

## **Remarks, 03/16/2022 McKown Learning Commons Dedication**

One of the great things about be associated with McLennan Community College is that Student Come First! When we first began our journey towards student success in 2011, it was a groundswell UP from the faculty... That is SO opposite of many other colleges where it was a top down effort, met with opposition from faculty who feared that Student Success was a ruse towards grade inflation.

That was certainly not the case here. The faculty found great support from the administration, who shared this vision with the Board of Trustees. This was an easy train to board. What we are witnessing today is one more step in an effort to provide tools for our students to succeed.

Along the way of this project, I received an eMail in October from Bryant Windham, who oversees our supplemental instruction... He made a wonderful suggestion, and at this point, I would ask ~~Dr.~~ Stacy and Kevin to remove the paper covering the lettering...

Thanks to the behind the scenes work of Dr. Stephen Benson and our architect Bernadette Hookham and the fine folks at HCS Contractors, we have been able to make this a surprise for Dr. McKown.

Now Bryant's suggestion was to name the LTC after Dr. McKown, as the McKown Learning Commons. It takes a LONG time to get anything done in academia, especially naming a building... SO, we thought would start with this area, as it could be named in a somewhat clandestine manner. After contacting each of our trustees individually, the support was enthusiastically unanimous!

It is a true joy to honour someone who puts students and faculty and staff first. This is a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts to help students succeed in their academic life to give them a better chance to better

themselves in life. She is someone who has dedicated her life to serving others and is certainly deserving of this recognition.

Now that we have achieved the first step of this recognition, the Board can actually vote ON THE RECORD to name this particular space. We can also take under advisement the renaming of the Learning Technology Center as the McKown Learning Commons, perhaps clearing confusion between the LTC and the BTC and some of the other dozens of “centers” on campus.

Dr. McKown, would you like to say anything else?