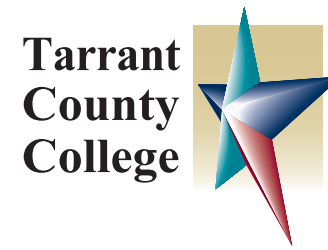


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## A Road to Opportunity



Quality and Convenience Come Together  
 at Haltom City Northeast Center

# From the desk of



*Erma Johnson Hadley*  
Chancellor

When I'm on campuses or in the community spreading the word about all things Tarrant County College, it is not uncommon for me to open with a verse of "it's a wonderful day in the neighborhood." So this summer when we held the grand opening of the Haltom City Northeast Center, I did just that, as it truly was a wonderful day in that neighborhood.

It was wonderful in that a former library was repurposed for such an ideal use—expanding access to higher education for citizens who may have been unable to attend our Northeast Campus because of the lack of transportation or some other life-limiting issue.

As you'll read in this issue of *Projection*, the idea of the Center originally came about through a close collaboration with Haltom City elected officials. Their support has been constant, and on opening day, it was an honor to have so many elected officials, city officials and residents there to celebrate. There were also elected officials and supporters from surrounding cities. Some of them, I hope, had their eyes on creating a similar opportunity for constituents in their communities. Their presence not only showed support, but also sends a larger message of what can be done when we work together toward a common goal.

Partnerships can be powerful. I invite you to visit us at the Haltom City Northeast Center and see for yourself what a difference this partnership is making in the lives of so many Tarrant County citizens. Our economy today requires almost every worker to have training beyond high school. Our mission at Tarrant County College is to provide open access and success to our students for the first two years of a bachelor's degree or as they prepare to go directly into the workforce, or as they need to retrain for another career field.

During this season of celebrations, we celebrate you and the support you give to Tarrant County College and our students.

### 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.

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. XLVI, No 4 WINTER 2011

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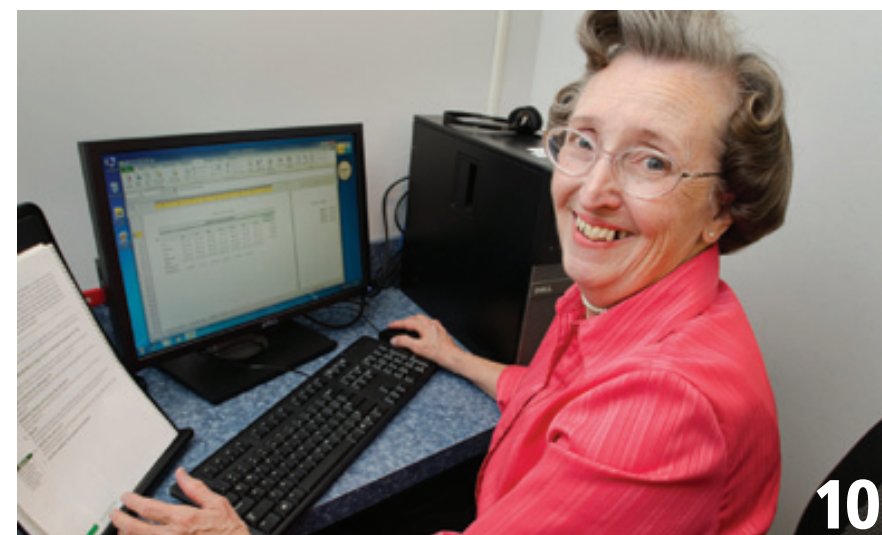
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## Are you a TCC graduate?

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

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## From the Editor



**Cacy Curtis**  
Projection Editor

Throughout the year, we've marked many significant milestones at Tarrant County College. In the last issue of *Projection*, we celebrated the opening of Trinity River East Campus, and in this issue we are excited to celebrate the debut of Haltom City Northeast Center.

Both facilities open pathways to education, but they do so in two very different ways, and that's a good thing. What makes TCC so impactful is the understanding that a single cookie-cutter approach doesn't work. What *does* work is personalized attention, flexible schedules, and care.

In fact, as you'll read in this issue, from the beginning the Center, has focused on providing support to people in our community who want and need it most. If nothing else, we hope that through this piece, you'll understand the power of partnerships and people in all we do at Tarrant County College. We are beyond grateful for the individuals at Haltom City who helped to make this happen.

And if you haven't had a chance to visit the Center, feel free to stop by. It's nestled in a neighborhood of Haltom City, right there, appropriately enough, on Friendly Lane.

# Welcome to the TCC Family, Toro!



**T**arrant County College welcomed a new member to the College family this fall as Toro the Trailblazer was announced as the official College mascot. The new Trailblazers name symbolizes the hard-working, dedicated spirit of TCC students and alumni, and the image represents the determination of many TCC students who blaze their own new trail on the educational journey.

Toro debuted at the fall Employee Appreciation Breakfast, where Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley greeted the mascot with a high five, asking him if he was ready for his role as the official representative of the TCC Trailblazers. The crowd cheered as Toro proudly nodded in response. After a year-long collaborative planning process, Toro was selected through a series of surveys, focus groups and questionnaires that gathered input from nearly 3,000 faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. The final Trailblazers image was selected after adding input from nearly 1,000 local elementary school students.

The mascot will be a primary vehicle to create a college-going culture through community outreach to youth audiences and on campus for student-centered initiatives. In just the first few months, Toro has appeared at new student orientations across the five campuses, the community grand opening of the Trinity River East Campus, the Haltom City Parade, bookstore grand openings on Northeast and Southeast campuses, and the Northeast Advisory Expo. **TCC**

## AND THE AWARD GOES TO

**T**arrant County College faculty and staff were recognized for service and excellence at the annual Chancellor's Breakfast and Professional Development Day Aug. 22 at the Arlington Convention Center. The Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award and the Chancellor's Starpoint Employee Excellence Awards are the College's highest levels of employee recognition.

The Award for Exemplary Teaching, established in 1986 by former Chancellor Joe B. Rushing, honors individuals who characterize excellence, dedication and the College's spirit of service in the classroom. Faculty members were nominated by their colleagues, and the awardees—one from each campus—were selected by a faculty committee.

Winners were:

- **Northeast Campus**  
**Linda Quinn, Professor of Dance**
- **Northwest Campus**  
**Lacreacia Sanders, Associate Professor of Dance**
- **South Campus**  
**Altheria Gaston, Instructor of Education**
- **Southeast Campus**  
**Sharon Wettengel, Associate Professor of Sociology**
- **Trinity River Campus**  
**Allison Randolph, Instructor of Sign Language and Interpretation**

The Chancellor's and Chancellor's Executive Leadership Team (CELT) Starpoint Excellence Awards were presented for the first time this year. The awards identify individuals or groups who make a significant contribution to the institutional values of Tarrant County College District. Individuals were nominated by peers.

