

2023

# PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

St. Philip's College's first  
baccalaureate degree,  
the Bachelor of Applied  
Technology Degree  
in Cybersecurity



ISSUE  
04



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
St. Philip's College

## President's Message

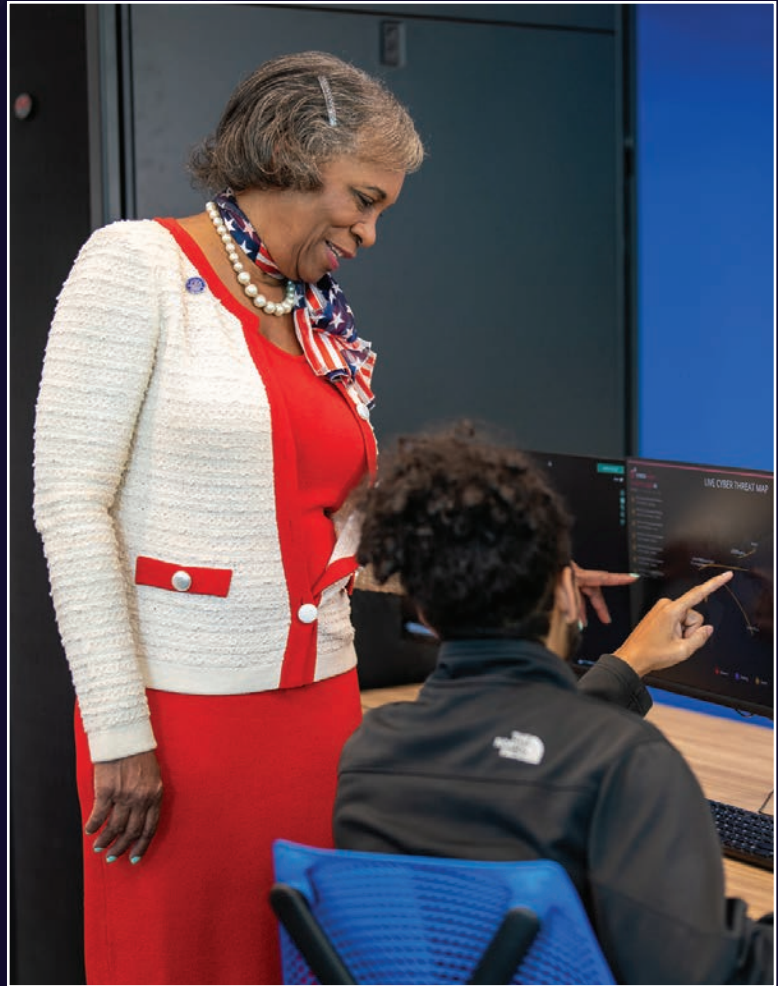


As we approach the end of our 125th Anniversary, I am filled with immense pride for the remarkable achievements that define this transformative period in our institution's history. Together, we've experienced a year of unparalleled growth and recognition.

This year, St. Philip's College achieved a historic milestone with a student enrollment of over 14,000. Our dedication to academic excellence was recognized, as we were named among the 'Best Community Colleges in Texas of 2023,' by Intelligent.com. We had record-breaking graduation numbers, with nearly 2,300 degrees and certificates awarded, standing as evidence of our commitment to student success.

In December 2023, St. Philip's College received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to offer its first baccalaureate degree - the Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree in Cybersecurity (BAT). This degree will undoubtedly reshape our academic landscape.

Our journey does not end here; 2024 is filled with opportunities for growth, innovation, and continued excellence. Together, let us forge ahead, inspired by the achievements of our past and fueled by the promise of an even brighter future.



## Dr. Loston Appointed to White House Initiative

On Friday, October 27, 2023, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston was appointed by President Biden to the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans. The swearing-in ceremony was led by Vice President Kamala Harris in Washington D.C. at The White House. The Commission is led by Pennsylvania Representative Malcolm Kenyatta.

