



## SLC re-dedication cont.

and a gallery space where the first exhibit is from the African-American art collection of San Antonio Mayor Emeritus Lila Cockrell. Artists whose work appeared in the gallery and were on hand included John Coleman, Jacqui Dorsey, Anthony Edwards, Glen Franklin, Gracie Poe and Howard Rhoder, all of whom either attended or are alumni of St. Philip's College.

Last renovated in 1998, the building was originally dedicated in 1980 in honor of local civil rights activist Garlington Jerome Sutton (1909-1976), the first Black official elected to the Texas House of Representatives since Reconstruction from District 57 (San Antonio, 1973-1976). At any time of the day in 2014, St. Philip's College is building the marketable

knowledge of online students (5,000), social sciences students (3,500), dual credit students (2,000) and honor students (1,000) from within the G. J. Sutton Learning Center.

The National Anthem and a medley of iconic Negro spirituals were provided for the occasion by gospel singer Cristal Smith, singer Madelyn Gardner, and the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers posted the colors. A \$50,000 check to fund scholarships for St. Philip's College students was presented by Tom Dobson, Chairman of Whataburger, and tributes were provided on behalf of the Sutton family by Charles Andrews, II, the nephew of G. J. Sutton, and Dr. Jeffrey Greene Scott, granddaughter of G. J. Sutton. Guests were able to meet and greet artists.

## Whataburger

On Feb. 27 in our student restaurant Artemisia's, St. Philip's hosted the appreciation dinner for the Whataburger Corporation in recognition of the firm's \$50,000 gift for students scholarships through the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation. The college's culinary arts degree candidates planned and prepared the meal under the direction of college faculty member Chef Frank Salinas. Salinas shared that his first job was at Whataburger when he was in high school.



## Affordable Care Action at SPC

St. Philip's College held its first Health Insurance Marketplace Information Session and Enrollment Event on March 22 in the Atrium of the college's Center For Health Professions building. Thirty of the college's clinical group Level 1 and Level 2 nursing degree candidates hosted guests who came to create an insurance account, apply, pick a plan and enroll in the final days of the six-month-long Affordable Care Act open enrollment sign-up season of 2014.

Students gave back by assisting consumers with health screenings to include blood pressure measurements, as Bexar Health Marketplace Affordable Care Act experts enrolled consumers in advance of the March 31 deadline to enroll for health care under the Affordable Care Act, explained Rose Spruill, Dean of Health Sciences.

"We were excited our students returned from their spring break to make a bit of local medical insurance history by helping health care consumers as they made educated Affordable Health Care Act decisions during the end of the nation's first Affordable Care Act insurance enrollment season," said Spruill. "We could tell we were serving critical national and state

functions when we saw customers arriving at 8:15 a.m., including an amputee guest on crutches, 45 minutes before we formally opened our doors. Our students are helping to ensure vulnerable communities are participating and benefitting. Nurses are the first to advocate for patients' insurance and health. Everybody needs insurance," said Spruill.

"This may have been the first health education event of their careers," college nursing faculty member David Reiff observed with a smile. "As St. Philip's College faculty members, we engage our students in programs that make them want to practice," said Reiff.

Health insurance specialist Roger Adams of the Dallas regional office staff at the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services identified St. Philip's College for participation in the enrollment drive, and the college was the state's only two-year Historically Black College and University member institution participating in the drive as both a facility provider and as a volunteer staff support provider, according to Spruill.

## SGA Marches On



St. Philip's College Student Government Association (SGA) leaders have recently made college student government history.

Association leaders organized the college's first formal participation in the City of San Antonio's Cesar Chavez March for Justice 29, celebrating the legacy of the 1994 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient by walking in the march with 25,000 people from the start at the intersection of Guadalupe St. and S. Brazos St. to the conclusion at the Alamo, blocks from La Villita Historic District, the original site of St. Philip's College.

Twenty participants were accompanied on the route by Dr. Angela McPherson Williams, Director of Student Success and Jason Fabianke, Student Government Association advisor and social and behavioral sciences faculty.

Members of the Future United Latino Leaders for Change (FULLC) student organization, SGA, SPC cheerleaders and Student Leadership Society promoted education by walking the five-mile march, reported to be the largest in city history.

