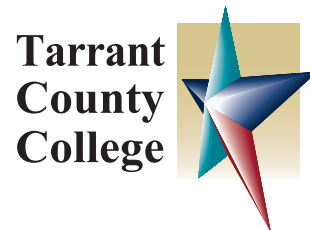


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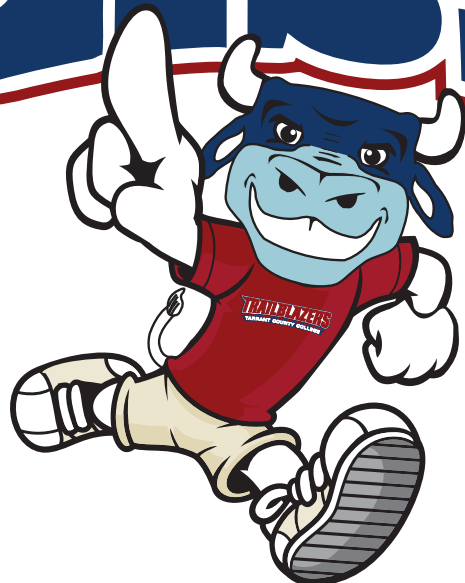
# PROJECTION

www.tccd.edu

FALL 2012

TCC INVITES YOU TO BE A PART OF OUR INAUGURAL

# TORO DASH



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- Food • Music • Family Fun
- Chip-Timed Event
- Scenic, Fast and Flat Course Through Trinity Park

SATURDAY, DEC. 1  
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[www.tccd.edu/ToroDash](http://www.tccd.edu/ToroDash)

  
An Achieving the Dream™ Institution  
Community Colleges Count

TCC is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access Institution.



# HOT JOBS IN A COLD MARKET

# From the Desk of Erma Johnson Hadley, Chancellor



It is always a pleasure for me to tell the TCC story and to especially point out the comprehensiveness of the College. From general academic courses, to technical and career training, to workforce development training, to professional licensure updates, to adult basic education, to College for Kids, to Senior Education programs, TCC is here to support our community's needs.

This issue of *Projection* highlights the College's work in providing career training for a wide range of industries – health care professions, automotive, welding, culinary arts, transportation – you name it, we probably offer it. What's the best part about this? Between credit and continuing education courses, the options of course times and training models are nearly endless and can be chosen according to your individual needs.

Given the competitive nature of today's job market, we are keenly focused on specific technical skills and areas that are proven to align directly with our local workforce needs. In fact, we now provide training in nearly all of the "targeted occupations" as identified by the Tarrant County Workforce Development Board. This focus ensures that our graduates acquire applicable skills that make them workforce ready from day one.

On a recent visit to a class at our new Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions, I asked the students how many of them already had four-year degrees. About half of the students

raised their hands. Though this may seem surprising, it is a reflection of the need for workers in the high-demand occupations and further underscores the necessity of helping students identify an area of study that can lead to a well-paying job today.

After you read this issue, check out our new Career Coach tool available at [www.tccd.edu](http://www.tccd.edu). Whether you're in the market for a new job or looking for a career change, Career Coach is another great opportunity we offer to our students and anyone in our community looking for a "Hot Job in a Cold Market."

Tarrant County College is all about student access and success. The avenues for our students vary depending on their personal goals, but the underlying goal of the College remains consistent. We are the people's College, and we are here to prepare our students for professional careers or technical careers. Whatever it takes to move our community forward!

Tarrant County College's commitment to the community and the environment is reflected in the use of recycled paper for this issue of *Projection* magazine.

## Projection

Vol. XLVII, No. 1 FALL 2012

Produced for the friends, faculty, and staff of TCC by the Offices of Public Relations and Marketing and Communications

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### Role and Scope

The College implements its mission through a clearly defined set of programs, services and partnerships that include:

- University transfer programs;
- Workforce education programs;
- Developmental courses;
- Adult literacy courses;
- Continuing Education and community services;
- An extensive curriculum; a highly qualified, enthusiastic, innovative faculty and staff; appropriate technology, equipment and learning resources; diverse modes of instruction and delivery; support services to foster student success; work and partnership in support of the cultural and economic development of the community;
- A commitment to institutional effectiveness – an ongoing process of self-examination, self-improvement, and an unending pursuit of excellence.

### Mission Statement

Tarrant County College provides affordable, open access to quality teaching and learning.

### Tarrant County College

is an Equal Opportunity Institution that provides educational and employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

## WANT TO KEEP UP ON THE LATEST WITH TCC?

Stay connected through social media.



## Are you a TCC graduate?

Register for the Online Alumni Community at [www.tccd.edu/alumni](http://www.tccd.edu/alumni)

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## From the Editor



Gary Offutt  
Projection Editor

Although we're officially in a period of economic recovery, it's safe to say that the job market is still tight. You probably don't have to look too far to find someone you know who has been laid off, or received a pay cut, or feels trapped in a career that's leading nowhere fast.

Sure, jobs are out there. But is it still possible to find something more than a job in this cooler economic climate? Is it still possible to find your passion – your calling – your dream job? And if your dream job is out there, chances are a lot of people with the same dream will be applying for it. Is it possible to get a leg up on the competition?

Tarrant County College offers many programs that not only help people get a leg up,

but also help them get their whole bodies into meaningful, satisfying gainful employment. Local businesses know and respect TCC's methods and instructors, and they often come to us looking for new graduates, or send their existing employees to us for further training. As a result, many of our degree and certificate programs have a 100 percent hire rate for students who complete them.

We've picked one hot job from each campus to highlight the educational and training opportunities available at TCC. They're merely a sampling of the many available programs, as well as the many people who choose TCC as the path to their passions – their calling – their dream jobs.



**A** variety of TCC graduates who overcame personal obstacles to earn their degrees, including some who were once homeless, were encouraged by one of their own during commencement ceremonies in May.

Danielle Miles, who completed her associate degree in December 2011, achieved one of her dreams and shared her triumph over multiple challenges like being a single mother and dropping out of high school.

"As a high school dropout, I never graduated and never saw a family member or anyone graduate," Miles said. "I also wanted to show my support for the community college and the mission we all have to educate students of all different types — not just the typical college student."

The 2012 graduating class also included several students who were once homeless. Graduating with Associate of Arts Degrees were George Rios and Heather Zipper. Both participated in TCC's Visions Unlimited Program, a cooperative effort with shelters in Tarrant County that provides the homeless access to higher education. Another participant, Kathryn Urelinger, has earned two certificates in Office Administration. **TCC**



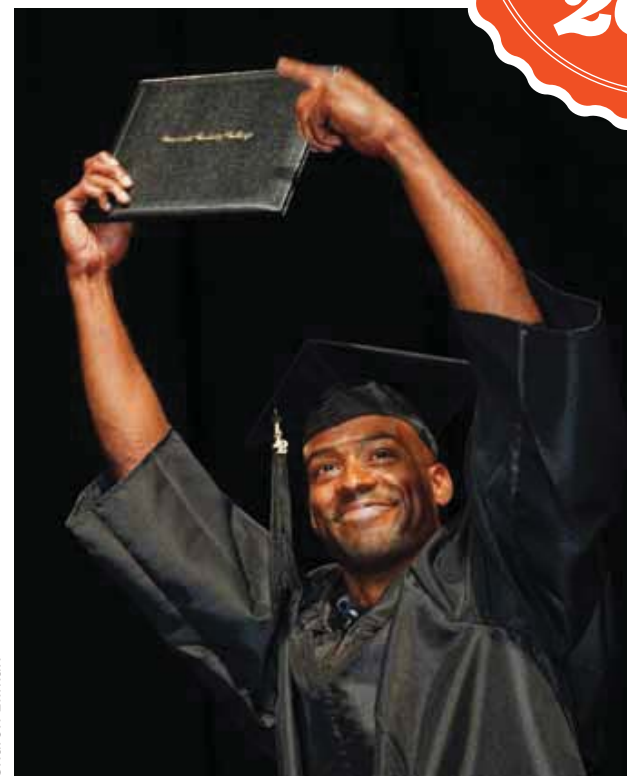
DeeDra Parrish



DeeDra Parrish



DeeDra Parrish



Sharon Ellman

## CHINESE DELEGATION VISIT

**I**n an effort to build awareness and provide opportunities for a globally educated and employed workforce, TCC recently hosted a delegation of the heads of colleges and technical schools in China. The delegates were treated to Texas hospitality as they toured each campus to learn how TCC operates as a unified District. Before they left, the delegates signed a memorandum of understanding, pledging to explore future relationships and to research exchanges with students, faculty and administrators.



