



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

*"A Point of Pride in the Community"*

# President's Newsletter

Winter 2021



*Spring 2018 Commencement Ceremony at the Freeman Coliseum*

## Percentage of SPC Male Graduates Climb Ahead of National Average

The enactment of Title IX in 1972, which guaranteed the right to an education free from sex discrimination, had a lasting impact on women pursuing higher education and completing college degrees. Since the ratification of Title IX, women have consistently outpaced men in earning that same level of education as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

The 1981-82 academic school year was the first time women received more postsecondary degrees than men, according to NCES. From then on, women across higher education graduation rates have shown consistent growth.

In 1898, before the rise of women receiving a formal

education, St. Philip's was established by James Steptoe Johnston, a bishop of St. Philip's Episcopal Church of the West Texas Diocese. St. Philip's Normal and Industrial School was designed to educate and train the daughters and granddaughters of emancipated slaves. The school began as a weekend sewing class for six black girls.

Later in 1902, Artemisia Bowden joined the school as administrator and teacher and served St. Philip's College for 52 years. Under her visionary leadership, the school grew from an industrial school for girls into a high school, later a junior college, and today as part of the Alamo Colleges District. Miss Bowden grew the capacity of the



# President's Message



More than 100 years after our founding, St. Philip's College remains true to its mission to serve the community as an open-access, comprehensive college with a diverse and accomplished student body. At St. Philip's, we nurture personal growth and inspire academic leadership from the moment students step foot on campus.

Our First-Year Experience (FYE) program is comprised of an engaging spectrum of academic and co-curricular activities and outreach with a focus on Friendship, Acceptance, Mentoring, Inspiration, Learning, Inclusion, and Advancement. The FAMILIA paradigm serves as a model to students as they navigate their first year in college.

FYE begins with Tiger Nation Family Day, an event that introduces students to academic expectations, campus engagement opportunities, and student resources. Our goal is to provide students with a seamless transition from Tiger Nation Family Day to their first day of classes.

Attention to first-year students and their transition to our institution is essential to fulfill our obligation as educators and to realize our institutional potential. First-year students succeed when they make progress toward developing academic and intellectual competence, establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships, exploring identity development, and developing civic responsibility.

Through our FYE program, students find a sense of belonging, develop the skills they need, engage meaningfully across campus, practice well-being, find success, and move forward to make a positive change in our community.

Student success, year-to-year persistence, and retention through to graduation are reliant on our ability to extend our influence beyond the classroom.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## St. Philip's College Male Graduation Rates 2015 - 2020



talent pool and extended the life expectancy of the institution.

The foundation of St. Philip's as an all-girl school has reflected the consistent rates of high female enrollment and degree completion for the majority of its existence. However, in recent years and unlike national trends, St. Philip's College has experienced a rise in the completion of degrees and certificates by male students, specifically between the years of 2015-2020. The rise in male student completion rates shows a contrast to national two-year and four-year degree-granting institutions who overall reported their graduation rates were higher for females than males according to NCES reporting.

"We don't rely on a one-size-fits-all support system for students. We meet each student where he or she is and we curate a network that addresses the individual's needs. We've implemented two experiential programs in the last five years that have had a great impact on persistence. Both are targeted, but not limited to, male students – Men of Color and Collegiate 100. Each provides active students with mentors, networking and community engagement. Each is impactful here at St. Philip's College and beyond because of the potential to make lifelong relationships with leaders here and in the community,"

explained Dr. Loston.

In addition to the increase of male graduates, St. Philip's College holds the largest percentage of male student enrollment across the Alamo Colleges District, at 41.47% as of Fall 2020. Most St. Philip's College male students are pursuing degrees in Biology, Liberal Arts, Business Administration, Automotive Technology, and IT Cybersecurity. Between Fall 2019 and Summer 2021, the five programs reported the highest number of male student enrollment.

St. Philip's College technical training programs such as Plumbing, Electrical Trades, Air Conditioning Heating & Refrigeration, Welding, and Automated Industrial Process, continue to be mostly comprised of male students.

