

PRESIDENT DWIGHT J FENNELL

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, GROWTH, AND TRANSFORMATION

As Texas College approaches the Spring 2026 semester, it also approaches the close of an extraordinary chapter in its history. Dr. Dwight J. Fennell, the 23rd President of Texas College, is set to retire at the end of the academic year—concluding a tenure defined by vision, resilience, and unprecedented institutional advancement. His leadership has not only strengthened the College’s foundation but has propelled it into a new era of excellence.

From the moment Dr. Fennell arrived in Tyler, Texas, he championed a philosophy of student centeredness, believing that transformative education begins with creating an environment where students feel supported and empowered. This focus permeated every decision, every initiative, and every campus improvement during his presidency. The results speak for themselves.

A Campus Transformed: Facilities and Financial Strength

One of the hallmark achievements of Dr. Fennell’s administration is the successful completion of a modern, state-of-the-art residential facility, Gilmore-Hartley Hall. The dormitory was not only constructed during his presidency but was also fully paid in full during his tenure.

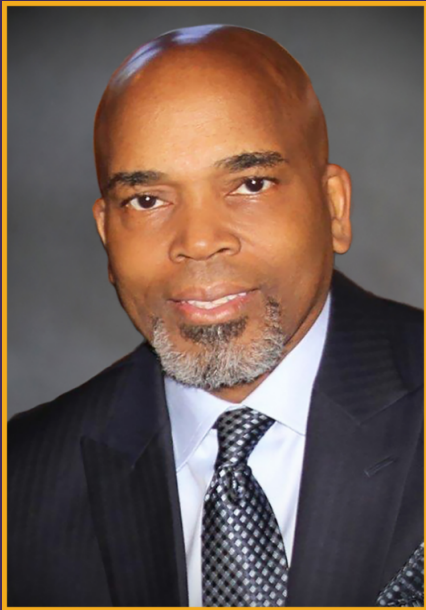


Dr. & Mrs. Dwight J Fennell
College President

The residence hall completion represents more than improved housing; it symbolizes Texas College’s commitment to enhancing the student experience, modernizing campus facilities, and investing in long-term institutional growth. The dormitory stands as a lasting testament to Dr. Fennell’s foresight, financial stewardship, and dedication to student-centered progress.

In addition to significant facility growth, Texas College’s financial endowment has grown significantly under Dr. Fennell’s leadership. Through disciplined financial management, faithful fundraising, and strengthened community partnerships, the College now stands on a stronger financial foundation.





Academic Excellence and Accreditation Success

Perhaps one of the most recent achievements during Dr. Fennell's tenure is the institution's recent success in its 2025 accreditation examination. Texas College passed all requirements—a milestone that reflects years of intentional academic refinement, administrative accountability, and collective dedication. Accreditation success is never an isolated accomplishment; it is the result of sustained, strategic leadership. Dr. Fennell's emphasis on shared governance, integrity, and productivity helped build the framework that made such success possible.

A Career Defined by Service and Scholarship

Dr. Fennell's life story is a testament to the power of education. A native of Miami, he charted an academic path that took him from Saint Augustine's College to advanced graduate study at Atlanta University, Florida International University, and ultimately Florida State University, where he earned both the Education Specialist and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. He later completed post-doctoral work as an ACE Fellow, further sharpening his administrative & leadership acumen.

A Legacy That Will Last

During his presidency at Texas College, Dr. Fennell's impact has been deeply felt by students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the surrounding community. His student-centered leadership cultivated enrollment growth, enhanced academic programs, significant facility improvements, a stronger financial endowment, and greater community partnerships. His leadership will forever remain woven into the fabric of Texas College, and his contributions will continue to shape its trajectory for generations to come.

Finishing Strong

As President Dwight J. Fennell prepares to close this chapter of his distinguished career, Texas College celebrates a leader who not only strengthened the institution but also positioned it for a vibrant and sustainable future. His tenure has been marked by resilience, progress, and an unwavering belief and dedication to the mission of Texas College.

Texas College celebrates Dr. Dwight J. Fennell for his lifetime of service to education, for his transformational presidency, and for the legacy of excellence he leaves for generations to come. His mark on the College is indelible, and his impact will continue to inspire long after his final day in office. The Texas College community extends its heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Fennell, his wife Mrs. Angelia Fennell for their faithful service to Texas College.