"Participating in this event reaffirms our commitment to diversity and to our students.

We had a great time and hope to increase participation next year," McPherson Williams said.

The SGA leadership for 2014 consists of President Rudy Padilla, Vice President Ashley Garcia, Vice President-Southwest, Lillian Qualls and Senate representatives.

"We were proud to display the banners of St. Philip's College and the Alamo Colleges during the march," said Padilla, a dual culinary arts-restaurant management degree candidate. "Individual students have marched in the past, but not as a college, and we signed them up as a group this year," said Padilla. By organizing the interaction of fellow students with the staff of the Cesar Chavez Service Center in 2012, Padilla along with pre-pharmacy major, Stephanie Vazquez and sister political science major, Jasmin Yessica Vazquez travelled to Washington, D.C., that year to address the national press on the footsteps of the Lincoln Memorial in support of the DREAM Act. Both sisters made college history later in 2012 when they were among the nation's first to receive pledges of federal support to complete college through the DREAM Act.

"The work of the Vazquez sisters as students on the pathway to the American dream was validated through partnership with our student organizations and the Chavez center, and these are some of the reasons our students march," said Padilla. "We march because we share so much interest in Chavez's journey... there were so many inspiring similarities shared by Chavez and Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks and all we had learned in our childhoods about people who battled injustice. By marching, I am able to learn and inform more students as SGA president about Chavez. I can add myself to the people who know about Chavez. I was ashamed not to know before working with the Chavez center that there was a Hispanic leader who stood alongside Martin Luther King."

On March 19 in the Center for Health Professions building, SGA members hosted the Alamo Colleges Student District Council meeting. The meeting convened the Alamo Colleges Student Trustee candidates as well as two-three representatives of each Alamo College. The students met to discuss resources to better improve the state of existing student bodies at all campuses of all Alamo Colleges.

On April 3, Padilla became St. Philip's first nominee for the nonvoting student position on the Alamo Colleges board of trustees. The trustees interview Padilla and the candidates from the other colleges in April, with the decision announcing the student trustee and alternate forecast for announcement at the trustee's May 13 board meeting. The student trustees will serve one-year terms effective May 13 through April 30, 2015. Responsibilities include attendance during all board and committee meetings.



## Culinary Students Serve the Troops

Culinary Arts students Santiago Calderon and Texas Air National Guard Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Osburn prepared two meals for 35 guests at the military's 149th Fighter Wing Bombing Range Open House on March 24 at the range whose users include Airmen from Kelly Field.

The event was organized to educate spouses and family members of the wing's student pilots about their loved one's mission. Guests included a mix of San Antonio Chamber of Commerce military affairs committee members and retired or active duty military service members.

Osburn is the superintendent of a large section of the range by day and a culinary degree candidate at St. Philip's by night. As organizer of the open house, Calderon supported Osburn at the Airman's short-notice invitation to members of college faculty member Chef Rey Valdez's basic food prep night class. For breakfast, Osburn and Calderon prepared potato, egg and cheese tacos. For dinner Calderon and Osburn prepared burgers.

"I have been in the military for over 22 years," Osburn said with a smile. "One constant is that military folks appreciate the efforts of a cooked meal!" Osburn said. "Santiago volunteered without hesitation, and for his efforts, he was presented a unit coin by Yankee Range commander Texas Air National Guard Maj. Eric Hoopes. In the profession of arms, receiving a unit coin from a leader of a unit is a high compliment for a job well done," said Osburn.

"Our range is two hours south of San Antonio; so Santiago had an extremely long day, really saving me by volunteering," the Airman said. "Since I was also hosting the open house, we didn't get as gourmet as we could for lunch," Osburn shared. "We seasoned preformed patties, and Santiago cooked them to perfection and many compliments," Osburn said. "During breakfast, we pan-fried our potatoes in olive oil then stirred them into the whipped eggs...

added salt and pepper and topped them with cheese," said Osburn.

"As a civilian I had not seen how structured the military is, until I supported the open house," said Calderon. "I wasn't used to one person being in charge and everyone just following orders. It was the least I could do to help the military, and I felt honored that an opportunity to serve arose," Calderon said.

