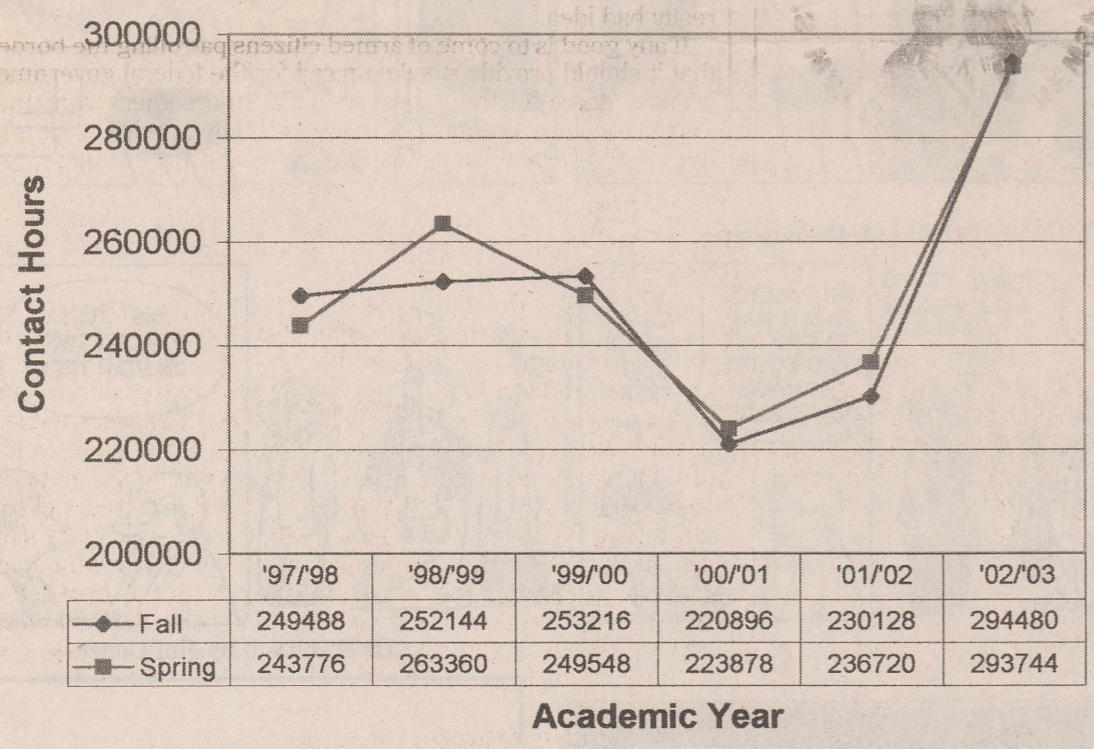
est now that has ever been seen by this school, and if the state budget situation just leaves the education funding formula even for the next two years, WTC stands to realize about \$970,000 a year to help us grow even more.

Best kept secret? Probably not anymore. Western Texas College is growing, reaffirming its unique mission as a community college, and carrying out the charter that its founding fathers decided on to provide "excellence in education".

