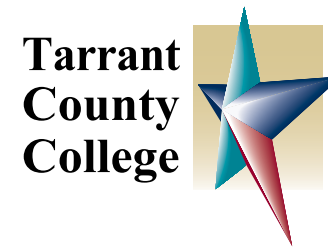


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 Demands

Workforce Ready

New Center for Health Care Professions
 Provides a Dose of Real World Experience

From the desk of



Erma Johnson Hadley
Chancellor

A new academic year always brings lively beginnings and excitement for what is to come. This fall, though, we carry added enthusiasm as we open the Trinity River East Campus, Center for Health Care Professions.

As you'll see in this issue of *Projection* magazine, the facility, and the opportunity that accompanies it, is guaranteed to be an invaluable asset to the people and businesses of Tarrant County.

At the heart of downtown Fort Worth, the Center offers convenient access for students and professionals alike and opens the doors for increased collaboration with Fort Worth's nearby hospital district. And for the ever-growing health-care industry, we are now able to produce an even greater number of highly trained, licensed graduates.

Most important for our students, the added experiential learning opportunities will take training to a new level. Simulated hospitals and labs combined with immediate proximity to students of other allied health programs replicate a true work setting. Further enhancing the learning environment are the faculty and staff who remain at the core of ensuring that our graduates are workforce ready.

If you haven't yet visited the campus, I urge you to go see it first-hand. We are excited for all that we now have to offer, and know this is just the beginning of possibilities yet to come.

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

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Stay connected through social media.



Are you a TCC graduate?

Register for the Online Alumni Community at www.tccd.edu/alumni

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From the Editor



Cacy Curtis
Projection Editor

The opening of Trinity River East Campus marks a significant milestone for Tarrant County College and for the community at large.

As you'll read in this issue of *Projection* magazine, it will bring new opportunities and avenues for success for both our students and the workforce.

While the excitement for what's to come is exciting, the efforts thus far are certainly noteworthy, and something we often overlook.

During several recent visits, I have had the unique opportunity to see much of the Center for Health Care Professions unfold. Our facilities crews move in load after load of furniture, equipment and supplies; our police work extra hours to ensure that safety is

priority; our faculty members spend countless hours developing ways to blend their expertise with the new environment.

Each department, division or individual has a role—each important because each is a crucial part of our ultimate vision to deliver student success. From students' testimonies you'll read in this issue, you'll see that success is certainly on its way. And that's what makes it all well worth it.

If you haven't yet seen the facility, or may not even know yet what it's all about, I hope this issue will give you at least a glimpse into the heartbeat of the campus, the programs and the opportunities they offer. It really is an amazing site—one you must go see for yourself.

Sharon Ellman



Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley, left, congratulates 2011 graduates as they cross the stage.

Commencement Celebrates Paths Ahead for Graduates

Nearly 1,000 Tarrant County College graduates held their heads high as they walked across the stage to receive their degrees and certificates this spring. With more than 80 degree and certificate programs available on TCC campuses, students are launching themselves into a diverse world of opportunity.

Graduates arrived with regalia in hand at the Fort Worth Convention Center May 18 for the 43rd Annual Commencement. TCC faculty and staff volunteers assisted with check-in and final details before leading graduates to their spots on the arena floor. Family, friends, faculty, staff and Board of Trustees cheered with support as the ceremony began.

Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley responded, telling the crowd that TCC is “the people’s college” and encouraged the grads to take advantage of all the opportunities that are provided for them.

