



President's Newsletter

Spring 2021



SPC Celebrates 123 Years

St. Philip's College is one of the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the nation. It is also the only college to be federally designated as both a Historically Black College and a Hispanic-serving institution. The journey that has led the college to hold the 2018 Texas Award for Performance Excellence (TAPE) and the 2020 Texas Award-Next for Performance Excellence, has a rich history that began in 1898 with a great vision.

On March 1, 2021, St. Philip's marked 123 years of existence. Artemisia Bowden, who led for 52 years, and Bishop James Steptoe Johnston were visionary giants who provided unparalleled leadership in advancing the institution. What began as a sewing school for the daughters and granddaughters of former slaves has evolved into a comprehensive, multi-campus institution offering over 100 degrees and certificates.

A Point of Pride on San Antonio's Eastside is a title given to the college by the community due to its commitment to responding to the needs of a population rich in ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity. The college has also been recognized as one of the top 10 most admired colleges and universities and cited as one of the fastest growing Historically Black Colleges and Universities. At St. Philip's, students are empowered to pursue their dreams and "walk in their passion". Their accomplishments have a positive generational impact on families and



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President's Message



Our College recognized two significant milestones during the month of March. The institution celebrated its one hundred and twenty-third anniversary. March 2021 also marked one year

since the coronavirus breached Texas borders. It is during times like these that we reflect on the past year -- a time we never imagined.

The coronavirus has had a significant impact on every aspect of our campus operations. It has been the professionalism and commitment of our faculty and staff that have made the difference.

But this tribute should also extend to our students, whose efforts, commitment, and adaptability have enabled them to combine their academic schedules with highly challenging personal and work-related circumstances.

In February, our state experienced yet another challenge with a week of frigid weather that left our state paralyzed. Our duty to focus on academic excellence and student success through the urgent task of defeating the pandemic, mitigating its effects, and recovering from the recent snowstorm has led to exceptional innovation.

In January, our College launched Resiliency Rising, a video series focused on mental health awareness and community empowerment that features testimonies from employees and students. We've learned that our Tiger Family has a tradition of resilience. No matter what challenge is presented, we endure and grow together.

It is with these experiences that our College is challenged to grow in excellence. To remain true to our founding spirit -- Artemisia Bowden's commitment to quality education-- we remain focused on providing students the highest level of academic experience.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.
President

SPC Partners with SAISD to Expand P-TECH Programs in SA



St. Philip's College has partnered with San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) in the expansion of local industry and career preparation programs. Three additional SAISD high schools will launch P-TECH (Pathways in Technology Early College High School) Programs beginning Fall 2021.

Highlands P-TECH will provide students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree and industry approved certifications in the areas of Aerospace, Engineering, Manufacturing and Welding.

Sidney Lanier High School's Construction Science P-Tech will focus on preparing students in careers within Construction Technology, Construction Science and Management, and Power Generation and Alternative Energy.

Cyber P-TECH USA at Sam Houston High School will offer students career pathways in

Cybersecurity. The new partnerships will offer a total of five P-TECH schools through the SAISD. P-TECH is a partnership among K-12, higher education and industry, each making long term commitments and contributing their best expertise to provide students with rigorous and hands-on academic, technical and workplace experiences. The P-TECH model integrates high school and college coursework, enabling students to begin college courses as soon as they are ready. Students earn a high school diploma, an industry-recognized associate degree and gain relevant work experience in a growing field simultaneously. Students also participate in a range of workplace opportunities that include mentoring, site visits and internships -all designed to support students' academic and professional growth.

Faculty Member Receives Award for Outstanding Efforts in International Education



Irene Young

St. Philip's College faculty member, Irene Young, was selected as the recipient of the Alamo Colleges District award for Outstanding Efforts on International Education in the faculty member category. The award is in recognition of Young's dedicated efforts toward global

learning engagements.

Young is an instructor of psychology with over 20 years of higher education experience. In 2019, she and faculty member, Andrew Hill, became the first Texas members in the Education Partnership for Internationalizing Curriculum Fellows Program at Stanford University in California. The program brings together a select number of faculty members to develop global and international studies.

