



## President's Message



Viva la Cultura, friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and students! Hispanic Heritage Month is a perfect time to remember not only the contributions to this country made by those of Hispanic and Latino

descent, but how our culture gives each of us unique perspectives on shared experiences.

We recently hosted San Antonio artist, Roberto Jose Gonzalez, who engaged students in a conversation about how Mesoamerican influences inform contemporary expressions. His connections to his pre-Columbian roots guides his every brushstroke.

We hosted April Hernandez-Castillo as part of our President's Lecture Series. The acclaimed actress used her life experiences to illustrate the ability to overcome teen dating violence to achieve victory. We will host actress Grace (Gealey) Byers this February, giving you a second opportunity to applaud empowerment and success.

Nationally, we are in tenuous times. It can be challenging for young minds to grasp the implications of today's action on the future of our country. Students need our help to become the leaders we know they will be. We are intentional in our discussions with students about ethical decision making. Not only do we guide them in adopting ethical responsibility, we encourage and share their input.

Your input is equally valuable. I invite you to visit our campus, A Point of Pride on San Antonio's Eastside.

Best Regards,

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## 13 Students, 13 States, 15 Universities



*SPC ECHS students hit the road this summer, racking up more than 5,000 miles to visit 15 different Ivy League and Tier One Research universities across the country, including the University of Oklahoma, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, and Rice University. Students were selected for the trip based on their school attendance, grade point average, and a submission essay.*



*One teacher and two volunteers chaperoned students as they explored some of the most-prestigious universities in the country, representing St. Philip's College and San Antonio Independent School District.*



*The road trip included fun excursions in Chicago, St. Louis, Fort Worth, New York City, and Washington D.C. The group enjoyed culture, cuisine and national landmarks.*

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## The first Najim Scholars at SPC



*Incoming SPC students Jonathan Acosta and Briana Enochs (at right above) each made history in 2016 as members of the first cohort of Najim Scholars at SPC. Both Najim Scholars enjoyed the honor of meeting with Dr. Loston and San Antonio philanthropist Harvey E. Najim, retired founder and executive chairman of IT firm Sirius (second from left above), on campus this summer.*

Incoming SPC students Jonathan Acosta and Briana Enochs each made history in 2016 as members of the first cohort of Najim Scholars at SPC. Both Najim Scholars enjoyed the honor of meeting with Dr. Loston and San Antonio philanthropist Harvey E. Najim, retired founder and executive chairman of IT firm Sirius, on campus this summer. High-achieving students (minimum 3.0 GPA) who are college-ready and enrolled in dual credit or advanced placement math, accounting, science and computer technology courses



*Inaugural Najim Scholars represented all Alamo Colleges at a recent banquet. Each student is currently engaged in a STEM course of study.*

at high schools in Edgewood, Harlandale, Somerset, South San, Southside, Southwest and San Antonio Independent School Districts are eligible to apply. To apply for the scholarships, those eligible students can contact counselors and dual credit instructors at their high school for scholarship applications. They may also contact Alamo Colleges Foundation via [dst-foundation@alamo.edu](mailto:dst-foundation@alamo.edu). "Too many jobs in technology and the medical field are not being filled with local San Antonio graduates - especially those from low-income families," Najim said. "This low-cost, four-year Pathways Scholarship plan that begins at the Alamo Colleges and concludes at either Texas A&M University-



*Dr. Loston and Najim review human patient simulation center facilities that future Najim Scholars at SPC will use in preparation for well-paid jobs in the nursing and health professions.*

San Antonio, The University of Texas at San Antonio or The University of Texas Health Science Center will create jobs for San Antonio students here at home - which can contribute \$10 million to \$12 million each year to our local economy. Plus it will enrich the partnerships between the Alamo Colleges and these universities." Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff has also expressed his approval of the strategic partnership, saying he is exploring opportunities to help these underserved students get summer internships and jobs upon graduation.

The SPC scholarship contact is Gloria Hernandez, (210) 486-2498.

## White House acknowledges SPC's productive role in Promise Zone initiative

On June 6, The White House Press Office acknowledged SPC's dramatically productive role as one of its original support partners in the Promise Zone initiative to address the challenges of areas of deep and persistent poverty. The praise was announced in the White House Press Office statement, *Obama Administration Announces Final Round of Promise Zone Designations to Expand Access to Opportunity in Urban, Rural and Tribal Communities - Collaborative, Evidence-based Approach Puts Citizens and Local Leaders at Center of Federal Solutions*. The report, available at The White House web page, shares:

- In July 2015, the Promise Zone to Work Initiative was launched and has since provided job training certifications in nursing, construction, manufacturing, information technology, and heavy equipment for 166 residents.
- The four-year graduation rate at the Promise Zone's principal public high school, Sam Houston High School, rose to 81 percent in 2015 compared to 45 percent in 2009, the beginning of federal place-based investments in Eastside San Antonio. At the same time, the dropout rate declined from 35 percent to 14.6 percent.
- St. Philip's College, our nation's only historically Black College and Hispanic Serving Institution, located in the Promise Zone, has dramatically increased local enrollment. Prior to the Administration, one percent of the students came from the surrounding neighborhoods in the Promise Zone. In 2015 9.7 percent of the student body included residents of the Promise Zone.

