

2024 PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
St. Philip's College

ISSUE
03

President's Message



Show here from left in the back row: Noah Wingenter, Sebastian Chavez, Salomon Sanchez, Daniel Sandoval, John Moreno Gonzalez, and Wesley Dorman. Shown here from left in the front row: Alexis Morales Zuniga, Matthew Rodriguez, Instructor Adrian Shields, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology – SWC Chris Beardsall, Javier Escamilla, and Izaiah Valdez.

St. Philip's College, founded in 1898, began by empowering six young girls, the daughters and granddaughters of emancipated slaves, to enter the workforce by providing them with marketable skills to achieve economic independence.

126 years later, the college has reached a record-breaking student population of over 17,000. To prepare our students for high-demand, high-wage careers, we offer over 80 certificates across more than 30 workforce clusters. From cutting-edge programs like Computer Engineering

Technology to specialized fields such as Aircraft Technician, we remain committed to providing education and training that meet workforce demands.

In Fall 2022, the St. Philip's College Southwest Campus opened its new welding building. This state-of-the-art facility has more than doubled our capacity to meet workforce demands in Allied Construction Trades and has contributed to the college's record-breaking enrollment numbers.

In Fall 2024, we welcomed our inaugural student cohort for upper-level coursework

toward the college's first baccalaureate degree -- the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Cybersecurity Degree.

Our faculty are subject matter experts who actively contribute to their fields. Many of them sit on advisory boards and state taskforces, playing a critical role in shaping the future of their respective industries. Their close collaboration with industry leaders ensures that our program outcomes align with the regional workforce needs, and that our graduates are well-prepared to support a growing economy.



SPC Dean Selected for Governor's Task Force



Christopher Metsgar

In April 2024, St. Philip's College (SPC) Dean for Academic Success, Health Sciences Christopher Metsgar was selected to serve

on the Governor's Task Force on Health Care Workforce Shortages. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) created this group under the leadership of Gov. Greg Abbott to expand educational opportunities and mitigate barriers for the healthcare workforce.

"Texas is the fastest growing state in the nation, and it is vital that we continue to expand our healthcare workforce to meet the needs of our citizens as we build a bigger, better Texas," the governor said in a letter to THECB.

Dean Metsgar was placed in the first of three workgroups, and charged with Expanding the Pipeline. Specifically, Workgroup 1 will examine preparation, education, and certification for nurse aids, assistants, and technicians. They will look for ideas to streamline processes that may become barriers and build a comprehensive list of best practices.

"As an educator in San Antonio, having this information aligns the college with state standards and ensures we have a pulse on workforce demands. This insight helps SPC meet the needs of our service area and serve at the forefront of education and training," said Dean Metsgar.

The workgroups meet monthly from June through September. They will issue a report by October 1, 2024, with recommendations to guide decision-making by the state legislature.

"I've dedicated my career to quality education for healthcare. This is another way I can ensure SPC provides effective education and training said Dean Metsgar.

Source: The Higher Education Coordinating Board

NISOD Recipients

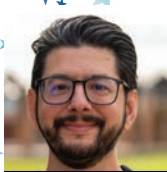
Bravo!

St. Philip's College - 2024 NISOD Excellence Award Recipients



Andres Arredondo

Interim Dean for Student Success, Enrollment Management (Student Success)



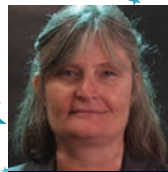
Jared Boggs

Service Learning Coordinator (Student Success)



Dr. Christopher Davis

Professor, Chemistry (Academic Success)



Laurilyn Humberson

Associate Professor, English (Academic Success)



Dr. Stacie Koonhow

Associate Professor, Biology (Academic Success)



Jamie Miranda

English Department Chair and Instructor (Academic Success)



Dr. Basu Panthi

Associate Professor, Chemistry (Academic Success)



Fernando Rover

Certified Career Experience Navigator (Student Success)



Dr. Marie-Michelle Saint Hubert

Associate Professor, Engineering (Academic Success)



Cathy Vega

Advising Team Leader (Student Success)



Wesley Wells

Vice President for Student Success (Student Success)



Kelli Wilder

Librarian, Professor, Humanities (Academic Success)

SPC Stands as Top Training Provider for Ready to Work



Staff Enrollment Coach Amber Robertson and Peer Mentor Alondra Cafuentes provide enrollment assistance to incoming SPC students at an Enroll-A-Palooza event.

