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Dear Friends of Blinn College,

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2023 Blinn College District Chancellor’s Report. As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pleasure that we share the myriad achievements that have defined our institution.

This year marked a significant anniversary in our history as Blinn proudly celebrated 140 incredible years. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our community and we thank you for your continued support of this College and its students.

Throughout the pages of this report, you will read about some of the most significant developments that have shaped Blinn’s landscape. From forging innovative partnerships with esteemed institutions like the Texas A&M University School of Nursing and Sam Houston State University to the ongoing efforts in enhancing our campuses, each story reflects the vibrancy and growth of our academic community.

This report also will highlight Blinn’s recent recognition as the 2023 Texas Workforce Solutions All-Star College Award winner in recognition of the College’s commitment to supporting local business needs through skills enhancement and training.

The dedication and excellence of our faculty and staff also will be showcased through the recognition of our Teaching Excellence Award winners and recipients of the 2023 NISOD Excellence Awards.

Our students’ journeys and successes are a core feature of this report, featuring inspiring stories of determination, accomplishment, and the pursuit of dreams through various academic programs offered at Blinn College. From engineering to cybersecurity, surgical technology to education, each tale encapsulates the diverse paths our students take and the impact of their Blinn experience.

Notably, our athletic teams have brought immense pride to our community with their outstanding achievements, including national championships and exceptional performances in various sports, highlighting the dedication and talent of our student-athletes.

We are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support in making these accomplishments possible. As we look ahead to 2024, we are excited about all that the future holds for Blinn. Together, we are poised to accomplish even more and continue our legacy of excellence.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Blinn College District’s journey. Your support inspires us to aim higher and achieve greater milestones in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Mary Hensley, Ed.D.
Chancellor of the Blinn College District
To celebrate Blinn’s 140th anniversary taking place on March 28, the College invited Dr. Donald Voelter, who served as Blinn College’s 12th president from 1994 through 2009, to give a presentation regarding the College’s history. College officials also invited former trustees to share recollections of their tenure on the board.

In addition to the seven members of the current board, 10 former trustees were in attendance and others sent messages to mark the occasion. Voelter’s presentation showed the ways in which Blinn grew from three students during its initial class in 1883 to more than 17,000 students across six campuses.

“Blinn being the number one community college in the state didn’t happen by accident; it happened because of a great team.”

Atwood Kenjura
Blinn Trustee
1976-2019
"Blinn is having a profound impact on so many young people. Who could have imagined 140 years ago that students would be able to choose from such a wide spectrum of course offerings?"

Ann Horton
Blinn Trustee 2015-2019

"I am so proud of Blinn’s accomplishments and all it continues to achieve. As we celebrate this milestone, I wish Blinn College continued success in educating the leaders of tomorrow."

Leon Toubin
Blinn Trustee 1992-2015

"I don’t think anyone imagined the success the (RELLIS) partnership became. I was in favor of this, as were all of our trustees, but it has exceeded our combined expectations. I am proud to have played a very small part in Blinn at RELLIS."

Nancy Berry
Blinn Trustee 2015-2016

1982
A new rule passed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board limiting branch campuses to 1,000 students prompts expansion to Woodstone Shopping Center in College Station.

1997
Blinn builds the Bryan Campus on 75 acres near Villa Maria Road at East 29th Street.

1997
Establishes campus in Schulenburg on the former Bishop Forest High School campus at 100 Ranger Dr.

2005
Establishes campus in Sealy at the Sealy Mall at 3701 Outlet Dr.

2018
Blinn opens the Walter C. Schwartz Building at RELLIS as part of an innovative partnership between Blinn and the Texas A&M University System.

2023
Establishes campus in Waller in a dedicated wing at Waller ISD’s W.C. Schultz Junior High School at 20950 Field Store Road.


The Blinn College District Board of Trustees

Jim Kolkhorst
Board Chair

Allison Bentke
Board Vice-Chair

Randy Wells
Board Secretary

Diane Kettler
Rebecca Ehler
Charles Moser
Dennis Crowson

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The Blinn College District is opening a new location in Waller that will bring its nationally recognized, highly transferable courses to college students in the greater Waller and Harris County region.

