Report warns of ‘catastrophic failure’

In December 2016, an engineer’s report detailed concerns to the college about the aging facades on several NW Campus buildings, saying that they could possibly lead to “catastrophic failure.”

The report, from engineering firm Huitt-Zollars titled the Northwest Campus Facade Assessment, has never been publicly released, and TCC officials haven’t revealed many of the specific details in the assessment to the public. The Collegian obtained it through an open records request.

Reginald Gates, vice chancellor for communications and external affairs, did not respond to requests seeking comment.

Findings show that while the buildings are structurally sound, the 40-plus-year-old brick facades have issues such as missing brick ties, rust on studs and tracks, and mold in several areas. A storm with high winds in the spring of 2016 tore off a large section of bricks from the WTLO building. No injuries were reported then, and no one has been hurt since then after scaffolding was put in place to protect students.

But the assessment showed the risk of bricks falling from the facade still existed as of the time of the report.

Workers stand outside the deteriorating WTLO tower while staring at a 200-square-foot void on the side of the building after a storm pulled the bricks off the wall in March 2016.

Structural issues raise safety concerns about NW campus

“A failure may not happen tomorrow, but there is no guarantee that it will not, which adds to the urgency of addressing these concerns.”

Northwest Campus Facade Assessment
by engineering firm Huitt-Zollars

Technology, fire truck amid approvals at meeting

The TCC board of trustees held a short meeting, approving continued contracts for technology maintenance, campus repairs and more training equipment Oct. 24.

Before the agenda items were up for consideration and approval from the board, president of the board Conrad Heede called to order the meeting with no public comments and unanimous approval of the past meetings’ minutes.

The previous governance meeting allowed for extensive questioning, discussion and debate time to flesh out the ideas and proposals presented to the board.

“We’ve already discussed them in full, so if we are very brief tonight, it’s because we’ve had a full discussion a week and a half ago,” said Heede.

Board of trustees member Bill Greenhill outlined the audit and finance report before summarizing recent board member training.

He also reminded the board and meeting attendees to get to the ballot box and cast a vote on the bond proposal.

“[I’d like to encourage you to go out and vote],” Greenhill said.

Greenhill took the time to echo Greenhill’s message to go out and vote on the bond proposal that will allot $825 million for TCC.

“This election is probably not going to be well-attended, there aren’t going to be a lot of votes, so we urge you to go out because every vote is important,” Heede said.

Four board members attended the Association Of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress Oct. 16-19 in San Francisco, which is the largest professional development opportunity for community college trustees, presidents and other leaders.

“It was very helpful for me,” Greenhill said.

Collegian file photo

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JILL BOLD
managing editor

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Collegian file photo
Students stand up to oppose violence

Home is supposed to be a place of security and support, but for millions around the country it is anything but a sanctuary. Stereotypes abound: Only women are abused; only men abuse women; domestic violence is only for the rich. In fact, domestic violence is an equal opportunity scourge affecting thousands of women, and to a lesser extent, men, across good and bad neighborhoods according to Primo Prevention LLC.

It’s a crime and punishable by law to abuse one’s spouse. In observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, NW advising and counseling personnel with the director of student conduct and prevention educationLeen Minster to host These Hands Oct. 22.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline broadly defines domestic violence as a “patterns of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship.”

This definition of domestic violence includes physical and sexual abuse, emotional manipulation as well as economic deprivation. In an effort to brand domestic violence as the menace it is, students were invited to write their name or a meaningful message on a hand-shaped paper cut-out and place it on the window as a pledge to never let their hands or another person.

Christina Martinez, NW special services coordinator, said they wanted to host this event because it is something that many students have either experienced first-hand or know someone affected by domestic violence.

After the pledge was made, students were given a purple (the color of the cause) bag full of pamphlets on varying resources in English and Spanish.

Here for the I Can Still Shine program for women and children is to support human trafficking and Tarrant County Women’s Center were all included in the bag. Victim’s assistance, a department in the TCC Police Department, was also at the table to hand out information on various issues, such as drug use and alcoholism.

“We are just trying to let students know that we are here for them, and we have the resources that can help,” Martinez said.

Advising and counseling offer confidential personal counseling as well as several referrals to outside organizations, NW counselor Jim Sheppard said.

Anyone experiencing domestic violence can reach out to TCC advising and counseling or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or TTY 1-800-787-3224.

Trick-or-treating takes over TCC

A child dresses up as Disney’s Tinkerbell during the event.

Photo by Christian Garza/The Collegian

TRR surgical services coordinator Christina Blevins represents the surgical technology program while playing with slime during Trick-or-Treat Down Main Street on TRR Campus Oct. 25.