The Initiative was created to strengthen the nation by improving educational outcomes for Black Americans. Commissioners are selected from organizations throughout the country to highlight and share effective national and local programs, policies, and practices that support the development and success of Black students.

Dr. Loston's selection for this critical role is a testament to her commitment to excellence. With her extensive experience in higher education and a long history of advocating for equitable access to quality education, she is uniquely qualified for this initiative. Dr. Loston is the only college president selected to serve as a Commissioner.



In her new role as Commissioner, Dr. Loston will be responsible for highlighting, mobilizing, and providing platforms to ensure all students feel and are safe, supported, and engaged in schools, communities, and life.

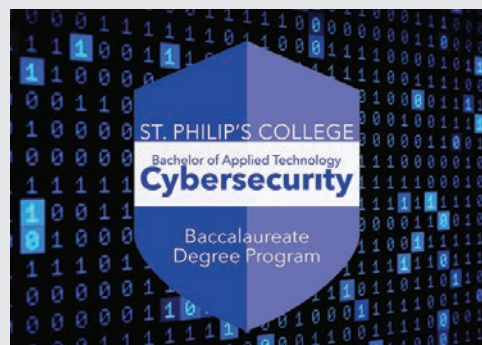
"This is a grand opportunity. Reflecting upon the inaugural meeting has allowed me to share my firsthand knowledge, lived experiences, and relevant issues impacting educational equity, excellence, and economic opportunities for Black Americans. I am honored to serve," said Dr. Loston.

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## SPC Offers Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree in Cybersecurity

In response to the growing industry demands in the field of cybersecurity, St. Philip's College (SPC) proudly announces the introduction of its first bachelor's degree, the Bachelor of Applied Technology Degree in Cybersecurity (BAT). SPC is designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD), by the National Security Agency (NSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The program, designed to equip students with the knowledge to combat cyber threats, comes as a strategic move to address the evolving landscape of digital security and to meet workforce demands. It will directly benefit approximately 1,000 area IT and cyber defense companies who rely on a strong local workforce to fill high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The United States Bureau of Labor



Statistics projects that cybersecurity jobs will grow by 31% from 2019 to 2029. An entry-level salary is projected at \$64,480 per year (\$31.00/hour), according to the Texas Workforce Commission. As technology advances, the need for cybersecurity experts has become critical. San Antonio, Military City, USA, is known for its thriving technologic industries and is one of the largest

cybersecurity hubs in the nation -- second only to Washington, D.C.

Professor Dr. Raymond Chacon explained, "The program is affordable and we maintain our mission to differentiate ourselves by bridging that gap between theory and practice. We're confident when students graduate they are well-equipped."

In this program, SPC students will gain advanced hands-on experience and practical insights into the latest cybersecurity tools, techniques, and best practices within state-of-the-art facilities, including the Saint Artemisia Bowden Center of Excellence opened in the Fall of 2021, and Cybersecurity Innovations Center (CIC), currently under renovation.

## SPC Holds Annual Monster Tech Fest



The St. Philip's College Southwest Campus (SWC) was buzzing with excitement as 700 high school students took part in the 12th annual Monster Tech Fest on Oct. 20.

“Monster Tech Fest 2023 was a huge success! It is a great opportunity for not only our programs to showcase all they have to offer but also for high school students to get informed on career and technical education programs at St. Philip's College. Plus, we had an awesome live performance from the

Passing Strangers band,” said Academic Program Director and Event Chair Manuel Navarro.

Students had the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops and laboratory tours provided throughout the day by Manufacturing Technology, Respiratory Care, Culinary Arts, Vision Care Technology, and Manufacturing Technology. Also, demonstrations were provided by the Welding Technology and Auto Collision Technology programs.

“St. Philip's College SWC is honored to host an event that introduces and exposes high school students to these skilled careers. We are looking forward to expanding and growing the event to reach even more students for the life-changing opportunities that St. Philip's College has to offer,” said Dean for Academic Success – SWC Chris Beardsall.