"As culinary students, Santiago learned how important preparation is, the mise en place, the menu planning, the overall preparation... while Shawn learned how much effort goes into even the simplest meal," said Valdez.

## Faculty Research

Early Childhood and Family Studies Program Director, Pamela Ray presented her research during The Qualitative Report Conference on Jan. 8 at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ray was a co-presenter for the research project entitled Frame Clashes in Learning Qualitative Research. The complete presentation is published in the weekly peer-reviewed journal Qualitative Report published by Nova Southeastern University.

## Biomedical Faculty Emphasizes Teamwork

Alberto Vasquez, Assistant Professor and Director of the biomedical equipment technology program is highlighted by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, a nonprofit community of 7,000 healthcare technology professionals that supports the healthcare community in the development, management, and use of safe and effective medical technology.

The association features Vasquez in its April 2014 AAMI News publication with the article In Profile: Professor Stresses Teamwork to HAM Students.

## MathWorld

St. Philip's College developmental math lab coordinator Robert Walling presented during the Association for the Tutoring Profession national conference on March 24 in Nashville. Walling presented on the college's innovative math tutoring program to members of the national association for tutors, tutor coordinators and administrators who are committed to the development of the independent learner. His presentation MathWorld: We Are in the Math Passing Business, described the lab's nonconventional approach to tutoring through a mental rather than a mathematical approach for tutor selection. Organizers cited MathWorld as an example of diversity and best practices for tutors.

## Quality Award

On March 10 in Irving, Texas, the Quality Texas Foundation announced that St. Philip's College is one of four organizations recognized with a Texas Award for Performance Excellence at the foundation's Achievement Level.

On Jan. 13 in the G. J. Sutton Learning Center Dr. Loston provided an opening presentation to the Texas Award for Performance Excellence examiners. That presentation offered examiners brief overviews of St. Philip's College and its excellence journey. As a result of the foundation examiners' team visit in January, St. Philip's College was recognized in March for its well-deployed, effective, systematic approaches to organizational management, with good performance levels and trends evaluated against industry standards.

Completing the award application and site visit cycle is an important step in the college's journey to become the best in the nation in Student Success and Performance Excellence. The recognition from the foundation is a form of validation that St. Philip's College employees are engaged in building cycles of improvement into key college processes and initiatives, and using data to inform decision-making at every level of the organization. Leaders from St. Philip's College present college best practices at the foundation's conference and awards banquet in June. St. Philip's College was recognized for this institutional achievement during special recognitions as part of the Board of Trustee's March 25 board meeting.

## GED program

On March 17, the St. Philip's College Workforce Development and Continuing Education staff offered the college's first GED preparation course specifically designed to prepare diploma candidates for the new GED examination. The diploma candidates will receive instruction and guidance with the four subjects of the new GED examination. They will also be provided access to a GED online preparation program from Diversified Computer Systems; allowing independent study as a supplement to course instruction. Additionally, diploma candidates will tour St. Philip's College, speak with representatives from college departments, and learn how to use resources available throughout this college. All diploma candidates are expected to register for the official GED examination at the course's end, provided testing is available, and all interested diploma candidates will be assisted with ApplyTexas and FAFSA applications as well. The objective of the new program is to encourage a strong connection between GED diploma candidate completion and subsequent college enrollment.

## Cowboy Breakfast

A two-day ice storm in the St. Philip's College service area did not deter 10 of the college's hardest culinary arts degree and certificate candidates from giving back and learning their profession under icy conditions during the 2014 Cowboy Breakfast Jan. 24 at Cowboys Dance Hall.

By 2 a.m. on event day, 10 students and sponsoring faculty members Chef Frank Salinas and Chef William Thornton arrived to work with tourism hospitality, and culinary arts department chair Mary Kunz. The small team prepared sausage links while heating thousands of tortillas for a menu that included 10,000 sausage wraps and 16,000 tacos... all while most major roads were closed due to an ice storm. To compound sub-freezing exposure for the team, the outdoors-with-no-heat event that traditionally serves from 4:40-7:30 a.m. was extended by two hours to 9:30 a.m. due to the ice and road closures.