In 123 years, St. Philip's College has grown to offer over 100 programs. Although the earliest lessons taught at St. Philip's were sewing, the purpose of the College has remained the same in teaching leadership and marketable skills.

St. Philip's College continues to be one of the oldest and most diverse community colleges in the nation. The college has earned the 2018 Texas Award for Performance Excellence, 2018 Baldrige National Quality Award, and 2020 Texas Award Next for Performance Excellence.

## Dr. Loston Delivers Keynote for Visit SA

Visit San Antonio hosted Dr. Loston as their Keynote Speaker during the Annual Visit San Antonio Meeting in October. This year, the meeting theme was to highlight the resiliency and commitment that the San Antonio community and partners continue to fight despite the ongoing pandemic. Dr. Loston spoke on the obstacles she has faced and overcome throughout her life and career.

Visit San Antonio, as a Destination Management Organization, supports the St. Philip's College Department of Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts as it prepares the next generation of hospitality industry professionals. Mary A. Kunz (retired THCA professor, current THCA adjunct faculty), David Uminski (Hotel & Hospitality Management Programs Director), and 16 THCA students also attended: Dakota Blumenshine, Fernando Martinez, Anna Morales, Ruben Armenta, Nancy Rico, Edith Muratti, Vivian LeSpade, Katarina Gutierrez, Sarah Morehead, Saul Castro Jimenez,



*Dr. Loston's keynote address was also an opportunity for SPC students to make connections and share experiences in an industry setting. Networking at this level gives college students an advantage over their peers when they enter the job market.*

Samantha Castillo, Anayeli Aguirre, Donyeill Morehead, Destiny Rodriguez, Roy Allen, and Tamara Smith

## SPC Partners with Strada Education Network to Connect Students' Education and Aspirations



*Ashia McDonald*



*Skylar Addison*



*Zena Hariri*

Strada Education Network launched a \$25 million initiative to partner with 28 HBCUs and provide students with scholarships and financial support while focusing on leadership development. The initiative fosters the idea that professional networks are a vital step in preparing students for careers, with the hope that funding more internships will allow students to gain additional real-life experiences.

A grant in the amount of \$338,200

for an 8-year-long collaboration with St. Philip's will fund the program. Through this initiative, Strada Scholars will receive support for their leadership development goals in terms of practical advice and guidance, as well as support in identifying future career or volunteer paths. Students accepted into the mentorship program are selected based on their cumulative GPA, academic achievements, and commitment to serving SPC and the

surrounding community.

Dr. Loston, who also serves as a member of the Strada HBCU Advisory Council, will work alongside the three students as they build their professional networks and prepare to launch their careers. The 2021-2022 Strada Scholars include Skylar Addison (Culinary Arts), Zena Hariri (Engineering), and Ashia McDonald (Social Work).

# Community of Automotive Professionals Donates to Automotive Technology and Diesel Technology Programs



*From left, SPC Diesel Technology Instructor, Don Wehmann; CAP Chief Financial Officer, Aden Stiles; SPC Diesel Technology Program Coordinator, Don Fernandez; SPC Automotive Technology Program Interim Department Chair, John Eichelberger; and CAP Education Liaison, Michael Smith.*

Community of Automotive Professionals (CAP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement and revitalization of both the automotive industry and South Texas communities, donated to

both the St. Philip's College Automotive Technology and Diesel Technology Programs. Each program received \$5,000.

The check presentation took place during CarFest, an annual weekend-long event produced by CAP. The event took place in October at the Freeman Coliseum Expo Hall. During CarFest, some of San Antonio's top master technicians showcase their skills as they repair 25 vehicles for area residents.

Automotive students work alongside these experienced professionals to learn job-related skills and gain hands-on experience as they assist with repairs. Students from both Automotive Technology and Diesel Technology volunteer at the event each year.

The St. Philip's College Diesel Technology and Automotive Technology programs have been in partnership with the Community of Automotive Professionals since 2015. Together they educate and train the next generation of industry professionals, help certified technicians find employment, and provide students the opportunity to build relationships with local and national automotive industry professionals.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/cap-donation](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/cap-donation)

## Director for Student Success Named a 2022 Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate

St. Philip's College Director for Student Success, Elizabeth Castillo, was recently recognized by the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition as one of 10 national recipients of their Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award.

