



## Cybersecurity Program Earns Prestigious NSA Designation

St. Philip's College received the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Program of Study Validation by the National Security Agency (NSA). This recognition extends to the Information Technology Cybersecurity Specialist program through the 2026 academic year. St. Philip's joins other nationally validated programs to produce high-quality cybersecurity professionals to safeguard the U.S. national infrastructure.

The Associate of Applied Science Degree in Information Technology Cybersecurity Specialist prepares students to design, implement and secure computer networks. Students with this degree will be able to install security software, monitor networks for security breaches, respond to cyber-attacks, and gather data and evidence to be used in

prosecuting cybercrime. The program is a total of 60 credit hours and is offered both in-person and online.

Students graduating from the program can receive a certificate to show that they have completed the requirements of a Centers of Academic Excellence Program of Study. Though graduates will be entering high-demand fields, the credential will further enhance their professional prospects.

In addition, cyber students have the experience of being prepared through a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), a program jointly sponsored by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The St. Philip's College CAE-CD received redesignation in 2022,

# President's Message



St. Philip's College has come a long way since August 2012, when we introduced the first cybersecurity program. At the time, we offered aspiring cybersecurity professionals only

two pathways.

Since then, the Department of Business Information Solutions has grown to offer five unique cybersecurity degree and certificate options -- one of which holds the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Program of Study Validation by the National Security Agency (NSA). The College is also designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), a prestigious program jointly sponsored by the NSA and Department of Homeland Security.

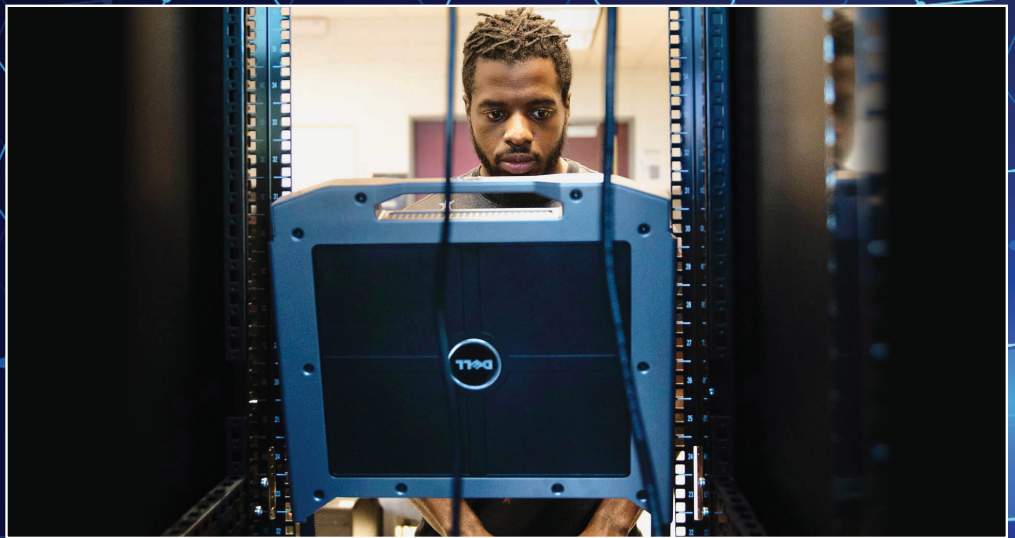
CAE-CD is one of the most difficult designations to receive, as the College is assessed on its research, program offerings, multidisciplinary approach, performance in cyber competitions, and many other factors.

These milestones recognize our cybersecurity programs for being among the best in the country and acknowledge the innovative learning environment offered to our students. Cybersecurity graduates are equipped with the skills and experience to enter a workforce that safeguards and promotes national security.

As programs continue to grow, our duty to provide spaces where students can thrive academically remains a priority. Later this year, we will open the new Saint Artemisia Bowden Building that will accommodate various programs including cybersecurity.

The building will feature a cutting-edge cyber range used to work on various tools, techniques, and systems in a secure network to simulate real-world challenges such as cyber-attacks and data breaches. With this supercomputing power, SPC will continue to produce high-quality cybersecurity professionals to safeguard the U.S. national infrastructure and meet the growing demand for cybersecurity experts.

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President



indicating that the College is helping reduce threats to our national infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense as well as providing the nation with a pipeline of qualified cybersecurity professionals.

Students have access to collaboration with industry partners and internship opportunities available only to students

from CAE-CD institutions. St. Philip's College offers internships with local industry leaders such as Cisco, USAA, and IBM. SPC information technology programs have a job placement rate of 87 percent with many students continuing their education at a university level. CAE-CD redesignation extends through the academic year 2027.