In her upcoming courses, Young's students will focus on the global effects of COVID-19 on mental health, interpersonal communication and cultural diversity, and cross-cultural grief and coping.

Young previously served as an Air Force family life program specialist in Incirlik, Turkey, and an adjunct professor of psychology for both the University of Maryland--European Division and Central Texas College--Mediterranean Division.

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support our region's economic growth.

For over a century, faculty, staff, and administration have remained focused on cultivating a collaborative learning culture rooted in student success and performance excellence. With academic and student services that contribute to the institution's wraparound services available at their fingertips, students have the tools necessary to complete the numerous educational possibilities offered at the college.



Artemisia Bowden

Health Information Technology Program Ranks Among the Top in the U.S.



The St. Philip's College Health Information Technology (HIT) program earned top ranking for The Best Registered Health Information Technician by Intelligent.com. The HIT program was listed 25th in the nation and named "Best in South" amongst thousands of public institutions. Intelligent's 2021 rankings are calculated through a unique scoring system that includes student engagement, potential return on

investment, curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation, post-graduate employment and leading third-party evaluations. 153 schools were analyzed on a scale of 0 to 100, with only 50 making it to the final list.

The Health Information Technology program at SPC offers an Associate of Applied Science in Health Information Technology. With a degree in health information technology, graduates can work in hospitals, long-term care facilities, health insurance companies, state, and local government healthcare agencies and other companies that provide patient care services. Health information professionals are a vital resource in reviewing and reporting data collected during a patient encounter.

The entire HIT program curricula is taught online except for the last semester clinical course -- onsite placement for two weeks at a San Antonio area facility. Online courses are rigorous and reading-intensive, as is the profession. The 2020-2021 academic year marks the program's 50th anniversary. In February, the College received a ceremonial proclamation signed by the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, in honor of this milestone.

VP for Student Success Selected to Attend Prestigious Executive Leadership Institute

St. Philip's College Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee, was selected by a panel of national community college leaders to participate in the Executive Leadership Institute sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College. ELI provides opportunities for prospective community college presidents, or those in transition, to analyze their abilities, reflect on their interests, refine their skills, and engage in leadership discussions with an unparalleled faculty of community college leaders from across North America.

"I am immensely grateful to Dr. Adena Williams Loston for this amazing growth opportunity," said Dr. Brownlee. "Through Dr. Loston's leadership and mentorship, I have learned first-hand how to advance the institutional mission and the significance of creating academic pathways that empower the

lives of the students we serve."

As the vice president for student success, Dr. Brownlee is primarily responsible for all student onboarding, matriculation services, support systems and completion agendas. Since joining the St. Philip's College executive team four years ago, St. Philip's has experienced its highest enrollment, student success metric performance and program completion in its 123-year history.

"Dr. Brownlee is a highly motivated individual and inspires his team to pursue performance excellence in all initiatives," said Dr. Loston. "Mordecai serves as a champion for this institution and collaborates effectively with his fellow vice presidents to ensure that our student completion agenda is achieved."

This is ELI's 32nd year preparing senior-level community college administrators to successfully fill presidential roles.



Dr. Mordecai Ian Brownlee

SPC and Cyberbit Partner to Advance Cybersecurity Workforce Education and Training

In January, St. Philip's College and Cyberbit announced a partnership to enhance cybersecurity workforce education and training. St. Philip's College has tapped Cyberbit's cyber skilling expertise to train and prepare local residents for work in the cybersecurity field with an aim to meet the growing demand for new tech hires—internationally and in the greater San Antonio area. As a community college with a historically diverse student body, St. Philip's College is the first HBCU and HSI in the nation to introduce a partnership of this kind, which prepares future cybersecurity professionals for workforce readiness using Cyberbit's real-world attack simulation approach.

