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## Dr. Loston Recognized For Decades of Leadership

In April, San Antonio Magazine's Kathleen Petty sat down with Dr. Loston for a conversation about making history as a Black woman. In the article titled, A Conversation with Educational Trailblazer Adena Williams Loston, Dr. Loston spoke on growing up in the segregated South and the journey that led her to hold various leadership positions.

In January, she was recognized as One of the Ten Most Dominant HBCU Leaders of 2021. The featured leaders currently serve a Historically Black

College and University (HBCU) or Minority Serving Institution (MSI). Each plays a prominent and influential role in leadership, while displaying the characteristics and responsibilities needed to effectively move their institution forward.

In July, Dr. Loston was honored by Girls Inc. of San Antonio during their Strong, Smart & Bold Women of San Antonio Volume 1 book launch. Dr. Loston, alongside other local leaders, was featured in the book authored by

Avery Napier and illustrated by Cassidy Fritts. The book aims to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. The book includes stories and artwork of women leaders who have encompassed all three traits.

Dr. Loston was also featured in San Antonio Woman's "Aiming High for Higher Ed" by Meredith Kay and received the 2021 UNCF Excellence in Education Award.



## President's Message



A ceremony held in August marked a significant milestone in our Capital Improvement Projects. Our College celebrated the Topping Out of the

new Welding & Auto Collision and Refinishing Building. The new facility is located on our Southwest Campus, a hub for technical training programs.

The project is funded through the \$82 million our College received following the Alamo Colleges District \$450 million bond proposition approved by Bexar County voters in May 2017. The Welding & Auto Collision and Refinishing Building will usher us into the future by offering students modern technologies paired with industry standards and practices that give students glimpses into their future as industry practitioners.

In addition to students, Continuing education is available to alumni and local welding and autobody professionals looking to sharpen their skills. The substantial upgrades and enhancements at St. Philip's provide intellectually stimulating new spaces where students can thrive. This growth reflects our mission to create an environment that fosters excellence in academic and technical achievement while expanding our commitment to opportunity and access.

We look ahead to 2022, as we anticipate the completion of the Saint Artemisia Bowden Building (photo pg. 8), a corporate and entrepreneurial training center, and a new Health & Wellness Building, both on MLK Campus.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Welding & Autobody Collision Building Topping Out

At a ceremony held in August, Alamo Colleges District Board Chair, Dr. Gene Sprague, joined Alamo Colleges District Chancellor, Dr. Mike Flores; St. Philip's College Vice President for Academic Success, Randall Dawson; and SPC administrators to celebrate the "topping out" of the new building located on St. Philip's College Southwest Campus. Maryanne Guido, CEO of Guido Construction, and Katherine Kimm, General Manager of WestEast Design Group, were among those in attendance.

The new state-of-the-art welding, auto collision and refinishing building will be a one and a half floor, 62,000-square-foot facility. The building will be home to advanced instructional welding and autobody labs, welding stations, and double bay automotive prep stations.

There are currently 170 students pursuing certificates and degrees in welding. The welding program prepares students to work in an industry that offers opportunities in manufacturing shops, maintenance shops, steel construction sites, ship-building, oil field operations, and ranch-related welding. In addition to students, St. Philip's College educates welding professionals with H-E-B and Union Pacific Railroad as continuing education partners. SPC Southwest Campus is also an American Welding



**Interim Vice President for College Services, George H. Johnson, III, addresses event attendees during the Topping Out.**

Society testing site. The site recently earned accreditation for an additional five years.

There are 110 students pursuing certificates and degrees in auto collision and refinishing. The Collision/Refinishing Technician Program provides individuals with knowledge in basic and advanced collision repair processes using industry-standard techniques and equipment. SPC partners with area businesses such as ProCare Collision, to offer students real-world industry experience through donated vehicles and parts. Last Fall, students refurbished a Nissan Cube for a San Antonio community veteran.