## Paid Internships for Highschoolers

On May 4, SPC celebrated student success as the first alumni of the Alamo Academies Heavy Equipment program were honored. Studying at the SPC Campus, the alumni who were high school students each earned \$3,000 in paid internships between their junior and senior years of high school. Starting \$10-\$15 hourly wages are projected for the alumni. Partners in the program that began in August 2014 include HOLT CAT, ASCO (Case), ROMCO (Volvo), RDO (John Deere), Closner, Cooper Equipment, Zachry Construction, Dean Word Co., Martin Marietta and other heavy equipment dealers and construction businesses. The Heavy Equipment Academy alumni will also graduate in June from such high schools as East Central, Jourdanton, Kennedy, New Braunfels, Sam Houston, Somerset and Southwest. Each alumnus completed 33 hours of college credit while earning a Marketable Skills Award from SPC in Diesel Light/Heavy Truck Technology Mechanic Helper, a federal OSHA certification, and a Level I Certificate of Completion from SPC.

## 2016 Links Scholars Award Ceremony

On April 30 in the SPC Heritage Room, SPC hosted the 2016 Links Scholars Award Ceremony. Guests included members of The San Antonio (TX) Chapter of Links and scholarship award recipients Ramona Greene, Toriana Durham, LeVreese Davis, Jacarra Eshan, Precious Mkubwa, Kennedy Tatum, Kayla Wilson, Ray Alls, Anna Perry and Lynette Adkins. The 2016 scholarship program provided ten \$1,000 scholarships to area high school students who are active in supporting their community. Recipients demonstrated eagerness to achieve through knowledge by intending to pursue a post-high school course of study at a college, university or other post-secondary educational institution.



*Ten local high school students who are active in supporting their community each accepted \$1,000 scholarships during the 2016 San Antonio (TX) Chapter of Links college scholarship award program.*

## K-12 GenCyber Security Summer Camp

On June 24 in the SPC Heritage Room, SPC and UTSA celebrated cybersecurity student success with a completion ceremony for the first 40 area student and 23 area teacher alumni of the college's innovative one-week K-12 GenCyber Security Summer Camp experience. The hands-on program showed participants both correct and safe on-line behavior. Organizers promoted diversity and interest in cybersecurity careers to students and faculty as they helped faculty improve teaching methods for delivering cybersecurity content in K-12 computer science curricula. National Security Agency representatives on hand to observe commended SPC on making resources, information and hands-on technical skills labs available in a supportive environment for both the students and the teachers. "They were so happy with our camp layout and design that they requested permission to duplicate our best practices for future camps nationally," said SPC faculty member Tom Sahin.

Kudos from the National Security Agency over the successful June 20-24 2016 SPC GenCyber Camp continue to arrive. Evaluator comments included: "My favorite thing about this camp was the hands-on projects. The concept for students to create every portion of their network, including build devices and fabricate parts was challenging and fun for the students. The camp was organized and well-paced. The staff was enthusiastic, receptive to ideas, and has executed the schedule and the agenda very well. I thought (the students) having to build each module and layer of security, instead of having it prepared for the students, gave the students ownership of the task at hand, and left a good impression of the importance of trained individuals in the cyber security field. Students had ownership in their learning. The students were not provided with cables or an assembled Raspberry PI. The students were expected to learn how to assemble both the cables and the PIs. Students felt accomplished and shared that with me". This camp is a first year camp that was well planned, and executed. The GenCyber Summer Camp was and attended by middle and high school teachers along with students grades 7-12.

## Faculty present on Civic/Service Engagement Learning Models

On May 24 in Atlanta, SPC faculty member Dr. Solomon Nfor and SPC Center of Excellence Director Dr. Jo Dee Duncan co-presented during the 2016 Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS) National Conference. During their presentation at Georgia Institute of Technology, Nfor and Duncan presented a workshop themed Civic/Service Engagement Learning Model for STEAM Courses at an HBCU/HSI College. The training presentation focused on best practices in civic engagement in formal and informal education at SPC.