Heads of colleges and technical schools in China enjoy a presentation at Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions.

Jon P. Uzzell

## AGREEMENT EXPANDS ACCESS FOR TCC STUDENTS



TSU President F. Dominic Dottavio, left, and TCC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs David Wells, right, sign the agreement as their respective mascots look on.

DeeDra Parrish

**I**t will now be easier for Tarrant County College students to transition to Tarleton State University in Stephenville to complete their education at the upper-level institution.

TCC's Toro and TSU's Texan, school mascots, along with TCC nursing students were on hand to witness what TSU President F. Dominic Dottavio called "a great day to be a Texan," referencing both TSU students, Dallas-Fort Worth residents and those statewide.

The Memorandum of Agreement helps students connect with TSU in a way that "makes a difference in lives," said TCC Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs David Wells during the signing ceremony at Trinity River East Campus.

## CHANCELLOR NAMED TO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES BOARD

**➔** TCC Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley has been appointed to the board of the American Association of Community Colleges, an advocacy group for nearly 1,200 two-year associate degree-granting institutions and more than 13 million students. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AACC supports and promotes its member colleges through policy initiatives, innovative programs, research, information and strategic research outreach to business, industry and the national news media.

## TCC FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FOR ACADEMIC BOOT CAMP

**T**he Sid W. Richardson Foundation awarded a \$250,000 grant to the Tarrant County College Foundation to support the College's Academic Enrichment Program (AEP), which is designed to help under-prepared students succeed in college.

The announcement was made by Pete Geren, president of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, and Joe McIntosh, executive director of the TCC Foundation. The AEP, also known as the TCC Academic Boot Camp Initiative, is designed to help students who score below college-entrance standards in two or three of the required basic skills areas (reading, math and writing) to enhance their scores on the ACCUPLACER college admission test.

"We are overjoyed at having received this generous grant from the Richardson Foundation," said Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley. "This not only will help those students with low scores on the ACCUPLACER test to get ready for college, it also will save them money by reducing or eliminating the need for noncredit developmental coursework."



GRANT TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

Corporate Services was awarded a Skills Development Fund Grant in partnership with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). The total award amount is \$423,280 and will upgrade 325 nursing jobs with a total of 2,520 training hours. HCA will provide advanced nursing training to registered nurses at nine area HCA hospitals. This is the second year of a two-year grant award. Corporate Services will also retain the \$105,000 worth of equipment purchased during the first year of training.



Pictured from left are TCC Board of Trustees Assistant Secretary Louise Appleman, TCC Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley, HCA Program Coordinator Eunice Macauley, HCA Vice President of Human Resources Steve Melton, TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton, and TCC Board of Trustees President Bill Greenhill.

DeeDra Parrish

SOUTHEAST CAMPUS READING FESTIVAL



Glen E. Ellman

Toro helps some young readers with the big words.

The Southeast Campus Library, in cooperation with Score a Goal in the Classroom, brought together 250 elementary students from area schools and paired them with TCC students, faculty and staff to enjoy a morning of reading and talking about books. The festival celebrates the doors that reading opens. This year's theme was "Open a Door to History," focusing on history books and historical fiction.

TCC BOARD PRESIDENT BILL GREENHILL ELECTED TO CCATT BOARD

Board of Trustees President Bill Greenhill was elected in May to the board of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees, which provides information and professional development for its member trustees.



LEARNING CHANNEL FEATURES TREC

The Profiles Series, which airs on The Learning Channel, recently featured several Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions programs. The episode, hosted by Oscar-winner Louis Gossett Jr., highlighted Surgical Technology students as they simulated an emergency-room procedure; Radiology students learning how to use the latest technology; and Nursing students reacting to the realistic computerized mannequins in the live-training facility. Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and Trinity River Campus President Tahita Fulkerson were also featured on The Profiles Series episode. They offered insights on how practical, real-time experience opens up more career opportunities for students and adds value to the community with better-prepared workers in the medical industry.



DeeDra Parrish

A crew films Surgical Technology students in a hands-on simulation.

TCC Ranked Among Top 10 Minority Associate Degree Producers

Tarrant County College is one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation for awarding degrees to minority students in three categories, according to a study released in the May issue of Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

The College ranked seventh in the number of Asian-American students, ninth in Hispanic students and ninth in total minority students earning associate degrees in Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities.

"When you consider some of the additional challenges that our minority students must overcome to successfully achieve their dreams of earning college degrees, we are particularly pleased that Tarrant County College ranks so highly among our peer institutions in these critical categories," said Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley. "We are constantly launching initiatives to improve our ability to meet the needs of our minority students, and I anticipate additional successes in this area."

NORTHWEST CAMPUS SPRING FLING

Every year when the weather warms up, Northwest Campus hosts the Spring Fling. The Student Success celebration is a time for students, faculty and staff to celebrate their successes through fun and entertainment. The festival includes music, games and food to help students unwind before finals begin.



DeeDra Parrish

Students perform an impromptu hula dance at the Spring Fling.



## BRAGS ABOUT OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

### Jennifer Bond

#### Trinity River Assistant Professor of Nursing

Began her doctoral work in Education College Learning and Teaching at Walden University in April.

### Candice Bledsoe

#### Southeast Campus Instructor of English

Named one of six 2012 fellows for the Texas Project for Human Rights Education. She will receive funding for trips, human rights courses and research on the Holocaust with a focus on women's rights.

### Kate Brooke

#### Trinity River Instructor of Spanish

Has been selected to serve on the Team in Training Mentor and Retention Advisory Committee for the North Texas Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

### Jim Ciolek

#### Trinity River Associate Professor of Respiratory Care

Served as a judge for the Texas Society for Respiratory Care Sputum Bowl, a knowledge-based, rapid-fire recall competition among teams of respiratory care practitioners. The competition was held in Austin in May.

### Ebony Clark, Scott Donaldson, and Rafael Perea

#### Northwest Campus Criminal Justice Department

Accepted an Award of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching 2011-2012 and an Award of Recognition for Outstanding Leadership 2011-2012 during the Second Annual Public Services and Social/Behavioral Sciences Awards ceremony.

### Brenda Cobb

#### Trinity River Associate Professor of Nursing

Received notification that she is a 2011-2012 winner of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Teaching Excellence Award.

### Shahla Durany

#### South Campus Instructor of Office Administration

Joined the Microsoft Office Specialist program and achieved Microsoft® Office Specialist certification. This certification tells the world that she has demonstrated proficiency in Microsoft Office and has joined a global community of distinguished achievers.

### Floristene Johnson

#### Southeast Campus Adjunct Instructor of Dietary Management

Appointed to the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke by Texas Gov. Rick Perry. The mission of the council is to educate, inform and facilitate action among Texans to reduce the human and financial toll of cardiovascular disease and stroke. One of four health professionals appointed to the council, she will serve until February 1, 2017.

### Doris Jones

#### Northeast Campus Associate Professor of Government

Coordinated a candidate forum in April featuring Todd Smith and Kelly Hancock. They competed for the District 9 seat in the Texas Senate and faced each other in the Republican primary. There were two sessions, and following the forum, the candidates had lunch with officers from the Student Government Association and from the Student Political Awareness Club.

### Curtis Landrum

#### Northwest Campus Adjunct Instructor of Aviation Technology

Was honored by the Federal Aviation Administration and presented the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award, which recognizes the lifetime accomplishments of senior mechanics in the aviation industry. The award is named after the Wright brothers' mechanic, who is credited with designing and building the engine for the first successful aircraft.

### Paul Luyster

#### South Campus Associate Professor of Biology

Spoke at a conference in Austin on "Fun Ways to Improve Student Performance in Biosciences Without Sacrificing Rigor" in May. He dressed in his muscle body suit and demonstrated techniques for teaching science that are fun and effective, such as a Lava Lamp demo, Study Buddy Board, and Magic Grade Predictor.

### Scott Maloney

#### Southeast Campus Adjunct Instructor of History

Published an article on American naval innovations for the student newsletter *Notes from the Underground*.

### Phillip Morgan

#### Trinity River Instructor of Speech and Director of Forensics

Was elected to the two-year-term position (2012-2014) of Phi Rho Pi Region VI Governor at the PRP Regional Championships. Phi Rho Pi is the National Speech/Debate/Drama organization for two-year colleges in the U.S. He was also elected as 2012-2014 term Secretary for the Texas Community College Forensics Association by the community college speech/debate coaches of TCCFA.

### Brandi Nichols

#### Southeast Campus Academic Advisor

Partnered with Associate Professor of Sociology Sharon Wettengel to provide community outreach presentations at the Arlington Life Shelter and the Arlington Housing Authority. These collaborations with the Humanities Department addressed audiences of 45 homeless adults looking to improve career opportunities.

