



President's Newsletter

Summer 2020



SPC Receives Texas Award-Next for Performance Excellence Award

St. Philip's College has been selected by the Quality Texas Foundation to receive the Texas Award-Next for Performance Excellence Award. Award-Next recognition is achieved only after previously being a Governor's Award recipient, signifying continued quality and improvement efforts.

A Texas Award for Performance Excellence (TAPE) takes six-to-ten years to achieve. Through several cycles of learning and strategic planning, the college systematically built its organizational effectiveness and narrowed its focus to hone in on its core competencies — quality instruction, student engagement and community engagement.

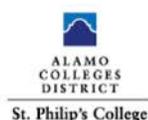
"We are excited to have this continued recognition from the Quality Texas Foundation. In 2018, we received the Governor's Award. This Next Level Award gives testimony to our continued best practices. We are continuously engaging in a performance excellence journey to

ensure that we remain at the forefront of service delivery to our students and community," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.

Utilizing the same criteria and process as the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, TAPE is an annual recognition of Texas organizations that have achieved excellence in organizational performance and have applied outstanding quality principles in their day-to-day operations.

TAPE winners are role model organizations demonstrating exceptional performance in all areas of organizational management - leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, workforce focus, operations focus and results.

"St. Philip's College again leads the Community Colleges in the State with a high performance culture supporting by outstanding leaders. The students and their families are the big winners," said Quality Texas Foundation CEO, Dr. Mac McGuire.



President's Message



The investiture of Judge Jason Pulliam, was a historic event and a monumental opportunity for St. Philip's College students. Pulliam is the first black judge appointed to the bench in the U.S.

District Court's Western District of Texas. Being a part of this formal ceremony – not something most people have access to – enhances student experiences.

“Co-curricular” and “experiential learning” have a great impact on student persistence and success. Co-curricular events and activities – clubs, sports and shows, for example – get students engaged outside of the classroom. Students who are active members of their college community are more likely to complete a college degree. Students can use co-curricular activities to build support networks and lifelong friendships.

Experiential learning is a way to bring textbooks to life with experiences outside the classroom that have direct relevance to what students are studying. Recently, some of our health sciences students visited a cadaver lab, our cybersecurity students competed in a national cyber contest, and our automotive students helped families of domestic abuse by fixing cars. In each opportunity, participants explore their chosen fields and observe professionals. They also boost resumes and build connections that will positively impact their careers.

Some of our students join professional organizations in their fields. The relationships they make as college students give them an advantage when seeking jobs after graduation.

We are intentional about providing venues for students to engage outside the classroom. Co-curricular and Experiential Learning are enhancements to college study and are critical to student success.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President

Students Attend Investiture Ceremony and Meet Tuskegee Airmen



Students who witnessed the investiture of Judge Jason Pulliam were accompanied by Dr. Loston (far right), Dr. Paul Machen, Dean of Student Success (far left) and other college leaders. Two Documented Original Tuskegee Airman — SMSgt James Bynum (shown here with students) and Dr. Eugene Derricotte (not pictured) — were among the honored guests.

St. Philip's College students were invited to attend the investiture of Judge Jason Pulliam, the first African American judge to be appointed to the bench in the U.S. District Court's Western District of Texas. During the investiture ceremony, students listened as Pulliam explained his path out of poverty through education. As a first-generation graduate, his exposure to advanced degrees led him to overcome poverty and find his place in law. Pulliam served in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned a law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in 2000.

Students also had the opportunity to meet Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, SMSgt James Bynum and Dr. Eugene Derricotte. In the early 1940s, political pressure exerted by the black press, civil rights groups and historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) led to the United States Army Air Corps (Army Air Forces) decision to train a small number of African American pilot cadets, resulting in the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen. The success of the Tuskegee Airmen proved to the American public that African Americans could become effective military leaders and pilots. It also helped set the stage for civil rights advocates to continue their struggle

to end racial discrimination during the civil rights movement.

Today, African Americans make up about 7 percent of San Antonio's population; most of whom reside in the city's Eastside. As a point of pride in the Eastside community, St. Philip's College, founded in 1898, is a comprehensive public community college whose mission is to empower its diverse student population through educational achievement and career readiness.

“As a student, having these experiences and opportunities allows me to prepare for my career. I learned a lot from Pulliam especially from his journey through life, it was inspiring,” said Criminal Justice student, Jacqueline Brown.

In being a Historically Black College and Hispanic Serving Institution, St. Philip's College is a vital facet to the community, responding to the needs of a population rich in ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity. In February, the campus hosted a series of events to motivate, inspire and enlighten the SPC community in honor of Black History Month. Last fall, Pulliam served as the keynote speaker to a cohort of over 350 students during SPC's commencement ceremony.