## The Whataburger Scholarship recipient announced

On May 27, the Texas Business Hall of Fame announced that SPC computer science student Hannah Mahaffey is the recipient of the Texas Business Hall of Fame's \$15,000 The Whataburger Scholarship, endowed at the college through 2018 by Whataburger Chair Tom Dobson. "The scholarship opportunity was on my mind a lot, wondering if I could get it to pay back past student loans and pay for school and books in the future," said Mahaffey. After being one of three semi-finalists for the award in 2015, persistence paid off for Mahaffey when she became a recipient of The Whataburger Scholarship in 2016. "I literally cried, I was so happy and honored to be selected this time," Mahaffey said. "It didn't work out the first time, and when they selected me, I was moved and honored." Mahaffey learned of her \$15,000 award after returning from a May 22-26 trip to Washington, D.C., as a student leader with the Alamo Colleges Student Leadership Institute. "It was exciting to get the news that I received the scholarship just after I



*Hannah Mahaffey is the recipient of the Texas Business Hall of Fame's \$15,000 The Whataburger Scholarship.*

visited Arlington Cemetery to see the grave of my grandparents. My grandfather on my dad's side was a World War II Purple Heart recipient and my grandmother was his nurse, and that was how they met. Her urn was in his casket, and it was a very powerful and beautiful experience to have while I thought about how much earning that scholarship would mean to my family. Then to get the email on May 27 about The Whataburger Scholarship..."

"I have my own business. I want to give back to my school and community while I pursue my education to get a PhD, and I want to

expand my own business in Texas, to help people," said Mahaffey. "I'm in the business of developing mobile apps and web pages, including ones for the dean of arts and sciences and the business department at St. Philip's College. I hope to complete my associate degree in computer science in 12 months, then transfer to UTSA," Mahaffey said.

Mahaffey's SPC journey has included service as the second Alamo Colleges Alternative Student Trustee and giving back as a SPC Presidential Scholar, allowing her to manage and maintain the local Animal Defense League of Texas-San Antonio's website and databases. As a Davidson Respite House volunteer, Mahaffey co-hosts monthly birthday parties for the group of resident disabled children and their siblings, also part of her scholarship commitments. Even as an intern with SPC's business department, Mahaffey gave back in lasting ways. In addition to being trusted to update and maintain the department's website, she led a project to create the mobile application for the department that pays off by currently promoting enrollments in business and such computer science-related fields as cybersecurity.

## Solar Ready Vets training program



*SPC's designation as a Sunshot/Solar Ready Vets Training Partner will increase training opportunities for veterans.*

On May 17, the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense announced that SPC is an education partner in a six-week intensive solar workforce training program designed to provide transitioning armed forces members with the highest quality professional skills to prepare them for potential employment in the solar industry. SPC Alternative Energy and Power Generation faculty and Department of Energy master instructors will train service members from the Joint Base San Antonio area in this partnership as part of the federal SunShot Initiative's Solar Ready Vets training program that will serve GIs at 10 bases nationwide.

On May 27 at the SPC Southwest Campus, SPC was featured during a KSAT TV report on the announcement of Alamo Colleges as a Sunshot/Solar Ready Vets Training Partner. SPC power generation and alternative energy program director Craig Overmiller and SPC STEM outreach coordinator Ruben Prieto spoke on the growing need for training in the solar energy field and how SPC's program retrains veterans for solar industry jobs through Department of Defense's Solar Ready Vets Program. On May 17, the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense announced that SPC is an education partner in a six-week intensive solar workforce training program designed to provide transitioning armed forces members with the highest quality professional skills to prepare them for potential employment in the solar industry. SPC faculty and Department of Energy master instructors will train service members from the Joint Base San Antonio area in this partnership as part of the federal SunShot Initiative's Solar Ready Vets training program that will serve GIs at 10 bases nationwide.

## Tiger PAWS publication event

On May 5 in the SPC Heritage Room, 11 SPC student editors hosted a publication event for 100 guests during the ninth edition of the college's student-run Tiger PAWS (Personal Academic Writing Space) literary and art journal. The event recognized the accomplishments of 39 student contributors, and featured presentations of awards to students for their artwork and writing,



*Student contributors (above) accepted awards for their artwork, writing and readings.*

readings and displays of many of those works. SPC Student Engagement Grants were awarded and hard copies of the journal were distributed. Established in 2012, the publication is SPC's first student-run literary and arts journal of original works from students that is published at the end of both fall and spring semesters. One highlight of the event occurred when faculty and staff sponsors from the SPC Department of Communications and Learning co-announced two recipients of \$1,000 Tiger PAWS Spring 2016 Student Engagement Grant Editorial Scholarships. The recipients are SPC students Saadia Abdi and Julian Salazar.

## SPC alumnus recognized for Journalistic Excellence

On June 25, a SPC culinary arts alumnus was recognized for Journalistic Excellence as a member of the Texas Public Radio news team. Texas Public Radio reporter Joey Palacios was recognized by his peers in Texas' broadcasting industry when he and TPR News Director Shelley Kofler shared first place recipient honors in the Public Affairs category for their series on the 2015 San Antonio mayoral election, "Looking For A Leader." The Lone Star Awards are a statewide contest recognizing the best radio, television, and online journalism in Texas, and TPR earned 10 awards, including three first place wins.