Blinn will offer classes this spring at Waller ISD’s W.C. Schultz Junior High School, formerly known as Waller High School, located at 20950 Field Store Road in Waller. This expansion will provide greater accessibility for college students in Waller, Harris County, and the surrounding region.

At this new site, Blinn will offer an array of highly transferable academic core courses, providing members of the community with an affordable pathway to their college degree. Blinn already partners with Waller ISD to provide high school dual-credit courses at the high school.

In addition to these academic transfer courses, Blinn plans to introduce high-demand career and technical education courses that meet the needs of local industry and prepare job seekers for high-wage career opportunities.

The new Waller location demonstrates Blinn’s commitment to student growth and achievement and its responsiveness to the evolving educational landscape. Blinn will begin by offering academic core courses, including English, government, history, math, philosophy, and speech.

In addition to Blinn’s highly transferable classes, students attending Blinn’s Waller location will have access to Blinn’s online academic resources, including tutoring and library services.

To better serve working students, all courses are offered on weekday evenings or weekends and students can choose from university transfer courses that are eight or 16 weeks long.

“We are excited to bring the educational excellence that has defined Blinn College to this vibrant region. We look forward to bringing the same exceptional instruction, innovation, and commitment to student success that has made Blinn the state’s academic transfer rate leader and allowed us to guide thousands of students each year to the state’s leading university programs”

Dr. Mary Hensley, Ed.D.
Chancellor of the Blinn College District.

For more information regarding course offerings, registration details, and other updates, please visit www.blinn.edu/waller.
Scheduled for completion in 2025, the Bryan Campus Administration Building will be located at the site of the former Rivergate Church property on the north side of the Bryan Campus.

This 46,000-square-foot facility will include administrative space, prospective student relations, business services, human resources, and a large meeting room with capacity for up to 300 people. Upon completion of the Administration Building, Blinn will move out of its current student services location at the Tejas Center in Bryan to bring all services at that location to the Bryan Campus.

The building will be constructed on the north side of the Bryan Campus at the intersection of Nash Street and Villa Maria Road and creates a new campus entry that connects the Administration Building to the rest of campus. Site amenities include a monument sign, circle entry drive and plaza with parking for approximately 10 visitors, pedestrian walkways, and a 180-space parking lot located behind the building.
The Blinn College District and Texas A&M University School of Nursing have announced a new co-enrollment partnership providing Blinn Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students a new pathway to their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Texas A&M.

The Aggie Student-Centered Express Nursing Degree (ASCEND) Program offers students an affordable path to earn their bachelor’s degree in just one or two semesters after completing their associate degree. By providing these students with a faster, alternative pathway to earn their bachelor’s degree, Texas A&M and Blinn are reducing traditional admission barriers, lowering student costs, and helping the State of Texas meet the growing need for highly trained nursing professionals.

“Blinn has regularly sent well-prepared, talented nurses to our bachelor’s degree program, and the formalization of this partnership means these students have a clear and direct path to becoming an Aggie nurse,” said Susan McLennon, PhD, ARNP-BC, CHPN, interim dean of the Texas A&M School of Nursing. “Importantly, this collaboration will help meet the persistent demand for more nurses in the Brazos Valley and across Texas.”

“The ASCEND Program provides an excellent opportunity for our nursing students,” said Michelle Trubenstein, Blinn College District Dean of Health Sciences. “With the growing healthcare shortage, we need as many safe and prudent nursing graduates as possible. This partnership removes multiple barriers for nursing students seeking to further their education and we are excited to partner with Texas A&M to support those students and meet our community’s need for outstanding nursing professionals.”