Presidents Day at SPC's Child Development Center



Dr. Loston celebrated Presidents Day by reading “Duck for President” to the children of the Child Development Center (CDC). The center, located on the MLK campus, provides childcare services for children ranging in ages from 18-months-and-walking to 5 years old. Recently the center received a total of \$55,500 for parent tuition assistance through the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) Grant. Grant funding for child care supports student retention and persistence without adding debt. 24 student parents were awarded grant funds for the spring semester.

SPC 4DX Spring Summit



From left, Diana Dimas Institutional Innovation Coordinator; Dr. Vanessa Anderson, formerly Dean for Academic Success, Academic Services; Jessica Cooper Dean for Academic Success, Health Sciences; Chris Beardsall, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology - SWC; Christina Cortez Dean for Student Success, Enrollment Management; Dr. Paul Machen, Dean for Student Success, Educational Support Services; George H. Johnson, III, Dean for Academic Success, Arts & Sciences; and Lacy Hampton, former VP for College Services.

The 4DX Summit is an integral element of the 4DX Cadence of Accountability that occurs at the end of each 4DX Cycle. The summit, which took place in February, hosted a celebration for the success of 4DX teams in their achievement of helping students persist. Awards are presented to teams who have completed their Wildly Important Goals (WIG).



12th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY



SPC celebrated the 12th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament in March. The event welcomed over 170 participants and raised more than \$162,000. The financial contributions fund Presidential Scholarships which assist students to actualize their potential in addressing societal issues and challenges. The funds also support Student Engagement Grants that provide opportunities for faculty and staff to create projects aimed at engaging students in campus programs. As a primary funding source, the contributions from the tournament are vital in helping St. Philip's strengthen the lives of students, their families and our community. Next year's tournament will take place on March 5, 2021.

Dr. Vanessa Anderson Named Interim Vice President for College Services



Dr. Vanessa Anderson

St. Philip's College has named Dr. Vanessa Anderson, Interim Vice President for College Services. Dr. Anderson joined St. Philip's in 2019 and has since served as the college's Dean of Academic Services. She has held multiple administrative, academic and senior-level positions throughout her career.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to serve St. Philip's College in this interim position. I am looking forward to connecting my skills and passion for student success to enhance the historic and innovative work taking place throughout the Division and College," said Dr. Anderson.

Her previous experience includes serving as Dean of Communications, Humanities, Arts & Design at Arapahoe Community College (ACC). Throughout her Deanship, Dr. Anderson provided leadership to the Law Enforcement Academy, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Communication, English, Early Childhood Education, Journalism, Paralegal, Criminal Justice, Automotive, Literature, Philosophy, World Languages, Humanities, Arts, the Art & Design Center, Academic Support Services-Tutoring, Student Success Center, the Division's Perkins Funding, Study Abroad and two Art Galleries.

She also created the first faculty exchange program and

professional development speaker series between Arapahoe Community College and the University of Puerto Rico. Furthermore, Dr. Anderson created the ACC's first Engaged Scholars Program and Model United Nation collaboration. She led the creation of the ACC Math and English Redesign team charged to navigate the evolving developmental education landscape, academic and student life elements throughout the College.

Her recent experience encompasses seven years in the Colorado Community College System as an adjunct faculty member at Aims Community College and Interim Dean of Liberal Arts & Behavioral Sciences at the Community College of Denver. As the Interim Dean, she oversaw the division which included Art, Behavioral Sciences, Communication, Theatre, English, Graphic Design, History, Humanities, Philosophy, Music, among others. Included in this role, she oversaw the administrators, professional staff, and Chairs. In addition, she was responsible for managing faculty teaching loads, executing chair evaluations, and overseeing the overall operating budget.

"Dr. Anderson has stepped in to fill a void in our college leadership. Her new responsibilities include Information Technology, Risk Management, campus budget, Institutional Research, facilities and all campus-based District operations. With her 29 years of experience, I am confident that she will continue moving the institution forward. We are excited to have her share her leadership, talents and skills," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.

Ministry Donates to Student Scholarships Fund



Members of Living in God's Love Ministry presented a \$2,500 donation to the college scholarship fund during the Black History Month Soul Food Fest event. The donation will serve as funding for students pursuing careers and licensure at St. Philip's. Dr. Loston is pictured with Dr. Sharon Crockett-Ray Director of Institutional Advancement & Development (far right) and members of the ministry.

Student Selected to Present at National Undergraduate Literature Conference

Weber State University -- Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities selected St. Philip's College student, Esmeralda Olivares, to present her work during the 35th Annual National Undergraduate Literature Conference (NULC) in Ogden, Utah. The conference gathers over 200 student writers and poets annually to present their work and learn from writers in contemporary literature.