### Douglas Peak

#### Southeast Campus Student Development Services Director

Spoke at the "Cutting Edge Youth Summit" hosted by the Liberal Arts Division at Southeast Campus. Mary Kitchen-Neal, CEO and president of Gray Matter Educational Consulting, spoke on educating students on how to become leaders. Two Leadership Academy students spoke as part of their public speaking class.

### Anita Peters

#### Northeast Campus Counselor

Presented "Invisible Barriers: LDs and the College Student" at the annual Texas College Counselors Conference held in Fort Worth in May.

### Patricia Richards

#### Northeast Associate Professor of Photography

Has been awarded first place in the Women in Photography International Show. One of her photographs was chosen for the cover of a recently published book, *Fates Will Find Their Way*.

### Adrian Rodriguez

#### Trinity River Vice President of Student Development Services

Accepted an invitation to join The T's TEX Rail Community Resource Council. The TEX Rail Project is the 37-mile commuter rail line that will carry passengers from southwest Fort Worth through downtown and the Mid-Cities, Grapevine, and into the north end of DFW Airport. Council members will provide feedback about project elements and act as an informational liaison for their respective organizations.

### Vicki Sapp

#### Southeast Campus Associate Professor of English

Plans to launch a new college success magazine, *Crossroads*. This magazine is a joint effort between The University of Texas at Arlington's TRIO/Upward Bound program and Southeast. Two SE students, Lindsay Gray and Barbara Anderson, are featured in the magazine.

### Suresh Vythylingam

#### South Campus Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy

Published an article in a scholarly journal, *Philosophy*. The article is a comparison between love in Plato's Symposium and the biblical concept of love.

### Bob Wall

#### Northwest Campus Adjunct for the Criminal Justice Training Center

Published a cover article "Causation of Eyewitness Error and Its Effect on Criminal Cases" in *The Texas Investigator* - The Journal of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators Spring 2012- Volume XVII, Issue 1.

### Tracy Williams

#### Northwest Campus Career and Employee Services Coordinator

Recently spoke to U.S. Department of Agriculture employees at their Diversity Day event at the facility in Fort Worth. She was accompanied by South Campus Career Coordinator Monica Miranda.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A sampling of TCC's recent coverage in the media

### March 6

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

An article about the Oak Crest Woman's Club disbanding after 51 years of community service and donating its property and facility to the Tarrant County College Foundation to endow a permanent scholarship fund for nursing students.

### March 15

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A story about TCC partnering with the United Way, the Women's Center of Tarrant County, and Catholic Charities Fort Worth to provide technical instruction, job-search training and budgeting advice for job-seekers in Tarrant County.

### March 23

#### Fort Worth Business Press

A notice about a free veterans benefits briefing sponsored by TCC Southeast Campus Business Department, the Texas Veterans Land Board, and the Texas Veterans Commission.

### May 10

#### Commercial Recorder

An article about TCC being one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation for awarding degrees to minority students, according to a study released by Diverse: Issues in Education.

### May 15

#### Fort Worth Business Press

A piece about TCC teaming up with the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide and the University of North Texas to offer degrees in aeronautics, aviation maintenance, project management, and systems engineering.

### May 17

#### La Vida News: The Black Voice

A story about Danielle Miles overcoming obstacles to earn her associate degree at TCC and delivering the commencement address at TCC's spring graduation ceremonies.

### May 22

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

An article about TCC's efforts to help more students become viable in the workforce with developmental math programs.

### June 6

#### The Dallas Weekly

A notice about Instructor of Dietary Management Floristene Johnson being appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke.

### July 23

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

An article about TCC partnering with the Arlington and Mansfield school districts and The University of Texas at Arlington to give students the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree for about \$10,000, or a third of the usual cost.

### July 25

#### WFAA.com

A video and accompanying article about GE giving a \$780,000 grant to TCC to train machinists and welders to work at the GE Fort Worth factory.

**NW STUDENTS ORGANIZE CREATIVE EARTH DAY FESTIVAL**

In observance of Earth Day, biology students at Northwest Campus banded together to offer green-living tips, fun activities and free hot dogs to their fellow Earthlings. Participants were invited to make crafts, construct solar ovens, and release biodegradable balloons filled with wildflower seeds. Northwest Campus President Elva LeBlanc was also on hand to help plant a tree on campus.



Northwest Campus students release seed-filled biodegradable balloons into the air. Jon P. Uzziel

**SO WOMEN IN NEW ROLES PROGRAM OFFERS SYMPOSIUM**

The Women in New Roles Program marked Women's History Month on South Campus with seminars, art exhibits and events, including the 11th Annual Women's Symposium. This year's theme was "Back to Basics: Surviving the Jungle of Life," featuring vendors, networking opportunities and motivational speakers.



Mary Lee Hafley, CEO of SafeHaven of Tarrant County, discusses the effects of domestic violence. Glen E. Ellman

**SE SOMETHING TO CHALK ABOUT**

Artists at Southeast Campus spent a warm spring day reminding us that it's still fun to draw on the sidewalk during the Fifth Annual Chalk It Up art competition. Although most enter the contest just for fun and to promote the arts, some win prizes, including more than \$1,000 in TCC scholarships and TCC Bookstore gift cards.



Which is covered in more chalk — the sidewalk, or TCC student Serena DeLeon? DeeDra Parrish

**TR TRINITY RIVER TEAM WINS SCULPTURE CONTEST**



DeeDra Parrish

Double cheers as Trinity River Campus designers took first place and North-east Campus sculptors won second place for their creative sculptures chiseled from 8 feet x 12 feet pieces of Styrofoam in the Trinity River Vision Art Competition. First-place winners received \$1,250, and second place garnered \$1,000.

← The Trinity River Campus design team admires their winning sculpture.

**NE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CELEBRATES DIVERSITY**

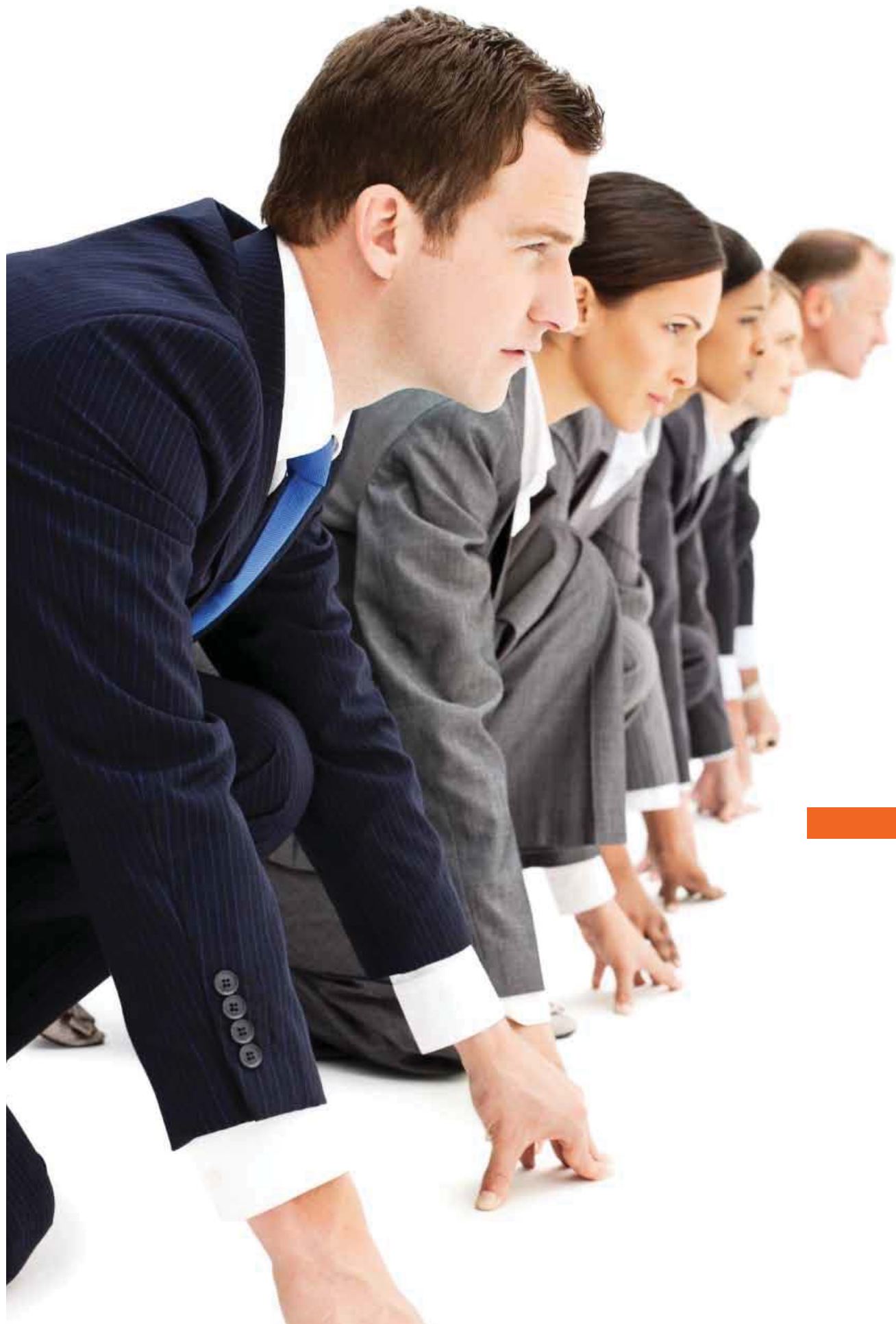
Northeast Campus hosted an international meeting of minds, foods and dance steps at its annual International Festival. Booths featuring facts, photos and flavors from around the world lined the sidewalks by the giant chessboard outside the Student Center, and the main stage nearby featured a steady stream of artists, singers and dancers, as well as a fashion show of traditional clothing representing more than a dozen countries.

