



Scaffolding Student Success

This month's report highlights the critical role student support services play in helping students build momentum, persist, and complete their educational goals. WCJC continues to strengthen the systems, relationships, and supports that help students navigate both academic and personal challenges. Together, these areas reflect the College's commitment to creating a student-centered environment where students are known, supported, and connected from application to completion...and beyond!!



Trellis Survey: Mental Health and Wellness



APP2CAP: Support for Success




Upcoming Events

Trellis Survey: Mental Health & Wellness

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Mental health, loneliness, and belonging are deeply connected, and shape whether modern learners persist and succeed in college


SYMPTOMS OF ANXIETY ARE COMMON

40%  screened positive for symptoms consistent with generalized anxiety disorder


16%  felt nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day

18%  were unable to stop or control their worrying nearly every day

MANY REPORT SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

33%  screened positive for symptoms consistent with major depressive disorder

8%  reported little interest or pleasure in doing things nearly every day

11%  felt down, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day



Trellis Survey: Mental Health & Wellness

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE


Mental health, loneliness, and belonging are deeply connected, and shape whether modern learners persist and succeed in college

LONELINESS IS WIDESPREAD

55% felt lonely sometimes or always
Only **16%** never felt lonely 

WHY LONELINESS MATTERS


Lonely students were:

 **4.4x** more likely to report symptoms of depression
3.1x more likely to report symptoms of anxiety

MENTAL HEALTH AND FINANCES ARE INTERTWINED

Among the students reporting symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder or major depressive disorder

82% reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while in college

70% would have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit in an emergency 





APP2CAP

APP2CAP is founded upon three scalable strategies:

- 1. Program Portfolio Alignment
- 2. Intrusive Onboarding and Advising
- 3. Innovative Teaching Practices

This month, we will review the various student support offices that are fundamental to Strategy 2: Intrusive Onboarding and Advising

And, yes...Trademark application has been filed!



Support for Success



Recruitment

Academic Advising

Counseling & Disability Services

TRiO Student Success Center

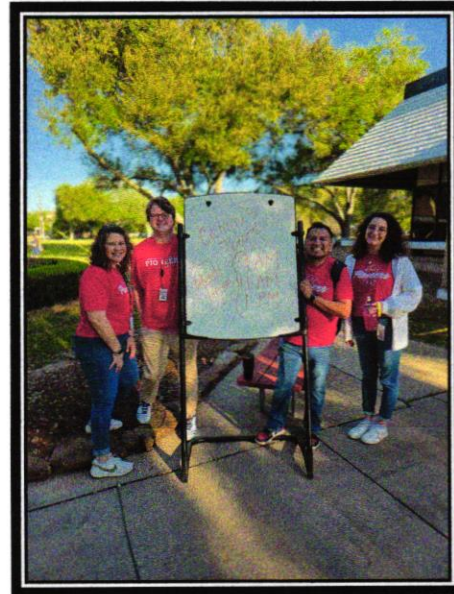


Recruitment

Operations and Impact

As the entry point to the APP2CAP student success framework, the team cultivates awareness, access, and belonging while connecting students to academic programs, workforce opportunities, and support services that promote persistence, credential attainment, transfer success, and workforce advancement. Through this work, recruitment contributes directly to student success and the economic vitality of the communities WCJC serves.

The team conducts visits to area high schools and community events and conducts application days, coordinates FAFSA nights with Financial Aid, represents WCJC at TACRAO fairs, and is the lead contact for conducting One Stop Enrollment events each year.



Recruitment



Fast Facts

- AY 2026 Touchpoints
 - Events = 266
 - Total Participants = 11,800
 - Average 6 events per week; 45 participants per event
- Events include; College Fairs, Campus Tours, High School One-Stops, Senior Days, etc.



Service Spotlight

- High School “One-Stops”: Coordinate with area ISDs to bring onboarding, registration, financial services to high school campuses for one-stop service.



Future Focus

- Develop comprehensive recruitment plan with opportunities for targeted outreach and utilization of new CollegeApp tool.
- Enhanced partnership with WCJC Office of Continuing Education to promote non-credit programs.

Academic & Career Advising

Operations and Impact

Academic and Career Advising serves as a central component of the student success experience at WCJC. Advisors help students navigate educational pathways, connect with campus resources, and make informed decisions about their academic and career goals. The department works collaboratively across campuses and divisions to ensure students receive timely support from enrollment through credential completion.

Advisors assist students with degree planning, course selection, transfer preparation, career exploration, and progression toward completion. In addition to traditional one-on-one advising sessions, the Advising team engages in targeted outreach efforts on each campus to meet students where they are.



Academic & Career Advising



Fast Facts

- Advising Volume (AY 2025):
 - Academic = 11,112 visits
 - Career = 6,323 visits
 - Transfer = 5,447 visits
- Over 2,800 visits per advisor (10 students per advisor per day)
- Does not include special events or classroom visits



Service Spotlight

- Advisors visit ENGL 1301 and PSYC 1300 courses at the start of each term to introduce support services and share dates/deadlines with students.