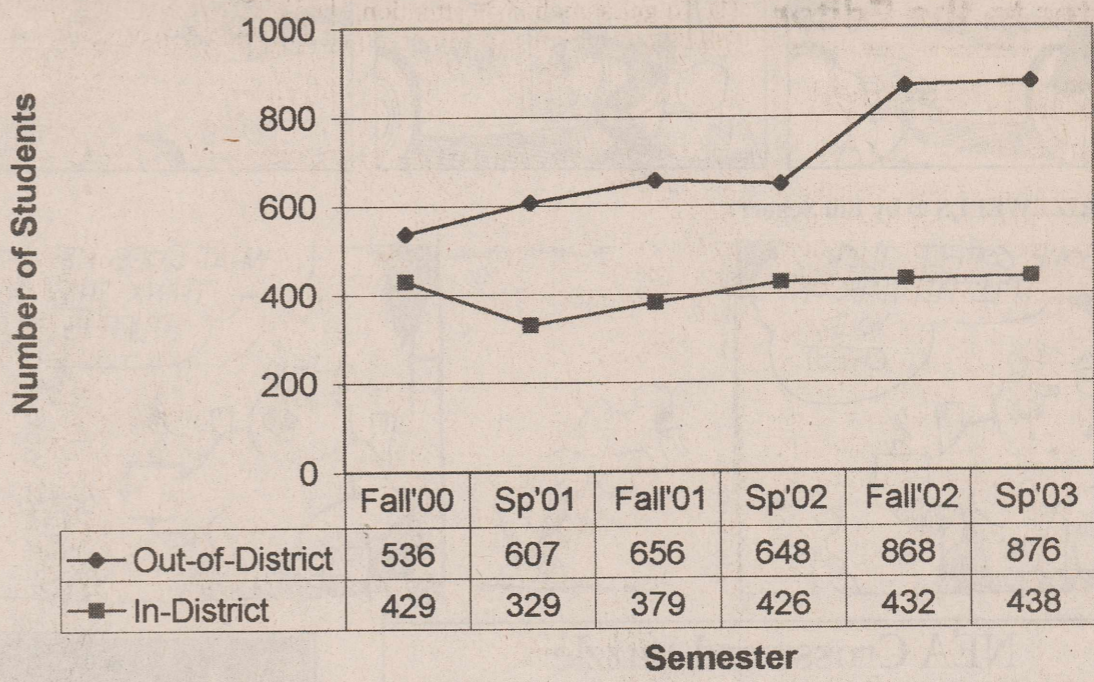
Total Enrollment and FTE's



Contact Hours



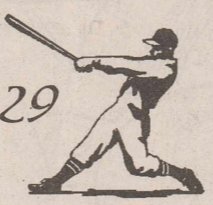
In District and Out of District



Catch the Excitement of WTC Athletics!

WESTERNER BASEBALL HOME GAMES:

February 19, 28
March 1, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29
April 1, 11, 12, 14



LADY DUSTER SOFTBALL HOME GAMES:



February 18, 25
March 21, 22
April 4, 5, 11, 12

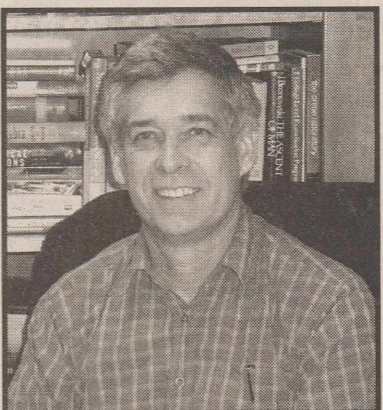
WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE RODEO

March 27-29



Concurrent Enrollment Increases

By Britt Canada
Dean of Information Technology Services



One of the neat things about WTC is our willingness and ability to adapt to meet the needs of students in our area. This attitude is expressed in many areas and one of those areas is concurrent enrollment. WTC teaches concurrently through ITV, tapes and on-site.

Last October, I predicted that WTC would have 655 concurrent students in the Spring 2003 semester. We didn't reach that prediction, but we do have 560 concurrent students. Here are some statistics: Two years ago, in Spring 2001, we had 298 concurrent students out

of a total of 1329 students (22%). Currently, we have 560 students out of a total of 1685 (33%). This is an increase from about 1/5 of the students to 1/3 of the students. The number of concurrent students has almost doubled (from 298 to 560 unduplicated students).

WTC's concurrent influence extends from Cotton Center to Cisco and from Jayton to Wall. We partner with 44 schools in ESC regions 14, 15 and 17. The highest enrollment is in Snyder with 158 concurrent students (duplicated) to several campuses with only one student (Bronte, Christoval, Coahoma, Cisco and Hermleigh).

Some of these are counted as our students and others are counted as students from other colleges (we are funded by that college through the VCT model). Being able to teach concurrent classes to the small schools in our area greatly helps those schools be-

cause they could not afford to hire an instructor to teach these classes for one to two students.

Overall, the 560 concurrent students occupy 856 class seats. Some students are enrolled in more than one class. A total of 348 (duplicated) students are taking ITV classes at one of the 30 high schools receiving ITV instruction from the WTC campus. Another 12 (duplicated) students are taking ITV classes that originate at either Borden County or Stamford.

Another 86 (duplicated) students are taking videotape classes. WTC offers face-to-face concurrent classes both on campus (96 duplicated students) and off-campus (314 duplicated students).

It is too early to predict where we will be in the Fall, but concurrent numbers have increased by about 100 students over the past several years. So, I am staying with my prediction of 655 concurrent students in the Fall 2003 semester.

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