## Cameroon book donation initiative

On May 13, SPC completed an international goodwill project to ship educational materials to a projected multiple thousands of students in the science and nursing fields at the University of Buea school system in Cameroon. Led by SPC natural sciences faculty member Dr. Solomon Nfor, the project team of faculty and students from SPC collected 1,800 pounds of books and 11 microscopes for over four years. SPC contributors included natural sciences faculty members who donated items from their personal libraries and the Student Success staff. Additional contributors included the library staff at University of Incarnate Word, and Pearson Book Company. Financial support for shipping the materials came from SPC natural science students and faculty.



*Bishop George Nkuo, (above at left) pro-chancellor of Catholic University of Bamenda and (at right) Dr. Christiana Abonge, head of the Sociology department at the University of Buea visited with Dr. Loston in response to an international goodwill project led by SPC natural sciences faculty member Dr. Solomon Nfor.*

## 2016 SPC Student Scholar Athlete Luncheon



*Dr. Loston recognized and celebrated the 2015-2016 accomplishments of 13 outstanding student athletes at the college during the occasion.*

On May 4 in the SPC Bowden Alumni Center, 13 SPC students (men's basketball [4], women's basketball [1], cheerleaders [4], soccer [3], and volleyball [1]) earned academic recognition and a gift card for achieving grade point averages of 3.0 or above during the 2016 SPC Student Scholar Athlete Luncheon for 42 guests. The SPC Department of Student Life sponsored this event to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of the college student athletes during the past year. SPC basketball team members with 3.0 or higher grade point averages were also acknowledged with certificates from the Texas Collegiate Club Sports League.

## **SPC, Educational Testing Services, Stanford and UTSA partner in Pathways to the Education Sciences Research Training Program**

On June 6, the Institute of Education Sciences announced the award of more than \$4.2 million in grants allowing four universities to create interdisciplinary training programs that develop a more diverse field of highly qualified education researchers, and SPC, Educational Testing Services, and Stanford University are collaborating institutional partners with UTSA in the \$1,116,895 five year (Sept. 1-Aug. 31, 2021) share of the first of the institute's new Pathways to the Education Sciences Research Training Program opportunities. Pathways fellows may include SPC alumni as upper-level undergraduates (juniors and seniors), post-baccalaureate students (within five years of receiving a bachelor's degree), or students enrolled in master's degree programs. Participating students will gain hands-on education research experience through a research apprenticeship under the supervision of UTSA faculty mentors. Participants also will develop their knowledge of research methods and will receive assistance in career development. Pathways training program alumni should be prepared to enter a doctoral program in which they can pursue a future career in education research. UTSA will use its \$1,116,895 share of the grant to offer up to 48 one-year fellowships in its Educational Research Training Program. The UTSA program will accept students already enrolled at USTA as well as those enrolled at Alamo Colleges. Fellows will receive training in education research, conduct research with faculty mentors, and receive assistance in applying to doctoral study programs. The program includes participation in summer research institutes.

## **Incoming student receives scholarship at Promise Zone To Work Event**

On May 19 in the Davis-Scott Family YMCA, SPC participated in the Denver Heights Neighborhood Association award ceremony for the Sam Houston High School Junior ROTC Color Guard. Interim Dean of SWC Christina Cortez spoke to commend the unit members for giving back to their Eastside community at such events as the SPC CultureFest and the association's 2015 National Night Event in which SPC was a sponsor. Cortez also encouraged the color guard members to continue in their academic careers. The Denver Heights neighborhood includes both the Alamodome and the property where the SPC Veterans Outreach and Transition Center is currently under construction.

## **Alumni at Memorial Early College High School Ceremony**

On June 3 at the Performing Arts Center of Canyon High School SPC celebrated student success with St. Philip's College. Abigail Grathwohl was Valedictorian and Cady Calhoun was the Salutatorian. SPC Dean of Arts and Sciences Randall Dawson, SPC College Coordinator High School Programs Jessica Flores and SPC Director of High School Programs Dr. Karlene Fenton attended the event held in New Braunfels.

## **Jessica's Project**

On June 29 in the SPC Heritage Room, SPC concluded the summer 2016 lineup of its Jessica's Project activities with nearly 80 SPC natural science and health science students hosting a teen and unplanned pregnancy prevention awareness event. Students at the June 29 finale illustrated

the responsibility associated with pregnancy by sharing research. The effort was part of SPC's larger commitment to transforming socio-economic-educational conditions for residents surrounding its main campus



where the teen pregnancy rate is among the city's highest. Goals of Jessica's Project are to strengthen student learning and interest in the sciences, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) by connecting course topics to issues affecting the local community. The civic engagement learning program helps faculty, staff and students vest themselves in the community, through giving back that consists of sharing research on health topics.

## **San Antonio Stars WNBA partnership**

On May 14 in the AT&T Center, SPC began its ninth season as an education marketing partner of the San Antonio Stars WNBA team. The partnership with Spurs Sports and Entertainment for 2016 began with SPC marketing the college experience during the team's WNBA 20th Anniversary opening season game. Prospective students were among the 7,572 fans present for the event that included an on court recognition featuring SPC students, SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and Stars General Manager Ruth Riley.