Students complete an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree from Blinn and Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Texas A&M while co-enrolled in both institutions. ADN courses are completed in person at Blinn, while BSN courses are finished completely online through Texas A&M. Students may apply to ASCEND during their first, second or third semester of the Blinn ADN Program. Depending on their Blinn entry term, students can earn their BSN from Texas A&M in just one semester after completing their ADN at Blinn. ASCEND graduates are eligible to receive an Aggie Ring upon graduation from Texas A&M. ASCEND students from Blinn enter the Texas A&M School of Nursing’s BSN program through a special RN-to-BSN track. The BSN program includes advanced coursework in nursing informatics, community health, pathophysiology and pharmacology, leadership and more. This coursework is delivered virtually by faculty ranked No. 4 nationally and No. 1 in Texas by U.S. News and World Report for online bachelor’s degree programs.

Blinn’s ADN Program is based at the RELLIS Academic Alliance Complex at Texas A&M-RELLIS in Bryan, where students gain hands-on skills utilizing the facility’s 16,000-square-foot simulation laboratories.

In 2022 and 2023, NursingProcess.org ranked Blinn the No. 2 nursing program in the Southwestern U.S. region based upon its affordability, reputation, academic quality, and National Council Licensure Examination first-time pass rate.

To learn more about the ASCEND program, visit nursing.tamu.edu/ascend and www.blinn.edu/ascend
The Blinn College District and Sam Houston State University announced a new transfer partnership in 2023 that allows students to earn their associate degrees from Blinn before seamlessly completing their bachelor’s degrees at Sam Houston State.

The agriculture, animal science, and nursing partnerships include co-enrollment pathways in which students can enroll at both Blinn and Sam Houston State as incoming freshmen.

As part of the agreement, Sam Houston State representatives have office space on Blinn’s Brenham and Bryan campuses to meet with students.

“Blinn is proud to partner with Sam Houston State to provide students an affordable, convenient pathway to their bachelor’s degree at Sam Houston State.”

Dr. Mary Hensley, Ed.D. Chancellor of the Blinn College District.

The partnership includes seamless pathways to bachelor’s degrees in:

- agriculture,
- animal science,
- banking financial institutions,
- criminal justice,
- economics,
- education,
- entrepreneurship,
- finance,
- general business,
- human resource management,
- management information systems,
- management,
- marketing,
- nursing,
- psychology,
- and supply chain management.

For more information, visit www.blinn.edu/transfer-information.
S&P Global Ratings has announced the upgrade of the Blinn College District’s revenue bonds from A to AA- following an extensive financial review, reflecting the district’s solid enrollment trends and a robust balance sheet supported by consistently healthy operating performance.

S&P’s decision to increase Blinn’s underlying rating two levels moves Blinn’s rating from upper medium to high grade and reflects S&P’s positive assessment of Blinn’s creditworthiness and stability. This determination was based upon the College’s stable outlook, steady accrual of operating surpluses, strong financial resource ratios, and manageable debt burden.

“This outstanding credit score is a testament to Blinn’s diligent financial management and reflects the strong commitment of our Board of Trustees and administration to responsible stewardship of College resources,” said Dr. Mary Hensley, Chancellor of the Blinn College District. “This rare, two-step upgrade will have long-term financial benefits by decreasing Blinn’s borrowing costs and supporting continued investment for projects that ensure a bright future for Blinn students and employees.”

Entities such as S&P assign ratings to bonds to help investors assess risk as they consider which bonds to purchase. Stronger bond ratings help entities like the Blinn College District save money, earning them lower interest rates on bonds they sell to fund long-term capital projects such as construction of new buildings or other large-scale initiatives.

In S&P’s announcement regarding the upgrades, it cited Blinn’s very strong enterprise risk profile and financial risk profile, driven by diversified service areas, favorable enrollment growth trends, and a sound leadership team. Blinn’s history of full-accrual surpluses, healthy balance-sheet metrics, and no immediate plans for additional debt issuance further contributed to the positive rating.

S&P also acknowledged that Blinn benefits from favorable demographic trends, including population growth in the Houston metropolitan area. The rating agency views this growth as a social capital opportunity, supporting the district’s market position over the long term.

A positive rating action could occur if the college demonstrates sustained strengthened enrollment, diversification of operational revenues, and moderation of its debt profile.

Blinn’s financial position is viewed as healthy, with consecutive double-digit full-accrual operating surpluses in recent years. The district’s financial resources metrics and overall debt burden are considered moderate, with no immediate plans for additional debt.