Volunteers learn some Bollywood dance moves at the International Festival on Northeast Campus. →



DeeDra Parrish





# A COMPETITIVE EDGE

**TCC PREPARES STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT**

THE WORD IS OUT. TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE IS THE PLACE TO EQUIP YOURSELF OR YOUR EMPLOYEES WITH THE SUPERB TRAINING NEEDED TO NAB TOP JOBS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE MARKET. TCC IS ALSO WHERE JOB SEEKERS CAN GET HELP WITH THEIR EMPLOYMENT SEARCHES.

BY RITA L.B. PARSON



**Y**ear after year, TCC turns out graduates who not only can meet the growing demand for workers to fill skill-specific jobs, but does so with excellence. For example, since its inception 40 years ago, the Respiratory Therapy Program has produced graduates who pass its state licensure program with a 98 percent success rate.

Many of TCC's other licensure programs – Culinary Arts, Dental Hygiene, Health Information Technology, Nursing and Police – also boast of great success, averaging a 95 percent pass rate. As a result, TCC graduates often are sought out and given preference over other applicants.

#### PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Likewise, when it comes time to train new employees or update the skills of existing staff, TCC's Continuing Education Corporate Services Program can develop and implement training programs for area companies.

General Electric, spending as much as \$190 million for its new facilities in north Fort Worth, will train 275 workers at no cost to them at TCC's Opportunity Center and the North Central Texas College. Training is paid for by a nearly \$745,000 Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund Grant.

In the past three years, TCC has provided \$4.3 million in training for some 4,000 employees at more than 20 companies through one of its partnerships with Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County. These joint ventures have added to a reduction in the number of unemployed and underemployed Tarrant County residents.

The four-week program was developed quickly because it was tailored after another joint venture between TCC and Workforce Solutions. The collaboration also included the TCC Foundation, the Women's Center of Tarrant County, the Fort Worth Housing Authority, and the Local Workforce Development Board.

#### STUDENTS LEARN SKILLED TRADES

As a result of the two-year program funded by a grant exceeding \$440,000 from the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) through the State Comptroller's Office, 100 participants were trained in the Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Program, a component of the Strategic Workforce Education and Employment Training (SWEET) Program. Graduates learned to program and operate CNC machines used in manufacturing to form metal parts, filling a void for machinists in a highly sought-after industry.

"Through our partnership with TCC we have been able to help thousands of citizens upgrade their skills, help our future workforce succeed with dual-credit programs, and help employers tailor their needs," said Judy McDonald, executive director, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County.



CNC Students learn a skilled trade at TCC's Opportunity Center.



DeeDra Parrish

"Each year Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County puts thousands of citizens back to work. This would not be possible without the partnerships we have forged.

"We are very proud of the work we do with TCC and all that it has done to help us keep our charge to Keep Tarrant County Working," McDonald said. "Tarrant County College is a strong community partner that we strongly support because it provides an opportunity for economic success to our community."

In 2011, TCC also helped Tarrant County workers by providing nearly 25 more companies cost-effective training to equip their workers with specific skills. Such companies include American Airlines, Bell Helicopter, General Motors and Watson Incorporated.

#### CAREER COACH

For students who have not selected a career or are seeking a new one, TCC is eager and ready to help them in their search. Earlier this year, the College launched an online tool that can help students make a decision based on job projections and potential salary. Housed on the TCC home page, the program allows those who click on the Career Coach button to learn more about careers or majors that interest them.

Demonstrations were held simultaneously on TCC's five campuses this spring by campus career counselors who have continued to demonstrate as requested at [www.tccd.edu/CareerCoachDemo](http://www.tccd.edu/CareerCoachDemo).

"Career Coach fits nicely into the direction TCC is going with increasing student success," said Kimberly Be-

“  
Tarrant County College is a strong community partner that we strongly support because it provides an opportunity for economic success to our community.”

Judy McDonald, executive director, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

atty, associate vice chancellor for Student Success. "It will be used as one of the steps in the career exploration services we provide our students."

Not only can students learn about career options, projected growth and expected salaries, Career Coach also links them to programs offered at TCC so they can make informed academic and career choices.

The decision-making tools that Career Coach provides extend beyond TCC's student base. Students as young as junior high school age have been introduced to the tool.

"Career Coach is so user-friendly. All students have to do is type in a career and get the information needed to continue their career exploration," said TCC Academic Ad-

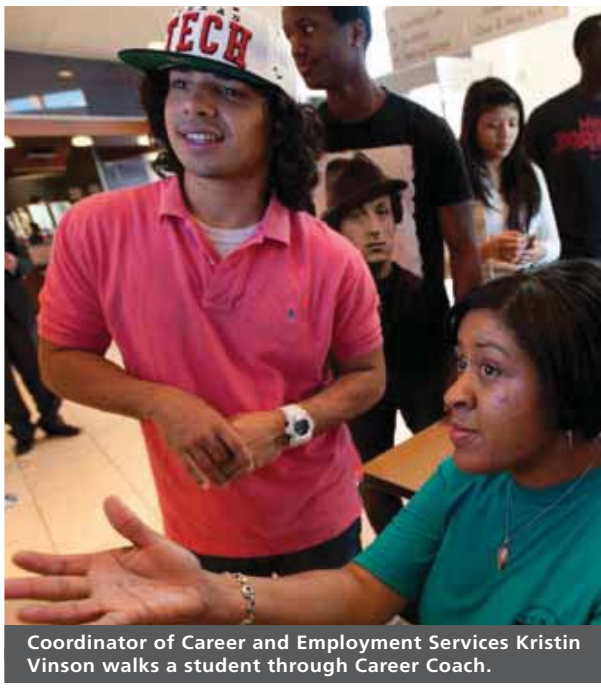
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

DeeDra Parrish



CNC students hit the books before they hit the machines.





DeeDra Parrish

Coordinator of Career and Employment Services Kristin Vinson walks a student through Career Coach.



DeeDra Parrish

Academic Advisor Freddie Sandifer tells a student how to find Career Coach on our website.

## “Career Coach fits nicely into the direction TCC is going with increasing student success.”

Kimberly Beatty, associate vice chancellor for Student Success

sor Nicole Graves, who has shared the program with local eighth-graders. “Students were interested in the money they could potentially make. Career Coach does a great job with giving salary ranges and other helpful information.”

Career Coach is available to anyone with Internet access, and efforts are under way to further spread the news about its availability by building partnerships with community organizations.

### JOB-SEARCH PREP

Job Prep Series, a collaborative effort between TCC’s Opportunity Center and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC), is an example of the latest way the College uses Career Coach to prepare Tarrant County residents for the competitive job market.

Attendees learned in the session “Choose your Future and Applying Online” from a TCC career counselor how Career Coach can help them select top jobs based on quickly accessible data.

TCC also is joining with community partners to sponsor area job fairs. Events include the “Putting Texans Back

to Work Job Fair,” held in September, and the upcoming FWMBCC Job Fair at the Rising Star Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

Additionally, TCC helps students get ahead in the competitive job market by ensuring that they are as prepared as possible for job interviews. For example, Northwest Campus hosted a job readiness workshop prior to its spring job fair. Students were provided tips on etiquette and how to dress for interviews to enhance their interpersonal skills. On Southeast Campus, the Career Center opens its doors weekly to students by hosting “Free Coffee Wednesdays.”