## SGA President's Panel



**The St. Philip's College Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a President's Panel featuring College President, Dr. Adena Williams Loston, in February. Dr. Loston is seen here with student leaders who represent over 30 campus organizations and clubs. Pictured from back left to front right is Richard Garcia, President of Future United Latino Leaders for Change; Alayna Morgado, SGA Secretary; Darius Martin, President of Collegiate 100; Luis Navedo, Tiger Tech Auto; Albert Hutchins, Respiratory Club; Stefanie Seavcy, Vocational Nursing Student Association; Norasha Hatter, President of I am Woman; Veronika Hernandez, Future Female Physicians; Ashley Thompson, President of Vocational Nursing Student Association; Maricela Eslora, President of Phi Theta Kappa; Patricia Prado, Treasurer of Spirit and Pride Crew; Cheryl Gonzales, Active Minds; Dr. Loston; and Valentin Alejandro Morin, SGA President.**

# National Society of Leadership and Success Chapter Inducts First Members



The St. Philip's College National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) chapter has inducted its first members. Sixty-six students met induction status indicating completion of required leadership training to become a lifetime member of the organization and be eligible for many member benefits, including scholarships.

According to the NSLS website, the organization is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Selected for their academic standing and leadership potential, students complete a step-by-step program to build skills and qualify for a leadership certificate. There are 726 chapters, including St. Philip's College, and 1.5 million members nationwide.

NSLS members are eligible for exclusive on-campus events, an online job bank, and discounts on computers, textbooks, graduate school prep courses, insurance, and more.

**The following St. Philip's College students are now lifetime members of the organization.**

Abigail Delgado  
Albert Hutchins  
Alyssa Guzman  
Amanda Betancourt  
Anastasiia Berezvoska  
Amanda Machuca  
Ashia McDonald  
Ashley Smith  
Benigno Botello IV  
Breyana Gads-on  
Charlyssa Duplechain  
Darius Martin  
David Rocha  
Deborah Cardenas  
Desiree Dennis  
Dessiree Nunez  
Edward Torralva  
Eryk Carrera  
Frances Samba  
Gabriel Sanchez  
Gabriella Haywood  
Iris Aguilera  
Ivy Lartey

Jade Austin  
Jade Miles  
Jasmine Hernandez  
Jeffrey Joseph  
Jessica Aguilon  
Jessica Rodriguez  
Jolie Garcia  
Juliana Barron  
Kathryn Cruz  
Kimberly Bristow  
Kira Flowers  
Laura Enriquez  
Lesly Ayala  
Lesly Grifaldo  
Madelin Zarate  
Marcus Clark  
Maria Aldaco  
Melanie Garza  
Mercy Vallejo  
Michelle Maez  
Mo'Nique Harris  
Musah Samba  
Natalie Enriquez

Necharra Banks  
Nicholas Cortinas  
Norma Santiago  
Octavia Holloway  
Patrick Hess  
Q-Robbie Thompson  
Rhiann Wepplma  
Richard Garcia  
Sally Sanchez  
Sara Mata Baco  
Serrah Hernandez  
Steven Shanklin  
Tabitha Rodriguez  
Taleka Anderson  
Valentin Morin  
Vanessa Robinson  
Y'vondia Johnson  
Zachary Alvarado-R  
Zatavia Scott  
Zena Hariri

## SPC Earns 'Grow with Google' Grant for Career Readiness

St. Philip's College announced participation in the Grow with Google HSI Career Readiness Program. The initiative will help Latino students at over 20 Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) prepare for the workforce through digital skills training and career workshops. Through a \$2 million investment in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), the program will train 200,000 Latino students by 2025. Northeast Lakeview College, Palo Alto College, and San Antonio College are also partners.

Latino workers face systemic barriers to economic opportunity, including a lack of access to digital skills training. Over 80% of U.S. jobs require digital skills, but 55% of Latinos have little to no digital skills training. Latinos are also overrepresented in jobs that are at the highest risk of elimination due to automation, furthering the need to upskill for an increasingly digital economy.

In partnership with HACU, the Grow with Google HSI Career Readiness Program will provide St. Philip's College with funding and a semester-long, in-person, and online digital skills program. The initiative will combine career workshops, career counseling, and programming on design thinking, project management, and professional brand building.

