

2025

# PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

ISSUE  
**02**



## President's Message



On May 1, 2025, St. Philip's College celebrated its 30th CultureFest & Rib Cook-Off, the largest official Fiesta event on the east side of San Antonio.

At the heart of CultureFest is a powerful reminder of the tradition, history, and legacy that define the St. Philip's College community. It reflects the deep connections we share with the community, fostering a sense of pride that extends beyond our campus. This year's festivities also served as a tribute to the six dedicated St. Philip's College employees who established CultureFest in 1995 as a two-day gathering known as International Family Day.

This day-long event, hosted on our MLK campus, brought together over a thousand community members for live music, games, activities, and an Open House, welcoming local high school seniors and prospective students to explore our campus and learn about everything that makes St. Philip's College the best in the nation.

The opening ceremony included remarks by Wesley Wells, Vice President of Student Success, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, President of St. Philip's College,

Fabian Castillo, Sr., Rey Feo 76, Judge William "Cruz" Shaw, Steve Rosenauer, Executive Director of Fiesta San Antonio, and Seymour Battle, Senior Vice President of Communications, Public Relations & Engagement at Valero Energy Corporation.

Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed friendly competitions, including our signature Rib Cook-Off, a dessert competition, and our newest competition for non-alcoholic beverages. The car show competition had over 60 vehicles registered across four different classes. The BBQ grill raffle, sponsored by the local masonic lodges, featured seven custom-designed grills crafted by SPC welding students, raising over \$7,000 in scholarships.

As we reflect on the success of this year's CultureFest, we are reminded of the important role our community plays in shaping the future of our students and our institution. Together, we strengthen the bonds that make our college and our city a place of opportunity, growth, and student success.



*Shown here from left are the winners for the Rib Cook-off: Craig Overmiller in third place, Alexandra Wilhelm in second place, and Rochel'le Duran in first place.*



*Shown here from left are the winners for the Dessert Competition: Paul Lede in third place, Steven Zuniga in second place, and Audra Nabers in first place.*



*Shown here from left are the winners for the Car Show in the modern category: Austin McDorman in third place, Emmanuel S. in second place, and Gabe Garcia in first place.*



# Spurs Forward Harrison Barnes Donates \$250,000 to St. Philip's College



*Shown here from left: Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores, Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Clint Kingsbery, Tiffany Barnes, San Antonio Spurs Forward Harrison Barnes, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Board of Trustees Member Joe Alderete Jr., and Board of Trustees Member Gloria Ray.*

On Feb. 18, 2025, San Antonio Spurs forward Harrison Barnes and his wife, Brittany Barnes, donated \$250,000 to the AlamoPROMISE tuition-free program at St. Philip's College. Approximately 83.5% of the college's 18,000 students rely on financial assistance.

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston discussed the donations' lasting impact during the event.

"Your commitment to supporting education is not just a gift – It is a

profound investment in the future of St. Philip's Colleges students and the east and southwest sides of San Antonio," she said. "Education is a transformative force that unlocks new opportunities and turns dreams into reality."

During Harrison Barnes' remarks, he expressed his and his wife's passion for being advocates of the San Antonio community by investing in the lives of young people.

"Throughout my career, I've had the privilege of experiencing the power

of community and support," Barnes said. "Now, as part of the San Antonio community, we are honored to give back," he said. "It's about creating lasting change, building bridges, and supporting the next generation of leaders."

The event also featured remarks from the Alamo Colleges District Chancellor, Dr. Mike Flores, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, and opening and closing remarks by St. Philip's College 2024 White House HBCU Scholar Daveon Johnson.



*St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston thanks Harrison and Tiffany Barnes for the generous donation.*



*St. Philip's College student Daveon Johnson gives opening remarks at the press conference.*



# SPC Hosts its 16th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament



Student participants from left: Christopher Saucedo, Jessica Washington, Joseph Santos, Karla Delgado, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Diana Perez, Bridgette Ellis, Felicia Andrews, Alyssa Vasquez-Garza, and Emanuel Davis.



Golfers gathered Friday morning on March 7, 2025, at Olympia Hills Golf & Event Center for St. Philip's College's 16th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament is the college's largest fundraising event for student scholarships. This year, the event raised \$132,165, with an additional \$7,000 funds raised through a raffle.

Since it began in 2009, the tournament has raised more than \$1.9 million in scholarship funds. The first event generated \$145,406, and by 2015, fundraising funds had surpassed the \$1 million milestone.




At the event's tee-off ceremony, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston expressed her gratitude, saying, "Today, you are doing God's work, and your mission field is this golf course."

Approximately 150 golfers, including two teams of St. Philip's College students, participated in the tournament. The event was made possible through the generous support of nearly 30 sponsors, individual donors, and title sponsor Valero. CPS Energy has sponsored the event every year. Each golfer received a goody bag valued at more than \$160, including a commemorative shirt, cap, and SPC-branded merchandise. Participants also received a team photo as a keepsake.

The tournament featured a hole-in-one contest at Hole 7, where participants had the chance to win a white Ford Mustang, courtesy of Jordan Ford, the event's Artemisia Bowden List sponsor. Additional prizes, including trophies, were awarded during lunch.



St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston gives opening remarks marking tee time for the tournament's golfers.

		
<b>QUESENBERRY:</b> Pete Casiano Jimmy Miller Gary Quesenberry Garrett Rogers	<b>CITY OF SELMA:</b> Agee Wyatt Robert Klaerner Jean Porto Michael Shipman	<b>ST. PHILIP'S:</b> Chris Beardsall Carlos Solis Jessica Cooper Diego Lopez

Women's: Closest to the pin – Jessica Cooper; Longest drive – Erika Iriarte  
Men's: Closest to the pin – Freddie Garza; Longest drive – Matt Rodriguez



## SPC Hosts its 2nd Annual LULAC Partnership Event



The St. Philip's College (SPC) Student Onboarding and Recruitment department hosted its 2nd Annual League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Partnership Events on March 20, 2025, for Highlands High School students and Sam Houston High School students on March 26, 2025. The partnership with LULAC is designed to introduce local high school seniors to the opportunities available in higher education.