St. Philip's College (SPC) has held its position as the number one training provider for San Antonio's Ready to Work job placement program since the inception in 2020. This City of San Antonio program, designed to equip residents with quality workforce training and provide scholarships and support services to eligible participants, has seen significant success at SPC.

According to the Ready to Work website dashboard, in 2023, SPC referred 1,883 new and continuing students to the program, helping bridge the gap between education and employment for the San Antonio community.

SPC has over 100 training programs approved in the Ready to Work catalog. These programs prepare students for high-demand and high-wage occupations in local industries, including manufacturing, aerospace, hospitality, and healthcare.

"The Student Success Enrollment Management department operationalizes efforts to inform students of the advantages of Ready to Work," said Interim Dean for Student Success, Enrollment Management Andres Arredondo. "Advisors meet with students one-on-one by appointment and make classroom visits weekly. Our onboarding team hosts Ready to Work partners at Enroll-A-Palooza, our campus enrollment event."

By actively engaging students for the Ready to Work program, SPC reinforces its commitment to student success and workforce development. This strategic approach ensures SPC students benefit from the program.

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Executive Award



On May 16, the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce recognized St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena William Loston in a tribute for Women Business Leaders in San Antonio with its highest honor.

SPC Hosts Culinary Conference

From June 13 through June 15, the St. Philip's College Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts department hosted the fifth ProStart Educators Training Conference on the MLK campus. This three-day event, held in mid-June, supports new high school culinary teachers from the area, offering them a unique opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in culinary arts education.

The conference was a collaborative effort by a diverse team of culinary experts:

- SPC instructors: Chef Patrick Costello, Chef John Munoz, Chef Sarah Pequeno Chef, and Chef Cynthia De La Fuente;
- Chef Justin Reid and Chef Edward Fuchs from the U.S. Coast Guard's culinary team;
- Chef Robbie Bennett from the knife company, Zwilling; and
- Chef Jason Avelson from Hormel Foods

The primary goal of the conference was to equip nearly 100 culinary teachers with techniques they could take back to their classrooms. The training covered a wide range of topics, including knife skills, cooking techniques, and basic principles for baking and pastry. The use of kitchen equipment



St. Philip's College Chef Instructor Patrick Costello demonstrates cutting techniques.

was another key focus, emphasizing how to operate and maintain various tools and appliances safely and effectively. Conference material covered the art of creative plating, teaching participants how to present dishes aesthetically.

Chef Instructor Patrick Costello highlighted how hosting this conference benefited the college as a recruitment opportunity, stating, "A high school instructor from the Houston area attended the conference and was so pleased with learning outcomes that she returned the following week with four students to tour our building and learn about the Culinary Arts program. After the tour, we walked them to the Welcome Center and helped them enroll in our college."

SPC Student Named 2024 White House HBCU Scholar

The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities announces its tenth cohort of HBCU Scholars, including St. Philip's College student, Daveon Johnson.

Daveon expressed humility for his selection as the next HBCU Scholar. "I was born and raised right here on the east side. I know how tedious the selection process is and I want to show others that I'm just like them and they can do it too. I want people to see that you don't have to be the smartest, you need the drive and dedication."

Daveon is very active on campus. For the last year, he has worked in the advising center as a peer mentor. In this role, he helps students register, provides information on degree programs, assists in building student schedules, and offers advice on being a successful college student. He also serves the college as the

President of Collegiate 100 and as a member of the Blue Blazer Society.

"Daveon's dedication to his studies and his commitment to his future career convinced me that he embodies the qualities we seek in a representative of the college. His participation as a panelist during the HBCU conference further solidified my recommendation for his selection as the 2024 HBCU Scholar. It was clear he would be an excellent choice to represent our institution nationally," said Vice President for Student Success Wesley Wells.

Daveon had his first virtual meeting on July 12. He was informed of the partners he would collaborate with, the types of projects he would work on, and the people he would meet.

"I'm excited for the opportunities to build connections and have new experiences. I can't wait for the NASA project and to visit the White House," said Daveon.



Daveon Johnson



Men's Basketball Student Spotlight

St. Philip's College (SPC) student Elijah Partida began studying at SPC in 2022. Elijah has played basketball since junior high school.