Each year, the award honors college faculty, administrators, staff, and students for the impact their efforts have on the students and culture of their institutions. Recipients will be formally recognized during the annual conference on The First-Year Experience, scheduled to be held in Orlando, Florida, February 2022.

"Since arriving at St. Philip's College in 2017, Liz has been an integral member of the Division for Student Success where she serves as the Director for First-Year Experience Programs. Liz has leveraged innovation to foster a culture of civic engagement, career exploration, and campus involvement. She uses her understanding of first-generation and community college students to produce initiatives that strengthen the first-year

community and promotes student retention. Thanks to her collaborative approach, first-year students are provided with the wrap-around support services needed to drive academic achievement and personal development," said Dr. Destiny C. Harper-Lane, Interim Dean for Student Success.

Castillo serves as the chair of New Student Convocation (Tiger Nation Family Day), oversees engagement and support of AlamoPROMISE Scholars, supports and assists every member within the unit of Educational Support Services, and works hard to accomplish the goals of her department.

Castillo oversees Financial Literacy, Service Learning, and Tutoring and Technology Services. These functions require routine collaboration with academic deans, faculty chairs, and community stakeholders as she works to develop experiential learning opportunities and resources for students. During her tenure, she has also worked to promote ethical decision-making as the



*Liz Castillo*

chair of the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Throughout her 15-year career, Castillo's work has focused on advocating and supporting underrepresented students in higher education. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Sul Ross State University and a master's degree in fine arts from Texas Tech University.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/fys-advocate](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/fys-advocate)

## SPC Debuts New Community Garden

In November, St. Philip's hosted A Taste of the Garden to celebrate the restoration of the MLK Campus Community Garden. The garden project was funded by the \$20,000 award from the Home Depot® Retool Your School competition in April. St. Philip's College was one of 30 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to win this year's competition. The event featured door prizes, a scavenger hunt, and light refreshments picked, prepared, and served by Culinary Arts students.



*Dr. Loston previewed the garden the day before the event and toured the new garden beds and gazebo. The garden beds displayed a bountiful harvest of beets, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, and other vegetables.*



*The SPC Community Garden is a civic engagement project that started in Fall 2015. The project was temporarily stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic this past spring. Now restored, the garden will continue to be a space where people can gather in community to learn more about planting, gardening, herbs, and agriculture.*

# SAVE THE DATE



## THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT



March 4, 2022  
The Quarry Golf Club  
[alamo.edu/spc/golf](http://alamo.edu/spc/golf)



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

## 2021 Homecoming Court

St. Philip's College hosted a virtual Homecoming Blue and White Dance as part of SPC's weeklong celebration. Students, faculty, and staff gathered via Zoom to celebrate the end of Homecoming week and watched the announcing of the 2021 Homecoming Royal Court. The court from left are: 1st Runner-Up, Mr. Valentin Alejandro Morin; SPC-ECHS/ Dual Credit, Mr. Ruben Armenta; Mr. St. Philip's, Darius Martin; Dr. Loston; Ms. St. Philip's, Leianna Bell; SPC-ECHS/Dual Credit Ms. Sydney Jackson; 1st Runner-Up, Ms. Savannah Matos; and 2nd Runner-Up, Ms. Connie Pullen.



**Mr. St. Philip's: Darius Martin, is currently enrolled in the Business Administration program. He serves as 2021 HBCU White House Competitiveness Scholar and has previously served as the Alamo Colleges District Student Trustee.**

**Ms. St. Philip's: Leianna Bell, is currently pursuing a degree in Occupational Therapy. Her writing is published in the St. Philip's College Tiger PAWS Literary Art Journal. Her work titled, The Athenian Women Blues, was part of the 2019 Tiger PAWS issue.**



## New Health & Wellness Building Named in Honor of William Allen Hudgins



**William Allen Hudgins**

Alamo Colleges District Board voted in October to name the new St. Philip's College Health & Wellness Building in honor of William Allen Hudgins who contributed nearly 40 years of service to St. Philip's College and his community.