BLINN’S “GIVE KIDS A SMILE” PROVIDES FREE DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN

THE ANNUAL EVENT IS COORDINATED, PLANNED, AND EXECUTED BY BLINN COLLEGE DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS

This year’s event provided almost $20,000 in donated care to 82 children. In addition to dental treatments, children enjoyed crafts, door prizes, and each left with a goody bag filled with tips and tools to promote proper oral health care. To date, Blinn’s participation in Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) has totaled approximately $260,000 in donated care.

A national initiative of the American Dental Association, GKAS supplies oral health care to local children who lack access to regular dental care. The event is coordinated, planned, and executed by Blinn dental hygiene students as a component of their community dentistry course.

“We want to instill in our students a passion for community service and giving back.” Dana Wood Dental Hygiene Instructor

For more information, visit www.blinn.edu/dental-hygiene.
The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) presented the Blinn College District with its 2023 Texas Workforce Solutions All-Star College Award during its 25th annual conference recently held in Houston.

The award celebrates a community college, technical college, or Texas engineering extension service whose efforts and partnership improve the Texas workforce system and local community by identifying, creating, and contributing to skills enhancement and training to best support business needs.

“The Blinn College District was chosen for the All-Star College Award because the College is making great strides in positively impacting businesses and the economy throughout the Blinn College service area and the state,” Vice Chancellor for Applied Sciences, Workforce, and Economic Development Jay Anderson said. “The Blinn College District is playing a pivotal role in meeting the workforce needs of the local community and the State of Texas.”

Blinn was recognized for the many ways in which it supports its local business community, including the College’s:

- wide range of technical programs designed to develop specific skills required by various industries, including high-demand fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, skilled trades, and transportation;
- career and technical education programs, which provide students with hands-on training and industry-recognized credentials that open pathways for certifications, associate and bachelor’s degrees;
- Corporate College, which engages with local employers and industry partners to develop and teach curricula that reflects current industry trends and demands;
- transfer pathways, which facilitate the seamless transfer of credits toward bachelor’s degree programs and encourage individuals to pursue higher education while providing them with a cost-effective and flexible pathway;
- Small Business Development Center, a business advising and training center of the University of Houston Texas Gulf Coast SBDC Network serving 32 counties in Southeast Texas;
- and workforce development grants, including the Skills Development Fund Grant, Skills for Small Business, and the Self Sufficiency Fund, to support workforce development initiatives and to upskill the employees of businesses.

“Local partnerships between employers, workforce boards, and educational institutions are critical to the success of the Texas workforce. These collaborations allow employers to continue to have the skilled workforce they need and for individuals to get good-paying jobs.”

Bryan Daniel
Texas Workforce Chairman
The professors are amazing. They know what they’re doing and have a lot of experience. If you have any problems, they guide you through what to do and how to solve it.”

Breyonni Bonds
Engineering

“

The faculty are very helpful and care about you succeeding. My favorite part of the program is all the hands-on work with the equipment. We go into the online environments where you get to use the tools that you’ll be using in the industry.”

Cameron Watt
Cybersecurity
Honesty, Blinn has gone beyond my expectations. I never thought a community college could have such an awesome game development program. Blinn offers one of the most comprehensive programs in the state.”

Zach Beavers
Simulation and Game Programming

“I like helping people. I’m already a licensed massage therapist, so I like helping people feel better, but I wanted to branch out in what I do. I do a lot of assessment of patients in what I already do, so I felt that it was a natural thing to move into and I love it.”

Cynthia Mills
Physical Therapist Assistant

My plans are to weld for a few years and travel the world. I want to learn from other people who are at a higher level than me. I have family in Mexico that have their own welding company and that has inspired me as well. I would love to be the first female in my family to own my own company someday.”

Leslie Alfaro Figueroa
Welding
The Surgical Technology Program has opened doors to me that I didn’t realize I had available until I applied and was accepted.”

Samuel Rosas-Esquival
Surgical Technology

I don’t think jobs ever are going to go away for construction ... I just wanted to try and get a head start and that’s why I wanted to come to college for this carpentry degree, so maybe one day I can open my own business and have workers work for me to build houses.”

