Lamar State College-Orange is providing an exciting opportunity for ALL new students: the “Invest N U” program.

At some point most students learn the skills they need to be successful in college; however, some waste a lot of time and money getting there. Some never learn it and never complete their educations. The Faculty and Staff at LSC-O decided to design a course that could jump-start students in acquiring the skills needed to be successful and productive as high-performance students at the very beginning of their new college careers.

The result is the College Success Initiative or CSI. It is all of the things we wish we had known from the start!

Beginning in Jan. 2012, all first-time college students will be registered into a new eight-week crash-course in the skills needed to be high-performance learners. We will cover the things that students need to know right away, instead of learning by trial and error over time.

Skill development will begin with learning about campus, the do’s and don’ts of college life, and the various kinds of support available on campus. Students will also discover and explore their career interests and what pathways they need to follow to ensure educational success!

CSI is designed around students’ needs and will be fully transferrable to other colleges and universities in Texas. Its goal is to prepare students for high-performance learning in college and high-performance success in their chosen careers.

For more information on or to ask questions about CSI, visit http://www.lsco.edu/investnu/investnu.asp or call the Dean of Instruction’s Office at (409) 882-3976.

Phi Theta Kappa inducted 18 new members on Dec. 3. Students must earn & maintain a GPA of 3.5 to be inducted. New members are: Elizabeth Boudreaux, Tracy Pace, Christine Abbott, John Blanda, John Cheek, Sophie Croaker, Ashley Greiner, Amy Hestor, Alayna Jacobs, Debbie McHenry, Billie Young, Janessa Ortiz, Tammy Antley, Eric Roberts, Penny Stevens, Darren Doherty, Brent Newman, Zachary Barton.

The Process Operating Technology Associate of Applied Science received program recognition from the Texas Skill Standards Boards (TSSB). The program was recognized as being integrated with the statewide, industry-defined Chemical/Refining Process Technician Skill Standards.

The Volunteer of the Month for the Medical Office Technology program was Rose Hennigan. She was nominated for her work and service as an intern.
In the late 1970s, Jackie Spears was asked to volunteer to teach a third-grade religion class, marking the beginning of 22 years (and counting) of community service. Today, she is being honored with the Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award, as the recipient from the Lamar State College-Orange campus. As the director of the Business and Technology program at LSC-O, Spears regularly volunteers both on campus and off, currently participating in more than 12 community service activities.

Dr. Michael Shahan, president of LSC-O, contacted Spears in June to inform her that she was the campus’ Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Award recipient. Elated and honored to be the recipient, Spears said receiving the award never crossed her mind, but she believes it brings awareness to others that what they do can make a difference.

“I do what I do because I love helping others,” said Spears. “My goal is to add a new service every year.”

Thirty-two years ago, Spears began teaching religion classes for St. Mary Church on a volunteer basis and later became involved with their youth group. She also served as a Eucharistic minister and volunteered for various church and community activities through St. Mary’s. Over the years, she has volunteered and participated in a variety of fund-raisers, and was recently introduced to the Southeast Texas Food Bank by her daughter, who volunteers while away at college.

“I encourage everyone to volunteer at least one Saturday a month to participate in this worthy cause,” she said. “We put together boxes, stuff them with a variety of non-perishable food items and they are stacked to be sent out to needy families.”

Each month, Spears passes along information for volunteer opportunities at the Southeast Texas Food Bank to the faculty and staff at LSC-O, the youth groups she works with, and the various other organizations to encourage participation. Along with the Food Bank, she has participated in fund-raisers for the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, The American Diabetes walk and Orange Christian Services. She has volunteered to help with the local high school’s Project Graduation, as a chaperone, to work concession stands and car shows, to sell raffle tickets and work fund-raisers. This year, she has volunteered for the first time as a Little Dribbler’s basketball coach for local third and fourth graders.

Spears said volunteering is important because it lets you give back to the community, a lesson she has passed on to her daughter and the rest of her family.

“My family participates and our daughter is off at college volunteering and participating in various fund-raisers and activities,” she said. “It is part of what we do as a family; it’s a wonderful feeling to know that what you do helps others.”

In addition to those efforts already mentioned, within the community, Spears has worked with the Vacation Bible School at St. Mary’s Church and participated in fund raisers and food drives. She was score keeper for the high school softball and travel team athletics, has taught adult religion classes and is a volunteer for the Orange Lions Club. She donates to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and has participated in the greeting card donations to the St. Jude’s Children’s Ranch. As a member of Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society, Orange Christian Services and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Spears goes where she is needed and does whatever she can to help out.

“It is a part of my life,” she said. “Also, working on the LSC-O campus has shown me that our campus has some great people that are always here to help make life easier for those less fortunate. I am blessed by the people I work and come in contact with. It takes all of us working together to make a difference.”

Within the LSC-O community, Spears has taught resume writing and job-hunting skills to local students preparing to enter the workforce and job develops for students in need of full or part-time jobs. She visits employers, attends chamber functions, and visits local high schools promoting LSC-O in the community. She has submitted art and photography to the Cypress Branches Literary Journal and has volunteered for a number of fund-raisers and activities on the campus. Working in a helping profession on a daily basis allows Spears to expand on opportunities to help others.

“The most important thing is that you are helping others in need,” she said. “When you do something that will help others, it is a great feeling that the little things we do really make a difference in someone’s life.”

A reception honoring Spears and her fellow Julie and Ben Rogers Community Service Awards recipients was held at Lamar University on Nov. 30 at 3:00 p.m., in the Dr. Richard L. Price Auditorium at the John Gray Center. Other recipients include Antoinette Y. Mays from Lamar University, David P. Mosley of Lamar Institute of Technology, and Janet R. Hamilton from Lamar State College-Port Arthur.
SNAPPED
The LSC-O Quiz Bowl team is actively seeking players for the 2012 season. Practices will be held on Tuesdays at 2:00 and Fridays at 12:00 in AC 124. Practice sessions are open to all.

The LSCO Quiz Bowl team traveled to Boaz, Alabama, for a tournament at Snead State Community College on Friday, December 2. The LSCO “A” team finished second in its pool and won a playoff game, just missing bringing home a trophy. Team members were Nic Laverne, Nicholas Barulich, Stephen Maldonado, and Matt Cooper.

Don’t know what you want to be when you grow up yet? Stop by the Allied Health building sometime and talk to Randy Ford or Thera Granger about the opportunities that lie within LSC-O’s Pharmacy Technician program. There are so many more possibilities for a career with the degree that most people aren’t aware of (Read: You don’t have to necessarily work behind the pharmacy counter at CVS). Drop by or call (409) 882-3035 to discuss what the one-year program could do for you and your future.