Winners were:

- **Access and Diversity**  
**Allison Randolph and Shelly Hardell, Trinity River Campus Sign Language Interpreting Instructors**
- **Innovation and Creativity**  
**Jacqueline Maki, Associate Vice Chancellor of Grant Development and Compliance**
- **Student Success**  
**Stan Paschal, Northeast Campus Instructor of Music**
- **Service to Community**  
**Police Officer Rose Brant**

Glen E. Ellman



Glen E. Ellman

Local fire departments honor 89 firefighters killed in the line of duty.

## FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS HONORED AT FIRE SERVICE TRAINING CENTER

**M**ore than 200 firefighters and community members paid tribute during Fire Prevention Week to deceased firefighters Oct. 12 at Northwest Campus. The Tarrant County College Fire Service Training Center's first Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony included firefighters from at least nine local fire departments.

The names of the 89 firefighters killed in the line of duty in 2010 were read, and 89 sets of bunker gear including helmets, coats, pants, boots and gloves were displayed in their honor.

Firefighter Hilton Barlow was one of many who paid their respects.

"Today was a very emotional day for me. As a member of the Irving Fire Department, it is difficult and sobering knowing that some of my fellow firefighter brothers gave the ultimate sacrifice," said Barlow. "Today's service honored their sacrifice. TCC did a fantastic job."

Other fire departments represented included Coppell, DFW Airport, Euless, Fort Worth, Hurst, Lake Worth, Saginaw and Southlake. The ceremony included a flyover by the PHI Medical Helicopter, a color guard, drums and bagpipes and a reception. Fire Prevention Week is always observed the week that includes Oct. 9 to commemorate the 1871 fire that destroyed Chicago.

## TREC GRAND OPENING DELIVERS OOHS AND AAHS

Community members enjoyed food, drinks and entertainment in the plaza at Trinity River East Campus.



Hundreds of visitors gathered in downtown Fort Worth for the grand opening of the Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions, Saturday, Oct. 1.

They were able to take a guided tour of the facility to observe the state-of-the-art equipment and real-world simulation hospital where they watched lifelike mannequins respond to programmed illnesses. Guests also enjoyed live music by Northeast Campus' Phase II jazz band and the Kevin Townsend Group, complimentary hot dogs, popcorn and beverages.

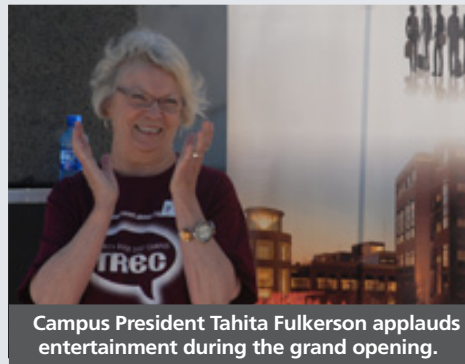
In addition, visitors got a firsthand look at the Mobile Go Center—TCC's 42-foot education resource center complete with college preparation materials, 20 laptops with free Wi-Fi, and a 42-inch flat screen TV displaying information about TCC and academic advising.

Toro the Trailblazer added to the festivities as he trotted around the campus happily greeting visitors with high fives and handshakes. Youngsters flocked to the big blue bull for photo opportunities and hugs.

TCC Board of Trustees President Bill Greenhill and Trustee Kristin Vandergriff also took part in the grand opening. Both officials thanked guests for joining the celebration and invited them to tour the facility to soak up the stunning features and services it offers.

Hundreds of volunteers provided the tours, served food and drinks, and helped visitors find their way. About 400 visitors toured the campus, and nearly 1,300 hot dogs were served. The event's success was also possible thanks to the support of local sponsors including Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Educational Catering, Inc., Follett Higher Education Group and Struhs Companies.

Only one month into its operation, Trinity River East Campus was also recognized for contributions to the downtown community. Downtown Fort Worth Inc., a non-profit organization, presented the College with its distinguished Trailblazer Award in the category of sustainable development.



Campus President Tahita Fulkerson applauds entertainment during the grand opening.

## When Life Gives You Lemons

The Northeast Leadership Forum demonstrated the idea of "turning lemons into lemonade" at the 15th Annual Heart of North Texas Business Conference, which focused on how Northeast Tarrant County has managed business in today's economy with limited resources. The event was hosted in November at Northeast Campus.

"We believe that this region with its dynamic growth is an ideal location in the corridor connecting DFW International Airport with Alliance, and we have forward-thinking leaders who are poised and ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future," said Larry Darlage, Northeast Campus president.

Topics such as education, sports economics, military contributions to the economy, and business opportunities in the Alliance area were covered by eight guest speakers during the conference.

Speakers included Dale Hansen of WFAA, superintendents Gene Buinger of Hurst-Euless-Bedford Independent School District, Karen G. Rue of Northwest ISD and James R. Veitenheimer of Keller ISD, U.S. Navy Captains Robert A. Bennett, Paul F. Paine and Tracy D. Snyers, and Mike Berry, president of Hillwood Properties.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Approximately 200 Latino students from all five campuses united for the second annual College-wide Hispanic Heritage Month *Abrazando al Exito* (Embracing Success) program in October at Trinity River Campus.

Students had the chance to network, learn about services and opportunities at TCC and in the community; and hear a motivational message keynote speaker Edgar "ShoBoy" Sotelo. Attendees also enjoyed Hispanic cultural performances by Mariachi de Oro, Ballet Folklorico de Fort Worth, and Trinity River student and Geffen/Interscope recording artist Louie Evol.

Activities featured student services tables, student art exhibits and community exhibits including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas.

Trinity River student Maria Hernandez was awarded a scholarship from the TCC Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education.

# Looking Back Through New District Archives

Tarrant County College launched its new District Archives with an Open House Sept. 30 at Northeast Campus. The Archives houses local historic material in its Special Collections and the College's institutional records of permanent and historical value, which have been made available to researchers.

The J. Ardis Bell Library Heritage Room showcase collections contain records and artifacts relating to the early settlement of Tarrant County; family, business and institutional histories; local newspapers; and history of the TCC District. These records include information on African-American, Native American and aviation history in Tarrant County and Texas, and Texas history in general.