The 10 degree and certificate candidates did not set out to make college Cowboy Breakfast history by being the college's smallest team preparing the largest amount of food or serving the most hours under the chilliest weather at this event. Their intent was to receive high-volume industrial food preparation experience, cooking with classic old cowboy hot coal fire burners and large barbecue pits for thousands of guests during the breakfast that is the signature San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

kickoff. Proceeds from past breakfasts have funded scholarships for study in the hospitality professions at St. Philip's College. The foundation has contributed \$88,000 to fund both full- and part-time scholarships for degree and certificate candidates in this college's hospitality professions program since 1999.

"The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation is such a longtime supporter of St. Philip's College culinary students via generous donations of scholarship funds that we could not let the 2014 breakfast pass without our contribution, so we braved an ice storm to assist," said Kunz. "Although the number of students involved was a fraction of our usual participation, spirits were high as we worked hard to serve quality cowboy cuisine to the thousands of San Antonians who also enjoy early morning festivities in spite of cold weather. It is fun to be involved at a grassroots level, and we look forward to beautiful, warmer weather next year when we will continue our partnership with 'our cowboys,'" said Kunz.



## Promise Zones

On Jan. 8-9, U.S. President Barack Obama announced that St. Philip's College is a support partner in a White House initiative to designate a number of high-poverty communities as Promise Zones, where the federal government will partner with and invest in communities to create jobs, leverage private investment, increase economic activity, expand educational opportunities and improve public safety.

This approach includes working with local leadership, and bringing to bear the resources of a number of the President's signature revitalization initiatives from the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Agriculture to ensure that federal programs and resources support his efforts to turn around 20 of the nation's highest poverty urban, rural and tribal communities.

As residents in the only community in the nation to receive both the federal Promise Neighborhood and Choice Neighborhood grants, St. Philip's College is one of the education support partners identified as part of a 2013 \$150,000 Annie E. Casey Foundation grant that is forecast to provide nearly 18,000 residents of San Antonio's Eastside with workforce education services.

## Women's History Month

St. Philip's College observed 2014 Women's History Month with programs guided by the national theme "Women of Character, Courage and Commitment."

On March 5 in the college's Heritage Room, the observance's kickoff keynote address featured Dr. Martha Trevino, Dean of Community Development at Northeast Lakeview College and Renita D. Mitchell, chairperson of the mathematics department at St. Philip's College.

Also on March 5, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston served as a panelist on the International Women's Day panel program sponsored by the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women at the International Center. Joining Dr. Loston on the panel were former city councilwoman Maria Antonietta Berriozabal, President/CEO of Conceptual MindWorks Elaine Mendoza, and San Antonio City Manager Sheryl Sculley with San Antonio Poet Laureate Dr. Carmen Tafolla serving as moderator. The panelists shared their personal experiences leading the way and transforming themselves and the world through a distinctive style of female leadership.

On March 6 at Campus Ministries, an interfaith symposium allowed guests to share their personal experiences and thoughts on the roles of faith in their lives.

On March 18 and March 25 in the Morgan Gallery of the Watson Fine Arts Center, poetry events allowed guests to benefit from presentations by faculty of personal stories about a special woman in their lives followed by an original or selected poem honoring each person.

On March 21 in San Antonio Public Library's Central Library, Dr. Loston spoke at the Texas Women of Influence panel discussion for the library's Women's History Month headline event. Loston joined panelists Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, Alamo Travel Group CEO Patricia Pliego Stout, and Accion Texas CEO Janie Barrera in the program moderated by Texas Public Radio reporter Eileen Pace. Each panelist fielded questions about her career and what challenges she faced as a professional woman, before explaining what inspired her to strive for a leadership position.

On March 26 in the Morgan Gallery, students enjoyed a conversation and book signing with author Nan Cuba, co-founder of Gemini Ink. Cuba read to guests from her latest novel, Body and Bread, one of O Magazine's Ten Titles to Pick up Now. The college's 2014 observance ended at the Southwest Campus with the March 27 Women in Nontraditional Occupations Conference and a keynote speech for 300 students by Danielle Dimovski, a barbecue pitmaster and host of TV's BBQ Crawl.

