



**Wharton County
Junior College**

NEWS RELEASE

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CLASS OF 2017

WCJC holds 71st annual graduation ceremony

WHARTON, TEXAS – Wharton County Junior College recently held its 71st Annual Commencement Exercises for graduates receiving either an associate of arts degree, an associate of applied science degree or the associate of arts in teaching degree. More than 240 graduates participated in two separate ceremonies held at the Wharton campus.

A special commencement address was provided by 329th District Court Judge Randy Clapp. In his address, Clapp congratulated graduates for their accomplishments and shared a “secret of success” that centered on volunteering time and talents for the benefit of others.

During the ceremonies, students and faculty were recognized for outstanding achievement. The President’s Award was presented to Johnathan Klotz of Wallis, and 2017 Dean’s Awards were presented to Ala’a Al-Natour of Sugar Land, John Robert Wokoun of Boling and Amber Waldon of Needville for having the highest grade point averages in the graduating class.

The Outstanding Service Award – given to a student who best exemplifies a spirit of service to the college and the community – was presented to Staci Marie Garcia of Palacios.

Award of Teaching Excellence recognition went to WCJC instructors John Dettling, Bob Nottebart, Betty Salas and Celine Siewert. These awards recognize teachers who have distinguished themselves by making a difference in the lives of their students.

The ceremony was held in the Pioneer Gymnasium on WCJC's Wharton campus. Special music was provided by WCJC Choir members under the direction of Choir Director Dr. Kevin Klotz and accompanied by Instructor of Music Debra Lemson.

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