TCC counselors also partner with faculty who bring resume workshops into their classrooms as part of the course curriculum. Career Coach provides a resume-building tool that can be used to help with resume preparation.

Students also can receive career exploration and interviewing tips as part of their studies. And they can always work one-on-one with career counselors on their campus at one of TCC’s five Career and Employment Centers.

Whether you are an individual or a business, TCC stands ready to help you get working. **TCC**

## testimonials

Interviews by Anna Frankie Farrar-Helm

Tarrant County College sponsored job fairs for graduates of its Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Program, a Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program funded through the State Comptroller’s Office.

Here’s what some of the graduates, participants and organizers of the final CNC Job Fair for the Strategic Workforce Education and Employment Training (SWEET) Program had to say:

“

**“THIS PROGRAM COMPLETELY CHANGED MY LIFE. I’VE GOT MY FOOT IN THE DOOR FOR A LONG-TERM CAREER TO SUPPORT MY FAMILY. HONESTLY, I BELIEVE IT’S A MIRACLE. I LIKE THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE YOU GET THAT SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT WHILE USING THE TOOLS, AND SEEING THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS AMAZING.”**

Ryan Norman, 30  
Grapevine Graduate

”

**“THE THINGS I WAS DOING BEFORE THIS PROGRAM WERE JUST JOB-TO-JOB – NOT A CAREER LIKE THIS. I’VE LEARNED THAT I CAN REALLY CATCH ON AND LEARN QUICKLY. ANOTHER THING I’VE LEARNED IN THIS PROGRAM IS TOLERANCE AND PATIENCE.”**

Oscar Flores, 36  
Fort Worth Graduate

**“THE STUDENTS HERE ARE VERY GOOD. THEY’RE RESPECTFUL AND INTERVIEW VERY WELL. THEY’VE BEEN TAUGHT VERY WELL BY THE INSTRUCTORS HERE....OUT OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE THAT WE PLACE WITH THIS TYPE OF SKILL, THESE ARE THE BEST ONES THAT WE COME ACROSS.”**

Glenda Harrison  
Recruiting Manager for Global, Inc.

**“THE JOB FAIR HERE IS VERY SUCCESSFUL. THE MAIN THING THE STUDENTS TAKE AWAY FROM HERE IS SELF-CONFIDENCE. EACH OF THEM WILL FIND A JOB. WITHOUT A DOUBT.”**

Curtis Wells  
Corporate Services Instructor



## RESPONSES TO TCC’S NEW CAREER COACH TOOL

**“I had no idea how much information was available.”**

**“I learned of a new tool to create a resume.”**

**“This will help me in my upcoming job search, as well as what to expect for a pay rate.”**

**“This is awesome, because I’m thinking of changing my degree plan. It takes some of the guesswork out of the process.”**

**“This is great. I’ll use it a lot.”**

Treisha Light, associate psychology professor and Women In New Roles (WINR) Program coordinator, who scheduled demonstrations for her classes:

**“The information about hourly pay scales for jobs in the DFW area is beneficial because it allows students a way to compare job options. Many were out of work and using WINR as a way to reinvent themselves or reposition their goals and lives. Career Coach was a valuable tool for knowledge and engagement in career planning.”**

**“The best part was what one student said to me: ‘Ms. Light – do you mean I can go home and share Career Coach with my family?’ I replied: ‘Yes!’ This is empowerment at its best!”**





Glen E. Ellman

## FORGING THE FUTURE

Job Outlook is Bright for TCC Welding Students

**F**or certain students at Tarrant County College's South Campus, the future's so bright, they have to wear protective masks. They're enrolled in TCC's Welding Program, where they learn to shape and fuse molten metal using electric arcs, gases and specialized alloys.

"Welding is an extremely hot career right now – no pun intended," said Thomas Ford, department chair over electronics, engineering and manufacturing. According to Ford, TCC graduates are in especially high demand. "Employers are calling us looking to fill positions with qualified workers. They've hired graduates of our program before, and they like what they're seeing."

TCC's Welding Program offers entry-level and advanced certifications, as well as an associate degree. Ford said students range from industrial profes-

sionals looking to freshen up their skills, to those seeking an entirely new career. As they finish their coursework, they leave TCC with the skills and certifications that today's

need to rack up my own student debt," she said. "With TCC, I feel like I'm getting every penny's worth out of my tuition. I'm 100 percent satisfied."

**"Employers are calling us looking to fill positions with qualified workers. They've hired graduates of our program before, and they like what they're seeing."**

Thomas Ford, department chair for electronics, engineering and manufacturing

companies require. They move on to jobs in steel fabrication, oilfield services, aircraft construction, building maintenance and a wide variety of other fields where welding expertise is critical for safety and business performance.

### AN ANCIENT ART GOES HIGH TECH

Charles Credicott, Welding Program coordinator, started the program at TCC and has seen the field come a long way in his 34 years with the College. He credits the program's success to TCC's willingness to invest in two labs containing state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

"With today's technologies like semi-automatic and computer-controlled welding, welders can do things that weren't possible just five years ago," said Credicott. "We have the cutting-edge equipment in our labs to teach the latest skills and give students an advantage in the job market."

Take the advanced welding lab's new "virtual welding machine," a video game-like simulator that lets students practice their techniques as much as they need to, without using up real welding supplies. It's one of the reasons the local General Motors plant partners with TCC to train its in-house welders.

"We feel that our program is equal to many commercial welding schools in terms of what is taught, and our equipment is superior to many other programs," said Credicott. That, and TCC's tuition runs roughly 10 percent of the cost of commercial programs.

### DIVERSE APPLICATIONS

Candace Ortega can attest to the value TCC offers. She's a current student in the Welding Program seeking her associate degree.

"I have two kids I need to put through college, so I don't

Though Ortega has watched many of her classmates move on to great-paying jobs with local companies, her aspirations are a bit different. The 46-year-old homemaker plans to put her newfound knowledge to work around the house. She takes pride in doing heavy home renovations and has even tried her hand at crafting yard art, both hobbies that can make use of welding skills.

"I just really enjoy burning metal," she joked. She also mentioned a desire to teach one day.

That could be a good thing, because the word about TCC's Welding Program is out, and the classes are perpetually full.

"We're always looking for qualified adjunct professors," said Ford.

As the Welding Program teaches hundreds of students to form unbreakable bonds, the students themselves are making their own solid connections to successful and rewarding careers. **TCC**

Glen E. Ellman



A welding student practices with the latest equipment and techniques.





## HOT JOB ON NORTHWEST CAMPUS

By Lynn Bergman

# TICKET TO RIDE

Railroad Dispatchers are on Track for a Lucrative Career

When one thinks of the glory days of railroading, two images inevitably come to mind, those of the steam locomotive, and the conductor with his gold pocket watch. Admit it, something similar to the classic storybook's Thomas the Tank Engine™, a full-sized operating steam locomotive that greets friends throughout the country comes to mind, right?

The rail industry has changed dramatically since its early days, and the job of a railroad dispatcher has progressed greatly with technology. On any given day, thousands of trains move across the American landscape. Each of them must be guided safely through our communities to contribute to our economy and to the life of our cities. Qualified dispatchers are essential for our rail security.

### A LEADING PROGRAM

The Northwest Campus Railroad Dispatcher Training Program is one of the leading training programs in the country, teaching students the rules, regulations and procedures of a railroad dispatcher. "Many of our students go from the Railroad Dispatcher Program straight to employment at BNSF, Fort Worth, through a partnership to recruit qualified train dispatchers," said Terri Kleam, coordinator of the Railroad Dispatcher Program. "The program is the model program of how well industry and county or community colleges can interact to benefit the students."

There is a selective admissions process for the Railroad Dispatcher Program. "This career is for the motivated, critical thinker" said James Lacey, senior manager of Dispatcher Training at TCC. Lacey knows what it takes to inspire and train today's dispatcher; he has been with the Railroad Dispatcher Program since the College began offering it in 1998. He has seen the program evolve significantly from a basic BNSF initiative, to an elite program for TCC that other communities cannot offer.

Lacey described the typical student as bright,

motivated, logistic-minded and most important, able to handle stress, especially since people's lives are at stake. The blockbuster movie "Unstoppable" has Hollywood action, but according to Lacey, "The movie is a perfect example of the stress level that dispatchers face. It is like being in air traffic control, but on the ground." Students use computer systems in a hands-on simulated dispatching environment to prepare for careers.