## Green Day

On Feb. 22 at the St. Philip's College Southwest Campus, St. Philip's College employees and scholarship students hosted the 2014 Green Energy and Engineering Conference where 50 engineering students from Brackenridge, McCollum, Sam Houston and Southwest high schools conversed on green science with 125 fifth grade attendees from Bowden, Herff, Hidden Cove and Smith elementary schools.



The Eastside Promise Neighborhood's Sam Houston High School robotics team presentation earned the school a \$500 award from this college to purchase equipment and material to support that high school's STEM programs. St. Philip's College power generation and alternative energy/instrumentation dual degree candidate Patrick Partab was recognized by guests as the event's Kids Choice Award recipient for communicating successfully with both students and teachers.

"This event was a great chance to share the knowledge I have gained about hydrogen fuel cells," said Partab, a 2007 Judson High School graduate. "It was only nerve-wracking to present to the first few groups of students, finishing the explanation of the cell minutes before other presenters arrived. What saved me is the students

began asking in-depth questions," said Partab. "The level of interest they showed in fuel cells was amazing, and each group began to stay longer to discuss why fuel cells are helpful to the earth. They didn't get the heavy science stuff, but exposure is the point," said Partab. "Seeing the kids' eyes light up and engage in what I just taught them was a 'beyond words feeling.' If I could do this again, I would," Partab said.

The Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering competition at the conference included an engineering, math and science exam, along with a judged team tower building assignment. The top competing teams qualified for the alliance's 2014 state-level competition in Ft. Worth.

## Biotechnology Career Day

St. Philip's College completed its first Biotechnology Career Day March 21 at the Southwest Campus. The event introduced the public to the first 12 community college biotechnology degree candidates in San Antonio, and served to recruit new degree candidates into the biotechnology program. Established in 2012, St. Philip's College's biotechnology classes are conducted in the Dr. William C. Davis Science Building and in the Center of Excellence for Science at the Southwest Campus.

The event was a biotechnology career high point for SPC's biotechnology students and 120 invited Southside and Smithson Valley high school students mentored in biotechnology by the college's students and faculty. The high school students discussed topics like forensic DNA, genetic engineering, careers in medicine and learned from such pioneering biotechnology degree and certificate candidates at St. Philip's College as **M o h a m e d Basiouny**.

"The DNA jobs are the jobs of the future," said

Basiouny, a Student Engagement Grant and T-STEM scholarship recipient who is also an associate in periodontics at UTHSCSA and a member of the Eureka Science Club. "We need to understand how our DNA works with the environment around us, to figure out cures for all diseases. Long before I discovered the St. Philip's College biotechnology program, I was working as a degreed molecular biologist in Africa, and I've been pursuing my biotechnology degree at St. Philip's College for nearly two years. From a student perspective, to see a biotechnology program established in as little as two years shows what we can accomplish at St. Philip's College in a very positive light," Basiouny said.



## La Prensa student

The Alamo Colleges recognized 2013 St. Philip's College auto technology program alumnae Pamela Talmage as the recipient of a \$500 La Prensa Foundation Inspirational Scholarship during recognitions of special guests, faculty and staff at a Jan. 21 Board of Trustee's meeting.



Talmage has overcome numerous obstacles to reach this achievement in her life. She is a wife, a mother of three (one of which is a special needs child), holds down a full-time job and is also a student, the Alamo Colleges announced. Talmage had a grade point average of 3.77 and plans to transfer to a four-year institution, the Alamo Colleges announced. After interning with Southwest Research Institute as a degree candidate with this college, Talmage was employed in a STEM-related job as the only female in the institute's fuels and lubricants division. Talmage's St. Philip's College experience included giving back by leading in 2013 the organization of the college's most successful auto show of student vehicles that is the signature recruiting event of the oldest and largest transportation services technology college degree program in Texas for hundreds of local high school students.

## Golf

On March 7 at The Republic Golf Course, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted the Sixth Annual Golf Tournament fundraising event sponsored by CPSEnergy. The college hosted 140-plus golfers/community leaders in an effort to raise funds to assist deserving degree candidates. The tournament was part of the college's 116th Anniversary observance and raised approximately \$185,000, contributing to the St. Philip's College Scholarship Fund. Scholarship recipients will give back while learning marketable skills that serve the San Antonio region's economic health. For the past six years St. Philip's College has raised approximately \$885,000 through the tournament program. The date for the 2015 tournament is March 6, 2015.