Logan Woefel
Carpentry
I feel welcome here and like my future matters because the faculty and staff want nothing but the best for me. I’m also getting an affordable education, which is important since I’m paying for college by myself. My next step is to transfer to Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) at Texas A&M-RELLIS to complete my bachelor’s degree and become a teacher.”

Katelyn Sassin
Education

“I always have conversations going on with my professor. I can email him at 12 o’clock in the morning or 12 o’clock at night, and I’ll wake up in the morning and have an email back, and sometimes I’ll get an email back a few minutes later. It’s just a real nice experience.

Johnnie Armstrong
Electrical Engineering

“The scholarships I earned in high school pretty much paid for my first semester.”

Nayeli Rodriguez
Criminal Justice
Blinn College has the programs you need to pursue the future of your dreams. Browse our degree and certificate plans to find the pathway that is right for you, whether you are considering immediate entry into a career in the workforce or transferring to a four-year university.

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QUESTIONS?

Ask a Blinn College Academic Advisor.

www.blinn.edu/academic-advising
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**Online Awards:** These programs offer awards that can be completed entirely online.
**Blinn College District Celebrates Its 2023 Teaching Excellence Award Winners**

**Erin Hill**, English Professor

“I want to be the kind of teacher for my Blinn students that I want my son and daughter to have. Because I want their teachers to care, to go the extra mile in patient explanation, and to hold them to high academic standards, I try to do the same for the young people enrolled in my classes.”

**David Perez**, English Instructor

“I work to engage students with academic content that pushes their skill set to new heights so they may apply these newly acquired skills throughout their college experience and their professional development.”

**Laurie Rowland**, Dental Hygiene Professor

“One wall of my office is dedicated to the notes I have received. It is incredibly rewarding to see the impact these remarkable individuals have had as they serve patients state-wide, nationally, and even internationally through mission work and know that I played a part in preparing them to go out and make a positive impact in the world.”

**Lisa Wiese**, Dental Hygiene Program Director

“I cannot think of another profession that I would be as satisfied as I am with teaching. I truly am fulfilled by the end result of the student being successful and getting licensure and gaining employment. To me, that is a testament to my teaching ability.”
“I am thrilled to be part of a campus community that is forward thinking and committed to providing unprecedented opportunities and pathways to students in all walks of life.”

Rachel Landolt, Manager of Enrollment Services and International Programs

“Every student’s success is my inspiration and motivation. I believe that all students can succeed if they put in persistent effort. I am fortunate to work with a wonderful team at the Learning Center.”

Maria Raducanu, Learning Center Assistant

“I received Perkins assistance as a student, so I understand how needed this funding is and how much it can make a difference.”

Jennifer Schafer, Perkins Program Facilitator

“My main goal is to help students and instructors with our online courses and materials. Overall, my goal is to ensure that the technology works and that students and faculty can focus on what is really important—education.”

Mathew Walpert, eLearning Systems Administrator

“I believe theatre and film are a vital part of teaching us how to participate in walking in someone else’s shoes. When students are exposed to a variety of stories, characters, cultures, and situations, they gain an understanding of how people from different backgrounds think and feel.”

Greg Wise, Theatre Professor
BLINN DANCE TEAM

Bryanna Aguilera, Daphne Cantu,
Skylar Cox, Nataly Díaz, Jaia
Johnson, Jocelynn Luna, Brianna
Mendoza, Alexis Burchfield,
Camila Corredor, Raven Guidry,
Emily Hernandez, Macie Lindstrom,
Devinne Oregon, Kaleigh Shelton,
Jadaya Simien, and Lauren Rodriguez.

BLINN CAPTURES FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS VALORANT TEAM WINS NJCAA ESPORTS TITLE

“We have finally reached one of our first goals when we started this program three years ago — to be NJCAA national champions. The players all played phenomenally well and even when we made some subs while up with a solid lead, they played just as well. This was a great cap to our NJCAA Valorant season; now it’s time for us to build on this dominance for years to come.”