Today, 38% of cybersecurity positions in Texas—and over 40% in San Antonio alone—remain unfilled. And, the majority of the cybersecurity workforce comes from out-of-state, despite growing unemployment rates in the area. This is due to a local skills gap and St. Philip's College and Cyberbit have teamed up to bridge it by preparing future cybersecurity professionals for the realities of these high-pressure positions. Such preparations are integral to the success of students transitioning to the workforce and to the companies bringing them on.

“St. Philip's College values the importance of merging theory and experiential learning, so students have the opportunity to build the skills needed to enter the highly dynamic world of cybersecurity,” Dr. Adena Williams Loston said. *“The expertise exhibited by Cyberbit in their simulated cybersecurity lab environments makes them a qualified partner in cultivating competent cybersecurity professionals. The growing demand for work-force ready cyber-professionals far exceeds*

the supply. Our partnership with Cyberbit will help us bridge this gap by implementing real-world scenarios and tools that students will use within the industry.”

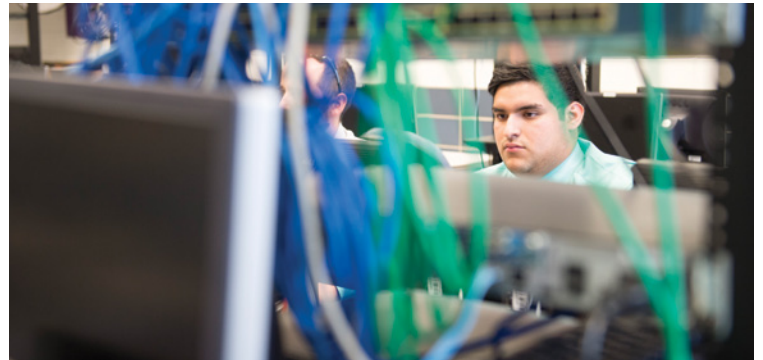
The college Cybersecurity Center—uniquely designated as an NSA/DHS National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—provides students with academic, technical and employability skills through rigorous and applied coursework, work-based learning experiences, scenario-based exercises and industry-recognized certification preparation. The college offers a Fast-Track Level 1 Certificate that can be completed in as little as eight months. The six-course 100% online distance learning certificate is designed to provide hands-

on training, IT knowledge and preparation for the CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+, additional industry certifications and the Information Technology Cybersecurity Specialist Level 1 Certificate.

“To improve the cybersecurity posture of enterprise organizations, it is imperative that college graduates—the next generation of talent—be workforce ready, contributing from day one to the security operations center,” said Susan Green, Director of Higher Education at Cyberbit. *“We are excited to be working with St. Philip's College, providing their students the perfect learning platform to build their cyber knowledge, technical skills, and gain relevant experience in a safe environment to ensure they excel upon entry to the cyber workforce!”*



CYBERBIT
TRAIN FOR REAL



Staff Member Named One of the Nation's Top 100 Leaders in Education



Naphtali Bryant

The Global Forum for Education & Learning (GFEL) named Naphtali Bryant, St. Philip's College Student Success Specialist, among the Nation's Top 100 Leaders in Education. This prestigious award recognizes educators for their significant contributions to the field of education based on the following five parameters: overall reach, industry impact, spirit of innovation, future-readiness and market demand.

Naphtali is an alumnus of St. Philip's College and currently helps students in Admissions and Records. He believes that helping students acquire scholarships that allow them to follow their dreams, fulfills his own.

Dr. Loston Named to San Antonio Economic Development Foundation Executive Committee



The San Antonio Economic Development Foundation (SAEDF) announced its 2021 Executive Committee, a group of executive leaders that represent the diverse industries and demographics that make up the San Antonio regional business community.

The SAEDF governing body, made up of majority private sector community leaders, directly influences the region's economic and workforce development strategy.

