



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

*"A Point of Pride in the Community"*

# President's Newsletter

Summer 2021



## RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL 2021

### SPC Awarded \$20,000 from Home Depot® Retool Your School

St. Philip's College is among 30 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to win the 2021 Home Depot "Retool Your School" competition. The college led an eight-week social media-driven campaign that relied on tweets and Instagram posts using #SPC\_RYS21 and voting on the Retool Your School website.

The program, spearheaded by The Home Depot®, is aimed at giving back. According to the company's website, the Retool Your School Program has provided more than \$3.1 million in campus improvement grants to allow HBCUs to make sustainable improvements to their campuses since 2009.

HBCU students, alumni, and advocates were encouraged to

cast votes for the HBCU of their choice. HBCUs were separated into three clusters based on student population. The top ten schools with the most votes per cluster were selected to receive grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$75,000.

The desired space that St. Philip's plans to remodel is located in the Watson Fine Arts Center. The Art Department plans to create an exhibit space to showcase student artwork and an intimate venue for art exhibits, spoken word poetry and small live music performances—an experiential working space for students, by students.



## President's Message



In a short time, students have been able to adapt alongside their instructors to a remote learning environment with an incredible amount of resilience and responsiveness.

The success of digital learning speaks not only to the excellence of the joint efforts of faculty and staff but also to the commitment and dedication of our students. Their adaptability and patience under such stressful circumstances have sustained their academic progress.

Even in navigating an unprecedented time, students continue to excel and achieve academic excellence in diverse ways.

Many have earned membership in our Five Star Phi Theta Kappa Chapter (PTK), an honor society that recognizes community engagement and academic achievement. Currently, over 2,500 of our enrolled students hold PTK distinction.

Additionally, students have earned awards through our various internal and external scholarship programs.

In May, our College hosted a drive-in commencement ceremony at the AT&T Center. The event was the first physical commencement ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

It was an inspiring day celebrating the hard work and commitment of over 1,000 graduates; 206 of whom were Early College High School students.

While our current circumstances require us to celebrate in a manner different than we had anticipated, our pride in our students remains constant.

The tools our graduates have called upon on their academic journey will directly impact their families, professions, and our community.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Dr. Loston Earns Excellence in Education Award



**Dr. Adena Williams Loston**  
President  
St. Philip's College

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg hosted the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) 12th Annual Mayor's Luncheon. Event host Winell Herron - Executive Vice President; HEB Public Affairs, Diversity, and Environmental Affairs - recognized Dr. Adena Williams Loston as the 2021 Excellence in Education Honoree. The award celebrates individuals who have led the charge in championing a quality education for all. UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, supports and strengthens its 37 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. St. Philip's College is not a member institution.

## Music Major Performs with 105 Voices in History

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the U.S. national anthem, the U.S. Navy Band joined forces with 105 Voices of History, the only national choir for students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

The recording featured 128 voices from HBCUs all across the nation with members of the U.S. Navy Band. St. Philip's College was represented by music major Yvette Hardin in the nationwide virtual performance. The performance premiered on 105 Voices of History TV via YouTube. The project is part of the ongoing Navy Band tradition of conducting masterclasses, mock auditions and performing as musical guests with HBCUs.

*"It was an honor to take part in this historic event. Joining students from different HBCUs felt special; I gained a new family,"* said Yvette.

Hardin is no stranger to a grand stage. In 2019 she performed during the St. Philip's College Fall commencement ceremony. Most recently, she participated as a cast member of "Bad Mama Jama Remix: Let the Record Show". The sold-out show took place at Little Carver Theatre in March.



*Yvette leads praise and worship at her home church, The Message Church in San Antonio.*

Yvette previously worked at the Martinez St. Women's Center as a Community Health Educator for three years. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a Master's of Science in Agriculture and Human Science with a concentration in Family and Marriage Therapy both from Prairie View A&M University. She hopes to blend both educational pathways to practice music therapy.

<http://bit.ly/USNBand>

## 2021 NISOD Excellence Award Recipients

St. Philip's College is proud to announce the eleven recipients for the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. As a NISOD member institution, SPC nominates employees annually who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

NISOD serves to promote and celebrate excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership at community and technical colleges. In 1989, NISOD hosted its first ceremony honoring NISOD Excellence Award recipients. The response to that ceremony was so positive that NISOD began what has become the largest gathering that recognizes the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff.



*Dr. Vanessa Anderson*



*Patrick Brown*



*Jessica Cooper*



*Paula Englebert*



*Donald Fernandez*



*Cressida Goloby*



*Allen Hamilton*



*Destiny Harper-Lane*



*Matthew Hudock*



*Gina Jasso*



*John Orona*



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## SPC Hosts Living In My Skin Panel Discussion

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted a Living in My Skin Panel Discussion as part of the 2021 Black History Month observance. Living in My Skin featured over 30 oil-on-linen portraits by Lionel Sosa of Black men, ages 10 to 90, as well as a two-part documentary that premiered on KLRN.