Graduates received silver alumni pins during the commencement ceremony – a new TCC tradition. Complete with the TCC Alumni Association’s logo, the pins were given as a way for graduates to

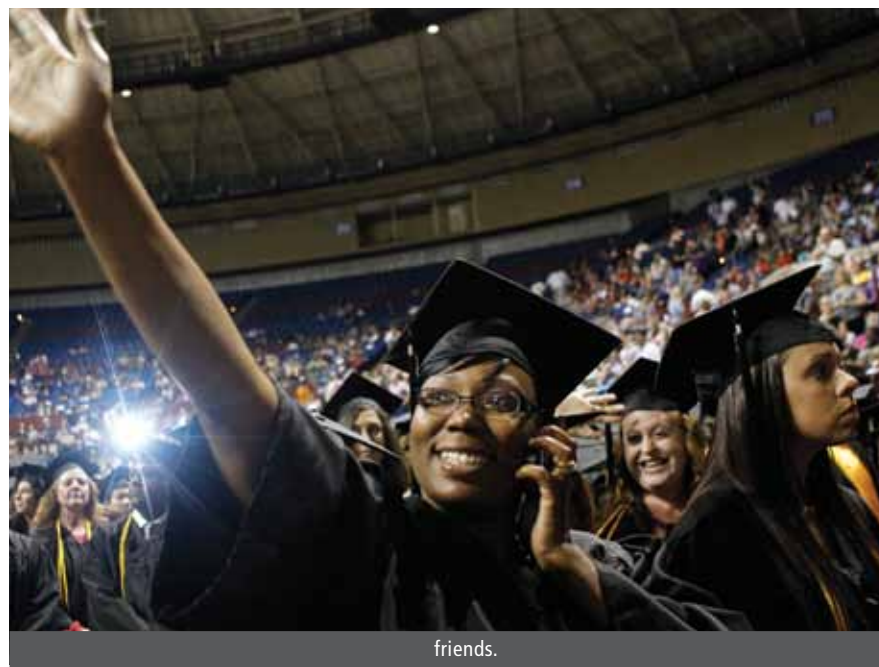
show support for TCC, said Alumni Association and Scholarship Specialist Andrea Craig. The association began at 41,000 alumni when it launched last year and reached more than 45,000 after this year’s commencement, matching one alumnus per student.

“It’s a structured way to get alumni involved with TCC and to let students connect with alumni,” said Craig.

Napoleon Brandford III, chairman of Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., LLC, the only minority/woman-owned investment banking underwriting firm, spoke to the graduates about life’s challenges and saving money to be successful with a “Blueprint for Success.”

“If I had not kept my living expense low and set aside money in a savings account, there is no way I would have been in a position to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity [to start my own company],” said Brandford.

The 2010-2011 graduates, including those who finished in the previous summer, fall and spring semesters, tossed their caps in the air as Chancellor Hadley congratulated them. **TCC**



DeeDra Parrish

friends.

HALTOM CITY NORTHEAST CENTER BOOSTS COMMUNITY ACCESS

Northeast Campus and Haltom City celebrated the grand opening of the Haltom City Northeast Center on June 13. Closer to residents with limited access to any of the five campuses, the new building will provide both credit and noncredit courses and services.

The initiative began when Haltom City officials collaborated with College officials to find a way to make higher education more accessible to local residents. TCC proposed the use of the 5,000-square-foot Civic Center to fulfill those needs.

Northeast Campus President Larry Darlage opened the ceremony, expressing his enthusiasm for the new center and discussing its opportunities for students.

“The opening of the Haltom City Northeast Center is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the community to provide better access for students to college,” said Darlage. “We appreciate the vision by Haltom City leaders to propose this partnership and the generous support from Chesapeake Energy Corp. to help make this center a reality.”

Darlage welcomed Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley, Haltom City Mayor Richard Hutchinson, Chesapeake Energy Community Relations Director Kimberly Britton and Northeast Tarrant Chamber Vice President Belinda Alles, who directed the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Hadley expressed her excitement for the Northeast Center and desire for TCC to partner with other cities to foster additional opportunities for neighborhood locations.

“TCC is indeed the community’s college,” Hadley said. “We consider it our calling to help everybody who presents [themselves].”

Chesapeake Energy donated \$25,000 for finishing touches and

furnishings in many of the soon-to-be classrooms. Others contributing to renovations were the Haltom City Economic Development Corporation and IESI Texas Region.