TCC's Railroad Dispatcher students vary in age and career paths – some changed careers or have recently served in the military. Not every graduate becomes one of the almost 600 career dispatchers in the Fort Worth area – some move up the corporate ladder, and some follow other career paths. It takes thousands of employees, working in hundreds of jobs and locations, to run a railroad. The railroad system provides everything for everyone and is an important part of America's infrastructure.

### SELECTIVE PROCESS

Applications are accepted four times a year for the 16-week course. It's a highly selective program, with an average of 70 applicants competing for only 16 seats in the class. Prospective dispatchers complete an application, take an aptitude test, and participate in a panel interview comprised of industry representatives. Once a candidate is selected for the Railroad Dispatcher Program, then he or she applies to Tarrant County College.

Railroad dispatchers play a huge role in securing and protecting America's complex but vital transportation system. They embrace the challenge for the government and the rail industry – the partnership with TCC and BNSF has truly helped dispatchers evolve from the golden pocket watch, bib-wearing persona of yesteryear. **TCC**



Railroad dispatch students train in a realistic setting.

DeeDra Parrish



## HOT JOB ON TRINITY RIVER CAMPUS

By Sarah Bahari

# SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Interpreter Program Shows Signs of Healthy Job Prospects

One month before graduating from Tarrant County College, Erin Casey landed her dream job.

Casey signed on as a sign language interpreter at a Fort Worth middle school, where she helps deaf students communicate with their teachers, counselors and other students.

Finding the job proved easier than Casey could have imagined. As part of a program requirement, the 24-year-old Fort Worth student had already worked as an intern in the Fort Worth Independent School District, meeting teachers and counselors and getting a first-hand glimpse of work as an interpreter.

### PROGRAM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES

Casey's story is not unlike that of classmates in the Sign Language Interpreting Program at Trinity River Campus. To help students find jobs, instructors work closely with community groups and schools to provide internship opportunities, bring in guest lecturers to discuss careers, and host workshops for resume writing and interviewing skills.

Each year, the program routinely places about 95 percent of its students in jobs upon graduation, while some students continue to work toward a bachelor's degree after completing the two-year associate degree. This year, 88 percent of students passed the state certification test on the first try.

"Everything in the program prepared us for the professional world," Casey said. "I was a little fuzzy on how to write a resume and interview for a job, and they helped us every step of the way."

The program is divided into two parts. The first year is dedicated to teaching students American Sign Language; the second to teaching them how to interpret it.

Many of the students come into the program knowing little to no sign language, said Allison Randolph, instructor and coordinator for TCC's Sign Language Interpreting Program. They leave prepared to work in schools, hospitals, churches, and concert halls and for community agencies that help the deaf go about daily business, from attending a doctor appointment to job interviews.

### FILLING A NEED

According to various estimates, 1 million Americans are functionally deaf, and an additional 10 million are hard of hearing.

"Having an interpreter bridges the gap and allows for effective communication between a deaf person and caretaker, teacher, doctor," Randolph said. "The demand is quite high. I have never seen someone who wants a job in the field not get a job."

In the second year at TCC, students complete 240 hours of internship work, which helps them choose a career path.

Kristi Lauritzen of Fort Worth interned at a suburban school district, a local theatre company and an agency, where she served as an interpreter between

DeeDra Parrish



Students hone their sign language skills.

deaf patients and doctors.

Almost immediately, she knew working in a school was for her.

"All of the venues were challenging in different ways," said Lauritzen, 50. "But at the school, I felt like part of a community. I felt like I could be a real mentor for the deaf students and help them succeed."

**"IT'S EXTREMELY FULFILLING. I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AND FEEL HAPPY TO GO TO WORK. I FEEL LIKE I'M MAKING A DIFFERENCE. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB. IT'S A CAREER, AND THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE."**

Erin Casey

### TEST READY

Lauritzen said the program prepared her to take the basic level exam offered by the Board of Evaluators for Interpreters.

"The instructors start preparing you from the beginning," she said. "They make you aware of every opportunity out there, and you feel like you can make a well-informed decision about your future."

Casey thanked her instructors for helping her find a job that suits her.

"It's extremely fulfilling. I wake up in the morning and feel happy to go to work. I feel like I'm making a difference," Casey said. "It's not just a job. It's a career, and there's a big difference." **TCC**





By Sarah Bahari

# PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS HIT THE CAREER CODE

Rigorous Program, Clinical Rotations Key to Landing Jobs in Fast-Growing Health Information Technology

**A**fter having children, Kirsten Holladay left her job in human resources to become a stay-at-home mother. As her two sons grew older, Holladay decided she wanted a new career and enrolled in the TCC Health Information Technology (HIT) Program at Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions.

In her second year, a clinical rotation at UT Southwestern helped Holladay decide to pursue work as a medical coder. A couple of years later when the hospital was hiring for a coding specialist, Holladay's former supervisor reached out.

"That clinical rotation helped me network and build the contacts that I never would have made otherwise," said Holladay, who now codes medical inpatient records at UT Southwestern. "The experience taught me so much."

Through a rigorous curriculum and in-depth clinical rotations, TCC helps students like Holladay explore career opportunities and find jobs in the fast-growing field of health information technology.

In three of the past four years, 100 percent of graduates passed their certification exams and found jobs immediately after graduation.

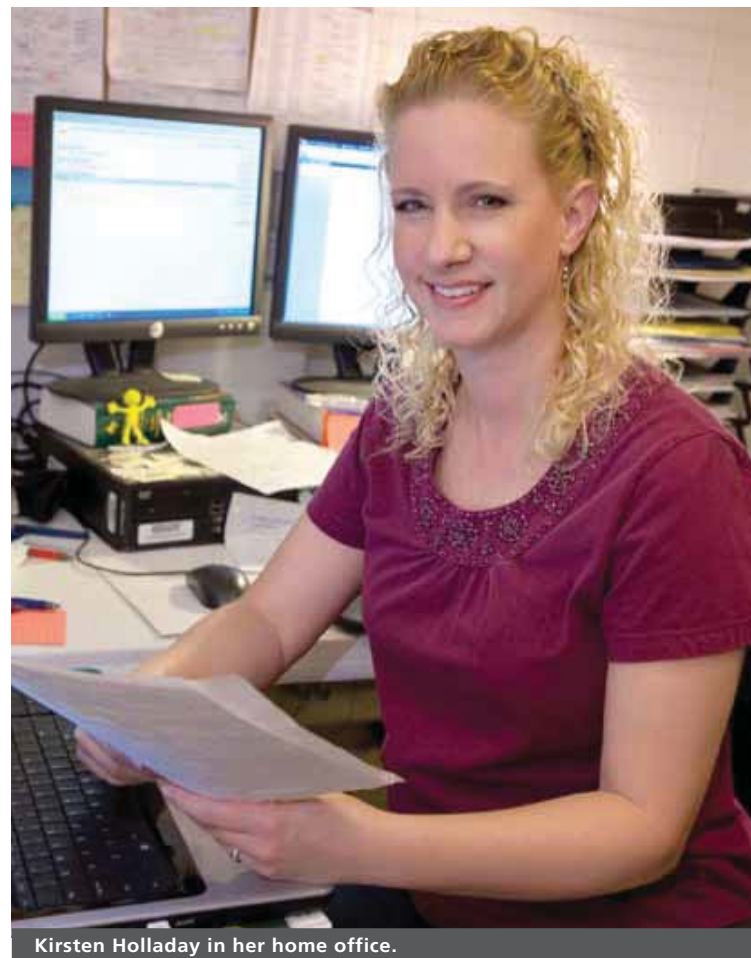
### A SOLID REPUTATION

That is in part because TCC's program enjoys a solid reputation among area hospitals and doctor offices, said Renison Babulal, director of the program. Hospitals around North Texas contact TCC when they have openings, and instructors pass that information to students.

"TCC has a very, very strong reputation in the community," Babulal said. "We hear from employers all of the time that our students are head and shoulders above the rest. Hospitals know TCC students are prepared for the workforce."

Most graduates work as medical coders, who help complete, review and process claims so physician offices and hospitals can get reimbursed from insurance companies or state or federal government.

In their second year at TCC, students work in two 12-week clinical



Kirsten Holladay in her home office.

Glen E. Ellman

rotations, learning the ropes of coding and records processing. Frequently, as in Holladay's case, the clinical rotations result in full-time jobs after graduation.

The starting salary is typically \$30,000 to \$35,000, Babulal said, and opportunities to work from home are abundant.

Holladay, who lives in Euless, works entirely from home, which she said allows her to keep flexible hours and cut down on commuting costs.