"SAEDF is propelling San Antonio forward, working to make sure our region grows strongly and grows the right way, and that every person has a chance to prosper," said Craig Boyan, H-E-B President and SAEDF Chair. *"I'm honored to serve alongside this group of corporate leaders dedicated to driving equitable growth strategies that will strengthen San Antonio for decades."*

Dr. Loston joins the 2021 committee alongside three new leaders: Brandon Gayle, EVP of Revenue, Brand & Communications with Spurs Sports & Entertainment; Robert Melvin, CEO & Founder of Limitless Creations and Chair of San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE); and Rosa Santana, CEO & Founder of Santana Group.

Dr. Loston Named One Of The Ten Most Dominant HBCU Leaders of 2021

The Ten Most Dominant HBCU Leaders Award & Class is a national recognition ranking created by the HBCU Campaign Fund, a non-profit that advocates for historically black colleges and universities and Minority-Serving Institutions. The selected leaders play prominent and influential role in leadership at HBCUs and MSIs while displaying the characteristics and responsibilities in the progression of effectively moving their institution forward.

Dr. Loston, was among the ten selected to receive this recognition. She was honored alongside, Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., MBA, F.A.C.S., President Howard University, David Kwabena Wilson, Ed.D., President Morgan State University, Jimmy R. Jenkins, Sr., Ph.D., President Livingstone College, Glenda B. Glover, Ph.D., JD, CPA, President Tennessee State University, Kent J. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., President Langston University, Christopher Brown II, President Kentucky State University, Brenda Allen, President Lincoln University (PA), Jerryl Briggs, Sr., Ph.D., President Mississippi Valley State University and Leroy Staggers, Ph.D., President Morris College.

Respiratory Care Technology Program Celebrates 50 Years of Excellence



The St. Philip's College Respiratory Care Technology Program is known as one of the oldest in San Antonio. At 50 years old, the program is celebrating excellence in delivering skilled and competent respiratory therapists. The success of the program is attributed to the strong foundation that dates back to 1970 and the faculty that has over 250 years of combined experience in respiratory care.

In the program, students learn content and clinical practice experiences that are designed to sequentially develop, apply, critically analyze, integrate, synthesize and evaluate concepts and theories in the performance of respiratory care procedures. Through structured, sequential, competency-based clinical assignments, concepts of team practice, patient-centered clinical practice, and

professional development are discussed, examined, and evaluated.

Although classes have transitioned to virtual instruction amid the pandemic, faculty have been successful in developing online lab materials to give students a more didactic experience that allows them to continue thriving in a remote environment.

Lambda Beta, a prestigious national honor society sponsored and maintained by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), recently presented student, Melissa Drake, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), Stephen P. Mikles, EdD, RRT, FAARC Media Award. The \$2,000 scholarship honors scholastic achievement and character of students, graduates and faculty members of the

respiratory care profession.

The job of a respiratory therapist involves the assessment and therapeutic management of patients diagnosed with cardiopulmonary disease. Practitioners perform procedures involving the administration of oxygen and medical gases, humidity/aerosol therapy, varied breathing treatments, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical ventilation, diagnostic lung function testing and patient/family education.

SPC programs celebrating 50 years through the 2020-2021 academic year include: Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography Technology, Medical Laboratory Technician and Respiratory Care Technology.

BOA Commits \$25M to Support Community Colleges, HBCUs and HSIs in Creating Career Pathways and Job Opportunities



St. Philip's College is among eight public and private higher education institutions in Texas selected to receive a donation of \$2.65M from Bank of America. The donation will be used to develop and enhance programs to help meet specific skills gaps in the community to create higher-paying, family-sustaining jobs that are in demand, especially those at local anchor companies. It will also provide tuition assistance and support distance learning for a population disproportionately impacted by the digital divide.

"The coronavirus pandemic continues to have an outsized impact on Black and Latino communities, accelerating concerning trends already underway regarding unemployment rates and racial injustices," said Jessica Miller, San Antonio market president, Bank of America. "Bank of America recognized the need for action and is partnering with Alamo Colleges Foundation – St. Philip's College, who is doing incredible work to close the gap for communities of color, providing quality education and skills development."

