

# 2024 PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



ISSUE  
**01**



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

## President's Message



*Shown here from left, St. Philip's College Mascot Phil the Tiger, and student golfers; Chris Saucedo, Emanuel Davis, Adeli Perez, Gilbert Garza, Krystal Andrade-Ramirez, Davina Lathers, Jessica Washington, and St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.*



I am honored to share with you the profound impact that giving back has at our college. Throughout our 125th anniversary year, St. Philip's College raised \$3.3 million for scholarships and program support.

A transformative donation of \$1 million from our regional partner, H-E-B, went directly toward the construction of a new black box theater, serving as an expansion of our Watson Fine Arts Center. This 20,000-square-foot extension has the potential to impact nearly 1,000 St. Philip's College students studying fine arts.

This year, we surpassed our fundraising goals at our 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, raising over \$2 million since 2009. These generous donations from partners help change the trajectory of our student's lives and their family's income. Approximately 77% of our student population relies on financial aid, grants, loans, and scholarships to fund their education. Scholarships and endowments help students mitigate or eliminate debt after college.

In 2023, St. Philip's College awarded scholarships to 716 students. To a student, a scholarship can be the deciding factor between dropping out or being able to continue their studies to complete their degree.

Giving back is a reflection of our commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of those in our community. As Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's persistent and most urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" May our collective efforts inspire positive change and uplift those in need.

# SPC's 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Thanks to sponsors and golf enthusiasts over the last 15 years, our annual Scholarship Golf Tournament raised over \$2 million for student scholarships. This year, the annual event broke records once again.

On March 1, the 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament raised over \$165,000, exceeding this year's fundraising goal of \$130,000. SPC employees and students, local leaders, and corporation executives gathered at Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center in Universal City to support student scholarships.

This year's title sponsor, with a donation of \$50,000, was supermarket chain H-E-B. Sponsoring companies for the President's List included CPS Energy, Valero, and Jordan Ford.

Contributions from this event go directly towards scholarships for students, who are pursuing over 100 degrees or certificate options at St. Philip's College.

"We are immensely grateful for the transformative impact of the scholarship funds raised through our golf tournament. These funds offer a vital opportunity to students encountering challenges that might otherwise impede their educational and personal aspirations. Your generosity paves the way for their success, and we deeply appreciate your support," said College Budget Officer and Golf Tournament Tri-Chair Jorge Flores.

The Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament is the largest source of student scholarships, which has the potential to impact over 85 students annually.



*Baking & Pastry students, under the direction of Chef Instructor Cynthia De La Fuentes, provided dessert for the event.*



*Shown here from left, Steven Zuniga, Alexandro Sanchez, James Martinez, Interim Dean for Student Success, Enrollment Management Andres Arredondo, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Terrence Littlefield, Johnny Moore, Derrell Skillman, and Jerry Wilton (not pictured).*

## SPC Hosts Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Ceremony



On the morning of January 24, St. Philip's College hosted the Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Ceremony. Nearly 150 students, staff, faculty, and community members gathered in the Watson Fine Arts Auditorium, and virtually through Zoom, to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King.

"The SPC Remembrance Ceremony was born out of the weather cancellation of the historic SA MLK March. In the spirit of MLK, Jr., we were not deterred and continued with our own wonderful celebration," said Vice President for Academic Success Wesley Wells. "We plan to return to the SA MLK March, next year. Now, we have a new tradition. We will add the SPC MLK Jr. Remembrance Ceremony and Solidary March to our campus event schedule every year in late January leading into Black History Month."

The remembrance included "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by Michelle Burnett, an occasion by St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, remarks by special guest Bexar County Precinct 4 Commissioner Tommy Calvert, and a showing of the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. The event ended with lunch in the Turbon Student Center.

## SPC Culinary Arts Students Play Vital Role in Cowboy Breakfast



With a notable display of enthusiasm, more than 60 St. Philip's College culinary arts students assembled at 142 Gemblar Rd. on Jan. 26 at 2:00 a.m. for the annual San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Cowboy Breakfast. This event is a kick-off for the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo's Bar-B-Que Cook-Off weekend. Attendees enjoyed complimentary parking, a wide variety of free breakfast tacos, and coffee.

"It was an excellent opportunity to build a new relationship with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. The St. Philip's College Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts department has a long-standing tradition of ensuring that the Cowboy Breakfast has student culinarians to help with this event to promote scholarships. Our students are eager to assist with community projects and we stand ready to assist with future Cowboy Breakfast events," said Culinary Arts Program Director Patrick Brown.

Within just a four-hour window, these students worked with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo staff and volunteers to feed community members from across the city of San Antonio. SPC culinary arts students were crucial in the success of this event preparing 15,000 tacos with 150 pounds of bacon, 800 pounds of sausage links, 300 pounds of chorizo, 1,200 pounds of eggs, 360 pounds of beans, and 250 pounds of cheese.

This event's success showcased SPC's commitment to providing real-world experiences for its students and fostering connections within the broader community. SPC student teamwork resulted in a memorable moment for the entire community.