Her piece, "Mumbled," was written in 2017 during her senior year of high school. "Mumbled" deals with the internal conflicts of two young adults who go through life not realizing that they were truly made for each other. Orphaned at a young age and without a stable and sensible parental-figure led the two unable to express their feelings in a healthy way.

"You may have all the friends in the world but even if an individual

doesn't have that one person they trust, someone's shoulder to cry on, then it feels like you have no one," said Olivares.

The story sheds light on the reality that fears and doubts are what destroy many opportunities of building a better future. Olivares believes that "knowing that we can love and be loved, no matter the circumstance, is what will bring us our happily ever after." She hopes that readers will understand the importance of relationships, not just in a romantic way. "It's about the trust that is shared between two people, the communication," she said.

Olivares serves as an author and editor for TigerPAWS, a literary art journal where students showcase their writing and artworks. She graduated in May 2020 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Baking and Pastry Art.



Esmeralda Olivares

SPC to Rename Building in Honor of Dr. Clarence W. Norris Sr.



Dr. Clarence W. Norris Sr.

The Alamo Colleges District Board voted Tuesday to grant President Emeritus status posthumously to Dr. Clarence W. Norris Sr. with recognition and appreciation for 30 years of dedicated service at St. Philip's College.

Artemisia Bowden, who served as President of St. Philip's College from 1902

to 1952, selected Norris as Assistant Dean and Instructor of education, sociology and Spanish in 1943. During her time at the helm, Bowden had to overcome many obstacles due to the effects of The Depression. As a result, the college ceased to function as a private institution and was transferred to the San Antonio Independent School District and later to the San Antonio Union Junior College, today known as Alamo Colleges District. The transition led to Ms. Bowden's title change from President to Dean.

Norris went on to serve as Dean of Faculty (1946-1954) and took over as Dean of the College when Ms. Bowden retired in 1954. He served as Dean until 1969, after stepping down, Dr. Norris returned to the classroom to teach Sociology from 1969

to 1974. This decision was a reflection of the times -- African Americans were not given a high level of respect and recognition as leaders in the segregated South.

"The awarding of president emeritus status is a reflection of the Alamo Colleges District Chancellor and Board of Trustee's efforts to correct a historical injustice and recognize the true leadership role and contributions of Dr. Norris. I am honored to serve as president with such a respectful and thoughtful Board of Trustees," said SPC President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. During a period in San Antonio's segregated history, SPC's founding president Saint Artemisia Bowden was stripped of her title and relegated to the title of "dean." This continued through her retirement and the appointment of Dr. Norris as her predecessor. In 2015, the Board restored her title, bestowing President Emeritus status in perpetuity. The same year, Bowden was named a holy woman by the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Norris was named Dean Emeritus upon his retirement in 1975 and a building was named in his honor. The Board also voted to rename the Norris Technical Building to the Clarence W. Norris Building. The building was built in 1970 and originally completed with three floors, a fourth-floor was added in 1972.

For decades, the building has not reflected its name in hosting technical programs, rather, has housed the Reading and English



Rendering provided by Skanska

departments, Instructional Technology (IT) and Information, Communication Technology department, Learning Lab, Reading Lab, Tutoring and Technology Center (TNT) and the Rose R. Thomas Writing Center.

“The facility extends Dr. Norris’ vision for learning, reading and writing by being the home of the Communications & Learning Department. Students enhance and embrace the power of the written and spoken word to develop critical writing, speaking, and language skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century,” said Dr. Diane Gavin Chair of Communications & Learning Department.

In 2017, the building was earmarked for an extensive renovation as part of the District’s \$450 million bond program approved by Bexar County voters. In January 2020, the college hosted a “Topping Out” ceremony to celebrate the raising of the last beam on the project. Completion is expected in time for Fall 2020 semester. The revitalized building will continue to dedicate its space to providing students with state-of-the-art labs and flexible learning areas including informal collaborative spaces, interactive displays and innovative learning tools.

A ceremony to celebrate the renaming of the Norris Building will occur upon completion of project.

Annual Red Dress Luncheon for Healthy Heart



In February, the college hosted the Red Dress Luncheon for a Healthy Heart event in observance of National Wear Red Day. The event serves to inform individuals on ways to eradicate heart disease by promoting healthy lifestyles, building awareness and sharing heart health facts.



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
St. Philip's College

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Palo Alto's EDUCATE Features Dr. Loston

The Palo Alto College STEM Center hosted Dr. Loston during their Black History Month EDUCATE event. During the presentation, Dr. Loston spoke to PAC students, faculty and staff about her journey in pursuing a Bachelor of Science at Alcorn State University, to her work at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to becoming President of St. Philip's College.

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

Upcoming Events

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week

September 7-13

Hispanic Serving Institutions Week

September 14-20

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