Specific attractions include the Local History Manuscript Collection, which consists of approximately 2,500 documents, manuscripts, genealogies and family histories; the Al Mogor Collection, donated by the family of the late longtime TCC faculty member, consisting of 588 artifacts from 25 countries and ethnographic objects; the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department Collection, which contains more than 800 pages of wanted posters dating 1893 to 1904; and an extensive collection of photographs of Northeast Tarrant County.



DeeDra Parrish

The Archives efforts have been led by Archivist Tom Kellam. To make an appointment to visit the Special Collections, call the Records Management and Archives Department at 817-515-6620.

## Conrad C. Heede Joins TCC Board



Conrad Heede, an active community member and respected business leader with 23 years of experience in executive-level management, was appointed in November to fill the District 2 position on the Tarrant County College Board of Trustees.

His interest in serving the community is what originally drew him to serve TCC, he said. "My parents taught me that if you live, work and derive benefits from your community, you ought to give back of your time, effort and resources to improve the community and to make sure that others have the same opportunities for a productive, healthy, safe and rewarding life that you have had."

Heede holds 28 years of experience in real estate investment, development, rehabilitation and sales. He has served the community through more than 40 years of involvement with multiple chambers of commerce, city boards and commissions, the Rotary Club on local and national levels, Boy Scouts and other civic, social and educational organizations.

"I hope to bring new and enhanced ideas and perhaps a different perspective on critical issues that will enable me to help the Board make the best possible decisions on the future of TCC to help successfully accomplish its mission to provide high quality education and job skills so that its students have the best opportunities for a successful career and life."

Heede earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from Holy Cross College, an M.B.A. from Northeastern University, and has successfully completed coursework toward a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. He is currently a resident of Bedford and joins the seven-member Board to fill the term that expires in 2013.

## BRAGS ABOUT OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

### Pennie Boyett

#### Southeast Campus Instructor of English

This year had two pieces of literary nonfiction titled "Maude" and "Theatre" published in *Chirp*, a journal of literary nonfiction published by the Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism at the University of North Texas.

### Carol Bowman

#### Southeast Campus Adjunct Instructor of Speech

Currently has an exhibit titled "Experiments in Visual Metaphors" including 53 watercolors and mixed media at the Arlington Museum of Art.

### Mark Dolive

#### Northeast Campus Director of Library Services

Was appointed to the Texas State Library and Archives TexShare Advisory Board as the Community College representative this Fall.

### Brett Dyer

#### Adjunct Instructor of Art, Southeast Campus

Earlier this fall had a solo exhibition at the Verizon Gallery in Irving titled "The Journey Mojo," and featured more than 25 drawings and paintings.

### Melissa Evans

#### Associate Professor of Health and Physical Education, Southeast Campus

Recently co-authored a published article titled "Research Quality for Exercise and Sport" regarding heart rates of elementary physical education students during dance classes.

### Carol Everhart

#### Director of Library Services, Trinity River Campus

Was recently invited by Fort Worth Independent School District to serve on the J.T. and Zelma Luther Chair for Teaching Excellence in Library Science Selection Committee. The FWISD teacher selected for this prestigious award will receive \$5,000, District recognition and the honorary title of Chair for Teaching Excellence for 2011-2012.

### Alejandro Garza

#### Assistant Professor of Spanish, Northwest Campus

Through the Modern Language Studies Abroad Program, sponsored seven students at the University of Costa Rica to receive transfer credits for SPAN 2211 and SPAN 2312 and high-level courses.

### Cathy Haley and Maggie Foster

#### South Campus Instructors of Math

Delivered a presentation titled "Mod Math at TCC: Meeting Students Where They Are" at the 2011 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development International Conference in May.

### Christine Hubbard and Angela Chilton

#### Divisional Dean of Humanities and Department Chair of English, Northwest Campus

At the North Texas Community College Consortium Fall Leadership Convocation in September, served on a panel on increasing networking and professional development activities in developmental education. Chilton was also recognized for completing the Consortium Leadership and Renewal Academy (CLARA) Program.

### Arrick Jackson and Leann Ellis

#### Northwest Campus Divisional Dean of Public Services and Social/Behavioral Sciences, and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Recently graduated from the Leadership Northwest Program sponsored by Northwest Tarrant County Chamber of Commerce.

### Yvonne Jocks

#### Southeast Campus Instructor of English

Is in the final stage of publishing her abridgement of Madame de La Fayette's *The Princess of Cleves* via Amazon.com's CreateSpace Program.

### Natalie Johnson and Staussa Ervin

#### South Campus Associate Professor of Mathematics and Assistant Professor of Psychology

Presented a brief discussion about the Village Mentoring Program created for African-American students at South Campus at the 2011 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development International Conference earlier this year.

### Triesha Light

#### South Campus Associate Professor of Psychology

Received the distinguished Legacy of Women Award in the Education category, given by SafeHaven of Tarrant County, for her longtime community contributions and leadership of TCC's Women in New Roles Program.

### DeAnn Mitchell

#### Interim Director of Nursing, Trinity River Campus

Was a special guest at the 2010-2011 Texas Christian University Evidence-Based Practice Fellows in September.

### Michael Morey

#### Northeast Campus Adjunct Instructor of Music

Received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in guitar performance from the University of North Texas in May.

### Ludwig Otto

#### Northeast Campus English Professor

Was awarded the Global Peace and Humanitarian Award by the Security Council of Novena University in Lagos, Nigeria, in August.

### Steve Rakoff

#### Southeast Campus Director of Counseling

Facilitated a webinar presentation titled "Providing Services 24/7: Restructuring How We Support Today's Students." The webinar, part of Title III grant professional development, focused on how TCC can use technology to provide greater customer service with fewer resources.

### Ben Romero

#### Trinity River Assistant Professor of English

Was selected by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Academic Affairs and Research Division, to serve on the Learning Objectives Work Group during spring and summer 2011.

### Fred Spaulding

#### Northwest Associate Professor of Art

In July installed a sculpture at the Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph, Mich.

### Carrie Tunson

#### Southeast Campus Vice President of Continuing Education Services

Received an award of appreciation from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., in August, for the orientation for parents and students who are members of their mentoring program.

### Jackie Washington

#### Vice President of Continuing Education Services, Northeast Campus

Recently graduated from the LEADERS Institute, a program for women in community college leadership, sponsored by Baltimore Community College.

### Jerry Zumwalt

#### Assistant Professor of Radio Television Broadcast, Northeast Campus

Was recently named a Fellow for the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Foundation 2011 Faculty Seminar that was held in Hollywood in November.

### August 13

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Editorial features TCC Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley's journey to Australia with 22 other local business and tourism leaders to expand North Texas' connection to other markets.