The new building is expected to welcome students in Fall 2022.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/wacb-toppingout](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/wacb-toppingout)





## HBCU Week: SPC Student Participates in White House Roundtable



**Maricela Eslora**

To commemorate National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week (September 7-10, 2021), the White House hosted a virtual roundtable with National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and five HBCU student leaders from across the country. They discussed the work students are doing to vaccinate their communities.

St. Philip's College student, Maricela Eslora, joined the conversation as one of the selected students. Maricela is currently pursuing

Healthcare Technology Management and is a member of the Psi Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Maricela's leadership extends beyond the classroom; she has served the community by volunteering her time to administer the COVID-19 vaccine with WellMed and has utilized her social media platforms to promote vaccine awareness and normalization.

"I may not have the largest of reaches, but the roundtable reminded



me that concentrating on my own sphere of influence will not only lead to positive changes but it will also lead to amazing partnerships as other people strive to impact their spheres as well," said Maricela.

The Annual HBCUs Week Conference is planned under the leadership of the White House Initiative on HBCUs and with input from the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs and its conference sponsors.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/hbcuweek2021](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/hbcuweek2021)

## Students Present Research at 2021 Virtual STEM Symposium

St. Philip's College students; Victor Tiscareno, Maria Miranda-Madrid, James Mack, Landon Hill, Marci Garcia, Zuleika Ceja, Rima Bhakta, and NASA Interns, Chrishall Armstrong, Ta'Lya Brooks, Vincente Flores, and Jaylin R. Wilson made individual presentations at the 8th Annual 2021 Virtual STEM Research Symposium held on August 6.

Each year, St. Philip's College hosts the CIMA Research Symposium where research scholars across Alamo Colleges District congregate to present their research findings. The event was held virtually for the second year and featured 40 student presenters. Research topics included: Gender Bias in the Extraction of Chemicals from Text; Creating Academic Discipline Lessons with EON Reality; and ImmerseMe Virtual Reality Language Software. The virtual event welcomed over 90 spectators.

The research initiative is part of the opportunities offered by the Ciencia, Ingeniería, y Matemáticas Aliados - Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (CIMA-LSAMP) Program.

CIMA-LSAMP strives to transform science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through innovative recruitment, retention strategies, and experiences that support groups historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines. This is accomplished through a large number of initiatives, including peer mentorship, faculty mentorship, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and undergraduate research. St. Philip's College was first awarded the LSAMP Bridges to Baccalaureate Program (B2B) grant. It includes San Antonio College, Palo Alto College, Northeast Lakeview College, Northwest Vista College, and St. Philip's College.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/stem-symposium-news](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/stem-symposium-news)

## Best Value Schools Names SPC Among 10 Best Culinary Schools in Texas

St. Philip's College was named to the 2021 Best Culinary Schools in Texas list by Best Value Schools. BVS provides rankings to students to help them compare and find the most valuable college experience.

Recognized as exemplary by both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the American Culinary Federation, the Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts (THCA) programs at St. Philip's College prepare aspiring hospitality industry professionals for success and service within their industry.

This year, THCA students were welcomed into the new and recently completed Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts Building. The 61,200 square foot, four-story facility features state-of-the-art industry-standard equipment, a café on the first floor, a pastry café on the second, and the crowning jewel on the fourth floor - Artemisia's. The full service, student-run restaurant, is cantilevered from the north end of the building and wrapped in floor-to-ceiling glass for dramatic views of the downtown San Antonio skyline.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/10bestculinaryschools](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/10bestculinaryschools)

## Dr. Loston Inducted into Hall of Fame 2021 Class of HBCU Alumni

The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. hosted its 36th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony virtually in September. Each year, graduates of Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), including Dr. Loston, are inducted into the Hall of Fame for significant contributions made in their respective fields. This event promotes the viability of HBCUs and highlights the accomplishments of their alumni.

Dr. Loston is the product of a historically black college, Alcorn State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1973. She has received numerous awards during her career, reflecting the impact she has had on the various positions she's held and her activism on local and national organizations and associations.

