

ACC ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Right **Now**

SPRING 2025 ISSUE



Real TRAINING
for *Real* PEOPLE

INSIDE

*Carving Out a **Future***

ACC West: A New Frontier

*CNA to LVN and **Beyond***

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Real Training for Real People



At Alvin Community College, our mission is clear: to provide Real Training for Real People—a commitment to delivering quality education that paves the way for our students' success. This journey is both significant and challenging, and at ACC, we stand alongside our students every step of the way.

We recognize that education serves as the cornerstone of a successful career. Yet, in today's dynamic job market, it is equally crucial to ensure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to excel. At ACC, our focus remains on career-oriented programs designed hand-in-hand with local employers to address industry needs.

Our academic offerings are directly aligned with the demands of the job market. From healthcare and information technology to business and industrial technology, our programs are tailored to provide students with a pathway to success. Our faculty members collaborate with industry leaders to ensure our curriculum remains relevant, reflecting the latest trends and technologies. This partnership allows us to align our programs with the needs of employers, ensuring our graduates possess the skills that today's workforce requires. For instance, we recently launched a bridge program to help Certified Nursing Assistants transition seamlessly into the Licensed Vocational Nursing program, and we maintain numerous articulation agreements with local universities for those pursuing Bachelor's Degrees.

At ACC, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. That's why experiential learning is a cornerstone of our approach. By partnering with local businesses, hospitals, and organizations, we offer internships, co-op opportunities and clinical placements that provide our students with real-world experience. These opportunities not only allow students to apply their classroom knowledge but also to build valuable professional networks to gain a competitive edge in the job market.

Our commitment to student success continues beyond graduation. We provide career counseling, resume workshops, mock interviews, and job placement services to ensure our students are well-prepared to step into the workforce. Through job fairs and networking events, we connect them directly with potential employers. And, because we understand the importance of soft skills like communication, teamwork and problem-solving, we make sure our students are ready for the challenges they will face in any career.

In this edition of Right Now, you'll find stories that highlight the journeys of our students and staff as they transition from education to meaningful careers. These stories are a testament to how ACC serves as a gateway to a brighter future and real jobs.

We are proud to play a role in bridging the gap between education and fulfilling employment. Our goal is not just to prepare students for their first job but to set them on a path for long-term success in their chosen field. Ultimately, we want to see our graduates thrive and make a positive impact in the community.

Fins Up!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Exley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Exley, Ph.D

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ACC West:

A New Frontier in Workforce Training

by Scott Turnbough

Alvin Community College is set to transform workforce education with the upcoming launch of ACC West, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to innovation and skill development. Opening in Spring 2025 at 11800 Magnolia Parkway in Manvel, ACC West will offer a wide range of short courses, certifications, and workshops tailored to meet the region's rapidly growing industries. From healthcare to drafting and general education to CPR training, the facility will feature cutting-edge environments, including a virtual reality arena for immersive, real-world training for law enforcement and a variety of other programs.

Through partnerships with local businesses, ACC West's Corporate College will provide custom training solutions aimed at reskilling and upskilling employees to close workforce skill gaps. The facility is designed with flexibility that features modern classrooms, collaboration spaces and industry-specific labs. ACC West is more than a campus—it's a community hub where education and industry converge. With its focus on meeting evolving workforce demands, this new center will position ACC as a leader in innovation, preparing students and businesses for future success while fostering strong community ties.



alvincollege.edu/locations/acc-west.html

Programs Coming to ACC West



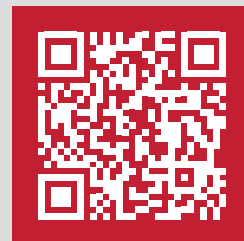
Biotechnology:

Launch your career in biotechnology in just 15 weeks with the Biotechnology Certificate program. This hybrid program blends online learning with hands-on lab experience, preparing you for entry-level roles in biomanufacturing, medical device technology and quality control. With strong ties to Houston's thriving biotech sector, ACC provides industry-relevant training, networking and job placement opportunities. Graduates are equipped with the skills needed to excel in this rapidly growing field.



Emergency Medical Services:

The EMS program prepares students for careers as EMTs or paramedics through hands-on training and certifications. Offering both certificate and degree options, the program equips graduates for high-demand roles in emergency services, hospitals, and disaster response. Students gain the skills needed for success in this growing field with hybrid courses and real-world experience.