## Leader round table

On Feb. 6 at the UTSA downtown campus, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in the Business and Community Leader Round Table co-led by U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Dr. Ernest Moniz and City of San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro. Focusing on the national importance of advanced manufacturing and innovation, Moniz' travel to San Antonio highlighted President Obama's State of the Union Address and the Obama administration's efforts to foster innovation and advanced manufacturing as key elements of the administration's all-of-the-above energy strategy.

## Fairchild Lifetime Community Leadership Award

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston received the Alamo City Chamber of Commerce's highest level award, the Eureka K. Fairchild Lifetime Community Leadership Award, on Feb. 1 at the Grand Hyatt. Dr. Loston received the award during the chamber's 75th anniversary gala and business awards program and was recognized during the ceremonial section of the March 25 Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees meeting. According to the chamber, the award is named after the founder of the nation's second-oldest Black chamber to recognize a community leader who has positively influenced the business, political, social and economic lives of Black San Antonians. The chamber's mission is

to promote, encourage and provide programs and services which contribute to economic development and growth of both minority and small businesses. Award recipients have records of leadership experience in organizations or proven efforts that directly impact the lives of Blacks in San Antonio, according to the chamber.



St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston (second from left) was recognized by (from left) Board Chair Andy Trwari, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. president Ron Busby and chamber president Christopher C. Herring. (COURTESY IMAGE | ALAMO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

## E-D-U-C-A-T-I-O-N

The 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service program provided a king-sized opportunity for St. Philip's College and its degree candidates to give back in partnerships with City of San Antonio, Internal Revenue Service, VIA Metropolitan Transit, AFL-CIO, City Year, Rackspace, radio station KRTU 91.7 and DreamWeek San Antonio.

While 200 college members marched in the city's Jan. 20 march, other members greeted marchers after the march with information promoting the college's free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services. New for 2014, march watchers noticed nine St. Philip's College students who held the king-sized letters E-D-U-C-A-T-I-O-N during the march. When this college hosted one of two VIA Metropolitan Transit park-and-ride sites for the program, the bus service was free of charge for marchers who parked on campus.

On Jan. 18, eight degree candidates partnered with local City Year and AFL-CIO organizers to clean up the march corridor. On Jan. 19, the college hosted a DreamWeek 2014 benefit concert.

Additional college community services included hosting the city's Youth Empowerment Summit of STEM, financial literacy and robotics workshops for high school students citywide with

guest musical superstar Sean Paul on Jan. 18. The robotics workshop was conducted by this college's instructors and Rackspace employees. As St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston provided greetings for workshop guests, she promoted college life, financial literacy and setting college goals. The event provided a forum for panel discussions on a variety of topics and societal issues for youth citywide.



## Biomedical Faculty Emphasizes Teamwork

Alberto Vasquez, assistant professor and director of the biomedical equipment technology program is highlighted by the publication of the world's leading authority on standards within the medical instrumentation and technology industry. The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation is a nonprofit community of 7,000 healthcare technology professionals that supports the healthcare community in the development, management, and use of safe and effective medical technology.

The association features Vasquez in its April publication with the article "In Profile: Professor Stresses Teamwork to HAM Students". Vasquez addressed association questions on the biggest challenge facing healthcare technology management professionals, what those professionals can learn from others within a healthcare facility, and the lessons he stresses to his students. At St. Philip's College, we have been evolving our program from what someone would probably consider traditional BMET (biomedical equipment technology) education and training to more of what I see as HTM (healthcare technology management).

Changing the way we've taught courses in the past to this new community of learners is in itself a new learning experience for faculty, and we are still trying to figure out how to get it done. We do not always get it right, and the students will be the first to let us know. You can't learn without failure. It's fantastic for students to see a faculty member move into uncharted territory. They get to see a professional handle an unknown and use critical thinking to find a solution," Vasquez told the association.