### August 16

#### Community Impact Newspaper

Online article highlights TCC's enrollment boost due to the many Continuing Education programs offered.

### August 22

#### D Magazine

Online article mentions TCC student Thuy Nguyen's participation in DFW's Chefs Under Fire competition at Milestone Culinary Arts Center in Dallas.

### August 25

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Education brief features TCC Trinity River East Campus ready for the first day of fall classes.

### September 1

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

News brief highlights TCC as one of 10 Texas community colleges incorporating a new math program to aid ill-prepared students funded by a \$1 million grant.

### September 6

#### Dallas Business Journal

Education article highlights TCC work on "tuning" areas such as biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, biology and chemistry through the 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science assembled by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

### September 15

#### KERA News

Online article announces Texas Comptroller Susan Combs' visit to Trinity River East Campus.

### September 19

#### Community College Week

Journal touts TCC's attainment of a Carl D. Perkins state leadership grant by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to fund technical education programs.

### October 6

#### Examiner

Online article features the play titled "The Masque of the Beauty and the Beast," written and directed by Southeast Campus drama instructors Michael Brill and John Dement.

### October 20

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram

News article announces the appointment of Bedford resident Conrad Heede to TCC's Board of Trustees to represent District 2.

**SO GETTING CREATIVE AT SOUTH CAMPUS**

Students from Nagoaka, Japan, one of Fort Worth's sister cities, made a stop at South Campus this fall semester during a trip to the United States made possible by a scholarship program. During the trip, the Japanese students worked with TCC students to create the ceramic bowls as part of the Empty Bowls project. The pieces then became part of the annual silent auction that benefits The Tarrant Area Food Bank.



DeeDra Parrish

**TR It's a Deaf, Deaf World at Trinity River**



DeeDra Parrish

Students, faculty and staff learned to communicate in a totally silent atmosphere Oct. 21 in the Idea Store at Trinity River Campus. Designed to illustrate what life is like in the deaf community, the total immersion experience gave participants an understanding of silent communication. Attendees were given specific tasks to perform, including opening a bank account, filling a prescription, ordering a drink, and watching a movie in sign language as if they were deaf or hearing impaired.

**SE Southeast Celebrates Bookstore Renovations**



DeeDra Parrish

After six months of renovations, Southeast Campus hosted a grand opening of its new bookstore Oct. 13. Toro the Trailblazer, TCC's new mascot, joined the celebration. SE administration and faculty participated in a ribbon cutting, marking the store's official opening. Follett also hosted the grand opening of the Northeast bookstore in October.

**NW Northwest Presents Dancing With TCC Stars**

The Northwest Dance Club hosted a ballroom showcase Nov. 9 to raise money for the Tarrant County Assessment Center, a 24-hour, 40-bed facility that provides a safe, temporary home for youngsters placed in the care of Children's Protective Services. Of the 11 participating couples including faculty and students, Scott Donaldson and Destiny Salgado (pictured below) placed first for their swing dance performance.

Rita Short



**NE**

**Northeast Campus Advisory Expo Rocks the House**



Jon P. Uzzel

More than 400 high school students, parents and current TCC students flocked to Northeast Campus during its first Rock Your Future EXPO Oct. 22. Advisors, faculty and Student Services staff connected with prospective students to give details on how to pay for college and reasons to make TCC their first choice for college. Students had the opportunity to win 16 scholarships, totaling approximately \$2,400.



Student Dresti Medlin

DeeDra Parrish



# Comfortable

The new Haltom City Northeast Center provides just the right blend to put students at ease.

# Convenience

By Bill Lace

**D**onna Oswald and Dresti Medlin have a lot in common. Both lost their jobs to the recession. Both are looking to Tarrant County College for training to get back into the workforce. And both needed a comfort zone in which they could return to the classroom.

They found those comfort zones at TCC's new Haltom City Northeast Center (HCNC), but not for the same reasons.

For Oswald, 64, it was a matter of convenience and physical comfort. The Saginaw resident began her medical transcription classes on the Northeast Campus at the start of the summer session – and what a sweltering summer it was. “There were several times when the heat just about got me,” she said.

Darlage, but that finding just the right location had been tough. “We looked at places that weren’t up to TCC standards,” she said, “and we looked at places that met our standards but were out of our price range.”

With a five-year lease for \$1 per year, the Haltom City site was an ideal solution – modern, functional, well-maintained, and requiring only routine renovation rather than a major makeover. So far, in what Washington hopes is only the first phase, there are two computer labs, two classrooms, and a study area.

But it wasn’t only what the building was that attracted TCC, but also where it was – an area with no public transportation, little parental involvement in the schools, and low graduation and college-going rates. “We looked at the demographics,” Washington said, “and found that the area needed a lot of help.”

**“You’ve got to connect with the people. You have to be seen as part of the community. Then people will feel comfortable coming to you.”**

DeeDra Parrish

One of her instructors suggested the Haltom City Center as an alternative. Oswald was reluctant at first, but is glad she made the switch. “It saves me about 20 or 25 minutes each way, driving all the way to the campus and getting the car parked,” she said. “Plus we’re about to get into cold and sleet and snow. Here, you can park right outside the door. I’m loving that.”

Medlin, of Fort Worth, needed another kind of comfort. Losing her job provided a long-awaited chance to go back to school after 19 years, but it was a big – and kind of scary – undertaking. She went to Northeast Campus before the fall semester to see about enrolling and was told about the Haltom City Center. “I wanted something with small classes,” she said. “I’m kind of afraid to be around a lot of people because I haven’t been in school in so long. This would be a place where I would have more one-on-one time with the teacher. It’s a good way to get my feet wet.”

The solutions found by Oswald and Medlin are exactly what Northeast Campus officials had in mind when they partnered with Haltom City to take over part of an underutilized civic center that had been the city library. Jackie Washington, Northeast’s vice president for Continuing Education Services, said such a satellite center, designed to bring educational opportunities closer to the community, had long been a dream of campus President Larry



Taking services to where people are rather than asking them to come to you was a lesson Washington had learned while serving on the Northeast Steering Committee. “We found that many people didn’t feel comfortable coming to us,” she said, “but when people came to their community, they were receptive.”

And the people of the Haltom City area have certainly been receptive. While the credit class students – about 100 of them – come about equally from within and outside the community, the 80 or so Continuing Education students are pretty much home folks, especially those in the Senior Education Program. And the buzz is spreading. When the Haltom City newsletter ran a notice about an upcoming General Educational Development (GED) class, more than 70 people called for information.

