ST. PHILIP’S COLLEGE STUDENTS BEGIN
NATIONAL INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CAMPUS CHALLENGE WITH 9/11 EVENT

Students join national program to build understanding between communities
while contributing to the common good

SAN ANTONIO (September 7, 2011)—— St. Philip’s College students will start participating in the White House’s new National Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge with a National Day of Service and Remembrance event observing the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The event will take place on Monday, September 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Watson Fine Arts Center flagpole at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive.

Employees at 113-year-old St. Philip’s College are among more than 400 higher education institutions joining the challenge to engage students in an academic year of community service with a nondenominational element this summer at the invitation of President Obama. This initiative is led by the White House and is supported by the Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service. The college is presently at work informing and recruiting students to re-focus their 2011-2012 service in this direction, explained Kevin Schantz, the college’s service learning coordinator.

The Sept. 12 event will include remarks from Vice President of Academic Affairs Ruth Dalrymple, a moment of silence, lowering of the U.S. flag by students enrolled with local ROTC programs, the playing of Taps, and concluding remarks. The emphasis for the remembrance event is bridging gaps and creating tolerance. Representatives from different religious faiths will be present during this structured, nondenominational remembrance program.

Globally, the world will remember the innocent lives lost on September 11, 2001. Those observances will honor the coalition of nations in the global war on terrorism. Nationally, there will be commemorations held at Ground Zero in New York, in Shanksville, Pa., and in Virginia at the Pentagon. The college’s 9/11 event is unique in its service area as a college student effort that is a part of a new service-oriented national program.

“Even if you can’t be in New York, Pennsylvania or Virginia, every American can be part of this anniversary. Once again, 9/11 will be a National Day of Service and Remembrance,” President Obama said in his Aug. 27 weekly address, Coming Together to Remember. “And in the days and weeks ahead, folks across the country—in all 50 states—will come together, in their communities and neighborhoods, to honor the victims of 9/11 and to reaffirm the strength of our nation with acts of service and charity.”

About St. Philip’s: Bishop James Steptoe Johnston of the St. Philip’s Episcopal Church of the West Texas Diocese founded St. Philip’s College in 1898. Today, St. Philip’s College, a member of the Alamo Colleges, is a multi-campus institution and serves a semester enrollment of more than 11,000 credit and more than 8,000 continuing education students. St. Philip’s College is a Historically Black College and a Hispanic Serving Institution. As “A Point of Pride in the Community,” St. Philip’s College is among the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the United States.