Critical Care Paramedic:

Our Critical Care/Flight Paramedic program is a 10-week course designed for paramedics and registered nurses. This advanced training equips students with the skills needed for critical care and life flight transport teams. Classes meet one evening a week, providing flexibility while bridging the gap between basic paramedic or RN training and the demands of flight crew roles. Graduates will be prepared for high-stakes environments in emergency medical transport.



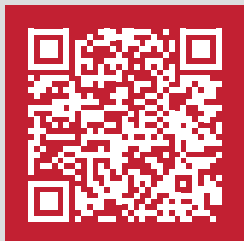
Patient Care Technician:

The Patient Care Technician program equips students with essential skills in phlebotomy, electrocardiography and patient care. Through a hybrid learning format, participants gain both online and hands-on training to prepare for certification exams in these fields. The program is ideal for those looking to enter the healthcare sector, offering opportunities in hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities.



Certified Nursing Aide/Certified Medication Aide to Licensed Vocational Nurse:

Our CNA/Med Aide to Licensed Vocational Nurse Bridge program is an accelerated option for certified nursing assistants, who are also certified medication aides, to transition into vocational nursing. Eligible CNA/Med Aides can fast-track into the second semester of the VN program after meeting requirements such as relevant certifications, work experience and passing the Health Education Systems exam. This streamlined path helps CNA/Med Aides advance their nursing careers in less time, preparing them for higher responsibility roles in healthcare.





Drafting and Design Engineering Technology

The Drafting and Design Engineering Technology program provides practical training in mechanical, architectural and civil design. Students learn to use industry-standard software, 3D printing and drafting tools, preparing them for high-demand careers in CAD design. With strong job placement rates and opportunities for internships, graduates leave with valuable portfolios and hands-on experience. The program offers both associate degrees and certifications, making it an excellent option for those pursuing a future in design and engineering technology.



Corporate College

The Corporate College program provides tailored workforce solutions designed to help businesses enhance their employees' skills. Whether for small or large companies, the program offers customized training that addresses the specific needs of each organization, helping them improve productivity and remain competitive in today's economy. By collaborating closely with businesses, ACC ensures that the courses provided are highly relevant and directly aligned with their goals for growth and success. Additionally, partnerships with the Texas Workforce Commission can provide opportunities for subsidized training when applicable.



CARVING OUT A

Future

By John Tompkins



After spending a decade working in a management and customer service setting, Ray Trigo decided that he needed to do something else. He was looking for a more hands-on role in an industrial environment.

Trigo found his new opportunity through the CNC program at Alvin Community College.

“I joined the CNC program after making the decision to step into a different career,” he said. “I liked that the program involved hands-on training and simulated what it would be like to work in a shop environment. We also toured different machine shops and got to see how they operate.”

CNC instructor Shawn Kalinec said that Trigo excelled in the program early.

“He learned the lessons quickly and always assisted the other students in their learning and completing their tasks, which are some good qualities to have when you enter the CNC shops,” Kalinec said.

The Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machining program at ACC trains students in using equipment for constructing highly specialized parts for industrial use. CNC machinists operate mills and lathes, which are used to construct the parts.

The average annual wage for a machinist in Texas is \$55,000 and the Houston region is one of the largest markets for CNC operators, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

Since completing the program, Trigo found a position working as a full-time machinist.

“The knowledge and skills I gained from ACC have directly translated to working in the field,” he said. “I am thriving at work, and I’m grateful to enjoy my new career.”

Kalinec feels that his former student will continue to succeed as a machinist and leader because he’s always seeking opportunities to grow. “When he started in a machine shop, he would ask about how he could be better and improve his skills,” Kalinec said. “This shows me that Ray is always looking to improve and grow his skills, which usually means he will go far in the manufacturing industries.”

While Trigo has found opportunities in the machining field, he hasn’t planned to stop his educational journey. He wants to expand his training further to develop his skills.

“I plan on learning more about programming and design in the future,” Trigo said. “I want to be able to take an idea and make it into reality.”



“The knowledge and skills I gained from ACC have directly translated to working in the field.”

- Ray Trigo



alvincollege.edu/cwd/technical/cnc-machining.html

From Army Strong to Road Tested:

Casey Cook Makes a Right Turn to Become a CDL Instructor

By John Tompkins

When Casey Cook finished his service in the U.S. Army, he was unsure of his next step. Having enjoyed mentoring fellow soldiers in many aspects of military life, he sought a new direction. A friend suggested he try driving a semi-truck.