## Employment ceremony for SPC alumni

On May 30 in the Workforce Center of Excellence, the employment ceremony was held for 11 alumni of the second graduating class of SPC's unique associate of applied science advanced manufacturing technology degree program that features two years of paid employment in advanced manufacturing at the Toyota assembly plant in San Antonio. Under the leadership of college Applied Electrical and Mechanical Technology Chair and Advanced Manufacturing Technology-Toyota Program Director Dr. Marie-Michelle Kelley, the second cohort of SPC alumni of the program worked three days a week for Toyota at a



starting wage of \$12 per hour, and upon graduation the SPC alumni became eligible for an entry-level full-time position projected to compensate at \$25 per hour at Toyota. "Our AMT graduates have gained a valuable skill to enter the workforce," Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas President Yoshihisa Nagatani said. "Now their futures are open wide as they accept jobs and continue to expand their skills." Advanced Manufacturing Technology Associate of Applied Science program alumni accepted the hard hats from Toyota during the ceremony.

## Celebrating student success and career readiness with AT&T Foundation



The AT&T Foundation provided the first corporate funding Alamo Colleges has received to support any of its early college high school operations. Renée Flores, AT&T Regional Vice President, External & Legislative Affairs, made the ceremonial presentation of the Foundation's \$50,000. The \$50,000 contribution from the AT&T Foundation will be used to provide St. Philip's College Early College High School with San Antonio Independent School District needed educational materials, tutors, student incentives/stipends, supplies and other program related expenses. AT&T's contribution is a part of AT&T Aspire, the company's signature education initiative focused on school success and career readiness. Shown from left are SAISD Deputy Superintendent for Administration & Leadership Development Dr. Emilio Castro, Emmanuel Nyong, student trustee, Dr. Gene Sprague, Alamo Colleges Board of Trustee, Trinita Armstrong, ECHS student, Flores, SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and ECHS Principal Dr. Derrick Thomas.

## Board lauds SPC student achievers



Student of the Month (August) Percival Bragg is the recipient of a \$500 La Prensa Foundation Inspirational Scholarship, courtesy of the La Prensa Foundation, founded by Tino and Amelia "Millie" Duran. A plaque was given to Bragg during the Sept. 20 board meeting. Bragg, Student Government Association (SGA) president at SPC, is captain of the men's basketball team, and economic developer for Collegiate 100, a student organization. He is a peer mentor and actively engaged in the SPC community. Bragg, who has a 3.42 grade point average, is earning an

associate degree and plans to pursue a career in constitutional law with the goal of being a judge. Shown here, from left, are Board Chair Dr. Yvonne Katz, Bragg, SPC President Dr. Adena Loston, and Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie.

*SPC student Damon Lake was acknowledged by the board for the honor of attending the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities HBCU All-Stars program that supports the White House's goal of helping 60 percent of Americans ages 25-34 complete an associate degree or higher by 2020. Pictured, from left, are Board Chair Dr. Yvonne Katz, Lake, SPC President Dr. Adena Loston, and Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie.*

## SPC hosts 2015-2016 IDEA Carver College Prep End of Year Awards program

On June 9 at the SPC Watson Fine Arts Center, SPC celebrated student success as host of the 2015-2016 IDEA Carver College Prep End of Year Awards program. The public charter school's annual awards ceremony recognizes students grades K-12 for such achievements as honor roll or perfect attendance in two separate ceremonies, held consecutively with 400 students and many family members in attendance.

## Employees recognized during NISOD event

On May 28 in Austin, the 25th anniversary National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration included recognition for several SPC faculty, administrators, and staff who are testaments to the important work done every day on community and technical college campuses. The institute recognized SPC Vice President of Academic Success Maureen Cartledge, SPC faculty member Jill Dehoog, SPC faculty member Mike Dillard, Vice President of College Services Lacy Hampton, SPC staff member Gina Jasso, SPC Director of Student Life Dr. Angela McPherson Williams, SPC faculty member Dr. Solomon Nfor, SPC faculty member Kelli Rolland-Adkins, SPC Interim Dean of Southwest Campus Joshua Scott and SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston as 2016 Excellence Awards recipients. Created in 1978, the institute is a membership organization committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. The awards provide over 300 member colleges opportunities to



*NISOD recognized the impact of several St. Philip's College staff members on higher education, including, from left, Vice President of Academic Success Maureen Cartledge, Jill Dehoog, Director of Student Life Dr. Angela McPherson Williams, President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Southwest Campus Joshua Scott, and Vice President of College Services Lacy Hampton.*

recognize individuals doing extraordinary work on their campuses. To date, more than 25,000 recipients have been honored with the award. The evening included the celebration of past and 2016 SPC NISOD Excellence Award recipients. In addition, past SPC Excellence Award recipients (1991-2015) received a limited edition lapel pin as a memento of their special role in NISOD's distinguished 38-year history. Dr. Nfor and Dr. Duncan gave back on behalf of SPC by co-presenting the 2016

conference breakout session, "Connecting Civic Engagement Learning With STEAM Courses." Their interactive workshop provided best practices to get students in STEAM—science, technology, engineering, arts, and math—to be more engaged in the classroom and with the community through a civic engagement learning model. Participants were given the opportunity design a community-based project around a specific course or concept.