"The job suits my life very well," she said.

Lessons on interviewing, resume writing and other career-building skills are woven throughout the curriculum of the two-year program, said DeeAnn Carver, an assistant professor in the program.

TCC, which admits 24 students each year, also requires two classes in medical coding beyond what is required by the accrediting agency, the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management.

### ABOVE ENTRY LEVEL

Upon graduation, Carver said, many students begin jobs higher than entry level.

Having advanced certification allowed Kim Rodriguez of Burleson to begin working as a cancer registrar for Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth immediately after graduating in 2009.

Rodriguez initially planned to pursue a career in nursing but changed her mind after taking an introductory course on health-care management.

During her second clinical rotation, her supervisor at Plaza Medical Center allowed her to shadow the cancer registrar, who collects and manages data about cancer diagnoses, treatments and patients for the purpose of statistics, education and research.

**"TCC'S PROGRAM IS DIFFICULT. YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD. BUT IN THE LONG RUN IT'S WORTH THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE AS A STUDENT. IT GIVES YOU A CUTTING EDGE IN THE JOB FORCE."**

Kim Rodriguez



Kim Rodriguez works as a cancer registrar.

Glen E. Ellman

"I knew right away this was what I wanted to do," she said. "I had always found oncology interesting, and I knew I would be happy in this field."

When Texas Health needed a new registrar, Rodriguez said stellar references, knowledge of cancer registries, and advanced certification helped her stand out among other applicants.

"TCC's program is difficult. You have to work hard. But in the long run it's worth the sacrifices you make as a student," Rodriguez said. "It gives you a cutting edge in the job force." **TCC**

### NEW HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

Beginning Fall 2012, the College now offers students three options in Health Information Technology: an Associate Degree of Applied Science (AAS) in Health Information Technology, a Certificate of Completion in Health Information Technology, and a Progression Plan, which will allow students to return to complete the associate degree at a later date after earning the certificate of completion.



Assistant Professor of Health Information Technology Renison Babulal assists students.

Cliff Norwine - CZN Productions





By Lee Brockman

Hand-making fresh ravioli in Rome, browsing a farmer's market in Florence, touring a parmesan cheese factory in Reggio Emilia - it sounds like a foodie's dream vacation. In fact, it was the educational experience of a lifetime for 11 Tarrant County College students. The 12-day tour of Italy was offered through Southeast Campus' Culinary Arts Program, which shapes aspiring chefs like artisan bread - ready to rise.

Katie Crow, a current student who went on the Italy trip in May, said it opened her eyes to the wide world of fine cuisine. "There were so many dishes that went way beyond what we Americans think of as Italian food - spaghetti and lasagna," she said. "And since most of the instructors spoke little English, it was a great cultural experience as well."



Culinary students season their skills on Southeast Campus.

Glen E. Ellman

# COOKING UP A CAREER

## Culinary Arts Program Opens Up Appetizing Opportunities

Crow, who hopes to open her own bakery some day, returned home with more confidence about her prospects in the culinary industry.

### A PERSONAL APPROACH

According to Sherry Sipho, the TCC instructor of culinary arts who led

the group, the trip is just one of the ways the culinary program is offering innovative and enriching opportunities to its students.

"The fact that our program is smaller than other culinary schools is a real advantage," she said. "It lets us get up close and personal with students and helps them focus on what they're trying to accomplish."

With an average of about 20 students per class, TCC's small team of instructors takes eager learners through a series of essential culinary courses such as food preparation, international cuisine, baking and pastries, garde manger

"Some of the other culinary programs in the area are extremely expensive, but I felt like I got the same education at TCC for a lot less money. I encourage everyone I can to consider it as an option."

Felicia Blackburn

(working with cold foods), safety and sanitation, dining room service, and other requisite skills. Sipho, who worked in food service management for more than 20 years before teaching at TCC, said the program prepares students for life in a working kitchen or other careers that support the dining industry.

"It can get hot and tense in here sometimes, and it shows you that cooking can be hard work," she said. "But if you really love to cook, you get out of this program what you put into it."

Apparently, students are putting a lot in, because they're coming out of the TCC program and landing professional jobs in restaurants, catering businesses, the travel and hospitality industry, and other jobs that don't necessarily involve a hot stove.

"We're not just turning out line cooks here," said Sipho.

### BEYOND THE BURNERS

Felicia Blackburn offers proof of that. She graduated from TCC in 2008 with an Associate Degree in Culinary Arts, and now works at an analytical food laboratory in Fort Worth. In simple terms, Blackburn's team examines and tests food products for major manufacturers, restaurants and their suppliers, to verify the products' quality or ensure that recipes perform consistently. On the side, she also runs her own catering business, which is off to a promising start.

Blackburn credits her early success to her time at TCC. "Some of the other culinary programs in the area are extremely expensive, but I felt like I got the same education at TCC for a lot less money. I encourage everyone I can to consider it as an option."

Like so many other graduates, she's thankful for the personal connections she made with other students and instructors. On occasion, she returns to Southeast Campus for some additional coursework, and she always drops by the TCC kitchen to see what's cooking.

Experienced instructors, individual attention and affordable classes - for TCC students, it's a dependable recipe for success. **TCC**



TCC culinary students visited Italy to learn about local fare.





By Pamela Smith

# A REASON TO SMILE

After working as a dental assistant for 14 years, Heidi Acosta decided she wanted to advance her career and become a dental hygienist. College was a priority, but she had two young children and her husband was also going to be in school studying to become an attorney.

### A FRESH START

Acosta chose Tarrant County College because she could complete the program in two years. "I knew I wanted to get in and get working as quickly as possible," said Acosta. "It's a very competitive program. It took me three times before I could get in, but I didn't give up because it is one of the better programs around."

She completed her associate degree in 1999 and now works as a dental hygienist for Ballard Family Dentistry in Saginaw.

The program wasn't easy, but Acosta is glad that she earned her degree. "It required a lot of time, but I did it!" Acosta said. "There were many times that I cried. But now I see that degree on the wall and I say, 'That is blood, sweat and tears on the wall,' but I feel so empowered. An education is worth every dime. It's something no one can take away from you. It's the best thing I ever did."

The role of a hygienist is a busy and important one. "Our role is to educate the patient," said Acosta, who sees eight to 10 patients a day. "A lot of times, we are a patient's first experience with a dental office. Our job is to comfort and reassure them. Everyone has anxieties. It's the hygienist's responsibility to relax them and make their experience as comfortable and as pleasant as we can."

Acosta was 37 years old when she became a hygienist. She emphasizes that you don't have to be right out of high school to go to college, but she also encourages people to not let fear delay them from doing what they really love. "It takes some people a while to know what they want to do in life, but I don't think it's ever too late. I just wish I had done this sooner."

### THE TCC DENTAL PROGRAM

Founded in 1969, the Dental Hygiene Program at Northeast Campus is a two-year As-



DeeDra Parrish

sociate of Applied Science Degree Program, including classroom instruction and clinical rotations.

It is a longstanding accredited program with more than 250 people applying for 24 slots each year. The program has had a 100 percent pass rate for the clinical exam and licensure for many years.

"Our reputation in the dental community is well known," said Cindy O'Neal, associate professor of dental hygiene. "The value of what they get compared to the cost is a good deal. We provide students with the latest in the field and the best of technology."

All students have at least 16 hours of clinical rotations each week. Rotations are held at Dental Health for Arlington, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Worth, and the Northeast Campus dental clinic, which provides preventive care to the public.

Graduates who want to pursue their bachelor's degrees can transfer smoothly to four-year universities through articulation agreements with Texas Woman's University and The University of Texas at Arlington. Graduates can also work toward a professional degree in dentistry.

Although the job market is tight, O'Neal said that graduates are finding work. "The economy has put a pinch on our job market lately, but we are seeing improvements as the economy improves," O'Neal said. "I saw a lot more requests for applicants for open positions. If students are willing to move outside of Tarrant County there are even more jobs throughout Texas. The jobs are there, but graduates have to be on their A-game. Having TCC on their resumes helps because most employers know that we prepare our students well for the job market."

### OUTLOOK FOR HYGIENISTS

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, employment of dental hygienists is expected to grow by 38 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Ongoing research linking oral health and general health will continue to spur the demand for preventive dental services, which are often provided by dental hygienists.

In 2010, there were 181,800 hygienists in the United States. That number is projected to increase to 250,300 by 2020.

