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New major an apt fit for TWU, director says

Bachelor's now offered in multicultural women's and gender studies

By Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales
Staff Writer
cbreeding@dentonrc.com

Texas Woman's University has a new bachelor's degree in its catalog: Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies.

The multicultural women's and gender studies program has been offered to students as a minor field of study, a graduate certificate, a master's degree and a doctoral degree.

Now the program will offer a bachelor's degree with three possible study tracks to choose from, program director Danielle Phillips-Cunningham said. Students pursuing the new degree can

choose from a focus on general studies, health and community leadership.

"Students can find a focus in the program for a lot of different careers," Phillips-Cunningham said. "Students who want to be academic professors can study under this new degree. Students who are interested in leading public health policy can study it. And it's also for students who want to go into nonprofits with social jus-



Danielle Phillips-Cunningham

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movement for LGBT equality. Phillips-Cunningham said she's not worried about the backlash that follows anything critics see as being "woke" or college-related. But the university's program hasn't shrunk from incendiary social debates. The program supported Black Lives Matter in 2020 and announced its solidarity with the National

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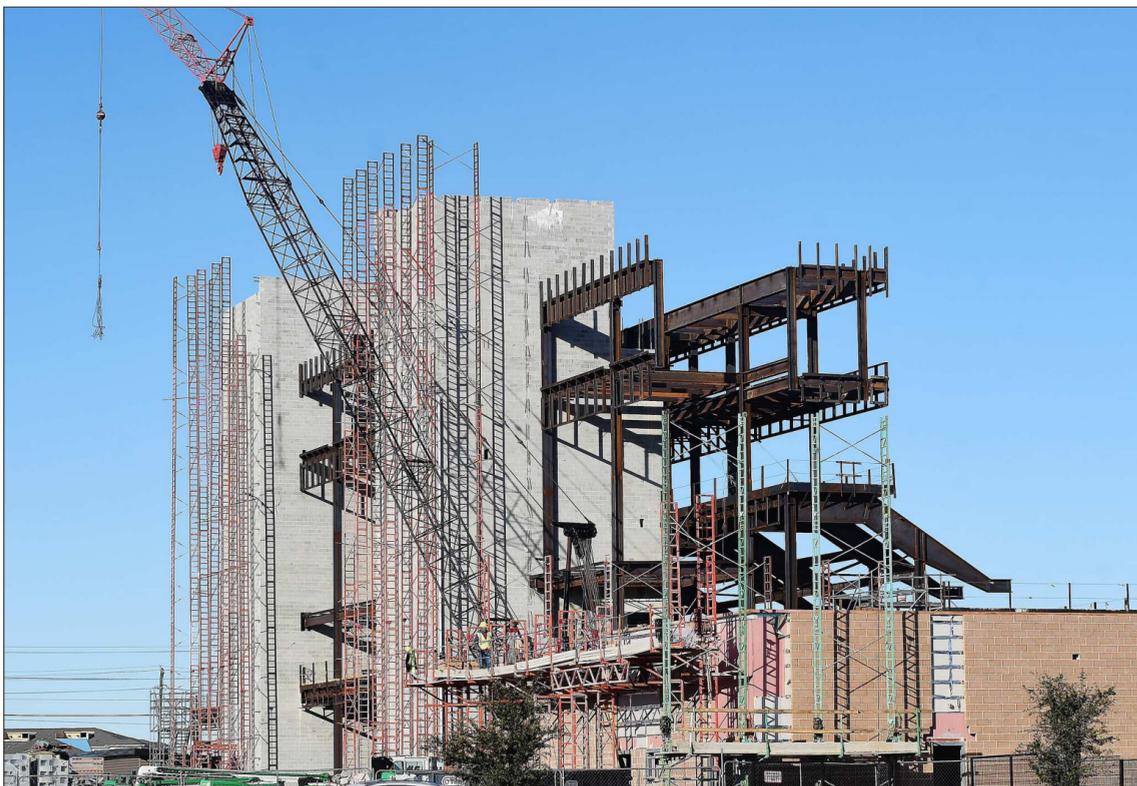
"I can't imagine a better place in North Texas to have this bachelor's degree."