## SPC Alumnus named Airman of Year



A St. Philip's College alumnus earned the highest recognitions and responsibilities a military service member can receive for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements. In his capacity as an Air Force Association 2015 USAF Outstanding Airmen of the Year award recipient, Senior Airman Allen Cherry, III, was awarded the Air Force's Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and authorized to wear the Outstanding Airman badge on his uniform for one year. He was also appointed to serve on the United States Air Force Enlisted Council.

"We are honored to have been a part of this developing leader's college education," said St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "Our pride in what he's done as a student and as an alumnus is only exceeded by what he's been doing to help the Air Force take care of its people and its vast interests."

Cherry is on a leadership team that develops Department of the Air Force policy recommendations on such quality of life and quality of service issues which impact the Air Force's entire enlisted force as pay and family matters. "I always knew I wanted to give back to the military for giving me so much, including the chance to go to school and utilize free services it offers," Cherry told an Air Force Print News reporter. "I did a lot of things that contributed to the award but first and foremost I did the best I could at my job."

After he earned a Community College of the Air Force associate degree in public health technology, Cherry earned his associate degree in kinesiology at SPC. He then transferred to Texas State University to earn his bachelor of science degree in exercise sports and science, and has plans for graduate school.

"When I heard the news and saw his Outstanding Airmen award photo on my phone, it made my day," said Janet Hart, an advisor at the college. "He was a friendly but serious and determined online student, and I am so proud to have had the privilege of working with him. He always had specific goals in his life, and apparently he has achieved them and more," Hart said. "He always will have a great future."

## First Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors apprenticeship completion ceremony



*History making fourth-year plumbing apprentices and their sponsoring firms celebrated with Dr. Loston during the completion ceremony for the first plumbing apprenticeship program at SPC.*

On May 12 at the SPC Southwest Campus, SPC celebrated student success as the Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors (PHCC) San Antonio Chapter membership held a completion ceremony for the first graduating class of the plumbing apprenticeship program at SPC. The recognized fourth-year apprentices and sponsoring firms were: Kody Paul Fielder (George Plumbing Co.); Abelardo Flores (Primo Plumbing); Geoffrey Marshall Letcher (REC Industries); Roland Daniel Pantoja (Primo Plumbing); and Clayton George Saliba (George Plumbing Co.). The chapter's Ed Harrell Memorial Excellence Award recipient was Geoffrey Letcher (REC Industries); and the chapter's BrassCraft Scholarship Winners were Corey Opiela (Opiela Mechanical, Highest GPA, Year One Category); Gregory Billa (REC Industries, Best Attendance Category); James Hamilton (Beyer Plumbing, Highest GPA, Year Two Category); Robert Chauvey (Beyer Plumbing, Best Attendance, Year Two Category); David Ross (Texas Plumbing Diagnostics, Highest GPA, Year Three Category); and Salvador Sandoval (O'Haver Plumbing, Highest GPA, Year Three Category).

## 2016 SPC Student Organization Program Annual Recognition Luncheon

On May 5 in the SPC Bowden Alumni Center, student success was celebrated during the 2016 SPC Student Organization Program Annual Recognition Luncheon for 53 guests sponsored by the SPC Department of Student Life. SPC student organizations were recognized in the following nine categories:

- Community Engagement and Service-Eureka Science Club for its work in the Community Garden
- Best Event of the Year-Spirit and Pride Crew for its Culture Fest Dunking Booth
- Best New Student Organization-National Association of Home Builders
- Most Creative Event/Activities-I AM Woman for its Affirmation Posters during Woman's History Month
- Most Creative Event/Fundraisers-Spirit and Pride Crew for its Valentine's Day/Survival Backpack
- Most Active Organization-Learned Trades
- Tiger Spirit Award-Tiger Cheer Squad
- Outstanding Student Organization-Spirit and Pride Crew
- Outstanding Student Organization Leader-Katrina King



*Shown, from left, are members of I AM Woman Student Organization, Stacey Jones, Lachelle Mitchell, Outstanding Student Organization Leader Katrina King, Saadia Abdi and SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.*