Staff at the Center are getting the word out. Hank Johnson, coordinator of special projects who’s in charge of day-to-day operations, said one of the first outreach efforts he and his staff undertook was to participate in the Haltom High School homecoming parade. He and Washington obtained a truck, a trailer and some decorations to reflect the theme of the parade – “Countries of the World.” The country TCC chose to represent was Spain, appropriate since the bull Toro – the College’s new mascot – was alongside, passing out candy and information on classes.

The Center’s location is a big plus, too – immediately north of Haltom Middle School. “Every parent who drives by or lines up to pick up his or her child can see our sign and know we’re here,” Johnson said.

“We bring life to the building,” he added. “We have students and staff coming and going all the time. I jokingly said to Chuck (Haltom City Assistant City Manager Chuck Barnett) that the next thing we need is a Starbucks across the street.”

Being a part of the city is important, said Washington. “You’ve got to connect with the people. You have to be seen as part of the community. Then people will feel comfortable coming to you.”

Oswald said that it’s Johnson and his staff who create that comfort level. “I love the convenience, but even if this campus were farther than the main campus, I’d drive to it anyway. Hank and his staff are that awesome. Whatever it is – if you don’t know how to register or you forget something you need or you need a letter written – they’re there to help you.”

And the faculty get kudos as well. Oswald can’t say enough about her business computer applications instructor, Janelle Cardenas: “If someone sighs, she’ll say, ‘Who was that? What do you need? What do you not understand?’ She’ll take the time to show us how to do something and, if necessary, show us again.”

Medlin is likewise a big fan of her reading instructor, Amanda Myers. “Some teachers just tell you something and expect you to have it,” she said. “She (Myers) comes around and helps you individually. She makes sure we know what we’re supposed to be doing.”

The small class and individual attention has gone a long way in helping Medlin overcome her back-to-school jitters. “In the beginning, it was kind of tough,” she said, “but I’m kind of kicking in now. My brain’s started working.”

Having a familiar face alongside hasn’t hurt, either. One of Medlin’s reading classmates is her 20-year-old daughter, Jamesa Davis. “I wanted her to come with me to make me feel more comfortable,” Medlin said. “I think we kind of pushed each other.”

Medlin denies that she and her daughter are in some sort of family competition, but Davis begs to differ. “She wants to beat us all,” Davis said, “and she’s doing it, too.” **TCC**

**The Haltom City Northeast Center offers a unique combination of credit and noncredit courses to match various needs.**

**DAY AND EVENING – CREDIT COURSES**

- Developmental Math
- Basic Computer Skills
- Government
- English
- Reading

**EVENING NONCREDIT COURSES**

- English as a Second Language
- GED Preparation
- Intermediate Bridge
- Woodcarving
- Defensive Bridge
- Qigong
- Akido
- Latin Dancercise
- Pinochle
- Belly Dancing
- Hula Dancing
- Mah Jongg



# Better Together

Haltom City leaders advocate partnership to bring TCC to the community.

The idea first struck Darlene Hooks, a city councilwoman in Haltom City, while listening to Tarrant County College Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley during a meeting of area mayors in spring 2010.

Hadley, a guest speaker, was explaining the College's growth and the importance of accessible education. One of every 19 people in Tarrant County will attend TCC each year, she said.

Hooks was deeply impressed.

Then, at another event shortly thereafter, Hooks heard State Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth, an attorney, talk about how TCC changed her life as a single mother who thought higher education was out of reach. But Davis completed TCC's paralegal program, obtained her baccalaureate degree with honors at Texas Christian University, and went on to graduate with honors from Harvard Law School.

Again, the councilwoman was left deeply moved by how TCC serves the community. That's when "something just clicked," said Hooks, who has lived in Haltom City most of her life and has attended three TCC campuses. "We need to bring TCC to our community," she thought, "and

Haltom City Councilwoman Darlene Hooks

Photo by Glen E. Ellman



give people the same opportunities."

Hooks shared her idea with city officials and then-mayor Bill Lanford, who immediately scheduled a meeting in October 2010 with Larry Darlage, president of the Northeast Campus in Hurst.

Timing could not have been better. Enrollment at Northeast had set a record the previous fall of 17,500 students, and the College needed more space.

Less than a year later, the new Haltom City Northeast Center opened in the renovated Haltom City Civic Center and former city library at 3201 Friendly Lane.

TCC paid to renovate most of the 17,000-square-foot building, and the Haltom City Economic Development Corporation kicked in \$80,000. Chesapeake Energy Corp. donated \$20,000 for furniture and other accessories.

The Center occupies about half of the building. Haltom City uses the other half for rental functions or city training.

TCC is leasing the space for \$1 a year for five years, with the option of extending the lease an additional five years, Assistant City Manager Chuck Barnett said.

"This is the greatest investment the city has ever made," Barnett said. "You cannot put a price on education for our citizens."

City officials hope the Center will make education more accessible to working families and senior citizens who have limited access to transportation. When classes began in June, many of the 119 students simply walked from home, said Mayor Richard Hutchison, who is an adjunct history professor at Northeast.

Courses include GED training, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, basic computer training, algebra, business computer applications and English composition. Students can receive training to become administrative assistants, accounting technicians, medical secretaries and pharmacy technicians. A dance studio may be added.

Classes could help relieve the public library, Hooks said, which has long waiting lists for basic computer training.

Prospective students include seniors looking for continuing education, recent high school graduates, and workers considering a career change, Barnett said. Counselors at Haltom High School have toured the campus, gathering information for students.

The project also could help boost nearby small businesses, as student traffic around the Center generates economic activity, Barnett said. The Civic Center had been sitting mostly unused since 2008 when the city moved the public library to a new location.

As a three-year veteran of the City Council, Hooks said bringing TCC to Haltom City marked the first time she had seen such widespread agreement among council members.

"This is a win-win for everybody," Hooks said, "citizens of all ages, the city and TCC. We are thrilled to provide quality, affordable education to our community." **TCC**

“

"This is the greatest investment the city has ever made. You cannot put a price on education for our citizens."

”

- CITY MAYOR: Richard Hutchison
  - CITY MANAGER: Thomas Muir
  - FIVE MILES FROM DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH
  - EIGHT PARKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY
  - POPULATION OF 42,911 RESIDENTS
- |                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| CAUCASIAN.....                       | 66.5% |
| AFRICAN-AMERICAN.....                | 4.2%  |
| AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE .. | 0.9%  |
| ASIAN.....                           | 8.1%  |
| HISPANIC.....                        | 38.9% |
| OTHER.....                           | 16.9% |

SOURCE: HALTOM CITY WEBSITE

# Beyond Barriers

Faculty members at the Center aim for

“aha moments.”

