looking ahead



Dr. Cary A. Israel District President of Collin College

Growth is on the horizon for Collin College, and I'm excited to share with you that we will break ground in spring 2014 on a 125,000-square-foot Health Sciences Center for our award-winning programs. This phenomenal educational and training center will feature expanded classroom and lab space — not the least of which is a state-of-the-art simulation lab that will be a strategic asset not only to Collin College students but also to university students in health science majors. In fact, we envision this new training facility as the center of excellence in health care training for our region. Our community needs a training center of this caliber now because a tsunami is coming in terms of demand for health care, and we must take bold steps today to keep our community healthy.

Collin College also will be constructing a 23,000-square-foot conference center building at the Central Park Campus. This conference center will seat 1,000 theatre style and will serve as an important convening space for both our student body and the community. We know this will be important to McKinney's projected growth because the city will need multiple venues where constituents can come together to collaborate. In addition to these new buildings, the college will also be renovating existing facilities to add more space for coursework in the fine arts. The arts are an

important part of sophisticated communities, so we look forward to expanding Central Park with offerings in music, painting, pottery and many other genres of fine art.

Several years ago, the Collin College Board of Trustees developed a master plan for district expansion, and today you can already see remarkable changes brought to life from those plans. The established campuses of Collin College will continue to expand and grow, as will the student body, and the Board is exploring new campuses for the future as well. We are thrilled to be building new signature facilities in McKinney, Texas, where our first campus opened in 1986.

Collin College is among the finest in the nation. Students have trusted Collin College for nearly 30 years because our top priority is for students to experience first-class education, and we are grateful to the community for their support as we continue to grow.

Happy Holidays, we wish you a prosperous new year.

McKinney Chamber • December 2013