Future Focus

- Integration of the SSIPP advising model: Sustained, Strategic, Integrated, Proactive, and Personalized.
- Reevaluating advising workflow to meet APP2CAP priorities.
- Integration of CRM to allow for proactive, personalized, and systematic check-ins with all students.

Counseling & Disability Services

Operations and Impact

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling:
 - Lunch and Learns (*How to...study for a test, manage test anxiety, organize study materials, etc.*)
 - Symposiums/Special Topic Presentations (*Supporting friends in need. Building healthy relationships.*)
- Disability Services:
 - ADA Accommodations
 - Assessment Center (ADHD and/or Dyslexia)
 - HS-to-College Transition
- Faculty Feedback and Academic Recovery
- Pioneer Homestead Food Pantry
- Emergency Aid



Counseling & Disability Services



Fast Facts

- 297 students using disability services; 160 students with 2+ disabilities
- Approx 360 food pantry patrons per year (since AY23)
- 77 students received Emergency Aid in AY26; 85% persist/complete



Service Spotlight

- Coordinated various service offices to host inaugural "Pioneer Pathways: Helping Students Plan for Success".



Future Focus

- Develop an "Earn and Learn" program for parenting students.
- Provide additional new student assistance programs to support HS-to-College transition.
- Revamp Faculty Feedback and Early Alert systems to provide more proactive support services.

TRiO Student Success Center

Operations and Impact

The TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program at WCJC offers proactive and personalized support designed to enhance the persistence, academic success, graduation rates, transfer opportunities, and career readiness of first-generation, low-income students, and students with disabilities. TRiO is a federally-funded grant program with renewable 5-year terms. WCJC's program was renewed in AY2026 for its third cycle for a five-year, \$1.3M award.

TRiO SSS acts as a centralized "one-stop" support system, connecting underserved students with resources such as academic advising, tutoring, financial literacy education, transfer planning, career exploration, and student engagement opportunities that foster success and a sense of belonging. TRiO SSS provides individualized advising, academic support, financial literacy education, and assistance with transfer and graduation processes.



TRiO Student Success Center



Fast Facts

- Serve 144 students annually (first-generation, low-income, and students with disabilities)
- Persistence rate = 91%
- Good academic standing rate = 95%
- Currently in Year 11 of the program (third grant cycle)



Service Spotlight

- "Level Up Your Semester": Proactive support, including mid-semester academic progress reviews, targeted outreach, and checkpoints for transfer/graduation readiness.



Future Focus

- Develop a 'Your Future Self' professional series that focuses on communication, interview prep, and workplace readiness.
- Enhance current financial literacy programs, including budgeting, debt management, FAFSA completion, and overall financial wellness.
- Increase peer mentoring and service projects.

Updates from the Field



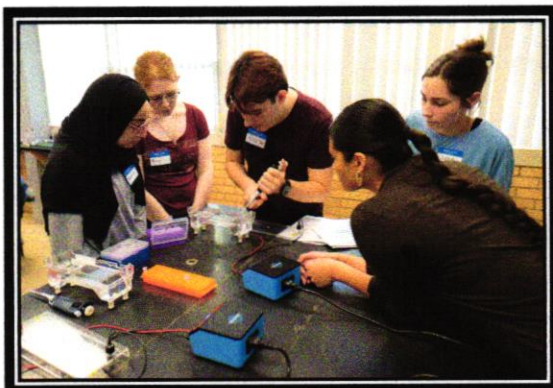
WCJC-Tenaris
10 Year Anniversary



US Congressman Michael Cloud
Campus Tour



Upcoming Events



Board Special Meetings

- Board Retreat: Friday, June 26
- Budget Workshop: Tuesday, July 21 & Aug 18



Sports Camps

- Volleyball: June 17 – 19
- Baseball: June 22 - 24



“Schedule Changes”

- Summer Hours: June 1 – July 31
 - M-R: 7:30am-5pm; F: 7:30-11:30am
- College closed on July 3

MENTAL HEALTH IS CENTRAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

Mental health, loneliness, and belonging are deeply connected, and shape whether modern learners persist and succeed in college

SYMPTOMS OF ANXIETY ARE COMMON

40%



screened positive for symptoms consistent with generalized anxiety disorder

16%



felt nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day

18%



were unable to stop or control their worrying nearly every day

MANY REPORT SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

33%



screened positive for symptoms consistent with major depressive disorder

8%



reported little interest or pleasure in doing things nearly every day

11%



felt down, depressed, or hopeless nearly every day

LONELINESS IS WIDESPREAD

55%

felt lonely sometimes or always

Only **16%** never felt lonely



MENTAL HEALTH AND FINANCES ARE INTERTWINED

Among the students reporting symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder or major depressive disorder

82%

reported experiencing financial difficulties or challenges while in college

70%

would have trouble getting \$500 in cash or credit in an emergency



WHY LONELINESS MATTERS

Lonely students were:



4.4x

more likely to report symptoms of depression

3.1x

more likely to report symptoms of anxiety

For questions or more information, contact surveys@trellisstrategies.org

n=240 | All stats are from the 2025 Trellis Strategies Student Financial Wellness Survey
© 2026 Trellis Strategies

Trellis
Strategies