Dr. Loston joined Executive Producer Brandon Logan, Director Lionel Sosa, and documentary features Bishop David M. Copeland from New Creation Christian Fellowship and 4-Star U.S. Air Force General Edward A. Rice, Jr. (retired) in a discussion moderated by St. Philip's College Fine Arts & Kinesiology Chair, Vincent Hardy. Panelists discussed today's reality of what it is like to be a Black man or boy in San Antonio and the importance of bringing a better understanding of each other as a community.

<http://bit.ly/BHMLiving>

# SPC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Earns REACH Rewards Membership Recognition



In February, St. Philip's College Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) was recognized by the Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors Rewards (REACH). The REACH Rewards program celebrates the recruitment efforts of chapters that are growing in membership. St. Philip's  $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$  Chapter is one of 1,081 that received this distinction. The Chapter's distinction provides free PTK graduation stoles to chapter officers and members in celebration of the membership milestone.

*"Our  $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$  leadership team is invested in our student's futures offering them opportunities to be engaged within the Chapter, college, and the community. This provides invaluable experiences and connections that are essential to their academic and professional growth. In 2020, our Chapter's Acceptance Rate of 21% reflected our student's persistence and grit. Students are committed to completing their college credentials and  $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$  is one step in the right direction. We are truly honored and humbled for*

*this recognition,"* said  $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$  Advisor, Maria Botello.

The St. Philip's College Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was established in 1972 and has held a Five Star Chapter status for 10 years in a row –an award that honors community service commitment. During the 2019-2020 academic year, students contributed over 1,000 volunteer hours toward organizations across the city. Additional Chapter accolades at a regional level include Friend of Texas Award, Hall of Honor, Horizon Award – Distinguished Advisor, Most Distinguished Advisor for the Texas Region, Scholarship Hallmark Award, Regional Milestone Award, Distinguished Chapter Member Award, Yearbook Award, Top 3 Chapter for 2012, Icarus Award, Texas Awards, Hallmark Service Award, and All-Texas Academic Team. Awards at an international level include, Distinguished Member Award, Top 100 Chapter Recognition, Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award, and Five Star Level recognition.

## Four SPC Students Named to 2021 All-Texas Academic Team

St. Philip's College Phi Theta Kappa ( $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$ ) students Alexandra Williams, Cole Gavlick, Malia Mikol, and Morgan Hutcheson were selected to represent St. Philip's as part of the All-Texas Academic Team. The program works in conjunction with the Texas Association of Community Colleges and  $\Phi\Theta\Kappa$  to honor academic excellence and community involvement.

Each year, approximately 100 community college students are selected from 50 community college districts in Texas to be honored as members of the All-Texas Academic Team. Students are nominated by faculty members and selections are based on academic achievement, community service, leadership, and expression. Since a 3.5 GPA is required when applying, the extra work and community service outside of their courses play an important role in selection.



**Alexandra Williams**

Biology



**Cole Gavlick**

Power Generation and Alternative Energy



**Malia Mikol**

Psychology



**Morgan Kay Hutcheson**

Diagnostic Medical Sonography



# STUDENT FINANCIAL WELLNESS SURVEY RESULTS

FALL 2020

Understanding the connection between student finances and student success is essential to supporting the 21st century student.



**64%** of students **WORRY ABOUT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY** to pay for school

**57%** of students have **RUN OUT OF MONEY** 3 or more times in the past year **x3**



**56%** of students show **SIGNS OF HOUSING INSECURITY** (struggling to pay rent/utilities or the need to move frequently)



**63%** of students indicate that it is important to them to **SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY FINANCIALLY** while in school



**62%** of students said their **FAMILY'S FINANCES HAVE WORSENERD** since before the COVID-19 pandemic



**28%** of students show signs of **VERY LOW FOOD SECURITY** according to the USDA scale (skipping meals, eating less or less nutritious food)



**78%** of **STUDENTS ARE LESS THAN CONFIDENT** they will be able to **pay off the debt** they acquired while in school



**84%** of students reported that the **COVID-19 PANDEMIC ADDED TO THEIR LEVELS OF STRESS, ANXIETY, OR DEPRESSION**



**46%** find their **TOTAL DEBT** amount to be **OVERWHELMING** (credit card, car loan, money owed to family/friends)



**28%** of students pay for college with **CREDIT CARDS**



**70%** of students say they **WOULD USE FINANCIAL SUPPORT** services if offered by their school



**68%** of students say they would have **TROUBLE GETTING \$500** in cash or credit to meet an unexpected need within the next month

**ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE**  
**COMMENCEMENT**





# 2021

Graduates: <http://bit.ly/SPCGradsSpr21>

Drive-in Ceremony: <http://bit.ly/SPCGradCerSpr21>



## SPC Named One of 2021 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges

St. Philip's College was named to the list of the 2021 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges in the nation by *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine. In choosing institutions for the list, the magazine's research team focuses on workplace diversity, staffing practices and work environment, using a web-based survey approach to examine categories such as family friendliness, salary/benefits and professional development opportunities, to name a few.

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*

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



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