# Reflecting on African Americans and the Arts during Black History Month



*Shown here from left, St. Philip's College Director of Marketing & Strategic Communications and event moderator Adrian Jackson and Creator of the Race Card Project Michele Norris.*

As the nation observed Black History Month in February 2024, the vibrant celebrations in San Antonio found a focal point at St. Philip's College, the city's only historically black college. Under the national theme "African Americans and the Arts," the month-long festivities served as a time of reflection on the diverse creative contributions of African, Caribbean, and Black Americans.

A notable highlight included "Meet the Artist," featuring the well-known fiber artist and quilter, Deborah A. Moore Harris.

For those eager to delve into SPC history, "Alive! at the Library," a living museum, paid homage to historical college figures. Attendees had the opportunity to interact with trailblazers who shaped the 126-year legacy of the college.

One of the more thought-provoking events of the month was "Our Hidden Conversations: A Fireside Chat with Michele Norris." This engaging discussion, led by acclaimed journalist Michele Norris, provided a platform for the SPC community to engage in candid reflections on race and identity.

St. Philip's College serves as a vibrant hub of cultural celebration, education, and dialogue, fostering a deeper appreciation in students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the wider community.



*Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology – SWC Chris Beardsall portrays St. Philip's College historical figure Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas James Steptoe Johnston as a group of SPC employees stop by his station at Alive! at the Library.*



*Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Sharon Crockett-Ray portrayed former St. Philip's College President Dr. Angie Runnels Stokes, who served the college from 2000-2006.*



## SPC Hosts Red Dress Luncheon



On February 14, St. Philip's College hosted its Annual Red Dress Luncheon in recognition of American Heart Month.

SPC students from various student organizations and clubs joined staff and faculty in the Bowden Alumni Center for the event. The program began with opening remarks by St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, followed by a city proclamation, and a keynote speech by SPC Nursing Faculty Member Melissa Benson.

The Department of Student Life gave away door prizes and sponsored an online auction with all proceeds going to student

scholarships. Valeria Martinez, a student at St. Philip's College, expressed her experience at the event, "I really enjoyed attending and it was my first time going to an event like this. It was informative about heart health and it encouraged me to be more aware of my lifestyle choices."

As a symbolic gesture at the end of the event, all attendees were presented with a single red rose, as a symbol of the importance of heart health and a tangible reminder of the lessons learned during the Red Dress Luncheon.



Shown here from left, St. Philip's College Princess Alyssa Vasquez-Garza, Miss Black San Antonio 2023 -2024 Davina Lathers, and St. Philip's College Duchess Bertice Scott.



Shown here from left, SPC students Valeria Martinez, Patricia Pardo, and Sarah Sanchez.

# SPC Receives Transformative Million-Dollar Donation

St. Philip's College is thrilled to announce a transformative donation of \$1 million from the regional supermarket chain and partner, H-E-B.

H-E-B's years of donations to SPC have opened doors for students to pursue their academic goals without financial barriers and will continue to create opportunities to engage the community. H-E-B's current donation secures naming rights and will go towards building the Black Box Theater on campus.

"H-E-B is a longtime partner with SPC, advancing educational opportunities for our students through the Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts programs and with the Tournament of Champions scholarship," said St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "This scholarship has continued since 2012 with more than 500 students receiving scholarships ranging

between \$500 and \$1,000 per award. This helps a student from onboarding through completion. H-E-B has been intentional about our students and they encourage a completion agenda that satisfies career goals." Since 2003, this long-standing partnership between H-E-B and SPC continues to

highlight a shared commitment to education.

"At H-E-B, supporting education has always been a top priority. We truly believe in the power and profound impact education has on our lives. That commitment starts at the very top of our organization with our

Chairman Charles Butt," said Winell Herron, H-E-B Group Vice President Public Affairs, Diversity, and Environmental Affairs. "We are proud to be supporters of St. Philip's and I'd like to congratulate them on the impact they've made in this community over their 125-year history. We're excited to continue our support to the college."

St. Philip's College extends its deepest gratitude to H-E-B for this transformative donation and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on the educational experience of students and the broader community.



*Shown here from left, St. Philip's College Director of Institutional Advancement Dr. Sharon Crockett-Ray, H-E-B Senior Corporate Giving Manager Kristina Jewasko, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, H-E-B Vice President of Public Affairs, Environmental Affairs Winell Herron, and Executive Director of Institutional Advancement for the Alamo Colleges Foundation Bart Simpson.*



## Phil the Mascot's Birthday Party

On Monday, March 4, the St. Philip's College community celebrated the 126th birthday of its mascot, Phil the Tiger. The college community gathered for cake, ice cream, and balloon animals.



# ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT St. Philip's College

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**MAY 23, 2024 | 4:00 P.M. | ALAMODOME**

St. Philip's College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of St. Philip's College.

## Upcoming Events

For more information on upcoming events and to receive the latest information on campus announcements follow us on social media.



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