



ALAMO  
COLLEGES

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

# President's Newsletter

Quarter 2 2014

## President's Message



Greetings friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students! It is great to see you all back on campus for the start of a new academic year.

As we prepared to wind down last semester we invited students and staff from our adopted school, Bowden Elementary to celebrate CultureFest with us. We kept some Fiesta momentum to propel us through the many summer activities at St. Philip's College.

Students from our Southwest Campus Learned Trades Student Organization gave back by constructing bookshelves and youth-sized picnic tables to help furnish onsite libraries at several affordable housing communities across the city. The hands-on work of our students didn't stop there. Students utilized their skills by assisting county hospital staff in preparing equipment for the grand opening of the hospital's expansion.

We ended the summer on a high note, preparing for our very first on campus Early College High School with San Antonio Independent School District. So as you roam the campus and notice a youthful presence, welcome these students working towards their diploma and 2-year associates in a rigorous ECHS program.

All of us have important work to do here at SPC - preparing today's students to become tomorrow's graduates. Continue creating the best possible educational opportunities for our students inside and outside the classroom. I very much appreciate how hard you are working to ensure that the start of the 2014 Fall semester is a success and I wish you all the best for a wonderful academic year.

Best Regards,

*Adena Williams Loston*

Adena Williams Loston, Ph.D.  
President

## Seventh Season with the Stars



The seventh St. Philip's College season as the WNBA San Antonio Stars education sponsor included a May 6 pre-season game attended by college leadership, David Robinson and school-aged children from around the city. St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston addressed the children and encouraged them to begin thinking about going to college. On May 17 in the

*David Robinson cheers on the Stars with SPC leadership.*

AT&T Center, college employees and students marketed education as a team during SPC Night at the opening season game stars. The college's focus on education with Stars fans also included on-court recognition and a fourth quarter on-court promotion. (See photos below)

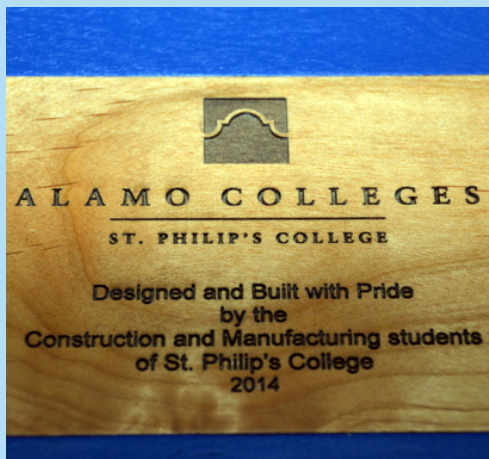


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## Students Give Back



*Thirty-seven students used the college brand to improve the lives of 100,000-plus community members in 2014.*

students to gather for reading with their parents without leaving their housing areas, 13 college trades club members enhanced SAHA's initiative to transform several of its properties and the lives of 25,000 residents. St. Philip's College students worked with SAHA on a unique semester-long weekend and evening project to build college-branded bookcases and child-sized college-branded picnic tables for several center properties. SAHA provided building materials, HEB grocery firm donated more than 1,000 books to fill the shelves for 25,000 reading center patrons under the age of 18, all to improve literacy while displaying the St. Philip's College brand to encourage residents to finish high school and enter college. The college's project leads were student organization president Ernest Patino, Chilson and lab technician Sam Montanez.

"I saw my efforts in my college's projects with both SAHA and NIOSA as ways to meet my classmates on a working basis while helping my community," said construction degree candidate and industry veteran Gerald Walsh. "Giving back with my professional skills is something I have not had much time to do before, so I felt really good after getting involved in both the NIOSA and the SAHA construction projects," said Walsh. On April 28, the dedication ceremony of the SAHA-operated Alazan-Apache Court community reading center was enhanced with the first presentation of three college-branded bookcases and three branded picnic tables created by the college's students. St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston greeted residents and guests at the library opening. Dr. Loston and members of college leadership read stories to the children in attendance following the ceremony. A similar presentation ceremony was held June 23 in SAHA's Spring View housing complex.

