

RICHARDSON/LAKE HIGHLANDS

In Richardson neighborsgo: Thousands celebrate Independence Day at area parades. dallasnews.com/neighborsgo

FOCUS ON YOU

The Metro section will focus on a specific area of the region Thursday-Sunday.

Here's the schedule:

Park Cities.....Thursday

North Dallas.....Friday

Lakewood/East Dallas.....Saturday

Richardson/Lake Highlands.....Sunday

Have an idea for a story about people or events in any of these areas? Send an e-mail to central@dallasnews.com.

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GOOD KID

Abby Taylor

I live in: Richardson

Nickname:

Abz or six-pack

School and grade; college attending:

Richardson High School, graduate; Texas Christian University, majoring in education

Community and school activities: varsity cheerleader, Richardson Symphony League Debutante, National Honor Society, Girls Service League, Carousel Committee, student council, Senior Advisory Board, Senior Interact

My hobbies are: swimming, tanning, shopping, scrapbooking, taking tons of pictures, snowboarding and skiing, playing sand volleyball, working out, hanging out with friends, fishing and river rafting

The three words people use to describe me are: outgoing, funny and witty

I'm most proud of: being accepted to TCU

My favorite school subject is: English

The two people I'd most like to meet are: Will Ferrell and Britney Murphy

The best book I ever read was: *Jude* by Kate Morgenroth

My favorite musical artist is: John Mayer and Norah Jones

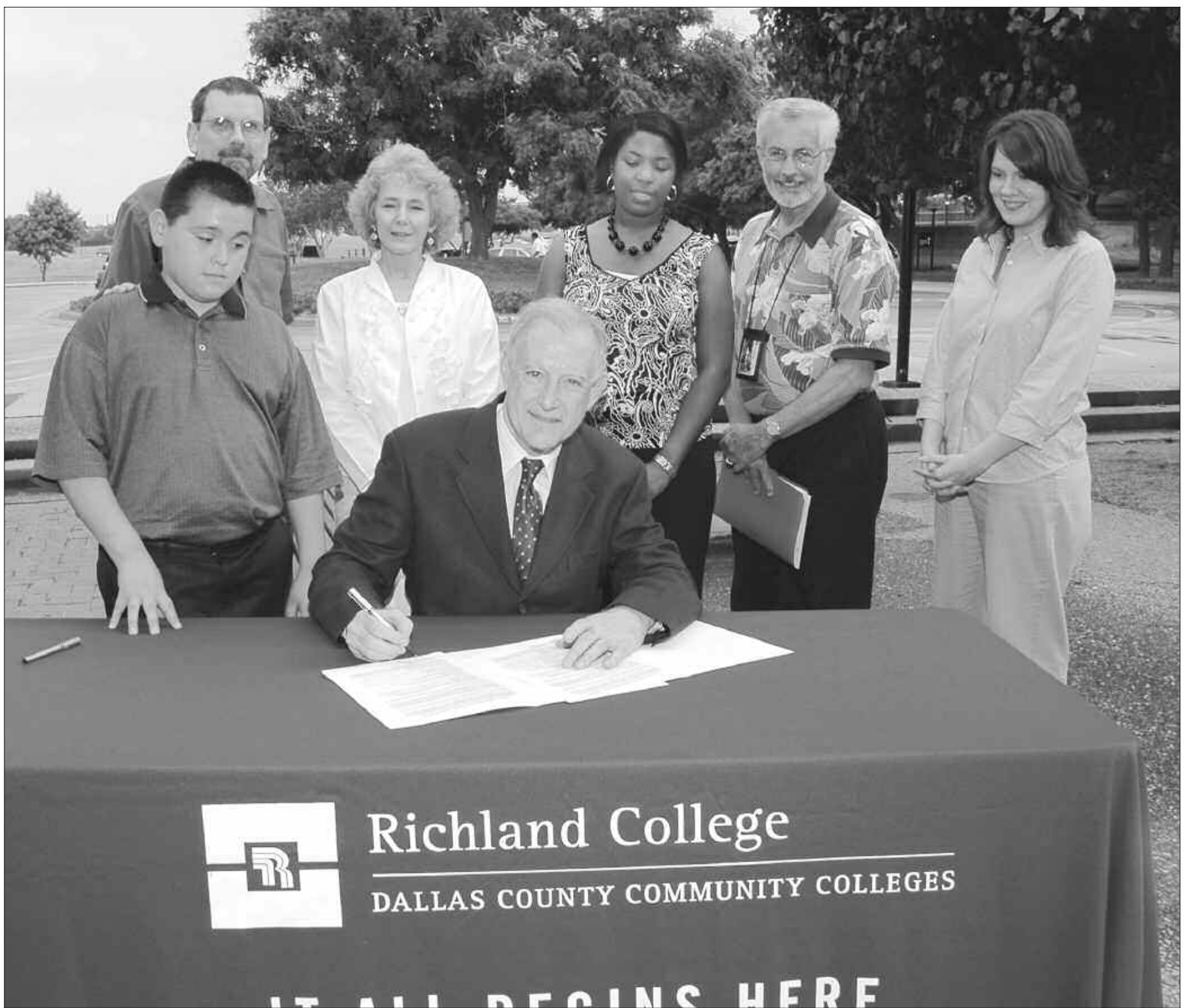
I wish I knew how to: surf

I get inspiration from: seeing someone make a positive change

The best advice I ever received was: balance your life and always be yourself

If I could change one thing about my school, it would be: the sports programs

E-mail Good Kid suggestions to: mddean@dallasnews.com or call 214-977-7618.



Steve Mittelstet of Richland College signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment last month in front of students, staff members and supporters, including (from left) Daniel Camarillo, David Henry, Melinda Weaver, Anitra Cotton, Eddie Hueston and Whitney Rosenbalm.

A natural commitment

At Richland College, climate agreement is just the first step

By EMILY GOLDSTEIN
Staff Writer
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The president of Richland College joined more than 300 leaders of higher education institutions across the country last month to sign the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.