SPC Shares Messages of Hope Through New Initiative Resiliency Rising

In January, St. Philip's College announced the launch of a new initiative titled, Resiliency Rising -- a video series that features stories from SPC faculty, staff and students. The goal of the videos are to speak openly about mental health while educating and empowering the community. The first episode, released on January 22, 2021, featured Director of Student Success Elizabeth Castillo, who spoke on the importance of mental and physical health.

"I am very grateful to share my story, I hope that it is a step towards fighting the stigma of mental illness. It has been a long journey to get to where I am today. I hope this makes it just a little bit easier for someone to share their story or to reach out for help," said Castillo.

The initiative was fueled by the SPC Resiliency Study which evolved from students' research conducted in Spring 2017 in an English composition course. Six students believed that trauma was a significant challenge to student success, which led to the completion of a non-scientific study collecting Adverse

Childhood Experiences (ACE) scores from SPC students on anonymous index cards.

One of the cards shared a message rather than a number: "I need help." In response, the instructor and a college counselor designed a longitudinal study that began in Fall 2017 that included over 600 volunteer participants, many of whose stories will be featured in upcoming Resiliency Rising episodes.

The study focused on first-time-in-college students (those who have just graduated from high school or are taking college classes for the first time). The study found that 72% of participants had experienced at least one category of toxic stress and a high percentage of students reported adversity in areas of divorce/separation of parents, emotional neglect and emotional abuse. Both studies sought to identify ways that the College could support and improve student success services and resources. The

SPC Resiliency Study Team hopes that the experiences shared through the series will work towards breaking the stigma of mental health and provide a basis for mental health awareness.



Over 800 Families Served Through SPC's Contactless Pop-Up Markets



Food insecurity is not a recent challenge among college students. The pandemic, however, has exacerbated the problem for many students as they find ways to meet their basic needs amid the economic impact caused by Covid-19. A survey from Chegg.org found that nearly one-third of students said they had experienced food insecurity since the coronavirus outbreak began. Additionally, more than half of respondents reported the use of off-campus food banks for food assistance.

To address food insecurity, which affects more than 40% of Alamo Colleges' students, the Alamo Colleges District and the San Antonio Food Bank launched Pop-Up Markets in June 2020. The markets provide healthy food to students, employees, and the surrounding community through a

no-contact drive-thru. They also served in place of existing on-campus food pantries that have been inaccessible due to campus visit restrictions. The St. Philip's College pop-up market location has served a total of 898 families between August 2020 and January 2021.

"We serve students who are caring for and financially supporting children, family members and friends throughout the San Antonio community. These monthly food distributions allow us to ease some of the burden students face with a wave, encouraging words, and bags of groceries. By addressing the hidden challenge of food insecurity in the homes of our students and their family members, we are helping students focus more on their studies," said Interim Director of Advocacy, Eitandria Tello.

The St. Philip's College Pop-Up Markets are coordinated by Student Success and executed with the help of faculty, staff and student volunteers who also benefit from their service as it allows them to feel more socially connected and aids in warding off the feelings of stress and isolation caused by social distancing. Having volunteers from various areas of the college has positively impacted the markets as oftentimes students and their families connect with volunteers who can refer them to additional services available through the St. Philip's College Advocacy Center.

"The people at the advocacy center have been such a blessing during this challenging school year. The pop-up markets help tremendously, there is always someone available to help and it is done with nothing but kindness," said student, Dareon Morris.



SPC's Welcome Center Thrives in Virtual Spaces

The St. Philip's College Student Success Enrollment Management and Advising Team launched its Virtual Welcome Center on January 4, 2021, in response to on-campus visit restrictions due to Covid-19 and in preparation for the Spring 2021 semester. In the month of January, the virtual center delivered one-on-one sessions and provided service to over 4,000 students through the new medium. Enrollment Management team members and Certified Advisors have remained committed to helping students be successful by providing quality service, support and encouragement to each through the remote learning environment.

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

All Alamo Colleges District events have been canceled, postponed or will be delivered virtually until further notice. Follow us on social media to receive the latest information on campus announcements.



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