



ALAMO COLLEGES

ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE  
"A Point of Pride in the Community"

# President's Newsletter

Quarter 3 – 2014

## President's Message



Greetings, friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students. As we start a New Year and new semester, we have many reasons to be thankful.

I'll first start with announcing our 7th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. If you haven't already done so, please visit our website, [alamo.edu/spc](http://alamo.edu/spc) to register. With your help and ongoing support I remain confident we will reach the \$1 million dollar mark in 2015!

We are fortunate enough to have a great community with great supporters who join us in affording our students lasting opportunities to further their education and contribute to our growing economy.

This issue highlights many of our summer programs that I take great pride in and I wish to spread the word to all of our supporters with school-aged children, grandchildren or friends with children. From experience in running a city in our Microsociety to hands-on STEM activities, we offer a variety of programs to enrich the minds of our future generation of leaders.

A historic event we had the pleasure to host was the welcoming of our city's first African American female Mayor, Ivy Taylor. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month we hosted a variety of activities including guest speaker, former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona. We hope to see you this spring as we celebrate our African American History and various campus events, which will enrich the learning of our students.

Best Regards,

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Congratulations Mayor Taylor

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in a reception to welcome the new interim mayor of the City of San Antonio, The Honorable Ivy Taylor. The event was co-sponsored by the San Antonio Hispanic, the Alamo Asian American and the Alamo City Black Chambers of Commerce. St. Philip's College leadership, Alamo Colleges Board Members Denver McClendon and Joe Alderete along with Student Alternate Trustee Rudy Padilla hosted this nonpartisan multichamber reception for our former City of San Antonio District 2 representative.



San Antonio Mayor The Honorable Ivy Taylor and her daughter observed the ceremonial presentation of \$15,000 to St. Philip's College for its Veterans Outreach and Transition Center.



The San Antonio Hispanic, the Alamo Asian American and the Alamo City Black Chambers of Commerce each cosponsored the event.

## Inside this issue...

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## College Cyber First Responders

On June 26, 100 participants completed the 2014 Cyber First Responders Summer Camp at the St. Philip's College Southwest Campus. The certificate of participation ceremony also included recognition for outstanding team projects. St. Philip's College faculty provided participants with information technology career information and hands-on projects to educate secondary school students about fundamentals of information technology. The three-week summer camp was co-sponsored by St. Philip's College and the National Science Foundation's Cyber Security Grant.

## MicroSociety

On June 26 in the City of San Antonio City Hall Complex, the 2014 St. Philip's College the Kids' Camp MicroSociety student leadership attended the City Council A Session meeting as a corporate public service field trip. Students were publicly welcomed in council chambers by The Honorable Julián Castro, Mayor of San Antonio and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development secretary nominee. St.



*St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston meets with camp attendees.*

Philip's College MicroSociety student mayor Sean Godley and student city manager Doreen Hansen introduced themselves to council members from the chamber's public podium, and later met with Mayor Castro. MicroSociety students then wrote reflections on their field trip. The visit was coordinated through the staff of the District 2 City Council, and a video of the council's welcome for the MicroSociety members was archived on the

city's web site. "I shook his hand and said hi," student mayor Godley recalled. "He was very nice and he was kind; he seemed trustworthy, like a teacher, said Godley, who is also a student at Antioch Christian Academy. "Hello Mayor Godley!" Mayor Castro said in welcome to the visitors. "We are proud of you and the effort you are making with the program you are in. We hope that in years to come that you reach all your



*The Honorable Julián Castro speaks with St. Philip's College MicroSociety students.*

dreams and keep going to school. Just know that you can accomplish your dreams," Mayor Castro concluded. The MicroSociety camp experience immerses children in nine weeks of actively discovering and sustaining long-term solutions for the revitalization of San Antonio, a nationally recognized rising leader in innovation, education and community investment best practices. The students operate their own society and assume roles which range from mayor to banker.