“So, I took his advice and would never look back,” Cook said. “From the moment I honked the air horn in that truck, I knew this was where I needed to be. The reputation of Alvin Community College solidified my decision, and now I’m working my dream job as an instructor.”

Cook chose the CDL program due to its strong reputation. “ACC has one of the best pass rates among Texas driving academies,” Cook said.

After completing his training at ACC, Cook drove for various trucking and logistic industries across the state of Texas.

“For the last three years, I’ve seen nearly every aspect a truck driver could deal with, all so I could become the best driving instructor possible,” he said.





As a student, Cook assisted his peers, prompting ACC CDL coordinator Jimmie Munk and instructor August Power to note his potential as an instructor.

“They both said I could become a great instructor one day,” Cook recalled. “I took that to heart, gained as much experience as I could, and aimed to return to ACC to train great drivers like Jimmie and August do on a daily basis.”

“It’s great to have a former student training with me,” said Munk. “He can relate to students and suggest methods to help them avoid pitfalls and mistakes because he was once there in their shoes.”

Now, he looks forward to helping students succeed on the road.

“I have students who struggle like I did—grinding gears, missing shifts, stalling the truck,” Cook said. “I remember making the same mistakes, and my instructors having endless patience.”

Beyond training skilled drivers, Cook hopes to revive the trucking industry’s culture.

“My goal is to bring back the culture where commercial drivers were the most courteous and skillful on the road,” he said. “We strive to put the absolute best drivers on the road, so people say, ‘Man, I wish we had more like that out here.’”

Students in the CDL program come from all walks of life—recent high school graduates, older students, veterans, and those looking to turn their lives around.

“Nothing feels better than seeing that big grin when they step out of the truck after their test, knowing I had something to do with that,” Cook said.



alvincollege.edu/cwd/technical/truck-driving.html

Now offering
evening classes!



Unlocking Your Nursing Career:

From Certified Nursing Aide to Vocational Nurse and Beyond

By Tori McTaggart, Vocational Nursing Program Coordinator and CE Program Director, C.N.A.

As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, the demand for highly skilled nursing professionals is steadily increasing. To address this growing need, Alvin Community College has introduced a new educational pathway that guides students from becoming Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to Certified Medication Aides (CMAs), and ultimately to Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs).

ACC's CMA-to-LVN Bridge Program serves as the perfect first step for those committed to advancing their nursing careers. The program is unique and was developed at ACC. Individuals who hold both CNA and CMA certifications are eligible to enter the bridge program, which leverages their existing skills and experience through a Prior Learning Assessment. This process allows students to earn college credit for previous work, fast-tracking them into an accelerated curriculum that prepares them to practice as LVNs. With a strong focus on adhering to the Texas Board of Nursing's scope of practice, students will learn essential nursing procedures, such as administering IVs and delivering medications safely and effectively.

Once students complete the LVN program at ACC, they can take their NCLEX-PN exam and earn an LVN licensure. Graduates from the traditional LVN program have posted a 100% pass rate over the past 13 years.

But the journey doesn't stop at becoming an LVN. Upon completing the LVN program, students are encouraged to continue through ACC's LVN-to-ADN Transition Program, which opens the door to becoming a registered nurse. This transition program is designed to

further develop clinical expertise and leadership skills, offering students the chance to earn an Associate Degree in Nursing. After completing this program, graduates are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam, the national licensure exam required to become a registered nurse.

In the CMA-to-LVN program, students leverage their experience as CNAs and CMAs to delve deeper into nursing practices, expanding their proficiency through courses that enhance their foundational skills. Similarly, in the LVN-to-ADN Transition Program, students complete advanced coursework that builds upon their LVN experience to enhance their nursing skills. Both programs provide students with clinical training and access to state-of-the-art simulation labs, offering hands-on experience in real-world healthcare environments. This prepares them for the growing complexities of the nursing profession.

As healthcare facilities across Texas face a shortage of qualified nurses, ACC's nursing pathways not only provide an opportunity for personal and professional growth, but also address a critical workforce need.

Regardless of a student's starting point, ACC offers a clear and efficient route to the highest levels of vocational and registered nursing by creating a pipeline of well-trained professionals who are ready to serve their communities no matter where they begin.

If you're ready to take the next step in your nursing career, we invite you to apply and make a lasting impact in healthcare.

