

# Introducing Austin College



Austin College, a private national liberal arts college located north of Dallas in Sherman, Texas, has earned a reputation for excellence in academics, international study, pre-professional programs, leadership development, and hands-on adventurous learning opportunities. Its student body of 1,300 is diverse and united, representing 51% students of color.

Founded in 1849, the college is the oldest institution of higher education in Texas operating under its original name and charter. Today, its reputation has gained listing in every edition of *Colleges that Change Lives* since the book's introduction in 1996 by author Loren Pope. The latest edition says, "Anyone feeling disheartened by the state of the world, anyone wondering how we're going to yank our collective bootstraps and solve this century's most pervasive problems, should visit Austin College in northern Texas for a hefty dose of hope. There's plenty of optimism here, and rightly so. The curriculum pairs in-depth study of liberal arts and sciences ... with a focus on international study that's hard to find anywhere else. The result is a group of 1,350 students who are thinking carefully about what they can do right now and for the rest of their lives to make the world a better place. And they're thrilled."

**With Sherman and North Texas as its home, the Austin College community invites local residents to enjoy all the campus has to offer.**

## Science for Everyone

**BEYOND THE LAB:** Austin College is **#1 in Texas** for highest percentage of majors in both physics and chemistry by percentage of total enrollment. Physics students and faculty serve as guides for public **Star Parties** held several times throughout the year at Adams Observatory, the largest research telescope in North Texas. Stargazing and much more are offered throughout the year in the College's state-of-the-art, **LEED-Gold-Certified science building**, the IDEA Center. Student researchers are discovering paths to treating cancer, new technology to clean up oil spills, and solutions to protect the environment. Austin College is listed in the *Princeton Review's Guide to 375 Green Colleges: 2017 Edition*.



## Visiting Speakers

▼  
**GREAT THOUGHT LEADERS ON CAMPUS:** Each year, prominent speakers visit campus for the Posey Leadership Award, Kenneth Street Law Symposium, Public Administration Symposium, Williams Executive-in-Residence lecture, and other programs, all free and open to the public. Notable leaders have included First Lady Barbara Bush, Colin Powell, Salman Khan, Pulitzer prize journalist Nicholas Kristof, Marian Wright Edelman, and the entire Supreme Court of the State of Texas. In March 2020, Austin College presents the **15th annual Posey Leadership Award for global leadership to Adam Foss**, founder and executive director of Prosecutor Impact. A passionate advocate for criminal justice reform, he will speak on his groundbreaking work at a public convocation and awards ceremony on campus March 31.



## Arts & More

**ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE:** Campus-directed programming in the Arts includes the Sherman Symphony Orchestra, Greater Texoma Chamber Orchestra, Texoma Jazz Ensemble, the new 'Roo Pep Band, and Sherman's public art program, Focalpoint(!). Theatre productions, choral programs and student recitals **enrich the performing arts**, and the College also partners with Sherman Community Players and other arts organizations. **Beyond the stage**, the community can attend cultural weeks for the College's language programs, soak in lectures by authors and film producers, and engage with fascinating scholars.



## Start-up Stars

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ACTION:** Our students are entrepreneurial by nature: in August 2015, Austin College was ranked **number 32 of 50 on the list of the country's most entrepreneurial colleges** ("Startup Schools: America's Most Entrepreneurial Colleges 2015," *Forbes*, July 29, 2015). In hands-on courses like Product Lab, students pursue product development and innovation. Student teams from the biannual Pitch Competition **currently have two patents pending** for products in mid-stage development in partnership with the Dallas Entrepreneur Center.



## Kangaroo Athletics

**COMPETITION IS FIERCE!** Austin College competes in **18 men's and women's sports** in NCAA Division III athletics. All 'Roo athletic events are free and open to the public; one-quarter of the student body competes on teams that play conference rivals from the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference and the Southern Athletic Association. **Water polo** is the newest sport. The men's team competes in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, and in their first year, the women's team earned an historic second place finish in the 2019 Collegiate Water Polo Association Division III championship game. Schedules for all sports are available at <http://www.acroos.com>.



## Community Connections

**THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Our students, faculty and staff help power the region's well-being. The campus Service Station connects students with area agencies for **over 16,500 volunteer hours** each year in schools and nonprofits. In the past seven years, student interns in Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Alleviation (SEPA) have served 71 partner organizations and **raised over \$1.1 million in grants** for area nonprofits. Throughout the year, students are engaged in community projects in mental health, literacy, civic policy, and arts advocacy.