Aaron Kapiko
Head Esports Coach

BLINN DANCE WINS POM OPEN FOR NINTH NDA CHAMPIONSHIP

On April 7, the Buccaneers captured the program’s ninth National Dance Association national championship with a victory in the Pom Open finals at the NCA & NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla.

“This year was definitely an amazing year. We train a lot. It’s a different animal when it comes to dance and team dance. The kids did really, really well. I couldn’t ask for a better showing than what our girls did at nationals.”

Sarah Barland Flisowski
Head Cheer and Dance Coach

BLINN VALORANT TEAM

(L-R) Hayden Whitaker, Teague Morgan, Austin Ray, Bruce Nguyen, and Adam Laamouni
BLINN LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM WINS TITLE AT SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW AND RODEO

The Blinn College livestock judging team won the junior college division at this year’s San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. The win in San Antonio adds to Blinn’s recent successes, following a second-place finish at the Dixie National Collegiate Beef Judging Contest and first at the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest.

BLINN CAPTURES FIRST CALL OF DUTY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

“Everything this team represents was on full display today. The resiliency of our players shined through, and as I’ve said all semester, I am so proud of the work our players put in and they more than earned this title. Every player stepped up and had their moments when it mattered most.”

Ryan Lucich
Assistant Coach and Call of Duty Manager

BLINN CALL OF DUTY TEAM
(L-R) David Rodriguez, Landon Campos, Logan Rivera, and Wesley King
BLINN WINS!

BLINN BASEBALL MAKES ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE NJCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL WORLD SERIES SINCE 2014!

Blinn punched its ticket to the World Series by winning the Region XIV South Zone, sweeping through the Region XIV South Regional tournament, and taking the Region VIX Super Regional series against Paris Junior College two games to none.

Blinn ended its run in the tournament with a 2-2 record and closed out its season at 46-15 overall.

“This is a pretty special group. It was about more than just baseball. I don’t know that we were the most talented team in the world, but this group just battled and fought. I’m super proud of them and I love every single one of them. They believed all year that they belonged, and they helped me create the foundation for the future of Blinn baseball.”

Dusty Hart
Head Baseball Coach
BLINN VOLLEYBALL MAKES FOURTH CONSECUTIVE TRIP TO NJCAA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

For the fourth consecutive year, the Blinn volleyball team qualified for the NJCAA Division I Volleyball Championship after placing second in the Region XIV Conference.

The Bucs posted a 34-7 overall mark this fall and are now a sensational 192-43 during Gamble’s six seasons as head coach.

“It’s all or nothing now, so why not pour our hearts out?”

Sophomore middle blocker Brooke Pattschull

BLINN WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HAS TWO CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES IN THE NJCAA DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Blinn qualified for a second national consecutive tournament for just the second time in head coach Jeff Jenkins’ run. This was the Bucs’ sixth tournament appearance under Jenkins.

Blinn ended this memorable season with 31 wins, including the 500th career win for 21st-year head coach Jenkins.

“To get here two years in a row ... this may not happen again. I love these kids and I thank them for a special season.”

Jeff Jenkins
Head Women’s Basketball Coach

BLINN’S PATERSON, PEEBLES FINISH FOUR-DAY RUN AT NJCAA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Blinn College sophomore Holly Paterson and freshman Natalie Peebles completed the four-day tournament at Buffalo Dunes Golf Course in Garden City, Kan.

“We are really proud of Holly and Natalie for representing Blinn at the national tournament. What an experience for them both. They battled through all four rounds, and it was a lot of golf on a difficult course. Throw in the Kansas spring winds and tall rough, and I thought they both played well.”

David Johnson, Head Golf Coach

THOMAS AND THE 14TH-RANKED BLINN COLLEGE MEN’S GOLF TEAM MADE HISTORY AT THE NJCAA DIVISION I MEN’S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

The Buccaneers tied for eighth place overall in the four-day competition for their best finish in program history, while Thomas became Blinn’s first-ever All-American by tying for fifth individually.

“The team hung in there all four rounds and came out in the top 10. It was fun to watch as their coach.”

David Johnson, Head Golf Coach