4 Steps to Fast-Track Your Career to Licensed Vocational Nursing



Step 1

Nurse Assistant Certification (CNA).
Visit bit.ly/ACC-CNA for more information.
Are you a CNA? Proceed to Step 2.



Step 2

Medication Aide Certification (Med Aide).
Are you a Certified Medication Aide? Proceed to Step 3.



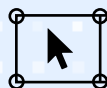
Step 3

Apply to the VN program.
Vocational Nurse Bridge Course.
Completed the Bridge course & PLA process? Proceed to step 4.



Step 4

Finish Line! Complete the Vocational Nursing Program in two semesters.
Successfully completed all VN courses. Graduate & sit for NCLEX PN.



alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing/

“I very much like what I do. I do not see it as a job. I see it as something I love to do. I love helping others and I will continue to grow.”
- Crystal Aguilar



To learn more about the program or to watch a video of Aguilar's interview, visit alvincollege.edu/cwd/healthcare/biotechnology.html.

Diversi**o**n *to* Destination:

Pioneering a Biotechnology Program

By John Tompkins

When life's unexpected challenges forced Crystal Aguilar to pause her educational journey, she wondered if she'd ever find her way back to earning a degree. "I wanted to get back on track with my studies but wasn't sure how to start or where to begin," she said.

Aguilar decided to reach out to a counselor, and that's when she discovered the Biotechnology program at Alvin Community College. She was working as a pharmacy technician at the time, and biotechnology was not a career she had previously considered.

"I wanted to stay in pharmacy, but I wanted to be on the other side helping to make medication for other people," Aguilar said.

Students in the program learn how to perform safety policies and procedures in a biotechnology setting. Some of the biotechnology jobs can include manufacturing medical devices and therapeutic agents to help patients.

"The program is very hands-on which helps me a lot because I'm very hands-on," Aguilar said.

The region is expected to see an 18 percent increase in job growth in the next 10 years with a third of those positions being in pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing. The ACC program was developed with the collaboration of three companies in the medical field: Lonza, Merit Medical, and Millar.

"We've been very fortunate with the support of our industry partners in creating and maintaining this program," said Brittani Bewick, ACC Biology instructor.

Students can earn a certificate after taking just two courses. The entire program can be completed in a few months.

ACC continues to work with companies in the field to ensure the skills taught in the program meet the needs of the industry.

"Those initial conversations helped us identify what skills are needed by entry-level employees at those companies," Bewick said. "From there we were able to develop a curriculum that supported those skill sets."

Aguilar said she received training to prepare for job interviews and find a position in Biotechnology. After completing the program Aguilar earned a position with Lonza utilizing her skills learned through the program at ACC.

"The Biotech program in Alvin prepared me for my role by giving me the equipment and tools I needed," she said. "They gave me the hands-on practice I needed. I am very prepared and very confident in what I do."

Now that she has found a position in the Biotechnology industry, Aguilar said she enjoys her work and plans to further develop her skills and knowledge.

"I indeed see myself staying in this career path," she said. "I very much like what I do. I do not see it as a job. I see it as something I love to do. I love helping others and I will continue to grow."

FIELD OF VIEW:

A Journey from Sports Broadcasting to Communications Department Chair

By Scott Turnbough



Courtesy of Mike Urbanovsky



alvincollege.edu/communications

Jason Nichols' career path is a testament to the power of following one's passion. Today, as the department chair of Communications at Alvin Community College, Nichols draws on his unique background as a sports camera operator to prepare students for careers in media.

Nichols didn't start out behind a camera. Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, he spent his early professional years in pharmaceutical sales. Unfulfilled by the corporate world, Nichols found his true calling during a Houston Rockets game.

"I was watching the game and said, 'I want to be the guy under the basket, capturing the action on camera,'" Nichols recalls.

That moment sparked a career change that would take him to ACC.

He turned to ACC's Communications program, where he trained under Bill Lewis, the former department chair. With a natural aptitude for the craft, Nichols quickly progressed, landing a job with KPRC in Houston before even completing his associate degree. From there, his career in sports broadcasting took off.

Nichols became a fixture in Houston sports, working for the Rockets, Astros, and Texans. His freelance career also led him to cover major events like the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and prestigious boxing matches for HBO.

"I never filled out a job application," Nichols says. "Everything was word of mouth."

His experiences behind the camera gave him invaluable skills that now inform his teaching at ACC.