BY FRANK E. GRIFFIS

Some people simply work for the money, to be able to live, and some people work to fill vacant hours. Some people say work validates their existence, and a lucky few work for something more ethereal, such as enabling others to experience nirvana in the classroom, to grasp that “aha moment.”

For Amanda Myers, seeing her students achieve those “aha moments” is a remarkable fringe benefit of teaching English and English literature as an adjunct professor at Tarrant County College’s new Haltom City Northeast Center.

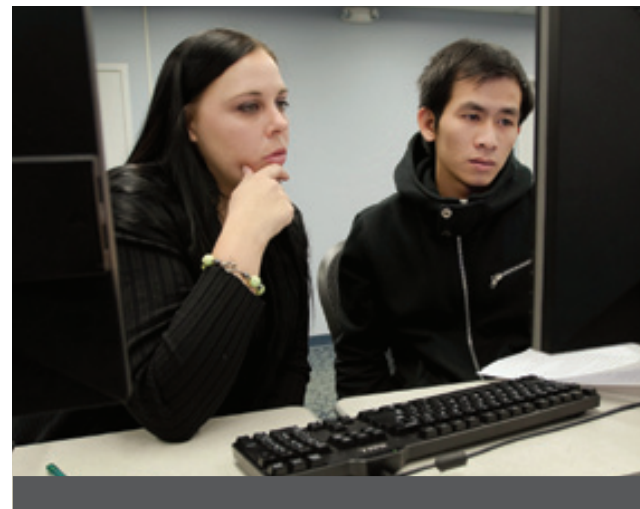
“I tell them that I don’t expect perfection, but I do expect improvement, and once they get that out of their heads, confidence comes in,” she said, shifting in a modernized student desk with a swiveling writing surface and seating upgraded to comfortable. “It’s fun to see them grasp that concept and say, ‘Hey, I did that, I made a simile!’”

Because many of Myers’ students are first- and second-generation Americans, and others are older students who are retired or seek second careers, they face extraordinary language, cultural and societal barriers. Which means they need help with transitioning into the classroom, more explanation and more guidance for overcoming obstacles, especially for those whose second language is English.

On any given Friday, you can find Myers working with a group of Vietnamese-American students in the large open area of the center that once housed the book stacks of the city’s library. To help the students overcome the language barrier, she worked with her supervisor, Eric Devlin, to hire a student worker to meet with them every Friday.

“Everyone benefits in this situation,” Myers said, indicating the group of students hunkered over a textbook, whispering to themselves, “the students, the student worker and me.”

DeeDra Parrish



In addition to students of Vietnamese extraction, those from other cultural and ethnic backgrounds, such as Hispanic and African-American, also attend classes at HCNC, which is one of the major differences between the classes Myers teaches at Colleyville High School, where students mainly are from mid- to upper-class Caucasian families.

“Here I’m in the minority in class; I don’t want to teach in a classroom where everyone looks like me,” she said. “We make every effort to...make them feel comfortable...and to make them realize that they all have valid life experiences to bring into the classroom.”

She cited the case of a student who recently returned to college after running a restaurant for 15 years.

“That’s impressive and not an easy thing to do,” she said. “These students have a drive (to learn) that other students don’t have. And there’s a bright light that comes on when they realize that they have plenty to offer. For example, I returned a paper to one student who scored 100 percent, not one mistake, and he said, ‘I didn’t think I could do that.’”

Some of her students come with preconceived notions about education and learning skills, particularly writing.

“They come in thinking you’re born a good writer and communicator,” she said. “We work to get them past that threshold.”

To help them overcome those barriers, Myers teaches real-world skills in her writing classes, using legitimate and challenging subjects that her students would confront in their daily lives, such as writing cover letters or résumés.

This is especially true in her English literature classes where she emphasizes that literature, even the classics, all have “gray areas” of meaning and that students do not have to abide by only the teacher’s interpretation of a novel or a poem.

“I want them to feel they can bring their culture into the classroom and feel that their opinions are valid,” she

said. “All of my students are so different that I’m constantly getting an influx of new ideas.”

Penny Cypert, associate professor of computer science at the center, formerly served as chair of the Computer Science Department on TCC’s Northeast Campus, but returned to teaching because she enjoys working with students full time.

As opposed to many colleges, students started trickling into the building as the noon hour approached. It seems only appropriate that the new TCC center doubled as a voting place for a slate of proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. After all, it was once the Haltom City Civic Center, which was once the city’s library.

“It’s nice to see that the building is still being maintained for public use by the community,” said Cypert, whose mother taught at Haltom Junior High School for 29 years.

“Most of our students either live or work close by so they can come in during their lunch hour to take a class,” she said. “That’s part of the attractiveness of the Center – easier access from the local community, plus smaller classes and personal attention to ease transition issues.” **TCC**

DeeDra Parrish



## testimonials

“ THIS IS LIKE MY STEPPING STONE TO GET READY FOR THE BIG CAMPUS. ”

-- Dresti Medlin, Haltom City Northeast Center student

“

“In centers like this, we can slow down. We can get to know you and what it is that you really need. Some people are intelligent, but if they haven't eaten or if they have a situation at home that's not very positive, their mind's not on algebra, government, history — whatever it is you're teaching.”

-- Jackie Washington, vice president for Continuing Education Services, Northeast Campus

”

“THE ENVIRONMENT IS MUCH MORE INTIMATE THAN HUGE COLLEGES, WHICH ENABLES ME TO GET WITH THE STUDENTS ONE-ON-ONE TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.”

-- Amanda Myers, adjunct professor of English, Haltom City Northeast Center

“Certainly there are some students here who did not consider going back to school until they heard of this particular center because of their work location or other factors. They've come back to TCC as a result.”

-- Hank Johnson, coordinator of special projects, Haltom City Northeast Center

“THE CENTER HAS DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DIVERSITY OF TCC. WE REALLY DO REACH ACROSS THE SPECTRUM IN TERMS OF AGE AS WELL AS ETHNICITY.”

-- Hank Johnson, coordinator of special projects, Haltom City Northeast Center

## Alumni

# Banking on a Higher Education

Trust administrator Adrean Boyd found her start at TCC.

By Sarah Bahari

Numbers have always thrilled Adrean Boyd. As a child, she could memorize them in a snap. One of her favorite toys was a calculator.

So when Tarrant County College offered Boyd a full academic scholarship for two years as part of the Cornerstone Honors Program, she naturally did some quick number-crunching.