## First alumni of UH Hotel and Restaurant Management partnership

On May 13 at Hofheinz Pavilion, two SPC alumni were honored for making history as the first two students to graduate from The University of Houston Conrad N. Hilton College – San Antonio. The partnership between the UH Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management and SPC began in fall 2014 and now offers SPC alumni who transfer a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management from one of the world's top three hospitality schools without having to leave San Antonio. After attending their graduation ceremony in Houston, the SPC alumni Richard Bundick and Anesa Sankar will be starting jobs with the companies that provided their internships. "My experience at UH Hilton College-San Antonio has been unparalleled," Bundick said. "From day one all of the students grew close, like a big family. I can literally say we are living hospitality every day." The SPC alumni attended the university's convocation ceremony in their capacity as hotel and restaurant management graduates. "My most valuable experience was developing a bigger and better professional networking circle during my time at Hilton College-San Antonio," Sankar said. "I have always wanted to be associated with the hospitality industry. This school has given me the skills and tools to venture into hotel operations. I am on my way!" "I have been introduced to many outstanding companies and have been amazed at the amount of opportunities presented to me because I have an education from UH Hilton College," Bundick said. "I plan to stay in the San Antonio hospitality market for at least the first year after graduation as I begin my career in the restaurant industry. With the experience and knowledge I have gained, I have everything required to be successful in this industry. Both Sankar and Bundick transferred from SPC and were among the first students to enroll in the UH program. "As the first two graduates of the Hilton College-San Antonio, Anesa and Richard truly are trailblazers. I am so proud to hear about their accomplishments and the work they are already doing," said San Antonio Mayor Ivy R. Taylor.

## Faculty member presents at conference of International Studies Association in Greece

On June 14 in the Bissell Library of the American College of Thessaloniki in Greece, SPC Philosophy instructor Matthew Fuller presented a co-authored paper for 50 guests at the conference of the International Studies Association. The theme for the conference was BOUNDARIES AND BORDERS IN AN EVOLVING WORLD ORDER: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS. Fuller's presentation entitled "Post-Crisis Confidence in the Peace



*SPC Philosophy instructor Matthew Fuller attended a conference at the American College of Thessaloniki in Greece.*

Process in Contemporary Northern Ireland" was informed by his research when he went to Northern Ireland in January to perform anonymous interviews with civic leaders and several high ranking members from the Northern Irish political parties. Fuller was a presenter with Center for International Relations member Christos Kyrou for the panel program THE QUEST FOR PEACE: CHALLENGES AND CONSEQUENCES, chaired by Hebrew University of Jerusalem member Arie M. Kacowicz. Representing over 100 countries, the association has more than 6,500 members worldwide and is the most respected and widely known scholarly association in this field. Endeavoring to create communities of scholars dedicated to international studies, the association is divided into geographic subdivisions, thematic groups and caucuses that provide opportunities to exchange ideas and research with local colleagues and within specific subject areas.

## Title III Administrators 2016 Technical Assistance Workshop

From June 19-24 in Arlington, Va., SPC shared exemplary best practices during the National Association of HBCU Title III Administrators 2016 Technical Assistance Workshop themed Title III Programs: Building for Sustainability & Long-term Success. SPC Title III Director Dr. Erick Akins attended the event in his capacities as a director, a co-presenter and the parliamentarian for the association. Dr. Akins' presentation themed Transitioning to Sustainability - Case Studies shared exemplary SPC best practices on strategic steps that successful institutions can also consider to ensure both continuity of service and sustainability from Title III funded projects, particularly best strategies and methods that have been used to transform projects from Title III funded projects and programs to institutionally funded projects and programs.

## Fall 2016 New Student Orientation program at SPC

On Aug. 19 in the SPC Watson Fine Arts Center, SPC students and their family members attended the college's Fall 2016 New Student Orientation program. The event introduced students to college leadership, highlighting college programs and services, motivating students to make a successful transition to college life, and orienting students to the campus. The convocation included financial awareness presentations and scholarship announcements. The program is the official welcoming ceremony of new students to the SPC community by the president, administration, faculty and staff. It is designed as an opportunity

to convey to students the importance of their educational journey and the desire of the college to support them inside and outside the classroom. In addition to formally introducing the students to their collegiate career, the convocation gives students senses of the size, strength and identity of their class and their college. Motivational testimonials, campus tours and a collegewide expo with SPC academic departments, student organizations and other external community agencies highlighted degree programs and services as part of the orientation experience.

## First Dual Credit Professional Conference

On June 23 in the SPC G. J. Sutton Learning Center, the SPC Dual Credit Office team hosted the college's first Dual Credit Professional Conference for 19 guests from such partner public and private institutions as Seguin Independent School District, Comal ISD, North East ISD, Kerrville ISD, St. Gerard, First Baptist, and Trinity Christian Academy. The conference co-organized by chairs of Dual Credit and Arts and Sciences at SPC provided partner dual credit instructors and high school counselors with reviews of college processes and expectations. The instructors and counselors met with SPC dual credit staff and faculty to review the expectations and processes. SPC college coordinator of high school programs Jessica Flores and SPC math department chair Renita Mitchell co-designed the professional development conference. SPC chair of natural sciences Dr. Carmen Nava-Fischer, SPC social and behavioral sciences department chair Cynthia Pryor and SPC faculty liaison Dr. JoAnn Martinez attended to answer partner questions.