## Highlight Presentations

On July 16, at the Southwest Campus, St. Philip's College began its first week of guest presentations for 125 area middle schools and high school science students enrolled in the college's **Science and Math Summer Academy**. The 2014 presentation season began with **News4 San Antonio chief meteorologist Albert Flores** July 14, Gary Steinmetz, of Texas Parks and Wildlife July 15 and Jesse Guerra of San Antonio Water System July 16, in the Centers of Excellence for Math and Science Wing. Academy presentation topics connected kids with higher-demand, higher-pay employment sectors of our city. The 2014 Academy offered **hands-on lab experiments**

with faculty support in nanotechnology, micro-computer programming, mechanical engineering, rocketry, manufacturing, environmental science, chemistry, and alternative energy. This year the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Initiative, Ella Austin Community Center and Antioch Christian Academy partnered with St. Philip's College and provided transportation for 22 students to attend the academy. On July 31, at the SPC Southwest Campus, the academy's final day included four 20-minute hands-on presentations showcasing academy team projects in alternative energy,



computer aided manufacturing, micro-computer design/programming, mechanical engineering, rocketry, chemistry, nanotechnology and earth science. The event was attended by families and academy faculty members from St. Philip's College, Mira Costa College and the Northeast, South San and Natalia independent school districts. On Aug. 13, the 2014 St. Philip's College Science and Math Summer Academy received online notice from the North East Independent School District for hosting the district's Krueger School of Applied Technologies. The second year of the summer program where St. Philip's College students travel to use one of the few authorized rocket launch airspaces in San Antonio engages the district's teachers as "a part of this unique camp. Rocketry is one of the eight STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) activities taught during this three week period. At the end of camp, a rocket launch



was held at Krueger Middle School where they launched their rockets and participated in other aerospace activities for the day. It is a wonderful partnership in which students from all over San Antonio from all different backgrounds get to experience STEM projects and careers." the district reported.

On July 31, St. Philip's College concluded sessions for area middle and high-school students enrolled in the **San Antonio Prefreshman Engineering Program** taught at two St. Philip's College



campuses. Established in 1979, the PREP program administered by University of Texas at San Antonio is a four-year course to groom students in Texas, New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, California and Utah for success in STEM careers. According to UTSA, a record 1,500-plus area middle and high-school students participated in the seven-week program at 10 local university campuses including St. Philip's College, UTSA, Texas A&M University-San Antonio and St. Mary's University.

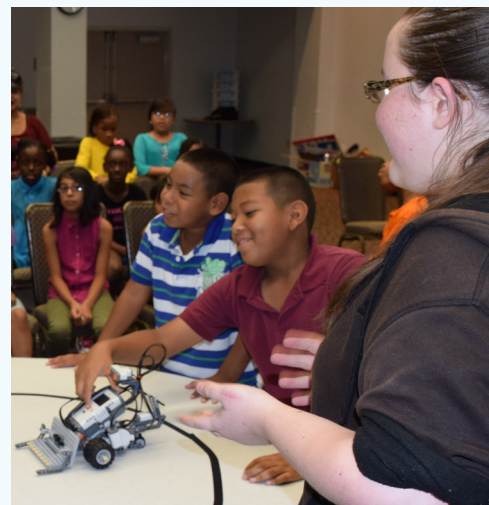
The college observed the completion of its first Eastside Promise Neighborhood Out of School Summer program as an education partner teamed with community partners from Ella Austin Community Center and Antioch Christian Academy. St. Philip's College hosted the completion ceremony for the partnership's eight-week **Summer Leadership Academic**

**Movement Enrichment (SLAM)** program. Funding for SLAM was provided by Eastside Promise Neighborhood Out of School Summer Programming and U.S. Department of Education Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities funding. Among the 60 recognized SLAM participants were 20 inventors ages 11-15 who completed nine weeks of learning both the practical, business, entrepreneurial and intellectual property elements of basic research using software from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a number of science, technology, engineering and math disciplines studied during three weeks this summer at St. Philip's College and during five weeks at both the academy and the community center. The aspiring scientists were also freshly inspired from a field research visit to NASA in Houston. Before awards for their achievements were presented, the SLAM inventors competed hands-on in robotics and in a



*St. Philip's College faculty support in rocketry, manufacturing, environmental science among others.*

judged display of inventions created from recycled materials. The public and parents attended to recognize the progress of middle school students who are making the connections between college and the higher-demand, higher-pay employment sectors of their city. Partnership leadership observers at the SLAM event included Antioch Christian Academy board chairman Charlotte Gregory, Ella Austin Community Center executive director Anthony Hargrove, Eastside Promise Neighborhood director Tony Leverett and St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. Hosting organizers at SLAM events in the St. Philip's College Heritage Room and the St. Philip's College Watson Fine Arts Center were Ella Austin Youth Director and grant writer Dr.