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Northwest Veterans Lunch
Nov. 12: 11:30-1 p.m.
Arbor Suites 3102-402

Trinity River Veterans Week Breakfast
Nov. 13: 9-10 a.m.

Veterans Resource Center Appreciation Breakfast
Nov. 12: 7-8 a.m.

Veterans Quarterly Coffee Break
Nov. 12: 9-10 a.m.

Veterans Day Celebration Luncheon
Nov. 11: 11 a.m.

Visits to the Southlake Museum of Fine Arts
Nov. 9: 2-5 p.m.

Veterans Career Expo
Nov. 10: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Veterans Day Celebration
Nov. 11: 11 a.m.

Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony
Nov. 11: 10 a.m.

Veterans Day Observation
Nov. 11: 11 a.m.

Veterans Day Breakfast
Nov. 13: 7-8 a.m.

Veterans Day Breakfast
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Fall Fest brings magic

The annual Fall Fest event took place on NE Campus Oct. 23, encouraging a Harry Potter theme and titled “Toro and the Order of the TruthMakers.”

Running from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the festival allowed students to enjoy the fall weather outdoors and socialize with other students and organizations.

Vendors, as well as many universities from the area, NE organizations, military branches and even an organization with information about the 2020 census, were invited to set up tables with their merchandise. Students filled NE courtyard as a DJ played music that ranged from the rap hit, “My Type” by Saweetie to the Halloween song, “Thriller” by Michael Jackson.

NE student and vendor Chloe Woolery said when she first heard about the event, she thought it would be a good idea to host a booth showcasing various ceramic creations to raise money for her TCC ceramics class.

She volunteered at International College, another campus event. “It helped me get out of my comfort zone,” Woolery said. “So I thought, ‘Why not do Fall Fest as well?’”

One of the organizations present was Psi Beta, the National Honor Society in psychology. “They saw this as a good opportunity to hand out student stress tests and help those interested in making their own stress balls.”

SEVERIN SEVERSKE

Board Meeting (continued from page 1)

because it taught me to understand the business of community colleges,” said board member Kenneth Barr. “One of the things I took away was that Tarrant County College has its act together better than just about anybody. This district is a leader, we came away feeling very good.”

The board approved several projects, including replacing original field bleachers with ADA compliant ones on South campus and repairs and construction projects on NW Campus, totaling $1.1 million.

The board approved technology upgrades and maintenance for all campuses and renewed the Proctor contract for online courses or attend a recruiting event.

Why Transfer to Texas Woman's University?

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even texters and drivers hate texters and drivers.

stop texts stop wrecks.org

STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG

HATE TEXTERS AND DRIVERS.
“A failure may not happen tomorrow. There is no guarantee that it will not occur. It is in the service of recognizing these concerns,” according to the report.

Every building on campus was found to have facade issues, and none of the buildings met the requirements of the International Energy Conservation Codes due to the original design and construction. NW Campus originally was completed in 1974 with other buildings added throughout 1992.

While some buildings did not meet modern standards, the construction appears to have involved common practices at the time, according to the assessment.

Yet one building had an unforeseen problem. The original construction documents for WTLO indicated that brick ties were to be used to keep the bricks attached to the walls. However, when Huitt-Zollars’ engineers investigated the area where the bricks had fallen, no brick ties appeared to be present at the WTLO tower.

“The lack of brick ties, age and possible unusually severe wind event all likely had some contribution to the failure but to what degree each contributed will at this stage factor contributed is not clear,” according to Dave Keal in the field observation report.

With the exception of these buildings, it was recommended by Huitt-Zollars; that all buildings remove the brick and replace it with a new facade to ensure safety and remain within code.

After the storm

The storm on March 8, 2016, surprised most of us. It came from the side of the fifth floor of WTLO and started what would become a multi-year saga of scaffolding, fencing and evaluation.

In May 2016, TCC spent $491,619 to hire Huitt-Zollars to evaluate the damage and investigate when the building would be safe again.

The evaluation ended in December of that year with the facade assessment being given to TCC and led to a series of reports and recommendations. From Huitt-Zollars, ultimately telling TCC to make some drastic changes to stay up to code and to ensure the safety of the students, staff and faculty.

Then in January 2017, shortly after receiving the assessment, TCC spent $403,806 to install scaffolding across NW, which was later removed for another 12 months in November for further investigation and another 12 months in December 2018 at the price of $503,560.