Her national and community engagement includes: Mayor Ron Nirenberg's Commission on the Status of Women; Greater SATX Executive Committee; San Antonio Area Foundation Board of Directors; Advising Trustee for Southwest Research Institute; President's Advisory Board for Title III Administrators; HBCU Capital Finance Advisory Committee; and member of the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame.

### Video link:

[alamo.edu/spc/hbca-induction](http://alamo.edu/spc/hbca-induction)



[www.alamo.edu/spc/drlostonhbcainduction](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/drlostonhbcainduction)

## SPC VA Recognized by the Texas Veterans Commission



The St. Philip's College Office of Veterans Affairs received the 2021 Veteran Education Excellence Recognition Award (VEERA) – Bronze Level by the Texas Veterans Commission. The award recognizes institutions that provide excellence in education and related services to veteran students. The Texas Veterans Commission provides three levels of recognition: Gold, Silver, and Bronze-level status. The Texas Veterans Commission recognized VEERA

recipients through a virtual award ceremony in July.

The SPC Office of Veteran Affairs is dedicated to providing the highest quality and comprehensive support to student veterans and their family members in an atmosphere that provides commitment, respect, and academic excellence.

“Receiving this award reminds us of a quote we have in the office by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – We owe an immeasurable debt to our veterans, to the fallen, and to the families who love them. Just as our servicemen and women have taken care of us, we must also take care of them. It is our sacred duty as a country to be there for our heroes when they need us most. This quote is one that we try and achieve each day. Receiving this

award shows that we are doing just that, said Veronica Griego, Sr. Coordinator of Student Success Office of Veterans Affairs.

St. Philip's College is a signatory to the Presidential Executive Order – Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members. The Principles ensure that educational institutions provide meaningful information about the financial cost and quality of educational institutions to assist students in making choices about how to use their Federal educational benefits.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/varecognizedbytvc](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/varecognizedbytvc)

## Feast Day: “Celebrating a Saint”



In observance of Feast Day celebrated on August 18, 2021, the St. Philip’s College Department of Student Life hosted “Reflections of a Saint” in honor of Saint Artemisia Bowden.

Saint Artemisia Bowden is celebrated annually on Feast Day in recognition of her life and good works. The history of St. Philip’s is intricately woven with her life

and her commitment to quality education continues to shape the mission and values of the college. 2021 marks the sixth anniversary of the canonization of Bowden by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The church added her name to its liturgical calendar and the denomination’s book, “Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints.” She is among the company of the Holy Bible’s Peter, Paul, John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ, and notable Americans like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriett Beecher Stowe, Harriett Tubman, Frederick Douglas and James Weldon Johnson.

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 daughter of emancipated slaves led the institution from 1902 to 1954. During her time at the helm, Miss Bowden had to overcome many obstacles due to the effects of The Depression. As a result, the college ceased to function as a private institution and joined the San Antonio

Independent School District and later the San Antonio Union Junior College District, today known as Alamo Colleges District. The transition led to Ms. Bowden’s title change from President to Dean which she served as until retiring in 1954.

“Saint Artemisia Bowden understood the significance of her assignment and her potential to seize the opportunity and render an even greater talent pool. Her assignment from Bishop James Steptoe Johnston was to establish a grammar school; however, she expanded her mission assignment exponentially. We grew from a grammar school to a vocational school to an industrial school to an accredited junior college. This visionary thinking grew the capacity of the talent pool and extended the life expectancy of our institution,” said St. Philip’s College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston.

**For more on Saint Artemisia Bowden:**  
[www.alamo.edu/spc/artemisia-bowden](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/artemisia-bowden)

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## Students Participate in NASA Summer Internship Program

Four St. Philip’s College students, Chrishall Armstrong, Ta’Lya Brooks, Vincente Flores, and Jaylin R. Wilson, were selected to participate in NASA research as paid interns for 10 weeks at the NASA MIRO Center for Advanced Measurements in Extreme Environments (CAMEE) housed at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA).

The NASA-funded center was established in 2019 with a focus on increasing the research/education capacity at UTSA in areas related to NASA research priorities. The Center is a collaborative initiative between St. Philip’s College Department of Natural Sciences, UTSA College of Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Colorado Boulder, and NASA Laboratories (JPL, GSFC, and Langley).