"Live broadcasting teaches you to roll with the punches," Nichols explains. "You have to stay calm, adapt quickly, and keep going, which is a great lesson for students."

Nichols maintained his connection to ACC, teaching part-time classes while continuing his broadcasting career. After Lewis' unexpected passing in 2020, Nichols' years of experience in the industry, and commitment to the program, made for a natural progression to department chair of ACC's Communication Program.

As department chair, Nichols has adapted the curriculum to keep pace with industry changes.

"Students aren't watching TV like they used to," Nichols notes. "But the skills—video, audio, composition—are still in demand, just in different formats."

He has shifted the program to focus on multimedia journalism and developing a live event production program, to prepare students for a future in digital media.

A highlight of the communications program under Nichols' leadership is its internship opportunities. Each year, students gain real-world experience working at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. These internships often lead to permanent positions, and Nichols proudly shares that he has the pleasure of working with many of his former students today.

For Nichols, the most rewarding aspect of his career is seeing his students succeed. Whether they continue to work in media or discover the field is not for them, he values the relationships he builds with students, many of whom stay in touch long after graduation.

Jason Nichols' story is not only a reflection of his own success but also the strength of ACC's Communications program. His journey—from uncertain business major to department chair—serves as an inspiring example for students pursuing careers in communications.

Live broadcasting teaches you to roll with the punches. You have to stay calm, adapt quickly, and keep going, which is a great lesson for students.

- Jason Nichols





New Tech. New Opportunities.

By John Tompkins

One of the most important aspects of any higher education program is to ensure that the students' education includes the same type of equipment they will encounter once they join the workforce.

Cadwell Laboratories, Inc. recently donated more than \$90,000 in top-of-the-line technology to the ACC Neurodiagnostic Technology and Polysomnography programs to help familiarize students with some of the most current equipment and software used in the field.

"I have used equipment from many manufacturers over my career," said Mason Minnerly, ACC Neurodiagnostic Technology instructor. "With their donation, Cadwell has positively affected the education of our students for years to come, as well as the lives of their future patients forever."

"Cadwell's generosity is greatly appreciated and much needed," stated Amanda Moore, director of the Polysomnography and NDT programs.

The donation included a Sierra Summit electromyogram, Sierra NMUS1 (neuromuscular ultrasound), Easy III PSG (polysomnogram) as well as evoked potential equipment and software. The donation also included supplies for students such as electrodes, measuring tapes, conductive paste, abrasive scrubs and more.

"The Cadwell Sierra Summit donation allows our students the ability to receive hands-on training with equipment from one of the top Neurodiagnostic companies in our local area," said Robyn Ketchum, NDT curriculum and clinical coordinator. "Cadwell's generous donation also provides the needed tools to add neuromuscular ultrasound to our Neurodiagnostic Technology Program curriculum."

Neurodiagnostic technologists record electrical activity from the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, somatosensory and motor nerve systems. They provide valuable data to diagnose and treat conditions such as neuromuscular disorders, brain tumors, seizure disorders, strokes and degenerative brain disease.

The technology will also provide a benefit to the ACC Polysomnography program.

"With the addition of their Easy III PSG equipment and software in our lab, we will solidify our position as the leading edge of technologist education, and our students will be able to offer the very highest level of care to their future patients," Moore said.

The Cadwell Sierra Summit donation allows our students the ability to receive hands-on training with equipment from one of the top Neurodiagnostic companies in our local area.

- Robyn Ketchum

Polysomnography graduates help with the treatment and diagnosis of the causes of conditions like narcolepsy, sleep apnea and insomnia. ACC is home to the first polysomnography degree program in Texas and one of 16 throughout the United States.

With the donated equipment, NDT instructors are able to expand its current curriculum for students to learn additional modalities needed in the workforce.

"Their generosity also allows us to continue to expand our offering of courses within the NDT program," Minnerly said.

While Cadwell produces some of the best technology in the field, they are also an innovator in the industry. The company created the very first microprocessor electromyogram, which is the foundation of all microprocessors used in NDT.