The events started with a welcome from Andres C. Arredondo, St. Philip's College's Dean of Student Success, Enrollment Management. Students rotated through various information sessions covering the college's academic programs, support services, and career opportunities.

During this session, students gained insight into financial aid, academic advising, campus safety, and student

resources. Additionally, attendees earned college credit for completing New Student Orientation, giving them a head start on their college journey. The events also included a campus tour, allowing students to explore the college campus.

The partnership between SPC and LULAC highlights a shared commitment to removing barriers to higher education and empowering students.

"The event shows that college is achievable for students," said Interim Team Lead Dawn Lopez. "Being on the SPC campus allows these high school students to visualize their academic success and reassures them that they will have the support they need once they are here."

## SPC Hosts its Spring 2025 Honors Convocation

St. Philip's College celebrated the academic achievements of 1,729 students during its Spring 2025 Honors Convocation Ceremony on March 19, 2025, recognizing their dedication and excellence during the Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 semesters.

Student honorees were acknowledged in two categories: the Dean's Honor List, which includes students with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999, and the President's Honors List, awarded to students who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA while enrolled in at least 12 credit hours. This year, 828 students were named to the Dean's Honor List, while 901 students achieved a 4.0 GPA and earned a place on the President's Honors List.

The words of the college's founding president, Saint Artemisia Bowden, echoed throughout the ceremony: "Learn to do something and do it well," as St. Philip's College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, emphasized



the significance of the student's academic commitment.

"Students, you have created a firm foundation through your hard work and determination. It is our privilege to watch you soar," said Dr. Loston. "You are laying the groundwork for future generations of

your family to excel. You are the example of what is possible with hard work."

Family members and friends were also recognized for their unwavering support in helping their students succeed. The event concluded with a presentation of certificates and refreshments.





## St. Philip's College Joins 39th Annual César E. Chávez March for Justice

Nearly 50 students and employees from St. Philip's College participated in the 39th Annual César E. Chávez March for Justice on Saturday, March 22, 2025, joining thousands of community members to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the civil rights leader.

The 2-mile march began at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, where attendees enjoyed a mariachi performance and speeches from government officials, including San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Congressman Joaquin Castro. After a skit reenacting the beginning of the United Farm Workers movement and the symbolic release of birds, the procession began.

St. Philip's College Career Experience Team Leader Nate Martinez introduced his entire family to the legacy that César E. Chávez left. "It was important for my wife and three children to join me for the

march. I wanted my boys to get a sense of our history and culture while learning what César Chávez stood for," said Nate. "He stood up to the bullies in the fields, and we have to do the same in our own lives."

Participants concluded the march with a group photo in front of the Tower of the Americas and a celebration at Hemisfair Park featuring live music, food trucks, and additional special guest speakers.





# SPC Hosts 16th Annual Women Breaking Through Conference

St. Philip's College hosted its 16th Annual Women Breaking Through Conference on March 21, 2025, at its Southwest Campus, bringing together students, faculty, and professionals to encourage young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The conference was created to inspire and motivate young women to pursue educational opportunities in STEM fields. St. Philip's College collaborates with faculty and local professional women in STEM careers to be positive role models for the next generation of women interested in these fields.

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston welcomed attendees to begin the conference, emphasizing the importance of empowering women in STEM fields.

"Men and women are equally gifted in science and mathematics, but there is a nationwide imbalance of males versus females in STEM fields," she said. "I encourage you to take advantage of today's conference, ask questions, and build relationships with women you admire in your field of interest."

Attendees participated in hands-on workshops, engaging with industry experts, followed by a STEM panel discussion. Panelists included Jennifer Castro from the Alamo Colleges District, Joy Etkins from the San Antonio Water System, Jessica Gonzalez of Wiss, Janney, Elstner, Associates Inc. (WJE), and Juan Song from the Alamo Colleges District. The event concluded with an exploration of STEM careers at various information booths.



## H-E-B's Giving History to St. Philip's College Continues



On March 26, 2025, H-E-B announced a \$400,000 donation to the Alamo Colleges District and its Student Advocacy Centers during an event at St. Philip's College (SPC). This gift included a refrigerated truck and a donation for SPC scholarships.

The Student Advocacy Center at the colleges is a one-stop hub where students can access food pantries, community

partner information, and emergency aid. A study by Trellis Strategies found that 52% of SPC students face food insecurity.

Vice President for Student Success, Wesley Wells, emphasized the importance of the Student Advocacy Center, noting that since the fall semester, over 5,640 pounds of food had been distributed at SPC.

"This truck donation will be a transformative resource," VP Wells said. "This truck represents mobility and progress."

During the event, SPC student Chris Saucedo shared his perspective.

"When students are fed, they can focus. And when their basic needs are met, big dreams can take root and grow," Chris said.

President Dr. Adena Williams Loston closed the event by thanking H-E-B.

"Your generosity will make a tangible difference in our students," Dr. Loston said. "Thank you for being a partner in education and a champion for our community."



# ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT St. Philip's College

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## Southwest Campus Weekend Trades:

# BUILD

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Get your credentials in three semesters.

**800 Quintana Road**  
**Industrial Technology Center (ITC), Building 1**

**June**  
**28**

**9 a.m.**  
**1 p.m.**



## 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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St. Philip's College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award certificates, associate degrees, and a baccalaureate degree. St. Philip's College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of St. Philip's College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).



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