The Center aims to build a sustainable source of diverse, highly-trained researchers to enter the nation’s workforce in NASA fields of earth system sciences, remote sensing technologies, computational fluid dynamics, and experimental fluid mechanics.

Each student intern was paired with a UTSA Faculty Research Mentor. Students showcased their research findings at the end of the summer during the Virtual 2021 NASA Extreme Environments Research Conference. Research topics included: Enabling Spatial Resolved Laser-Based Measurements in Reacting Flows; Lead Detection with Sentinel-1 in the Beaufort Gyre Using Google Earth Engine; and Assessment of Water Quality in Upper San Antonio River.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/studentsnasainternship](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/studentsnasainternship)

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## Vocational Nursing Program at CTTC New Braunfels Ranks #1 in Texas

In September, the St. Philip’s College Vocational Nursing Program at the Central Texas Technology Center (CTTC) in New Braunfels ranked #1 in Texas by Nursing Schools Almanac. The methodology included an evaluation of an extensive database of student performance on the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The data collected was analyzed to calculate the NCLEX pass rate among first-time test-takers in each program.

CTTC ranked the strongest among Texas LVN programs with a 100 percent first-time NCLEX

pass rate. They have maintained this 100% pass rate for the past five years. The CTTC is aligned with the SPC Vocational Nursing Program to provide the same educational opportunities for vocational nursing needs in the New Braunfels community. Learning at the CTTC provides consistent educational experiences where students can concentrate on their studies in a smaller environment. The Vocational Nursing Program curriculum covers fundamentals of vocational nursing, ethical and legal aspects of nursing

practice, nutrition, gerontology, communication skills, body structure and function, administration of medications and solutions, medical and surgical nursing, obstetrical nursing, pediatric nursing, mental health nursing, and professional development. In addition to classroom study, students receive supervised laboratory and clinical experiences in local long-term care facilities, clinics, hospitals, and other health care facilities.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/cttc-vn](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/cttc-vn)



## Student Selected for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) announced the selection of Darius Martin as the St. Philip's College 2021 HBCU Competitiveness Scholar. The initiative recognizes outstanding student leaders and empowers them with tools for excellence and competitiveness. Students are nominated and endorsed by their institution's administrators.

During the course of his one-year term, Martin will engage in local and national opportunities that ignite new passions and explore ideas critical to lifelong growth and development. In addition, he will participate in monthly web chats that support a wide range of topics, including the spirit of engagement and entrepreneurship, broad-based innovation, and career development.

"Being an HBCU Competitiveness Scholar means a lot to me. I have the opportunity to be part of the rich history of St. Philip's as well as represent our students on a national level," he said. Martin hopes to use his platform to connect students with HBCU alumni associations to help them transition into an HBCU at a university level.

Martin is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts in Business Administration. He recently completed a one-year term as the Alamo Colleges

District Student Trustee where he represented over 65,000 students. The Alamo Colleges District is one of few community college systems in the state with a student trustee.

Martin is currently the President of Collegiate 100, a chartered support organization to the 100 Black Men of San Antonio that supports the growth and

development of young men and women of color. In his free time, Martin mentors high school students on professional development skills and college readiness through My Brother's Keeper of San Antonio. In addition to mentoring, he participates in various community service activities and volunteers with Wealth Between Us, a non-profit organization.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/2021-hbcu-scholar](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/2021-hbcu-scholar)



## Center of Excellence for Science Receives Grant to Support Summer Programs



**Science & Math Summer Academy (SAMSA) offers 11-15-year-old children hands-on activities, inside and outside of the classroom with field trips to exciting STEM places that engage students through informal learning.**

The San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD), in collaboration with the St. Philip's College Center of Excellence for Science, was awarded the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.