The lives of 100,000-plus community members were improved in a single semester of hard work from 37 St. Philip's College construction and hospitality management degree candidates who gave back through two new higher education service and marketing partnerships that utilized their skill sets to perfection.

Thirteen Learned Trades Club student organization members built 15 college-branded recycling containers and 24 hospitality management program students directed 80,000 "Night in Old San Antonio" patrons of the Fiesta event's new college-branded recycling sites April 22-25 in the historic downtown village of La Villita. Through coordination among hospitality management faculty member Deb Romeo, NIOSA chairman Barb Machado and construction technology program director James Chilson, students teamed up to learn as they helped the food and beverage-intensive NIOSA week go greener than ever with record revenue, record attendance and record-setting recycling of 34.18 tons.

When construction technology faculty members at the college learned that the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) was creating innovative environments for elementary-age



*Children like the finished product as they read and learn.*



*A student preps children's furniture for branding.*



*Students and college leadership help city put child literacy first.*

## GED Course Prepares Students for Success

St. Philip's College completed classes in June for the first 11 diploma candidates to enroll in the college's new GED preparation course specifically designed to prepare diploma candidates for the new GED exam and encourage a strong connection between GED certificate candidate completion and subsequent college enrollment. Beginning in April,



these diploma candidates received 72 hours of instruction and guidance for the four subjects of the new exam. They were also provided access to a GED online preparation program allowing independent study as a supplement to course instruction. Additionally, the candidates toured the college, spoke with representatives from college departments and learned how to use resources available throughout the college. All candidates were expected to register for the official GED examination at the course's end, and all took the exams in June in the College's Testing Center. All interested certificate candidates were assisted with ApplyTexas and FAFSA applications as well.

## National Leaders in Higher ED

St. Philip's College students and leaders have both been engaged in several innovative national and regional higher education events with national leaders. One week before her college graduation day, 2014 pre-nursing alumnus Erica Thompson promoted education as a college cheer team member during the 2014 College Signing Day with First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama and 2,100 college-bound seniors from 37 area high schools at UTSA's convocation center.

An honor student and Phi Theta Kappa honor society member who has transferred to UTSA, Thompson frequently marketed the college-going culture in San Antonio as part of her St. Philip's College experience, and the May 2 event allowed her to show solidarity with the debut of innovative new White House initiatives that encourage Americans to pursue and complete some form of higher education. Tiger mascot Trevon Cruz, cheer team member John Gaytan and kinesiology degree candidate and cheer team coach Ebonee Brown were also present in support of the First Lady's event where 60 local high school seniors pledged to attend St. Philip's College in fall of 2014.

On June 19 in the Tynan Early Childhood Development Center, construction business management degree candidate Jose Perez shared the national higher education stage with U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan (below) when the secretary visited the center for a town hall meeting on innovation with 50 guests including St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston. Perez, a parent whose children attend the center, joined Duncan and guests in the town hall conversation on President Barack Obama's visionary Promise Zone partnerships. Dr. Loston participated in the June 19 town hall meeting for the parents of the children attending a best-practice school in the Eastside Promise Neighborhoods service area and the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The focus of the meeting was to discuss innovation in early education and dual generation workforce development for the neighborhood.

On May 9, St. Philip's College was nationally recognized for its commitment to innovative solar energy education. The college's nationally-noted alternative energy and power generation program earned mention in a May 9 White House Fact Sheet supporting President Obama's initiatives to continue rapid growth of the U.S. solar energy capability that is both saving Americans money and creating U.S. jobs.



*First Lady addresses 60 prospective St. Philip's College students.*



*Duncan and Perez talk higher education at Tynan.*

## Another Great Year for THCA

St. Philip's College was identified in June as one of America's Top 20 Culinary Schools by Full-Service Restaurants magazine. The magazine is a national reference for chefs, c-level executives, and decision-makers in the full-service restaurant industry, from national chains to locally owned landmark restaurants. The college was selected due to its degree and transfer options, exemplary American Culinary Federation ratings, instructor accessibility, labs that include a locally regarded full-service restaurant and an experience that establishes realistic post-graduation expectations for students.