While the scaffolding kept getting repaired, $240,394 was spent on architecture firm Blackbeard and Associates, Inc. and design firm Gens, and Associates, Inc. and design firm Gens and Partners, Inc. for WHPE.

Path to the bond election

Scaffolding was installed January 2017, almost a year after the facade collapsed, to keep students and faculty safe as they work on campus. It remains in place for the foreseeable future.

Silence from the college

Since the report was given to the college in December 2016, TCC officials have spoken on the future of the campus.

However, the college has yet to release many of the details or warn officials have spoken on the future of the campus, which would take at least until 2024.

“Due to the damage, we are beginning to talk about the possibility of having to literally rebuild the campus,” Carter said.

The board knew the cost was going to be in the billions, and there seemed no recourse to recover that cost, according to Carter.

However, those plans appear to possibly have inspired the recent bond proposition as it outlines how TCC will use the money gained from a bond election for domiciliary changes including renovations, construction and demolition on NW.

The bond proposition plan includes the demolition of WTLO, WHPE and WHAB as well as the construction of two new buildings along with updated classrooms and new parking lots.

If the bond is approved in the bond election on Nov. 3, the plan will be set in motion to renovate the campus, which would take until at least 2024.

“The work will take time, as the design and ultimately construction will take several years to complete,” he said.

Carter cited the importance of the scaffolding but gave no information as to why it was so necessary beyond the safety of the students and faculty.

“The scaffolding is to ensure everyone’s safety at repair and renovation work continues on the campus,” Carter said.

Nearly three years later, the scaffolding and fence are still up.
Play to encourage student inclusivity

NW students Ahmad Alamini as Lucien (left) and Frank Yandall as Norman (middle) practice with their props as Tavin Bothel as Arnold (right) looks on during rehearsal for “The Boys Next Door.”

Bothel displays his over-the-top acting style by sprawling over a chair as he prepares to play Arnold in NW’s upcoming play.
Students rehearse scenes from plays they also had the opportunity to write. The productions will be performed at the annual “The Festival of New Plays” Oct. 13-16 at 7:30 p.m.

Actor Jeremy Irons serves as one of the villains in the “Watchmen” series named Ozymandias who’s hellbent on causing a catastrophic event that will change the course of history.

Academy Award winner Regina King plays the lead role as Sister Night, a vigilante who herpetologists believe they are in the footsteps of the original Watchmen’s diaries as a reason to spread hate and cause civil unrest in the world. Starring the illusion King’s character is due to fear of not meeting the mark set by Alan Moore. In the wrong circumstances, the universe’s form of reparation for police officers... Po - "This is a must-see TV." - Writers’ rooms need to be treated as you keep climbing the mountain, as long as you are willing to learn that what you have learned that shaped their thoughts and opinions. The only people who will have an issue with this show are people who shy away from objects and critical thinking. This is must-see TV.
The NE theater program will put on “Sense and Sensibility,” a play adapted by Kate Hamill based on Jane Austen’s novel. “I wanted to tell some stories about women lifting themselves up and becoming stronger,” NE associate professor Jacob Cabe said. The play challenges most of the actors to play more than one role. “One of the biggest challenges for them is shifting immediately from one character to another,” Cabe said. NE student Jazmine Diaz plays the role of Marianne Dashwood, who she said is known as the sensibility of the story because of her emotional demeanor. “This is my first lead role,” Diaz said. “Marianne is such an emotionally draining character because she is so passionate about everything.” NE student Sarah Hart plays Elinor Dashwood, the more reserved sister of the two. Hart said that even though Elinor is the more collected of the sisters, she recognizes that she has a big responsibility to take care of her other sister, and she wants to do the character justice on stage. “It involves so many small, intricate parts, and I’m just so excited for people to see it put together,” she said.

The South Campus theater program will perform selections from Suzan-Lori Parks’ “365 Days/365 Plays” Nov. 1-2. The plays concept is to combine multiple short excerpts written each day, and 13 excerpts will be chosen out of 365 written by Parks. “I want each of them to be wonderfully independent,” said director Richie Haratine regarding the process of cohesively choosing the pieces. “I want the audience to get excited because each one [excerpt] carries its own bit of energy and conflict.” South student Joe Crestsinger commented on how to get into his character. “I tried to think of the acting in movies that I’ve watched, then I kind of visualize it,” Crestsinger said. South student Lillian Sepulveda found common ground with one of her characters. “I relate to Tosha a lot because she is sassy and a huge feminist and that is how I see myself too,” she said. South student Randi Ragan said she is very excited about one of her upcoming roles. “I will play the disgruntled friend for ‘The Great Depression’ and ‘Look’ selections, where I get to express myself through this character,” she said. Hart says that even though Elinor is the more collected of the sisters, she recognizes that she has a big responsibility to take care of her other sister, and she wants to do the character justice on stage. “It involves so many small, intricate parts, and I’m just so excited for people to see it put together,” she said.