The bureau links the demand to changing advancements in the oral industry. New and increasingly accurate technolo-

**"AN EDUCATION IS WORTH EVERY DIME. IT'S SOMETHING NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY FROM YOU. IT'S THE BEST THING I EVER DID."**

Heidi Acosta, TCC Dental Hygiene graduate



Students get feedback from an instructor.

gies to help diagnose oral health problems are also expected to increase demand. For example, new tests use saliva samples that a hygienist takes to spot early signs of oral cancer.

As their practices expand, dentists are expected to hire more hygienists to perform routine dental care, allowing the dentist to see more patients. Also, as the large baby boomer population ages and people keep more of their original teeth than previous generations, the need to maintain and treat these teeth will continue to drive the need for hygienists' services. **TCC**

### MORE INFORMATION

More than 250 prospective students apply for admission to the TCC Dental Hygiene Program each year, and only 24 are accepted for this in-demand career field. For more information about the program and the selective admissions process, visit [www.tccd.edu](http://www.tccd.edu) or call 817-515-6435.

DeeDra Parrish



# Alumni

## TCC Sparks a Fire in Alumnus' Career

By Pamela Smith

### Eules Fire Chief Wes Rhodes Got His Start at TCC

TCC graduate Wes Rhodes, who has served as the Eules fire chief since April 2011, was destined to work in the field. Since both his great-uncle and great-grandfather were firefighters in Fort Worth, Rhodes grew up hearing about fires; so studying fire protection at Tarrant County College was a logical career move.

In 1985, Rhodes graduated from the TCC Fire Academy, which was then located on the South Campus. In 2001, the program became part of the new Northwest Campus Fire Service Training Center, a state-of-the-art facility used by fire departments throughout Tarrant County. After graduation, Rhodes joined the Haltom City Fire Department, where he worked his way through the ranks as firefighter and EMT, fire lieutenant, fire captain, deputy fire chief and finally fire chief. He remained there until he took the chief position with Eules.

While at Haltom City, Rhodes began teaching. "I was approached by some of the College's instructors...to see if I was interested in helping with the basic fire academy program," Rhodes said. "So I started teaching out at TCC in 1995 and have done so until present day.

"Over the years, I have done all kinds of different stuff including special operations like swift water. Through the center, I do a lot of the training with contract fire departments like Haslet, Highland Village, Blue Mound, Hurst and other departments working on their continuing education."

Being fire chief involves planning, meetings and getting out seeing firefighters face-to-face. With the tight economy, Rhodes is faced with doing more with less, but he said that being a chief has its benefits. "The position affords me the opportunity to help make changes and to continue to develop and empower our employees," Rhodes said. I look at myself as a training officer, still today, in this department...We want our people to be the best trained and capable that there is."

Rhodes has respect for the role that TCC plays in the community and the training that the College offers.

"The College has always met and exceeded my expectations in regard to the material, and the instructors are outstanding," Rhodes said. "They are drawn from the Metroplex, and there's just a ton of knowledge. When we have promotions we try to get our personnel into Tarrant County College because



TCC Alumnus Wes Rhodes

Glen E. Ellman

they have officer classes, hazardous material, you name it. It's also easily accessible. I can't say enough about the relationship that I have with the College."

Rhodes also earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree from TCC in 1997. He holds numerous firefighting-related certifications. He is the three-time Haltom City Company Officer of the Year and nine-time Fire Academy Top Instructor and was once named Fire Academy Instructor of the Year, among other professional honors.

Active in the fire community, Rhodes serves as chair of the Tarrant County College Fire Academy and is a Degree Program Advisory board member. He also participates in state and international firefighter associations.

Rhodes is also president of the Northeast Fire Department Association (NEFDA), a 14-city member coalition combining resources of local participating fire departments.

"Helping with NEFDA is a big milestone in my career," Rhodes said. "Those departments work with TCC to get their continuing education credits, to do our fire training and our specialized training. That's a huge benefit. We save money by doing joint training, going out to the College in large numbers, as opposed to doing it one department at a time. It's been a big plus for us here in Northeast Tarrant County." TCC

# TCCD Facilities

## Behind the Scenes of the Real Estate and Facilities Department

Quite often we take for granted the environments in which we work and learn. During the hottest months of the year we become acutely aware of our indoor comfort. Tarrant County College has been working to cost-effectively enhance the efficiency of our infrastructure such as electrical, heating and cooling, and water consumption systems.



### ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Seventy percent of all electrical energy supplied to TCCD is wind-generated. The College's commercial electricity accounts use "renewable energy credits," or RECs, which are redeemed through electricity produced by wind farms.

### MONITORING DEVICE INSTALLATION

One of the strategic plans for TCCD infrastructure is installing monitoring devices on non-renewable resources such as electrical, water, heating and cooling systems to the buildings. These monitors work in conjunction with specialized software to locate inefficiencies and potential problems. If a problem develops, it can be adjusted before it becomes critical.

### LIGHTING SYSTEM PLANS

Over the last two years, TCCD instituted a plan to convert existing building lighting to more efficient systems that consume less energy. This plan actually began through basic building renovation projects for the last nine years and will continue as a targeted effort to replace older, less-efficient

lighting systems. These new fixtures have a one- to three-year return on investment depending on the size and function of the spaces renovated. Motion-sensor devices also regulate light when fixtures are not in use.

### HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

TCCD continually repairs and replaces older, outdated heating and cooling equipment with new energy-efficient systems. Due to the increased use of buildings and the large amount of growth, replacement systems are being designed to not only accommodate potential growth but to also distribute more energy for the future while concurrently using less energy over existing facilities.

### WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The College utilizes specialized devices to monitor and control water flow to its irrigation systems, TCCD's largest use of water. Software that uses a process called "evapotranspiration" measures the amount of water applied to a particular plant species in each zone and adjusts the flow so that only the correct amounts of water are provided. Most new and renovated zones use drip irrigation to further enhance water efficiency.

TCCD is also updating computerized controllers and metering for cooling and heating use of water. This is the College's second largest use of water.

Finally, TCCD has used audits from the City of Fort Worth to review the use of water not only in irrigation, cooling and heating systems but individual use fixtures like toilets, sinks, etc. These combined efforts will help TCCD save 10+ million gallons of water a year. TCC





## Oak Crest Woman's Club Closes Doors, Opens Opportunities For TCC Nursing Students Through Endowed Scholarship



Former officers of the Oak Crest Woman's Club at the appreciation luncheon hosted by the TCC Foundation.

DeeDra Parrish

**A**fter 51 years of serving the community, the Hurst-based Oak Crest Woman's Club conducted its last meeting in May and donated its 1.3 acres of property and facility to the Tarrant County College Foundation to endow a permanent scholarship fund for nursing students.

"The legacy, work and community leadership of this club will continue for generations through the lives of nurses as they tend to and meet the physical needs of citizens literally throughout the region," stated TCC Foundation Executive Director Joe McIntosh.

The generosity of the Oak Crest Woman's Club is well known, with proceeds from the club's home tours and fashion shows supporting causes such as collegiate scholarships

for area high school students, Northeast Emergency Distribution Center and the Day Resource Center. The club has long supported a scholarship for a TCC nursing student, and their contribution to the TCC Foundation will ensure that scholarships will be awarded in perpetuity.

The TCC Foundation hosted club members at an appreciation luncheon in August on the Northeast Campus. Members heard updates about TCC's Nursing Program and the program's new facility, Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions.

McIntosh said, "We are grateful for the wonderful work accomplished by this group - even as they enjoyed one another's company over the years they have made a prominent positive impact in the community." **TCC**

## Jim Bolen Math Competitors Win More Than \$215,000 in Scholarships and Prizes

**T**arrant County College students who were winners in the annual Jim Bolen Math Competition received scholarships and prizes totaling more than \$215,000 from area universities for a two-year period.

Awarding higher education institutions were Dallas Baptist University, Tarleton State University, Texas Christian University, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Woman's University and The University of Texas at Arlington. The Jim Bolen Math Competition Fund was established by former Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen and his wife, Fran to recognize outstanding TCC math students. The fund is named for Bob Bolen's late brother, Jim, who chaired the Northeast Campus Mathematics Department.



Pictured with TCU representatives are Blaise Brignac (left), Phuc Ta (third from left), and top-scorer An Vu (second from right), all winners of significant TCU scholarships.

DeeDra Parrish



Mary Green

## 2012 GED GRADUATION CEREMONY

**←** Todd Ridderbusch, left, president and CEO, Tarrant County Chase Bank, N.A., receives appreciation plaque from Jimmy Adams, former TCC director of Workforce Services, for serving as keynote speaker at the 2012 GED Graduation Ceremony held June 14 at the South Campus. JPMorgan Chase Foundation has provided grants to support TCC's Learning Opportunity Centers totaling \$110,000 since 2009.



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