The Nita M. Lowey program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

These learning centers aim to help students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs, and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

The grant will provide the SPC Center of Excellence for Science up to \$236,429 in funding over five years to provide out-of-school time learning through the Science and Math Summer Academy (SAMSA) and the Space Robotics summer programs for 100 SAISD youth annually. The Center of Excellence for Science is located at Southwest Campus and shares a 45,000 square foot facility with the Center of Excellence for Mathematics.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/coesciencegrant](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/coesciencegrant)

## Fall 2021 Presidential Scholars

St. Philip's College congratulates the Fall 2021 Presidential Scholarship Award recipients, Richard Garcia (Psychology) ; Carolina Gutierrez (Biology); Darius Martin (Business Administration). Each student was selected based on their academic progress, cumulative GPA, and commitment to scholarship requirements.

The Presidential Scholarship is intended to help students actualize their potential in addressing societal issues and challenges by providing funds to support their education. The scholarship is valued at \$3,000 and is awarded in \$1,500 increments per semester. Terms of the scholarship require substantive community service activities related to healthcare, social services, child advocacy, the environment, sustainability, or economic development.

Upon graduation, Presidential Scholars receive an additional \$900 per year to serve as a transfer scholarship to a 4-year college or university.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/presidentialscholarsfall21](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/presidentialscholarsfall21)



**RICHARD GARCIA** is a participant of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Future United Latinos for Change, and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He serves his community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program where he offers tax assistance to low-income individuals.



**CAROLINA GUTIERREZ** serves the community through participating in Youth Literacy programs and by providing meals to individuals in our community experiencing homelessness. She is a former Presidential Scholar (2020) and is a recipient of both the Douglas and Donna Semmes Success Scholarship and the Greehey Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship.



**DARIUS MARTIN** is a participant of Collegiate 100, the Student Leadership Institute, and serves as a peer mentor. He served as the Alamo Colleges District Student Trustee (2020), is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and was recently selected as the SPC 2021 HBCU White House Competitiveness Scholar.

## SPC Receives \$1.25M Grant to Enrich Education Quality Through Experiential Learning Opportunities

St. Philip's College has been awarded a four-year, \$1.25 million National Science Foundation grant to fund Project: SURE (Scaffolding Undergraduate Research Experiences), which aims to enhance the quality of education, increase student retention, and enhance graduation and transfer rates of STEM majors.

"STEM education determines our nation's capacity to innovate. If we are to strengthen our economy, we must reinforce our STEM education. Project SURE supports the continuous efforts made by our faculty to get our STEM students where they want to go and to bolster our region's future in STEM fields," said Dr. Adena Williams Loston, St. Philip's College President.

Congressman Lloyd Doggett (D-35) and his staff

were invaluable partners in bringing the award to St. Philip's College.

Through this program model, students will: engage in empirical learning; participate in applied learning by tackling issues of local, national, and global importance; take part in faculty-led research projects; complete local industry internships; participate in summer research experiences and/or complete federal summer internships; and transfer to universities, with emphasis placed on universities with active research programs.

"St. Philip's College was eligible for the grant because of our federally designated Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) undergraduate status. The SURE model centers on the scaffolding of STEM student learning and

skill development through experiential learning. Building on existing SPC programs and structures, Project SURE will target innovation in instruction, internship and research experiences, and will guide students to transfer universities," said Randall Dawson, Vice President for Academic Success.

On behalf of St. Philip's College, thank you to Project SURE Principal Investigator (PI), Kathy White, and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), Marie-Michelle (Michou) Saint Hubert, Ph.D., for their assistance in securing the funds to enrich the education of our students through the opportunities that will be offered through the project.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/elo-grant](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/elo-grant)



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## Saint Artemisia Bowden Building



The new Saint Artemisia Bowden Building is well underway at the Martin Luther King Campus. Both the new Bowden and Health & Wellness Buildings are expected to open in 2022. The Saint Artemisia Bowden Building will be a 25,000-square-foot, two-story replacement building for the existing facility that has housed the Business Information Solutions Department, Corporate and Entrepreneurial Training Center, Microsoft Testing Center for Microsoft Office Specialists, and a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. The picture above shows the latest on the project.

## *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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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.