## Día de los Muertos

The Center for Learning Resources and Mexican American Studies program collaborated to celebrate Día de los Muertos by conducting an altar-building workshop. The interactive display included memorabilia of passed loved ones from members of the SPC community.



## St. Philip's College Hosts Presidential Gala



Fourteen culinary arts students carefully created recipes on December 1, 2023, for a seven-course meal, which began with a cocktail hour featuring a light and crisp blueberry pomegranate champagne.

These students, from the Advance Management of Food Production class hosted the Presidential Gala to thank donors. The event also marks the student's final course requirement in this capstone class.

"This is one of my prouder moments," said Chef Patrick Costello. "We get to showcase the talent of our soon-to-be graduates going into the community to start their careers. This only solidifies what they are learning in our program."

Throughout the evening, guests were treated to a culinary journey crafted to include an Amuse Bouche, Soup Course, Fish Course, Poultry Course, Meat Course, and a Dessert Sampler, including several palate cleansers. This fine dining experience provided each guest with a meal of an estimated value of over \$250.

Wine pairings for the courses were explained by the students. Each pairing was made to highlight different flavor notes. The wine for the evening was donated by Ron Yates Winery (Hye, Texas).

The evening concluded with a heartfelt thank-you during the presentation of students by Tourism, Hospitality and Culinary Arts Chairperson Juan Frank Salinas and remarks by St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston.



## Fall 2023 Commencement

*Caps off to the Class of 2023! St. Philip's College held its 149th Commencement Ceremony on December 15, 2023 at the Freeman Coliseum. This memorable evening marked the beginning of a new chapter for graduates as they walked confidently across the stage into the next phase of their lives.*



*Shown here from left, Roberta Dukes, St. Philip's College President Dr. Adena Williams Loston, Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores, Destiny Castro, and Tony Sanders.*



## Veterans Day

The St. Philip's College community gathered to observe Veterans Day with a speech from Vice President for Student Success Wesley Wells, laying a reef on the campus grounds, and singing the national anthem.

## Jessica's Project

On November 16, St. Philip's College (SPC) hosted the Fall 2023 Jessica's Project Symposium with over 100 students in attendance.

Each fall and spring, SPC hosts Jessica's Project to present research on various health-related conditions. The symposium is a civic engagement model of education that encourages a culture of good health. Research is done by students in collaboration with professors and community partners.

Since last year, the San Antonio Spurs have had a significant presence setting up tables to provide data on health topics and to give away swag to students.

Over the past eleven years, SPC has researched Autism, Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida, Type II Diabetes, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, Ulcerative Colitis, HIV/AIDS, Stroke, COVID-19, Mental Health, and Teen Pregnancy.

The Fall 2023 semester's theme was "Improving and Maintaining Joint Health in a Diverse Population." This theme aligns with city, state, and national health concerns. Throughout the event, SPC students showcased their research with poster presentations and participated in a student panel.

Three healthcare professionals were guest speakers. Dr. Sean Marx is a shoulder, elbow, and knee disorder specialist. Catherine Johnson, PA-C practices at South Texas Spinal Clinic. Phyliss Monroe works for the Defense Health Agency at Joint Base San Antonio – Ft. Sam Houston in the Jennifer Moreno Outpatient Clinic. Each was an expert in their field, bringing knowledge to the community on how to have healthy joints through maintenance practices and remedies.





# ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT St. Philip's College

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**Thursday, April 25, 2024**  
**10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**  
**ADMISSION AND PARKING ARE FREE!**  
**Car Show • Food • Music • Entertainment**  
1801 Martin Luther King Drive,  
San Antonio, TX 78203  
*Proceeds from CultureFest help fund student scholarships.*

For more information, scan the QR Code below or visit: [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.



## Newsletter Staff

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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.



**SCAN QR CODE FOR  
AN ENHANCED  
DIGITAL EXPERIENCE**