Quarterly student and institutional achievements within the exemplary-rated college program include the completion of the college's first international culinary exchange program in the Brazilian city of Florianopolis May 18-June 3 by culinary degree candidates Juliet Burley, Jasmine Geromiller, Doris Haskins, Rebecca Miles and Bianca Garcia.

The University of Houston announced the lease of a historic building at St. Paul Square for the branch of their Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management that is currently in residence at St. Philip's College, offering the college's alumni opportunities to transfer to one of the world's top three hospitality programs. Off-campus, U.S. Rep. Pete P. Gallego (D-Alpine), U.S. Congressman for the 23rd District of Texas recognized culinary arts alumnus Johnny Stewart on June 2 with a Congressional Award for promoting student success as Stewart leads the culinary program at McCollum High School that has produced several St. Philip's College alumni who are working in the profession.



*Faculty member Eric Dromgoole teaching prospective college students in 2014.*

## Donor Appreciation

St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted several appreciation events for generous community support of the college's student scholarship programs. On April 17 in Artemisia's, Dr. Loston hosted an appreciation dinner celebrating the Gustafson family and the Ace Mart leadership in recognition of their continued support of SPC hospitality professions programs and their recent \$75,000 contribution to the endowed St. Philip's College scholarship they established in recognition of their parents, Norm and Fran Gustafson. On July 1, Dr. Loston addressed the Board of Temple Beth-El and presented a gift to the church. The gift was a framed picture of Artemisia Bowden and former temple Rabbi David Jacobson. The organization's Temple Beth-El Kimmelman grants have supported both the college's students and its child development center operations with \$80,000 since 2010.

## SAISD GEAR UP-SPC Biotech/Biofuels Summer Camp

One highlight of the summer science education partnership season at St. Philip's College was the San Antonio Independent School District GEAR UP-SPC Biotech/Biofuels Summer Camp at the college's Southwest Campus (below). Students in this academy completed hands-on studies in nanotechnology, cybersecurity and computer operating systems. While guest speakers CPS Energy vice president John Benedict and Southwest Research Institute senior scientist Dr. Mark Feng spoke with some of the students, other students took a field trip to the labs of the biomedical engineering department at UTSA.



*Affordable summer camp lineup included biotech and biofuels.*

## Congratulations Student Athletes



Five St. Philip's College students (above) were recognized as 2014 season All Academic Basketball Team members of the Texas Collegiate Club Sports League. Earning minimum GPAs of 3.0 en route to that recognition were women's basketball team members Toni Barnes and Dejanira Lamkin, and men's basketball team members Enrique Salinas, Jarod Booth and Edward Rodriguez. St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston hosted a luncheon honoring the five on April 22.

## Thank You Bimbo Bakeries



On May 28, Bimbo Bakeries awarded the St. Philip's College Child Development Center \$10,000 to upgrade the engineered fiber mulch fall protection surface in the center's outdoor playground with a permanent fall protection surface. When installed, the new surface is expected to enhance safety for the 57 children enrolled at the only center accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children within the Eastside San Antonio 78203 zip code. Presently in coordination, the work is being funded by the U.S. Division of Mexico's Grupo Bimbo, one of the world's largest baking companies.

## Early College High School at SPC

A history-making moment in the innovative St. Philip's College early college initiatives in 2014 occurred as the college's commencement ceremony May 9 in Freeman Coliseum featured its first graduating class of early college high school students. Twenty-six Comal Independent School District Early College High School degree candidates each debuted a silver-toned graduation cord that designated them as completers of an associate of arts degree program at the college. On April 14 in the Burnet Center, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston participated in an institutional memorandum signing ceremony for the St. Philip's College Early College High School with San Antonio Independent School District. As a result, 100 SAISD diploma candidates will enjoy opportunities to complete up to two years of college credit or an associate degree from St. Philip's College while in high school—at no cost beginning in the fall. An additional class of 100 is forecast to be enrolled each year through the 12th grade, eventually yielding 100 additional SAISD alumni per year.