## SPC student on Hispanic College Quiz Show

In late June, SPC pre-nursing student Gloria Napoles learned she has been selected to compete with eight other college students for scholarships as part of the 2016 Hispanic College Quiz Show sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. The production features three contestants per show answering questions on Hispanic history, followed by a championship round for the first-place contestants. Napoles is one of nine student contestants and SPC senior coordinator-student success and Phi Theta Kappa advisor Maria Botello is one of nine coaches who attended the taping July 29-31 in Nashville. Results and broadcast schedules will be advertised in the fall. Napoles will also be featured as a SPC student in the fall edition of the association's The Voice of Hispanic Higher Education magazine available in September, and she received a scholarship from the association. "As a contestant, I'm becoming more knowledgeable of my history and my roots very fast in order to be competitive in the quiz," Napoles said. After graduating from SPC, Napoles' goal is to become a dental hygienist by transferring to UT Health Science Center to earn her bachelor's degree. At present, the 2003 Thomas Edison High School alumna is a member of SPC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the historian for the college's science club, and a work-study student with the college's Center for Distance Learning.

## Camp 98.6 program

On June 13-14 in the SPC Center for Health Professions building, SPC hosted 15 Fox Technical High School health careers students in the eleventh season of SPC's partnership with University Health System in the Camp 98.6 program. The program allows health science high school students one week of hands-on seminars with SPC faculty and seminars with University Health System employees. According to the June 15 Association for Talent Development report *Paying It Forward Through Camp 98.6*, In 2015, students from the Fox Tech



*Local health science high school students (above) learned during one week of hands-on seminars with SPC faculty and seminars with University Health System employees.*

High School Magnet campus who were interested in pursuing medical careers learned about AirLife and the trauma teams at University Health System. Students in this weeklong camp, a collaboration among University Health System, St. Philip's College, and the San Antonio Independent School District, received a crash course in health careers. The students attended classes, listened to speakers, worked in simulation laboratories, and observed hospital operations. Fox Tech High School, a magnet school that specializes in medical science, chooses rising sophomores to submit applications to University Health System for inclusion in this elite program. After spending two days at St. Philip's College, students get a glimpse into what it's like to work in the healthcare field during their three days at University Health System.

## First SunShot DISTANCE students

An award that connects students with science-technology research advances in a diverse and innovative workforce has allowed an SPC alternative energy and power generation alumnus and a current SPC alternative energy and power generation student a once-in-a-career opportunity to research for a green cure to higher energy prices. Juan Perez (2016 alumnus and 2003 South San High School graduate and Josue Bellorin (second-year SPC student and 2011 Judson High School alumnus) are the first from SPC to attend UTSA as funded participants in the SunShot DISTANCE (Diversity in Science and Technology Advances National Clean Energy in Solar) program that allows UTSA and SPC to support national plans to cut carbon pollution and support clean-energy innovation across the nation as it provides research opportunities to students in solar energy. Bellorin and Perez contributed this summer to the development at UTSA of an N-port power electronic converter, which UTSA could patent to ultimately reduce the cost of a photovoltaic system, maximizing energy output and limiting photovoltaic system ramps in power usage using short-term forecasts. Several high school students have entered the SPC-UTSA-DISTINCT pipeline for 2016-2017, and Bellorin and Perez are the first to receive financial assistance by conducting solar energy research at UTSA through the DISTINCT program this spring and summer. The Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute at The University of Texas at San Antonio was selected to receive the three-year, \$750,000 competitive award that supported study by Bellorin and Perez through the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative.



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## Third Memorial Day observances feature SPC alumni

St. Philip's College Southwest Campus held its Memorial Day observance at the Community College Student Veteran Monument. The outdoor marker was installed in 2011 by honor society students dedicated to college education for veterans. Two of the 525 honor society students who dedicated the marker took part in the observance. Business program alumnus and Bronze Star recipient Del Powell placed a ceremonial wreath at the monument with Army veteran and SPC cybersecurity program alumnus Michael Corona. Powell, a 2012 graduate, went on to earn his master's degree and recently returned from a year in Qatar. Corona, the first cybersecurity student from the college to participate as an undergraduate researcher in the Alamo



*Math faculty member Robert Walling (above) addressed the audience when SPC held its third Memorial Day observances.*

Colleges CIMA Alliance summer STEM program in 2015, is now a junior at UTSA.

### *Upcoming Events*

**President's Lecture Series:**  
April Hernandez-Castillo – October 6  
Homecoming – October 14  
President's Gala – Nov 5

### *Save the Date*

**President's Lecture Series:**  
Grace Gealey Byers – February 16

### *Newsletter Staff*

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