“This made the best sense financially,” Boyd said. “It was a good opportunity to transition into college life and ease into the expectations of a university setting.”

That was 15 years ago. Boyd is now a trust administrator at JP Morgan Chase Bank in downtown Fort Worth, where she manages personal and charitable trusts for high-net-worth clients.

A 1996 graduate of Haltom High School in Haltom City, Boyd frequently encourages high school students to consider TCC.

“It is a great stepping stone,” she said. “If you're not sure what you want to study, or even what four-year college you want to attend, TCC is an excellent choice.”

As high school graduation approached, community college was not on Boyd's radar. She assumed she would attend Texas Christian University and study pre-medicine, but TCC's offer changed her plans.

For two years, she took basic courses and prerequisites, such as English, history and sociology, at TCC's Northwest Campus.

Instructors and counselors provided more structure and assistance than Boyd would have received at most universities, helping her select classes and set a schedule. She also learned important study skills and time management that would benefit her academic career.

Meanwhile, she watched a handful of friends from high school struggle with the transition to a four-year university.

Boyd completed an associate degree from TCC in 1998 and enrolled at TCU, where she received a partial academic scholarship.



Glen E. Ellman

While taking science courses in pre-medicine at TCU, she realized the field did not suit her. At a counselor's suggestion, Boyd enrolled in a business management class and loved it.

“Numbers came naturally to me,” she said. “I was able to articulate and understand business concepts very well. This turned out to be my passion.”

A change in major in the third year of college would have likely delayed graduation plans for many, but Boyd's long list of basic courses, many of which she completed at TCC, helped her to graduate in four years.

“That was a goal I began college with,” she said. “It was important to me to finish in four years.”

Boyd graduated from TCU in May 2000, spent the summer traveling, and began looking for a job that fall. She initially searched in the management consulting field, interviewing for jobs in New York City, Dallas and San Francisco.

When Boyd heard of an opening at Bank One in Fort Worth, she submitted a résumé even though she had never considered working for a bank. Two interviews later, Boyd was hired as a trust assistant and was promoted to trust administrator 2-½ years later. After a merger, the bank became JP Morgan Chase.

“It is a unique, engaging field,” Boyd said. “You have direct involvement with clients and families. You become a trusted advisor to many of the families, and I can picture myself working with them for years to come.”

Boyd urges others to pursue higher education and find their passion.

“I cannot recommend TCC highly enough.” TCC

# TCCD Facilities

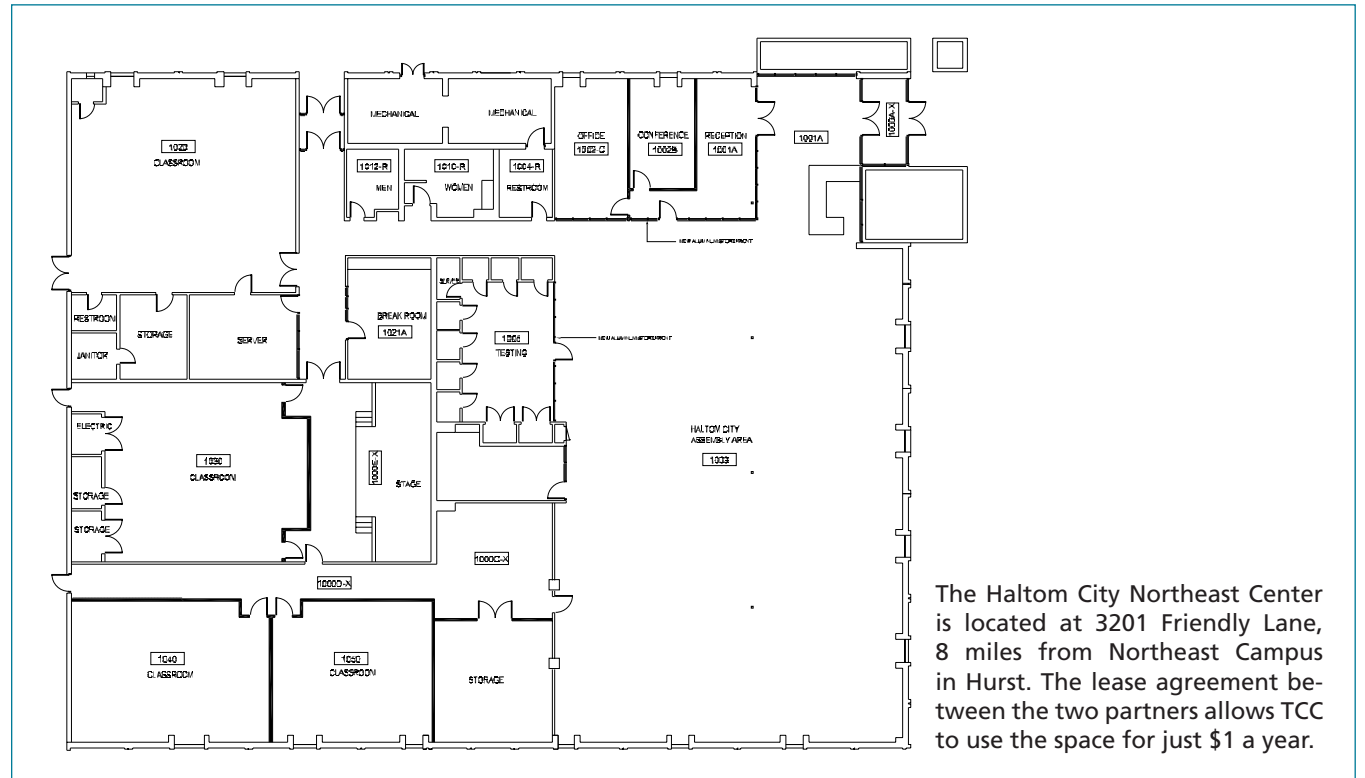
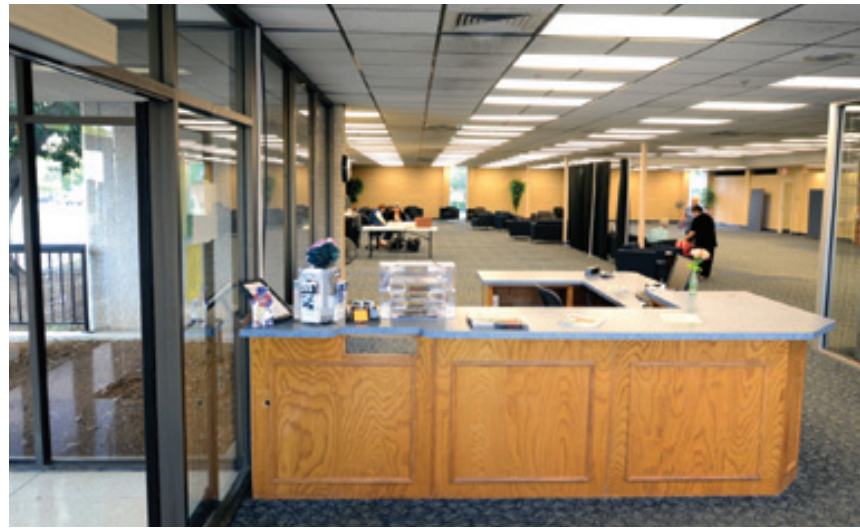
## Haltom City Northeast Center

Through a partnership between Haltom City and Tarrant County College, a former civic center was transformed into a fully functioning educational facility in months.