*Attendees take an interest in robotics and mechanical engineering.*

Linda Cherry, and St. Philip's College Center of Excellence for Science Director Dr. Jo Dee Duncan. On Aug. 8 in the Watson Fine Arts Center Auditorium, Loston offered closing remarks for participants and partners in SLAM.

On Aug. 6 at the St. Philip's College Southwest Campus, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in the last-day activities for the St. Philip's College STEM Robotics Camp co-sponsored by the staffs of the St. Philip's College Centers of Excellence in Science and Mathematics. Loston congratulated the fourth through eighth graders for all their accomplishments throughout the summer.

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## Pregnancy Awareness

On July 16, in the St. Philip's College Heritage Room, the college hosted another season of Jessica's Project teen and unplanned pregnancy awareness events. The half-day of multidisciplinary learning was staffed by community agencies and the college's science degree candidates. The event engaged 100 visiting students from Girls Inc. of San Antonio as part of SPC's larger commitment to transforming socio-economic conditions for residents surrounding its main campus by improving education opportunities. Jessica's Project is a series of annual classroom events that have engaged hundreds of nutrition, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, biology and health sciences students with the community to address a health issue through an evidence-based program.



*St. Philip's College hosted its second season of Jessica's Project.*

## Volunteer Award



On Aug. 12, St. Philip's College announced the opening of its complimentary President's Volunteer Service Award certification preparation service, effective Aug. 15. The award is the nation's premier volunteer awards program, encouraging people through presidential recognition to live a life of service. The federal government certified St. Philip's College as a preparation site in February through the work of honor society students led by honor society leadership officer Naphtali Bryant. The site reduces both the administrative and computer operating costs that add up as local volunteer groups or individual volunteers document and celebrate their success on a national level. When SPC site patrons need to submit volunteer hours, they go online to initiate the e-process with St. Philip's College as their service provider, or make appointments to visit the college to use computers if necessary.

## Music and College

The San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble (SAYWE) season at SPC empowered area middle, high school and college students to make successful connections between music and college. SAYWE 2014 alumni accepted for admission to the colleges of their choice include Gabriel Aguilar (Texas Tech University, music), Ryan Erfurth (UTSA, music), Fernando Munoz (UTSA, music), Jacob Espinoza (Northwest Vista College, music), Jose Sierra (Blinn College, music), Roger Garcia (University of North Texas) and John Gonzales (Palo Alto College, music). While enrolled at UTSA, both Erfurth and Munoz plan to continue performing as 2014-2015 season members of the Academy of Fine Arts Jazz Band. Jefferson High School and 2014 SAYWE alumnus Alexis Wilson recently entered the U.S. Marine Corps basic training program at Paris Island in South Carolina with the aspiration of auditioning for one of the USMC bands after completing her basic training. On July 28, in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble members Ryan Erfurth, Eduardo Estrada, Mariah Vargas, Elijah Breda, Kimberly Rodriguez, Erin Ackeroyd, Jasmine Villegas Fernando Munoz and Ryan Munoz marketed their programs to attendees at the Texas Bandmasters Association Student Day that attracted a projected 1,700 students and many more band directors from across the state. The members also had options to attend association-sponsored leadership training, a performance by The Canadian Brass, a concert featuring a student trumpet soloist, a motivational session, and a Texas university music college fair. The association assists its membership in achieving the highest standards of instrumental music education.

