



*The mission of Richland College is teaching, learning, community building.*  
www.richlandcollege.edu

### FROM FARMLAND TO 21ST CENTURY

When they arrived for classes in fall 1972, 3,500 Richland College credit students shared their campus lawn with sheep grazing on the farmland and ducks on the lakes separating the campus buildings. Architects, winners of numerous awards for Richland's design, had carefully protected the trees, the lakes—even the animals—as they planned the campus. The sheep graze elsewhere now, but students and staff still enjoy and protect those first campus ducks' descendants. Those original ducks inspired the name of our mascot—R. Mobius Thunderduck. "Moby Duck," as we call him, symbolizes the linkages, in Mobius-strip fashion, between one's inner life of contemplation and mindful reflection and one's outer life of service to others, planet, and universe.

Today Richland College serves almost 15,000 college credit students and some 6,000 continuing education students each semester. In 2003, Thunderduck Hall, the newest of six buildings added since 1972, opened as the college's one-stop student-enrollment "front door." Funds from the 2004 bond election will add \$54 million in new construction by 2010.

### OUR CHANGING PROFILE

Richland's first college-credit student body included 55% women, 45% men; 1/3 full-time, 2/3 part-time; 85% baccalaureate-bound, 15% career program-bound; 93% Anglo-American, 7% ethnic minorities. The average student was 22 years old.

Today, Richland's student body includes 55% women, 45% men; 1/3 full-time, 2/3 part-time; 72% baccalaureate-bound; 19% need developmental education, 9% career program-bound; 42% Anglo-American, 20% African-American, 18% Hispanic, 13% Asian-American, and 5% international. The average student is 28 years old. In addition, today's students may enroll as dual-credit high school students or as Emeritus students (55 years or older).

Richland's baccalaureate-track programs are comprehensive of what students usually find at the first two years of all Texas public universities. Richland transfers more than 45% of its students to Texas' four-year colleges and universities.

Our academic programs have added "learning community" clusters, thematically linked with special emphases, such as Global Studies, Honors, Mind-Body Health, Studies Abroad, the Richland Institute for Peace, Mexican-American/Latino Studies, and African-American/Black Studies. We have the only complete fast-track associate's degree option in Texas.

Our career programs are continuously refined to meet urgent training needs of workers in today's economy. Momentum is toward pre-engineering, high technology, and teacher preparation. English for Speakers of Other Languages reflects demographic changes in our student body and North Texas community. Our lively Emeritus Program continues to grow as the population of area residents over age 55 increases. In the last 15 years, Richland's Office of Corporate Services has tailored contract training to the changing needs of dozens of local businesses.

Computer technology, multimedia, and other forms of educational and administrative telecommunications have transformed how we do business, how we communicate, how we teach, and how, when, and where students learn. Over 20% of first-time credit students apply on-line, and 69% of those eligible register for courses on-line. More than 80% of instructional disciplines incorporate computer/technology skills in learning activities/strategies.

**Texas Award for Performance Excellence**—Quality Texas Foundation named Richland College one of two 2005 recipients of the prestigious Texas Award for Performance Excellence. Richland College is the only accredited institution of higher learning to receive this Texas award.

**Vanguard Learning College Project**—one of 12 American and Canadian community colleges selected by the international League for Innovation in the Community College to develop institution-wide learning college models during a five-year project.

**National Service-Learning Project**—one of seven mentor colleges for the American Association of Community Colleges' National Service Learning Project, "Broadening Horizons."

**American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC)**—one of the five "Best Practice" U.S. institutions based on a national benchmarking study to identify best practices in remedial and ESOL education.

**Poetry in Motion**—recognized nationally by the Poetry Society of America, partnering with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (poetry from ethnically diverse group of poets, including local public school students, published in English and Spanish on all DART buses and light-rail vehicles).

**National Conference Athletic Championships**—Richland's non-scholarship athletic teams are the first in NJCAA or NCAA history to hold simultaneously three national titles in men's soccer, women's soccer, and baseball.

**PACESETTER Program for Educational Excellence**—one of two community colleges first named "Best in Class" by the national Continuous Quality Improvement Network (derived from Baldrige National Quality Award Education Criteria for Performance Excellence).

**Association of American Colleges and Universities**—one of two community colleges in a 16-member national consortium preparing diverse students through liberal arts for the complexities of life in the 21st century.