"Cadwell's motto is 'Helping You Help Others' and they certainly have more than lived up to that for all of us at ACC," Minnerly said.



alvincollege.edu/neurodiagnostic-technology/

TRANSFORM YOUR *Holiday Turkey*

by Chef Steven Valerio, *Culinary Arts Instructor*

Turkey Brine

Ingredients:

- ½ gallon Apple Cider (or Apple Juice as a substitute)
- 5 pounds Ice
- ½ gallon Water
- 1½ cups Kosher Salt
- ¼ cup Black Peppercorns

Instructions:

1. Heat the water in a saucepan.
2. Add the Kosher Salt and Black Peppercorns, heat to dissolve the Kosher Salt.
3. In a large container or cooler, add the ice and Apple Cider.
4. Once Kosher Salt is dissolved, combine with the Apple Cider and Ice.
5. Make sure the brine is cooled below 41°F before adding protein.
6. Refrigerate overnight.

Smoked Turkey

Ingredients:

- Butter (1 stick, melted)
- Post Oak, Apple, or Cherry Wood for smoking
- Butcher paper or aluminum foil

Instructions:

1. Preheat smoker to 225-275°F.
2. Remove turkey from brine, pat dry, and generously apply BBQ rub.
3. Smoke for 2-3 hours until the internal temp reaches 145°F.
4. Wrap turkey in butcher paper, pour melted butter over it.
5. Return turkey to smoker and continue smoking until it reaches an internal temp of 165°F.

Barbeque Rub

Ingredients:

- 2 oz. Paprika
- 1 oz. Chili Powder
- 2 tbsp. Kosher Salt
- 1 tbsp. Ground Cumin
- 1 oz. Brown Sugar
- 1 tbsp. Ground Dry Mustard
- 2 tsp. Ground Black Pepper
- 2 tbsp Dried Thyme
- 2 tbsp Dried Oregano
- 1 tsp Cayenne Pepper
- 1 tbsp Curry Powder

Instructions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl.
2. Use rub to season poultry, pork, fish or even season potatoes.



Watch Video





alvincollege.edu/culinaryarts



ALIYAH VELA

“I chose Alvin Community College because of its welcoming community and culture.”

Why ACC?

ADRIAN SAYAS CORDOVA

“As a drama major, I chose ACC because it’s close to home, affordable, and will help me transfer to a four-year university, advancing my career path.”



TORI MARTIN-RODRIGUEZ

“I chose ACC because the business program here is one of the best! It’s just 20 minutes from downtown Houston, and the advisors are dedicated to helping you take your next step.”



CARMELO HERNANDEZ

“I chose ACC for its biology program and affordability, which makes it a great stepping stone to transferring to a four-year university.”

ALYSSA KEENE

“I play softball at ACC, and I chose it for the amazing education program and the welcoming environment.”



MAYA BOULERIS DUARTE

“I chose ACC because it’s close to home and affordable for those who don’t want to attend a four-year university right away, as that can be really expensive. So far, I’ve loved everything here. The people I meet and the friends I make at ACC will last a lifetime.”



The ACC Foundation: MAKING IT

By Sydney Hildenburg, Scholarship & Foundation Coordinator

The ACC Foundation is always on a mission. What mission, you might ask? Its focus is on providing opportunities for growth for students, faculty, and the college itself. Throughout the year, the Foundation raises funds through events and donations, ensuring ACC students have the resources they need to succeed.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Foundation awarded \$157,000 in scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from area high schools, along with current ACC students already on campus.

Nearly \$70,000 was also awarded through the new First Step Award, a \$500 scholarship designed to encourage students to take their very first college course. This award serves as a stepping stone for those beginning their higher education journey.

Additionally, the Foundation awarded more than \$22,000 in grant funds for innovative faculty and staff initiatives during the 2024-2025 academic year. One such initiative, in collaboration with generous donors, brought a state-of-the-art refurbished BBQ pit to the Culinary Arts program, allowing students to enhance their skills in barbecue techniques.

The Foundation also offers an Emergency Fund to support students facing unexpected crises that could jeopardize their education. From gift cards and bicycle transportation to car repairs, temporary housing, or utility bills, these emergency grants, while modest, can make all the difference to a student one obstacle away from dropping out.

The ACC Foundation is fortunate to have many generous donors, both one-time contributors and those who give year after year to support students. The Foundation is also deeply involved in networking and "friendraising"—cultivating relationships across the community. It hosts engaging events to raise awareness about ACC and the important work being done to support students and the college.

Two fundraising events are held annually: the longstanding Gala and the newly established Designer Bag Bingo, which has already become a sold-out tradition. Participants play bingo for the chance to win designer handbags, with proceeds benefiting ACC students—a night of fun, games and community support.