## 118 New Tourism Ambassadors Certified

The St. Philip's College partnership with the San Antonio Area Tourism Council's new Certified Tourism Ambassador Program is underway with 118 hospitality students enrolled in the professional development program. Accredited and licensed through the Tourism Ambassador Institute, the program for frontline hospitality workers stimulates local economies by mobilizing this certified workforce toward transforming guest encounters into positive experiences that lead to returned visits. Upon completion of all program requirements, participating degree candidates are awarded the Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) designation and may use the acronym CTA behind their names and on their resumes.





## Cyber Tigers Talk Cyber Security



*U.S. Senator  
John Cornyn*

On Sept. 16, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston provided a campus tour for U.S. Senator John Cornyn's south central Texas regional director Daniel Mezza. The tour highlighted campus programs that received federal funds in order to provide

Mezza with an idea of the areas where the campus continues to seek funding. Cybersecurity students Cesario Martinez, Tyler Rogers and Spencer Sherwood provided a presentation for Mezza. While discussing cybersecurity and what innovative resources or tools the degree candidates employ to attack and defend with Mezza, Martinez, Rogers and Sherwood shared information about their preparation for participation in an upcoming cybersecurity competition and their 2014-2015 program of community service. Established in 2012, the members of the innovative National Science Foundation-funded

organization promote cybersecurity higher education through community service in cybersecurity, information technology and mentoring. This team of students known as Cyber Tigers is trained and equipped to respond as practitioners to actual cyber emergencies, a degree and certificate corps that is recognized within the cybersecurity industry as one of America's first. During the 2013-2014 season, Cyber Tigers program staff and students provided security workshops to 21 middle schools and 20 high schools, reaching 2,369 students in school districts around San Antonio.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Joining St. Philip's College at various points in 2014 National Hispanic Heritage Month observances have been students, faculty, staff, local artist, several food truck chefs in September, followed by young local salsa chefs competing for college scholarships and the 17th Surgeon General of the United States. In their first appearances at the college, the chefs of Changos Gourmet Hot Dogs (Jakob Rea and Miguel Reyna), Chimi Pop's Ice Cream (Christopher Brown) and Bombay Salsa Co. (Hitish, Danny and Kim Nathani) offered lunch from their trucks. A new cultural discovery while dining at the college's Heritage Pavilion for many students was the The Bombay Salsa

Co. truck that offered a cultural contribution with its taco seasoned with the herb Artemisia in honor of both longtime former college president Artemisia Bowden and the herb's status as the International Herb Association Herb of the Year for 2014.

Students and guests engaged in conversation with Carmona on the desire for better health in American society. The reception with artist Marie Bratton for the exhibition, Infinite Beauty allowed 75 students to appreciate how Bratton often uses the mariachi musical genre to inspire her work. She donated a work to the college entitled "Infinite St. Philip's College." The college continued its Hispanic Heritage Month observances with Student Life-sponsored screenings of the film César Chávez at the Heritage Room and the Southwest Campus Cafetorium. The 2014 film by Diego Luna is the first major feature film on the iconic labor leader and 1994 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, making the Chavez story as interpreted on film a new cultural discovery for students. College student body interest in Chávez increased when student government association leaders made college student government history by organizing the college's first formal participation of 20 St. Philip's College students in the 2014 City of San Antonio's annual César Chávez March for Justice. The college will take its 25th year of Hispanic Serving Institution status observance national when drama degree candidate Louis Valdez is showcased in the four-episode Know Your Heritage Hispanic College Quiz game show format series that promotes positive images of college students on television. The program airs nationally in syndication as part

of national 2014 Hispanic Heritage Month observances. The 2014 season marks the college's first participation in the program. In



*Louis Valdez and his mother 06 alumna of St. Philip's College Susan Sanchez.*

addition to being featured in the fall edition of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' The Voice of Hispanic Higher Education magazine in September, Valdez receives a scholarship from the association for his scholarly efforts. Valdez is a second-generation St. Philip's College student. His mother Susan Sanchez is a 2006 alumna of St. Philip's College's exemplary-rated respiratory therapy program and a first-generation-in-college student who practices at both the Baptist Medical Center and Stone Oak Methodist healthcare facilities in San Antonio. She was part of the respiratory therapy class that went before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board team that provided inputs leading the program's exemplary rating.