*"The Grow with Google Grant increases learning opportunities for St. Philip's College students. The grant provides students with tools to build interpersonal skills that are vital to success in the workplace, including*



*critical thinking, intercultural fluency, professional speaking, writing, and leadership," said St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. "Access to this additional resource helps our graduates transition from the classroom into high-wage, highly skilled positions in support of our region's economic growth."*

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

## SPC Awarded Grant to Boost Community College Adult Enrollment



St. Philip's College was recently awarded a \$75,000 grant from Lumina Foundation to further efforts to increase adult student enrollment. SPC is one of only 20 community colleges in the nation to receive funding.

The Prioritizing Adult Community College Enrollment initiative identifies and supports promising strategies for increasing adult participation—particularly among Black, Hispanic and Latino, and Native American students—

in quality credit-bearing and non-credit programs.

A partnership effort of Achieving the Dream, Ideas 42, rpkGroup, Equal Measure, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors will support grant recipients. The group includes five rural, six suburban, and nine urban colleges. Among these are eight Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), one historically Black college, one Asian American and Native American-Pacific Islander-

Serving Institution (AANAPISI), and one institution designed solely to serve incarcerated students.

Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, Northeast Lakeview College, and Northwest Vista College are also recipients of the grant. All colleges will receive a flexible grant of up to \$75,000, along with technical assistance in behavioral design and planning for sustainable enrollment efforts.

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

## SPC Grad Named Executive Chef of Award-Winning Eatery



Photo Source: La Cantera Resort & Spa

St. Philip's College alumnus, John Carpenter, was recently named Executive Chef of Signature, an award-winning restaurant located on the grounds of La Cantera Resort & Spa. The local 70-seat eatery is known for its contemporary takes on French classics with a Texas flair.

Carpenter is a graduate of the St. Philip's College Culinary Arts program. After earning his degree, he began cooking as a professional, working his way up the ranks in the kitchens of top San Antonio restaurants including Beat Street Bistro and Nao Gastro Bar. Carpenter earned his first job as Head Chef at the age of 24 in 2011, and in 2015, Carpenter joined The Culinary Institute of America as Chef. Before joining Signature, Carpenter was a Chef at Botika located in the Pearl Brewery.

Like Carpenter, many students enroll in the Culinary Arts program at St. Philip's College as aspiring hospitality industry professionals. The program, which is recognized as exemplary by both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the American Culinary Federation, allows graduates to attain Certified Culinarian status from the American Culinary Federation.

Graduates are prepared for rigorous career demands that support hospitality industries vital to the San Antonio and South Texas economies. The industry is currently the city's second-largest and has an estimated \$15.2 billion impact on the city's economy.

[www.alamo.edu/spc/alumni-carpenter](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/alumni-carpenter)

## SPC Partnership with Cowboy Breakfast Foundation Yields 6,500 Tacos for First Responders



The Cowboy Breakfast Foundation presented a check of \$10,000 that is earmarked for Tourism Hospitality and Culinary Arts student scholarships. The foundation has donated over \$250,000 to SPC over 20 years.



SPC Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts (THCA) volunteers – students, staff, faculty members and administrators -- arrived as early as 10:00 pm Thursday, January 27, 2022 for the annual Cowboy Breakfast on January 28, held at SPC THCA building for the first time.



Due to COVID, this year's event was dedicated to first responders only. Over six thousand tacos were prepared for San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and San Antonio Fire Departments (SAFD).

[www.alamo.edu/spc/cowboy-breakfast-2022](http://www.alamo.edu/spc/cowboy-breakfast-2022)

# FALL 2021 GRADUATION



Over 1,200 degrees and certificates were conferred during the 2021 Fall Commencement Ceremony held at the Freeman Coliseum on December 8. The celebration featured student Commencement Speaker, Darius Martin, and Alamo Colleges District Chancellor, Dr. Mike Flores, picture above (right) with Dr. Loston (left) and St. Philip's College Faculty Senate President, Kelli Wilder (center).





Student Government Association President, Valentin Morin (left), led the invocation. Morin is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree. The Fall 2021 Commencement Ceremony can be watched at <https://bit.ly/spcgradfall2021>



From left: Dr. Michael Grillo, Interim Dean for Academic Success, Arts & Sciences; Chris Beardsall, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology (SWC); Jessica Cooper, Dean for Academic Success, Health Sciences; Dr. Vanessa Anderson, Dean for Academic Success, Academic Services; Edith Orozco, Dean for Academic Success, Applied Science & Technology (MLK).





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St. Philip's College  
**CultureFest**  
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**Thursday, April 7, 2022 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
[alamo.edu/spc/culturefest](http://alamo.edu/spc/culturefest)

### *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.