— Danielle Phillips-Cunningham, director of TWU's multicultural women's and gender studies program

Black Lives Matter in 2020 and announced its solidarity with the National

See TWU on 5A

Denton ISD sees progress on Braswell additions, stadium



Al Key/DRC

Construction continues on Carrico Stadium at the Braswell High School campus in Little Elm, as well as classroom and gym additions. Denton ISD expects to move students and staff into the third academic wing, gym spaces and stadium in the summer.

Building Bengals

By Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales
Staff Writer
cbreeding@dentonrc.com

Construction crews at Braswell High School are steadily working on building additions and the much-anticipated Carrico Athletic Complex.

Students, their families and driv-

ers passing by on U.S. Highway 380 have noticed big doings on the east side of the campus since August.

In addition to the new stadium and gym additions, the project includes the high school's third academic wing.

The project is funded from a 2018 bond authorization, and since

the summer, a number of tasks have been completed on the construction project. The additions are designed by VLK Architects, and the work is being done by Balfour Beatty Construction.

Crews have completed the concrete masonry on the home side stair tower and auxiliary building

for the future stadium, as well as construction on the press box. A visitor concessions area and locker room have been finished, as well. The practice field was drilled for a geothermal well and manifold.

Crews have also finished the

See DENTON ISD on 5A

COVID shutter 2 school districts

Krum, Pilot Point ISD short on staff, closed through end of week

By Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales
Staff Writer
cbreeding@dentonrc.com

Two Denton County school districts have closed their campuses as cases of COVID-19 have spiked.

Krum ISD and Pilot Point ISD both announced Wednesday night that their campuses would be closed for the rest of the week after the coronavirus surged in their schools and staffing shortages persist.

Sanger ISD reported Wednesday night that its campuses will remain open Thursday and Friday.

School leaders across the state have reported insufficient numbers of substitute teachers available to take over classes for teachers and support staff who have COVID or have been exposed to the virus.

Krum ISD sent a letter to families Wednesday and posted the announcement on its website.

"As confirmed COVID-19 cases across our district continue to rise, Krum ISD has made the decision to close campuses on Thursday, January 13, and Friday, January 14," the announcement read. "There will not be remote instruction provided, and students will not need to make up the minutes of missed instruction. All extracurricular activities are canceled during this campus closure as well."

See CLOSURES on 5A

White House promises 10 million COVID tests for schools monthly

By Laura Meckler and Dan Diamond
The Washington Post

The White House is promising to provide 10 million free coronavirus tests each month for schools, aiming to help keep classes in person at a time when testing across the country is uneven and, in some cases, virtually nonexistent.

President Joe Biden has pushed schools to open and stay open for in-person learning, mindful of the academic and social-emotional damage wrought by remote learning, as well as the political risks among frustrated

parents who crave normalcy and fully functioning schools.

Last year, the administration said it was providing \$10 billion for school-based testing. Nonetheless, before the omicron variant began racing across the country, relatively few districts even attempted testing for students and employees absent symptoms of COVID-19.

Experts point to confusing guidance on when testing is needed, difficulty implementing programs and lack of interest on the part of schools, plus test shortages.

The new investment is expected to double the number of coronavirus tests that schools conducted as of November, the White House said. A fact sheet said the administration "will do all that it can to keep schools safely open for all students."

The administration said it would distribute 5 million free rapid antigen tests to K-12 schools each month, to be used in two types of testing. The first is screening tests, in which a portion of students are tested on a regular basis

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Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post

President Joe Biden speaks to reporters Tuesday in Washington. Biden's administration is promising to provide 10 million free coronavirus tests each month for K-12 schools.



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