Upcoming play focuses on bond between sisters

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Selections from 365 Plays/365 Days Nov. 1-2 at 7:30 P.M. in the Joe B. Rushing Center for the Performing Arts on South Campus.

Photos by Christa Jarvis/The Collegian
Paritib Gurung/The Collegian
Brooke Baldwin/The Collegian

Top row: Trang Nguyen, Colton Calhoon, Jye Ghais
Middle row: Gabriella Molina, Shi-lish Miller
Bottom row: Nicki Karragans, John Goffrier

Brooke Baldwin/The Collegian
Joe Crestsinger (left), Lillian Sepulveda (middle) and Randi Ragan (right) rehearse for the “365 Days/365 Plays,” which debuts Nov. 1 on South Campus.

Photos by Christa Jarvis/The Collegian

June Arora/The Collegian
Paritib Gurung/The Collegian

Top row: Trang Nguyen, Colton Calhoon, Jye Ghais
Middle row: Gabriella Molina, Shi-lish Miller
Bottom row: Nicki Karragans, John Goffrier

Brooke Baldwin/The Collegian
Joe Crestsinger (left), Lillian Sepulveda (middle) and Randi Ragan (right) rehearse for the production of “Sense and Sensibility,” which debuts Nov. 1 on South Campus.
Delays can result in better entertainment

LeBron values profit over end-free speech

community benefits from early voting

Anything that enhances a citizen’s ability to vote is valuable to democracy, and early voting can provide more accessibility for all American voters.

In any state with low early voting turnout or no early voting option at all, the problems are immense. Lines on election day are inevitably long for voters because everyone is forced to be at one designated location, in a short amount of time, on the same day.

With early voting, people can vote over several weeks and in many different locations. Providing more locations to ease the burden of a frustratingly long line is already in place in 32 states and the District of Columbia. Political campaigns can view the publicly available vote records and see ahead of time who is voting on which day. This can be a more fair comment to make. Candidates and their staff can focus on voters who have yet to cast a ballot and try to get them to the polls on the ground to reach these people. At the same time, they are able to avoid pestering their constituents who have already voted in the current election.

Attempting to vote early and finding an irregularity with one’s ability to vote is an obstacle that can be overcome with enough time. Taking advantage of early voting offers the solution in this dilemma that affects so many people by allowing that person some time to resolve their registration discrepancies and get their voice heard through their vote. Early voting is the built-in second chance that many voters need during an election.

Tarrant County provides 44 voting locations for elections in 2020, citing poor turnout. The Texas legislature, dominated by Republicans, signed H.B. 1888 back in June to eliminate early voting locations on all campuses.

Realizing the importance of early voting and taking advantage of it truly enhances the democratic process of this nation. An informed electorate is the strength of our nation’s democracy.

All citizens, regardless of their political affiliation, should desire the ability to vote and take ownership of their right to vote their opinions at the polls.

Anything that impedes a person’s ability to vote is harmful to democracy, and citizens must remain vigilant when it comes to preserving their voting rights.
The festival is celebrated from midnight Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, in central and southern Mexico.

**HISTORY**

The Aztecs developed the ritual around 3,000 years ago because they believed one should not grieve the loss of a beloved ancestor who passed. Instead, the Aztecs celebrated their lives and welcomed the return of their spirits to the land of the living once a year. That is where the food, drink and music offerings come in. Mexico and many other Latin countries like Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela all have their distinct ways of welcoming back their passed loved ones. Some not as colorful and festive as the Mexican version, but still a spiritual time for families to get together and reflect.

**TRADITION**

People come together in their cities dressed up with Calavera painted faces (skeletons) and have parades in the streets. Cemetery visits are also common on the last day as families will go to decorate the grave sites with marigold flowers, gifts and sugar skulls with their departed loved ones’ names on them. It’s customary to clean the gravestone and restore the color.

In Mexican culture, they did not think death is a sadness. They believed the death would be insulted by mourning or sadness. To them, death is a natural part of human’s life. This is a way of celebrating the lives by partying and activities.

Tamale (dough made from masa, wrapped in aromatic leaves (usually corn husks or banana leaves) and steam cooked) is one of the most common foods during the festival.

**BELIEFS**

It is believed that the passageway between the living and dead is open during these two days so the two are able to communicate with each other.