## NFBPA in San Antonio



On April 15 at the Grand Hyatt, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston addressed the National Forum for Black Public Administrators FORUM 2014. Dr. Loston spoke to the members about both the college's innovative Promise Zone participation and its institutional commitments to enhancing the education of residents in its surrounding community. The annual FORUM is an intensive skills-building and professional development program for 1,000 African-American public officials.

## First Biomed Students Intern at Medical Center Sky Tower

St. Philip's College biomedical engineering technology degree candidates Nathan Grant, David Avila, Ridine Abdelbasset, Nick Andreoli, Jason Lee, Arjee Garcia, Paul Wiesenhan, Veronica Marin and Yaiza Reyes completed their practicums at the largest construction project in Bexar County history. The students checked, managed, modified, repaired and tested thousands of units of medical devices and equipment to help the seven-person biomedical engineering technology staff at University Hospital get their entire 10-story South Texas Medical Center Sky Tower running on time and budget. The degree candidates worked behind the scenes to support the tower that spans one million square feet and more than doubles the hospital's number of inpatient beds opened to patients by April 14.

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## CIMA Project

On Aug. 8 at The University of Texas at San Antonio main campus, five St. Philip's College degree candidates and 2014 alumni were among the first 27 alumni of the nationally-unique CIMA Project Undergraduate Research Program. The National Science Foundation-Alamo Colleges-UTSA effort initiated by this college increased the completion rates of minority STEM majors in San Antonio by pairing promising Alamo Colleges students with UTSA faculty mentors and their projects from June 2-August 8.

The college's first alumni are Julio Avalos (mathematics), Mohamed Basiouny (biotechnology), David Cadena (engineering, 2014), Amber Miller (biology) and Ernest Ytuarte (mechanical engineering, 2014). CIMA alumnus Cadena conducted research on nanoparticles for biomedical applications in the laboratory of UTSA's Dr. Kelly Nash. "Working with cutting-edge material and exploring uncharted territory that may help our community changed me. I plan to earn a bachelors in physics," said Cadena. The CIMA alumni each earned a \$3,000 stipend upon successful completion of the program that is the only program of its kind funded by the NSF at a community college.

## Ms. St. Philip's College



From right, Barnes, Cadena, Jones and Angulo.

Ms. St. Philip's College Toni Barnes made higher education marketing history in 2014 as the college's first Johnson Publishing Company/EBONY magazine HBCU Campus Queen. In a major acknowledgement of two-year college education by a national magazine, St. Philip's College is the only two-year college that Ebony has permitted to compete in that magazine's decades-old higher education branding and promotion program, and Barnes served as the college's representative. The recognition has allowed the college and Barnes to promote community college education online nationally from May-September, and has added more value to the role of students in marketing education. We are pleased to announce that Barnes has graduated from St. Philip's College and has transferred to Texas State University-San Marcos. The 2014 business program alumna's career plans are to become a buyer for a fashion company, an independent stylist and a strategist for small businesses. Barnes also gave back to the college by marketing education as a key member of the 2014 SPC Annual Golf Tournament student team, serving as the 2014 Ms. St. Philip's/ Homecoming Queen and captain of the 2014 SPC women's intramural basketball team. Barnes marketed education during the 2014 CultureFest with 2014 Queen of Soul and St.

Philip's College student Sa'Sha Jones, and prospective St. Philip's College student 2014 Miss San Antonio Deidra Angulo. On May 27, San Antonio Express-News reported that Angulo intends to enroll at SPC after competing at the 2014 Miss Texas program in Richardson, Texas, that was a qualifying round for the 2014 Miss America competition.

