CONTACT: John Dendy | Public Information Officer | (210) 486–2259 | SPC–PR@ALAMO.EDU

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CEREMONIALLY UPGRADE ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM TO NATIONAL CENTER OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE STATUS
National center designation offers consumers access to scholarships, internships and cybersecurity industry respect

SAN ANTONIO (June 27, 2013)——A highlight of the 2013 Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education June 10 opening program in Mobile, Ala., occurred when two St. Philip's College employees accepted ceremonial National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security documents recognizing the college as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance for Two Year Institutions for the academic years of 2013-2015.

Designation as a national center establishes the global identity of the college by the cybersecurity industry and consumers of cybersecurity education as one of the few two-year cybersecurity education institutions certified as centers of excellence offering consumers access to the scholarships, internships and industry respect associated with a May 2013 center designation by both the NSA and Department of Homeland Security. The college's Business Information Systems Department employees accepting the certificates in the federal ceremonial presentation were center coordinator and college information technology faculty member Haydar Thomas Sahin and department chair Janie N. Gonzales.

Sahin developed the information security and assurance curriculum and coordinated both the new designation and 2011 courseware certifications on behalf of the college. Co-presenters of the college's certificate were Roberta G. Stempfley, and Debora A. Plunkett. Stempfley is acting assistant secretary for cybersecurity and communications at DHS, and Plunkett is information assurance director at NSA.

St. Philip's College is enrolling students now in its online/on-campus information security and assurance academic program and offering students center-level support and two National Security Agency certifications upon completion of the course, Information Systems Security (INFOSEC) Professionals NSTISSI No. 4011, and Senior Systems Managers CNSSI No. 4012. Students graduating from the college's information security and assurance associate degree and certificate programs will graduate with some of the top and best-paid credentials in the information technology industry, along with the broad knowledge and skills required for transfer to a four-year college and further success in life.

The college began offering further value to consumers of cybersecurity education in 2012 through a $500,218 National Science Foundation Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service program grant that supports partnerships in the national effort to grow both the education and industry sectors of America's cybersecurity workforce. The funding has enabled the college to innovate in cybersecurity education by establishing and fielding in 2012 a corps of students known as Cyber Tigers who are trained and equipped to respond as practitioners to actual cyber emergencies, a student corps that is recognized within the cybersecurity industry as either America's first or one of America's first.

To obtain information on St. Philip's College information security and assurance degrees, certificates, certifications and center status, contact Haydar Thomas Sahin at HSAHIN@ALAMO.EDU.

About the St. Philip's College Information Security And Assurance program: Established in 2012, the St. Philip's College Information Security and Assurance program provides students with the tools to combat threats to network security and prepares the students for security assurance training and certifications. With the support of the Alamo Colleges and a National Science Foundation grant, preparation begins as early as the high school level with free dual credit college degree-professional certificate-high school diploma programs available for those students. All students are prepared with foundation courses such as network topologies, integration of Microsoft and Linux operating systems, and

information security and assurance. The program offers curriculum approved by the Committee on National Security Systems and The National Security Agency for NSTISSI 4011 and CNSSI 4012 certifications, and has been an approved National Center of Academic Excellence In Information Assurance since May of 2013.

About The Colloquium: Created in 1997 to provide a forum for dialogue among figures in academia, government and industry, The Colloquium is a proponent for implementing courses of instruction in information security in education. Active throughout the year and holding an annual conference in June, colloquium members seek to define current and emerging requirements for information assurance education and to influence and encourage the development and expansion of information assurance curricula at the college level.