Hudgins was the first basketball coach at SPC, where he served as a role model to young men for 18 years. As a coach, he encouraged high academic standards while overseeing the mental health, growth, and development of team

members. He was committed to strengthening the development of children of color in our community. Hudgins (affectionately

known as "Coach" and "Meatboy") is prominently displayed as a part of the St. Philip's College Historical Legacy Wall located in the Bowden Center on the third floor of the Sutton Learning Center.

The new William Allen Hudgins Health and Wellness (WAH) Building will replace the existing college fitness center built in 1949. The 57,000-square-foot two-story gymnasium and natatorium will include an elevated track, short course swimming pool, therapy pool, weight, cardio training spaces, aerobic studio, cardio studio, teaching labs for kinesiology, first aid/ CPR, massage therapy, gathering spaces, and staff offices. The building will be completed in 2022.

# First-Generation College Celebration

In 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Center for First-generation Student Success launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration. This year First-Generation College Day was held on November 8. SPC honored first-generation students and graduates throughout the weeklong celebration. Below are featured first-generation graduates and St. Philip's College employees who shared what being a first-generation college graduate means to them.



**CHRIS BEARDSALL, DEAN FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

I'm proud of being a first-generation graduate because it helped me overcome fears and self-doubt, as well as opening doors to me I never thought imaginable. When I dropped out of high school at the age of 16, to work and help my parents financially, I never imagined I'd go back to school and earn a graduate degree. However, I would have never made it through had I not taken advantage of as many of the support programs as the colleges had to offer, like tutoring, and scholarships.



**DR. TOMEKA C. WILSON, ACADEMIC PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

As a First-Gen, I understood the importance of URGENCY and committing to complete because it was never about me. It was for generations to come, including YOU.



**CHRISTINA CORTEZ, DEAN FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

I am extremely proud to be a first-generation college student. The navigation of college is not easy however anything is achievable if you believe you are capable. To this date I am overwhelmed with the impact I have made in both my life and others by going to college. What I am most proud of is the foundation that I have established for my children and their futures.



**CHARLIE YOUNG, VISUAL CONTENT CREATOR**

"An education is the one thing nobody can take away from you," is something my mother often stressed. During uncertain times, I would repeat this to myself to stay motivated along my journey. I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and remember that you deserve to be here, too.



**LIZ CASTILLO, DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

One of the things I am most proud of is being a first-generation college graduate. It wasn't always easy and I felt lost more than a few times but I kept asking questions and I am so glad I did. My grandparents weren't even able to go to school so I think it's amazing that two generations later, I have a graduate degree.



# ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT St. Philip's College

1801 Martin Luther King Dr.  
San Antonio, TX 78203

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## Child Development Center Earned 4-Star Rating



The St. Philip's College Child Development Center was recently assessed by Texas Rising Star Assessors and earned the highest level of TRS certification -- a 4-Star Rating. The center was assessed in the areas of Child Interactions, Nutrition and Indoor/Outdoor Activities. The program received an incentive of \$1,800 from Workforce Solution Alamo for being a Texas Rising Star Provider. The CDC provides an early education environment for children ranging in age from 18 months-and-walking to 5 years old. The CDC is children-centered and responsive to cultural, ethnic and socio- economic diversity. In October, the Center hosted a car parade to celebrate the conclusion of Fall Fest. During Fall Fest children engaged in hands-on activities, season related learning, and events that engage the family.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/cdc-4stars](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/cdc-4stars)

### *Upcoming Events*

For more information on upcoming events and to receive the latest information on campus announcements follow us on social media.



### *Newsletter Staff*

**Managing Editor** – Alexa Saavedra,  
Strategic Communications Coordinator

**Editor** – Adrian Jackson,  
Director of Marketing &  
Strategic Communications

**Designer** – Larry Lopez,  
Marketing Content Creator

**Photographer** – Charlie Young,  
Visual Content Creator

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.