The commitment focuses on climate neutrality — specifically, the elimination of carbon dioxide emissions. By signing the agree-

ment, presidents of higher institutions commit to taking several steps, including performing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and incorporating climate neutrality into the curriculum.

Other Texas schools that have signed the document are Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Houston Community College, Lee College in Baytown and McLennan Community College in Waco.

Steve Mittelstet, Richland's president, said signing the agreement advances the school's mission of teaching, learning, and building a strong and lasting local and world community.

"The Presidents Climate Commitment is an aspect of that, and it addresses most of the components that we are working on anyways," Dr. Mittelstet said.

The school is building two science facilities that will meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design benchmark of the U.S. Green Building Council. Dr. Mittelstet said the buildings will serve as learning tools for students.

The school has invited its environmental action group, GreenRichland, which includes faculty, staff and students, to help carry out the commitment.

"We all came together out of the belief that it was time to start

working on sustainability for the college," said David Henry, co-chair of GreenRichland.

Colleen Schell, vice president of marketing for ecoAmerica, lauded the college presidents, which include leaders from institutions such as the University of California system and New York University.

"The presidents that have signed on have really taken a huge step into making climate neutrality the goal," Ms. Schell said.

She added that though the signers know that meeting the commitment will be a challenge, they understand its importance.

"This is a message for prosperity, not peril," she said.

Mr. Henry, who also serves as Richland's coordinator of international and ESL student services, said, "The important thing about the commitment is that it's an action-oriented document."

His group has already worked with the school to improve and expand Richland's recycling program and save electricity by improving the heating, cooling and lighting systems.

Dr. Mittelstet said he hopes Richland's actions will serve as a lesson for students and others.

"We believe that as a community college in particular, we are called on to model ways of building community, and in our case, building sustainable community."

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