*Dr. Richard Carmona, 17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006).*

## New Early College With SAISD on Campus



Highlights of the Fall 2014 commemoration of the inaugural St. Philip's College Early College High School with San Antonio Independent School District in the Bowden Building included participation of St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and two freshman early college degree candidates in a press conference. The event ceremonially announced successful implementation of the inaugural class of 108 degree, certificate, college credit and diploma candidates. District Superintendent and St. Philip's College alumnus Dr. Sylvester Perez, Loston, school principal Dr.

Derrick Thomas and City of San Antonio Mayor The Honorable Ivy Taylor commended students from all of the district's 20 high schools who competed to attend the college's first on-the-college-campus early college high school and provided details of some of its innovative benefits in response to press questions. The early college high school offers students an opportunity to simultaneously earn their high school diplomas and an associate degree or certificate in either cybersecurity or automotive technology or up to 60 hours of college credit. Following the press opportunity, Taylor shared her story with the students as she commended them for choosing to attend the nationally innovative higher education program that also is unique for offering certificates and associate degrees with top paid certifications for certificate and degree candidates who successfully complete the college's programs. On Aug. 25 in the courtyard of the Bowden Building, Loston and Perez delivered an informal back-to-school address to the students. Both shared the heritage of the campus as they encouraged students to ask questions of college employees while navigating their first week in the world of higher education.



*Dr. Loston and Dr. Perez celebrate inaugural class of 108 students.*

## SPC in Taste Section

On Sept. 10 Culinary Arts students, faculty and Labs were featured in the San Antonio Express-News, How to Cook column by food and dining writer, Edmund Tijerina. With students observing and participating in two photo sessions to learn the process of working with news media, college pastry instructor Chef Cynthia De La Fuente deconstructed the how-to of preparing pumpkin pie semifreddo with ginger snap cookie



crumble, candied pecans and Dulce de leche sauce, and Chef William Thornton demonstrated peeling, coring, and slicing a pineapple. The features were published Sept. 14 and Sept. 18.

## Education Super Heroes

On Aug. 16 at Davidson Respite House, St. Philip's College alumni and current degree candidates gave back by donning costumes in 108-degree heat to support a school supply drive and Super Hero Party for the young



*St. Philip's College student school supply drive and Super Hero Party.*

residents. Volunteers organized by college alumnus and former faculty member Roy Ruiz included a Captain America (2013 alumnus and USA Today Academic All-American Matt Fisher), a Spider Girl (2014 alumnus and former Ms. St. Philip's Dessire Sarver), a Wolverine (current degree candidate Danni Hamilton) and a Superman in costume for goodwill and promoting education (current degree candidate David Lopez).

## National HBCU Conference

On Sept. 21-23 in Washington, D.C., St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in the 2014 National HBCU Week conference. Hosted by the Department of Education, HBCU presidents were provided the opportunity to interact with federal agencies and corporations to share partnership opportunities and discuss community engagement strategies that will benefit both the institution and community at-large. The sessions also focused on past outcomes and future possibilities for the HBCUs to conduct business with both the federal government and private corporations.





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SEVENTH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

**“GIVING BACK”**

*March 6, 2015*  
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## **\$4,938,961 Strengthening HBCU Grant**

St. Philip's College is among 95 Historically Black Colleges and Universities strengthening their academic resources, financial management systems, endowment-building capacity and physical plants as a result of a grant awarded to the college by the U.S. Department of Education Aug. 7. St. Philip's College's Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities grant funding for the third year of the institutional grant is \$4,938,961. The five-year grant is used to strengthen and enhance Historically Black Colleges and Universities. College activities enhanced under the grant will consist of student services, centers of excellence in mathematics and science; instructional labs; campus renovation; information and communication technology; institutes for teaching excellence and staff development and a veterans' outreach and transition center.



### *Upcoming Events*

**February 1-28 Black History Month**

**January 20 - April 15 VITA**

**March Women's History Month**

### *Save the Date*

**March 1 117th College Anniversary**

**March 6 Golf Tournament**

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