Elijah reflected on his passion for the game, "I fell in love with basketball because all you need is a hoop and self-motivation." He is in his second year on the SPC Men's Basketball team and plays as both a shooting guard and point guard. He also serves as the team's co-captain; his duties include leading stretches and drills, and motivating team members by helping to build a winning mentality.

"My goal is to win games and bring everyone together. I enjoy being a part of a community. I remind my team they aren't just playing for themselves and representing a school with a 126-year history," said Elijah. He plans to graduate in Spring 2025 and hopes to continue playing basketball at the university level.

Cheer Team Student Spotlight

St. Philip's College (SPC) Student Destiny Bouldin-Stevens began her journey at SPC in the Fall 2023 semester. Before her first day of classes, she attended Tiger Nation Family Day, where she discovered SPC had a cheer team.

"I like cheer because it allows me to be myself. I have learned a lot on the SPC Cheer Team. Cheering for the first time for a Historically Black College team was very different. Stomp and Shake was a new concept I had to learn," Destiny shared.

The stomp-and-shake cheer style is a dynamic blend of dance and step. This cheer style originated in the 1970s at HBCUs in North Carolina and Virginia.

As a member of the cheer team, Destiny trains weekly by running on the track in the William Allen Hudgins Health and Wellness Center, lifting weights, and learning routines.



St. Philip's College Hosts Legacy Day: The Legacy Continues



St. Philip's College (SPC) hosted Legacy Day: The Legacy Continues on Aug. 16, to celebrate the feast day of the college's founding president, Saint Artemisia Bowden, and unveil three newly-renovated campus buildings.

Saint Artemisia Bowden was canonized by the Episcopal Church in 2015. Her Feast Day is recognized worldwide on Aug. 18 in the Episcopal calendar. The same year she was elevated to sainthood, she was named President Emeritus by the Alamo Colleges District in recognition of her leadership and service to SPC.

The three-hour event showcased the revitalization of the Cybersecurity Innovations Center, the Bowden Legacy Building, and the Applied Science Building, while highlighting the college's rich history with a ribbon cutting and tour of each building.

The Cybersecurity Innovations Center, previously named the Campus Center,

has been transformed into a central hub for government, university, and industry partners in the cybersecurity field. Over the last 70 years, this building underwent four renovations, enlarging its capacity in 1970, 1978, 1987, and 2022.

The Bowden Legacy Building, constructed in 1954 on the original land purchased by Artemisia Bowden in 1922, is now home to the St. Philip's College Early College High School with San Antonio ISD. This building honors the college's founder, continuing her legacy of inspiring future generations.

The Applied Science Building has been a hub of innovation and hands-on learning since its construction in 1992. Renovations have expanded the college's program offerings in Automotive Technology, Histology, Biomedical Engineering, Vision Care, and Nurse Aide. Legacy Day activities included check presentations, refreshments, a

cornerstone ceremony by area Masonic lodges, gifts to mark the occasion, and remarks by special guests, including Saint Artemisia Bowden's great-great-niece, Jennifer Walker. To connect the three locations there was a New Orleans-style Second Line Parade, led by the SPC cheer team, Student Government Association student leaders, employees with decorated umbrellas, and a drumline.

"As we celebrate the transformation and expansion of St. Philip's College, we remember our 126-year heritage and history," said St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "On this Legacy Day, we honor the unwavering determination of one woman—our founding president, Saint Artemisia Bowden. Her 52 years of devotion to the college leaves us with a sense of pride that challenges us to strive for greatness."



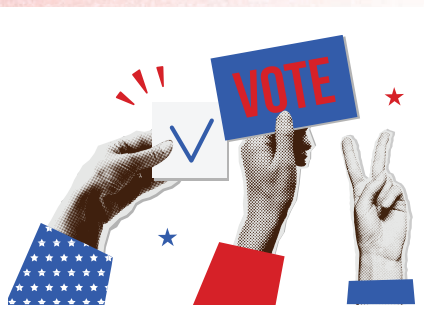


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SPC MLK CAMPUS IS A VOTING LOCATION FOR BEXAR COUNTY VOTERS WATSON FINE ARTS CENTER (WFAC)



ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 2024
7 A.M. - 7 P.M.

VOTE TODAY!

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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DIGITAL EXPERIENCE**