## Mayors Tour

On March 7 in the G. J. Sutton Learning Center, St. Philip's College hosted the culminating activity of the San Antonio visit by the Mayors Educational Excellence Tour. The tour comprises ethnic minority politicians from regions across the U.S. and highlights the most innovative reforms within public schools in the cities of Denver, Sacramento, Providence and San Antonio. Mayors Michael Hancock of Denver, Kevin Johnson of Sacramento, Angel Taveras of Providence and Julián Castro of San Antonio held a town hall meeting at St. Philip's College where the mayors talked about their own cities' education initiatives before fielding questions from San Antonio community members. The nationally unprecedented tour will conclude in Lake Placid, N.Y., in May when the mayors reflect upon how the most effective education policies in each city can be scaled to create successful public school experiences across the United States.



## President's Lecture Series

St. Philip's College completed its 2013-2014 President's Lecture Series season with Daymond John, star of the Shark Tank TV program and the founder of the FUBU clothing firm Feb. 13 in the Watson Fine Arts Center. The program hosted and moderated by St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston drew 700 attendees to learn from the entrepreneur. Guests at the event included Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie, San Antonio NAACP chapter president Oliver Hill, Alamo City Black Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Chris Herring and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside Executive Director Jackie Gorman. The chamber served as a partner for the breakfast event that welcomed John to both the City of San Antonio and St. Philip's College.

## WINTO

The 2014 St. Philip's College Women in Nontraditional Occupations (WINTO) Conference took place March 27 in Building 1 at the Southwest Campus.

More than 350 local women who are college and high school students attended this conference that promoted access for women to well-paid jobs where women are a minority.

Keynote speaker for the college's 2014 program was Danielle "Diva Q" Dimovski, a barbecue pitmaster and host of TV's "BBQ Crawl." Dimovski shared her journey to success and empowerment in a nontraditional occupation. "Nobody said I could weld, there were no doors open to that for me. I didn't have this when I was your age, but my daughter is 15 and I want her to know this, you can do anything!" Dimovski said. Guests also met with Dr. Marie-Michelle Kelley, the chair of applied electrical and mechanical technology department; Edith Orozco, the Director of Information Technology program; and Ashley Narvaez, aviation technology alumnae and former WINTO student organization President who is an aircraft engine technician at the Kelly

Aviation Center.

The event was funded by the Carl D. Perkins' Basic grant, in efforts to strengthen and enhance the interdependencies among SPC, the Alamo Colleges, local and regional communities and industries, and local and regional governments to improve recruitment of students into nontraditional occupations. Susie Wheeler, Project Director of the Texas Carl D. Perkins Leadership Grant, provided two post-conference professional workshops for faculty and staff. While the workshop entitled "A Push in the Right Direction" highlighted strategies to encourage young women to set their goals for a non-traditional occupation, the workshop "Try One More Thing" provided information and strategies on how to improve and accomplish goals for Perkins performance indicators that are tied to nontraditional gender in career and technical education. These goals are important for institutional funding of equipment and supplies, but also because the college wants its students to find a successful future in a great occupation, sources reported. A tribute to honor James Wright, the program's founder, was made to the Wright family

## Early College

The Alamo Colleges leaders recently approved early college high schools operated as on-the-college-campus institutions in partnership with St. Philip's College. On Feb. 24 in Austin, Texas Commissioner of Education Michael Williams announced the state's final approval for the Seguin Independent School District's December 2013 early college high school application with Alamo Colleges in partnership with St. Philip's College. Eighth graders from two Seguin middle schools will form the district's first freshman Early College High School class at St. Philip's College in the 2014-2015 school year. Each ninth grader enrolled at Seguin High School for the 2014-2015 school year will be enrolled in the program, according to the district. Eighth grade students recently attended presentations on the program and toured St. Philip's College.

On Jan. 21, the Alamo Colleges Trustees authorized the negotiation of standard lease agreements with San Antonio Independent School District to establish on-the-college-campus early college high schools in partnerships with St. Philip's College.

On March 4 in the college's Watson Fine Arts Center and Heritage Room, St. Philip's College and the San Antonio Independent School District jointly held an open house for 560 high school students, parents and district administrators including Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez, SAISD, Board member James Howard and Principal Dr. Derrick Thomas to hear a presentation about the new early college high school, followed by tours of the campus led by St. Philip's College employees.



Mayors Michael Hancock of Denver, Julián Castro of San Antonio and Kevin Johnson of Sacramento