## CultureFest and Rib Cook Off

St. Philip's College hosted 3,500 guests at the 2014 CultureFest, an official Fiesta San Antonio event co-hosted by St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston and more than 100 students of the

on their first CultureFest visit. The Bowden students were invited to the family-oriented event to promote neighborhood college culture and as an immediate reward for the children having successfully completed their STAR tests (below). While the Chili's franchise location at The Quarry competed as a first-time challenger in the annual rib cooking competition on Rib Row, culinary arts degree candidates prepared and served each entry to rib contest judges. As welding degree candidates hand-built two college-branded grills for the Scholarship Fundraising Auction of classic South Texas outdoor cooking essentials on Rib Row, eight construction degree candidates built one college-branded youth size picnic table and one college-branded bookcase, and all of those students honed professional skills during the technical project. New for 2014, the college's traditions of learning and giving back continued as early childhood education students provided leadership in the Rib Row Kid's Corner for pre-school and elementary school CultureFest guests. Thirteen massage therapy students staffed the unique Rib Row 500-Hour Massage Therapy Zone to ensure event guests were refreshed and ready for their next Fiesta event. Thirty vocational nursing students staffed the first aid tent at Rib Row, and 20 automotive technology students were essential by assisting with the Rib Row Car Show logistics with marketing,



Bowden Elementary School made its first CultureFest visit.

promotion and judging support. Off-campus, seven SPC students competed to produce The Palm Restaurant's Fiesta pin for 2014. Vanessa Cabrera, Chemistry student, created the winning design.

### Competitors:

Bar Cross 1, Bar Cross Too, Bob's Smokehouse, Holy Smokes BBQ, Celestino Naranjo, Michael Trevino, Ed's Smoke NQ, Sal's BBQ, Feeling Pan Ala Elams, Chili's at The Quarry

### Rib Contest judges:

Rose Elizade-Taylor, sales manager at Ruth's Chris Steak House River Walk-Grand Hyatt; Tim Cervantes, manager of HEB at 415 N. New Braunfels St.

Tommy Moore owner or Tommy Moore's Café & Deli; Robert Sanchez of The Palm Restaurant; Father Kevin Fausz of Holy Redeemer Church



Students create The Palm Restaurant's 2014 Fiesta pin.

college. The April 24 event united students and the community to generate scholarship funds for the college's students. Fiesta San Antonio dignities met with 175 fourth and fifth grade students from the Bowden Elementary School sponsored by the college



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ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE

# ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES



**CELEBRATE**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



## JULIAN BOND

**FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,  
NAACP**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2015, 11 A.M.,  
WATSON FINE ARTS CENTER**

From his college days as a founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to his role as former Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Julian Bond has been an active participant in the movements for civil rights, economic justice, and peace and an aggressive spokesman for the disinherited.

### **PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES**

The St. Philip's College President's Lecture Series provides opportunities for the college and the community to hear speakers' perspectives on a broad range of local, regional, national and international issues. The lectures are provided at no cost to the audience and are designed to attract students, faculty, and staff as well as the greater San Antonio Community.



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## St. Philip's Continues to Educate Future Nurses

The nursing programs at St. Philip's College are 65-years old in 2014---more than half the 116-year-old college's service life---and the college has been observing the 65-year milestone. St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston greeted guests at the college's 2014 Nurses Week partnership luncheon. Throughout 2014, registered nurse and Dean of Health Sciences Rose Spruill (below) and her nursing degree candidates have been recognized regionally and nationally for educating and enrolling residents surrounding the college in the Health Insurance Market Place as part of the Affordable Care Act. Spruill also educated 100 local nurses about the act

in a separate program. For these actions, she has received recognition from the President of the United States and from regional Medicaid and Medicare offices in Dallas. Spruill has also received a Chancellor's Leadership Award for those combined achievements, in addition to a 2014 Nelson Administrative Leadership Award nomination. Nelson nominees are acknowledged as administrators who demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities in their community college systems. Spruill's Nelson nomination and Chancellor's Leadership Award presentation by Alamo College's Chancellor Dr. Bruce Leslie were both celebrated during the July 29 Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees meeting.



### *Upcoming Events*

**Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration:**  
Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

**Homecoming Week:** Oct. 13 - Oct. 17

**Women Breaking Through:** Oct. 11

**President's Lecture Series,**  
**Richard Carmona:** Oct. 09

### *Save the Date*

**Fall 2014 Commencement:** Dec. 12

**Macbeth:** Nov. 14-23

**President's Lecture Series,**  
**Julian Bond:** Feb. 05

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