Four classrooms are part of the revamped facility, offering daytime and evening classes. The classrooms are equipped with new computers available to students during and outside of class time.

As part of the renovations, the spacious assembly area was maintained to be available for Haltom City activities and for use as a rental facility. In addition to the assembly area, the 17,000-square-foot Center features classrooms, office and conference areas, and a testing area.



The Haltom City Northeast Center is located at 3201 Friendly Lane, 8 miles from Northeast Campus in Hurst. The lease agreement between the two partners allows TCC to use the space for just \$1 a year.

The new Family Empowerment Center at Tarrant County College South Campus launched in fall 2011 as a first-stop shop that serves to empower families through education.

The Center focuses on serving families from underserved, unprepared, unemployed populations that will participate in workforce readiness activities, short-term occupational training, college readiness, and postsecondary credentials and/or certifications.

Social services providers will provide wraparound services, i.e., family counseling, violence prevention, day-care, transportation vouchers, allowing TCC to do what it does best — provide high-quality education and vocational training.

The Center will further expand the comprehensive services, thanks to renovations to a current office building on South Campus, planned for completion in late 2012.

The Center's new home on South Campus will provide:

- Child Play Center
- Large Activity Room
- Conference Rooms
- Work areas for outreach recruiters, advisors and other support services



## *A Little River Music*



From left to right, Tom Price and Mayor Betsy Price with Shalyn Clark and Al Clark

Glen E. Ellman

The weather was just right, the setting was picturesque, and the cause was even better as guests gathered Oct. 21 at the new Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions in support of student scholarships and academic programs.

The evening benefit, "A Little River Music," drew nearly 300 friends and family of Tarrant County College to enjoy a live performance by the Fort Worth Symphony in the plaza of the new teaching and learning facility. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

- 1** The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andres Franco, performed water-themed excerpts from various musical works such as Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" and Richard Rodgers' "South Pacific."
- 2** Sponsors and their guests had the opportunity to tour the Trinity River East Campus for Health Care Professions, along with a demonstration of the real-life simulation hospital, which prepares students for hospital scenarios.
- 3** Attendees participated in a silent auction to win a guitar autographed by Scotty McCreery and Lauren Alaina of the 2011 "American Idol" competition, weekend trips to Las Vegas and San Francisco, a private concert by pianist Danny Wright, and more.
- 4** The 148,000-square-foot complex, located in downtown Fort Worth just a few blocks east of Trinity River Campus, houses more than 700 health-care students. The fully accredited programs include Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Respiratory Care and Long Term Care Administration. The vision for bringing these programs together is to provide facilities that make the graduates as workforce-ready as possible.



Glen E. Ellman



Glen E. Ellman



Glen E. Ellman

Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and Master of Ceremonies Sean Matthews, TCC alumnus, welcomed the guests, touting the beauty and significance of the event. Attendees then enjoyed a dinner provided by Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine while taking in the hour-long Fort Worth Symphony concert, featuring water-themed song selections.

Following dinner and the performance, silent auction winners took home sought-after items, such as the guitar autographed by both the winner and runner-up of the 2011 "American Idol" competition. Throughout the evening, sponsors and guests were treated to a tour and a demonstration of the simulation LIVE (Learning in Virtual Environments) hospital.

The TCC Foundation thanks Doug Hawthorne, CEO of Texas Health Resources, who served as the event's honorary chair, as well as those who served as co-chairs of the event's Host Committee: Robert Earley, president and CEO of JPS Health Network; Rick Merrill, president and CEO of Cook Children's Health Care System; Steven Newton, president of Baylor All Saints Medical Center, Fort Worth, and Baylor Medical Center, Southwest Fort Worth; and Dr. Scott Ransom, president of University of North Texas Health Science Center. **TCC**

## Tomorrow Starts Here Scholarship Dinner

The Tarrant County College Foundation honored donors and scholarship recipients at its annual Tomorrow Starts Here Scholarship Dinner Sept. 27 at Trinity River Campus.

**D**onors had the opportunity to meet students who directly benefit from their support. Foundation Executive Director Joe McIntosh proudly welcomed nearly 250 attendees to the event.

"This dinner serves to thank and recognize valued donors to scholarship funds, applaud the efforts of the scholarship recipients, and connect the two in person," said McIntosh. "The event affirms and validates donors' decisions to create and/or support scholarships through the TCC Foundation—meeting the actual recipients of the various awards seems to 'bring it home.'"

More than 740 scholarships were awarded to TCC students for fall 2011, amounting to approximately \$730,000. Thanks to many donors' contributions, 16 new scholarships have been established and funded during 2011 and will be added to the award distributions for 2012-2013 academic year.

The student online scholarship application process will open in January 2012. **TCC**

DeeDra Parrish



Glen E. Ellman



Glen E. Ellman

## EMPLOYEE ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

### GOES OVER THE TOP

**O**nce again, Tarrant County College employees have demonstrated their generosity and compassion as approximately 110% of the 2011-12 campaign goal has been raised. With final results just in, a total of \$192,759 has been contributed to the TCC Foundation Scholarship Fund and the United Way of Tarrant County.

"TCC employees realize that collectively we can do great things – whether it is for our own students or our community," stated TCCF Executive Director Joe McIntosh. "For many, the challenges of the economy are great, but individuals still made the giving campaign a priority – we are proud and grateful."

## GIVE ONLINE

FOR MANY TCC STUDENTS, OBTAINING A HIGHER EDUCATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT FINANCIAL SUPPORT SUCH AS SCHOLARSHIPS. TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH A ONE-TIME GIFT, RECURRING GIFTS OR PLEDGES, VISIT:

[www.tccd.edu/GiveNow](http://www.tccd.edu/GiveNow)