



**Wharton County
Junior College**

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NEWS RELEASE

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WCJC HOLDS SIXTY-NINTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

WHARTON, TEXAS – Wharton County Junior College recently held its 69th Annual Commencement Exercises with 505 graduates receiving either an associate of arts degree, an associate of applied science degree or the associate of arts in teaching degree. Two ceremonies were held on Saturday, May 16, with associate of arts graduates receiving diplomas at 10 a.m. and associate of applied science graduates walking across the stage at 2 p.m. Nearly 200 graduates participated in the two ceremonies.

During the ceremonies, students and one faculty member were recognized for outstanding achievement. WCJC officials presented the President's Award, the Outstanding Service Award, the Dean's Award and the Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The President's Award went to Rachel Marie Boettcher of Richmond. This award is presented annually to a graduate based on excellence in leadership, scholarship, participation in extracurricular activities and the promise of future achievement. The Outstanding Service Award – which is presented to the graduate who best exemplifies a spirit of service to the college and the community – was presented to Eryn Grace White of Rosenberg.

Three Dean's Awards were presented to students with the highest Grade Point Average based on a 4.0 scale. Michael Miller of Bay City and Uwe Meyer of Richmond received the Dean's Award for the associate of applied science degree, while Scott Anthony Jasek of Flatonia received the Dean's Award for the associate of arts degree.

The WCJC Award for Excellence in Teaching was presented to Jo Ann Shimek, WCJC's instructor of engineering design. This award recognizes full-time faculty who have dedicated themselves to making a difference in the lives of their students.

The 69th Annual Commencement Exercises were held in the Pioneer Gymnasium on WCJC's Wharton campus. Special music was provided by the WCJC Choir under the direction of WCJC Choir Director Eddie Vandewalker and accompanied by Debra Lemson, WCJC's instructor of music.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan provided the welcome as well as presenting the President's Award, the Excellence in Teaching Award and the conferral of degrees. Dave Leenhouts,

WCJC's vice-president of student services, presented academic excellence awards and the Outstanding Service Award. Graduates' names were read by WCJC instructor of history, Dr. Paul Spellman, and diplomas were awarded by Danny Gertson III, chairman of the WCJC Board of Trustees.

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