Happen

Additionally, the Choose Kind Employee Giving Campaign exemplifies ACC's culture of generosity and compassion. With over two-thirds of ACC's full-time faculty and staff participating through monthly donations, the campaign raises more than \$30,000 annually to support student assistance.

You can join the mission, too! The ACC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Your contribution will make a lasting impact on the lives of students pursuing their educational dreams.

On behalf of the ACC Foundation Board, thank you for your support and for allowing us to share how the Foundation Makes It Happen at ACC!

To learn more or help the Foundation continue its mission through a donation, contact us:

☎ 281.756.3600

✉ accfoundation@alvincollege.edu

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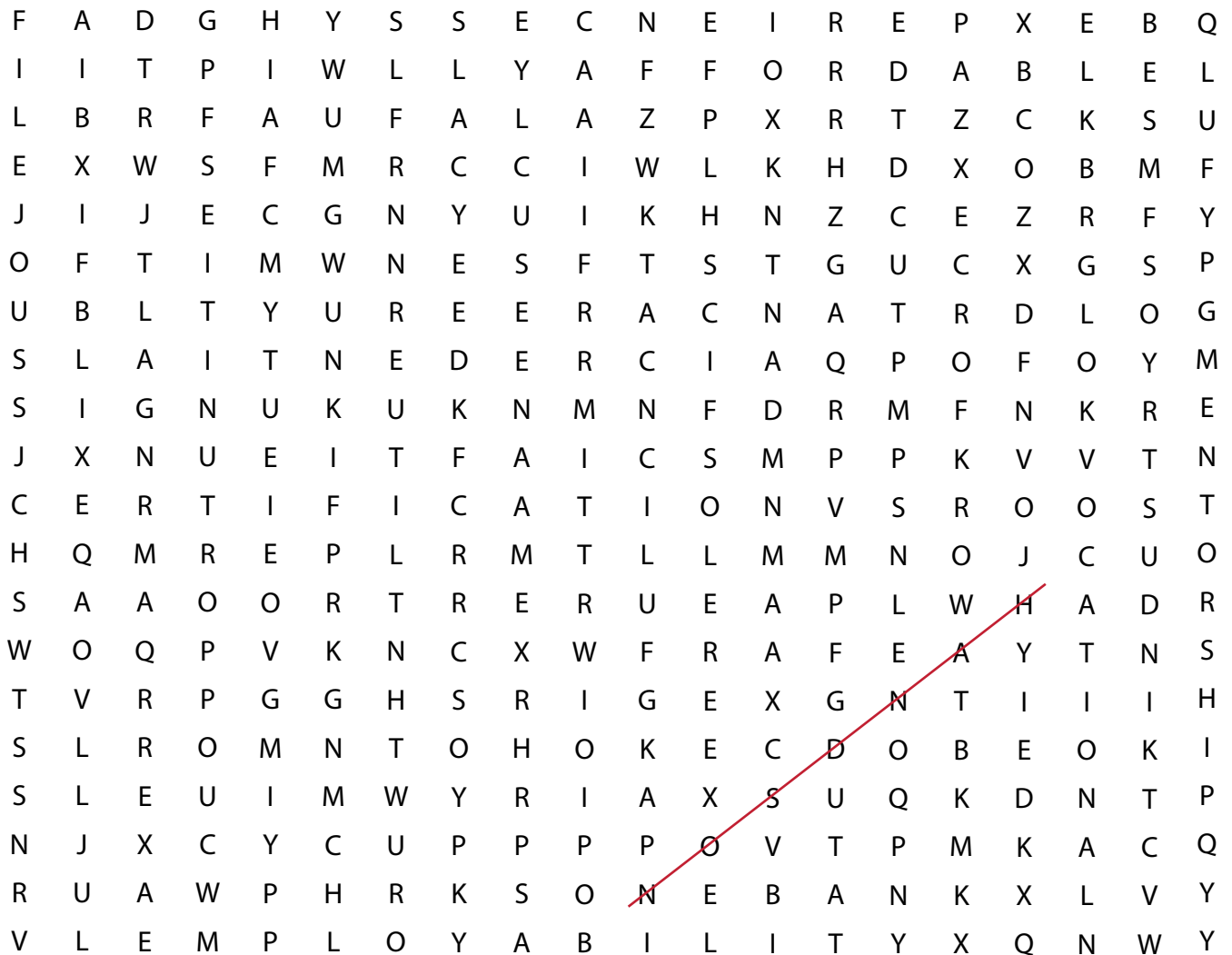
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