Students began taking classes in July during the second six-week summer session. Courses available at the HCNC include English composition, art appreciation, chemistry, developmental math, government and history, in addition to tuition-free courses in Adult Basic Education, General Equivalency Development and English as a Second Language.

DeeDra Parrish



From left to right, Darlene Hooks, Louise Appleman, Larry Darlage, Erma Johnson Hadley, and Haltom City Mayor Richard Hutchison cut the ribbon at the Center’s opening.

FOR THE YOUNGSTERS: COLLEGE FOR KIDS PROVES FUN FOR ALL

DeeDra Parrish



College for Kids at Trinity River Campus

Youngsters are getting a head start on a college experience and education thanks to the College for Kids Program available on All campuses. A three-week summer enrichment program for first-through eighth-graders, College for Kids gives Tarrant County children an incentive to learn through hands-on activities and projects.

Recently celebrating its 30th anniversary, the program enjoyed a student enrollment of more than 4,000 for the 2011 summer — roughly 1,500 on both Northeast and Southeast campuses, 700 on South Campus, 450 on Northwest Campus, and in only its second year in the program, 150 on Trinity River Campus.

Kids can enroll in academic, arts and crafts, science and technol-

ogy, or health and fitness courses that are taught by experienced, passionate faculty who make the learning environment interesting and fun. Ranging from aerospace engineering to oceanography to culinary arts, children have more than 150 courses from which to choose.

“We’re mimicking the college experience and they love it.”

Northeast Continuing Education Vice President Jackie Washington said College for Kids gives children an opportunity to learn things not available to them during their regular academic school year.

“We’re mimicking the college experience and they love it,” said Washington.

Washington said approximately 20 percent of the students come from outside TCC because other community colleges in the Metroplex don’t provide a summer program as extensive and coordinated as College for Kids.

“When we say access to everyone at TCC, we mean it,” she said. “We’ve put a seed inside of them that will hopefully grow.”

More Than 100 Local Residents Earn GEDs



Jon P. Uzzel
Graduates listen to speakers during the GED Graduation Ceremony.

Thanks to Tarrant County College and J.P. Morgan Chase, 112 Tarrant County residents are closer to their career path.

They graduated recently with their General Education Development Diploma thanks to a growing number of courses available at TCC's eight neighborhood-based Workforce Services Learning Opportunities Centers and Trinity River Campus.

This is the first time in 13 years the number of graduates has reached more than 100, up 35 percent, as a result of new locations financed by J.P. Morgan Chase's \$45,000 grant and an \$85,000 grant from United Way. Chase grant funds also helped pay for the \$80 GED exam fees for 30 grads.

More sites including the new Haltom City Northeast Center are beginning to offer GED and other Workforce Service classes, increasing the number of potential graduates.

The Learning Centers and all of the Adult Basic Education courses provide a comprehensive approach targeting skills mastery in the core content areas of the GED exam. Students attend an orientation in which they are assessed, enrolled, set goals, and sign a contract committing to the program and abiding by all the rules.

The assessment assists staff in developing an individualized educational plan for each student targeting his or her academic weaknesses and strengths. Cesar Diaz, coordinator of Special Projects with the Department of Workforce Services, said many factors contributed to the record-breaking number of graduates.

"I believe that individualization, focus and targeted instruction by trained instructors are the key ingredients to the success students experience at the Learning Centers," said Diaz.

Diaz works closely with the instructors, helping them prepare the students to successfully take the GED exam and transition out of the centers both college- and career-ready. He couldn't be prouder of the graduates.

"This is one big step for our students and one giant step for our community."

Cesar Diaz

TCC RANKS NATIONALLY AMONG DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PRODUCERS

In rankings recently published by the national *Community College Week* publication, Tarrant County College District placed 12th nationally in terms of associate degrees awarded among two- and four-year institutions.

The Top 100 Associate Degree Producers report, published annually, is based on awards conferred during the 2009-2010 academic period. Data was gathered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Though the rankings are based on numbers from the previous academic year, nearly 4,000 degrees and certificates were awarded for the 2010-2011 period, marking another record for the College.

A&E'S "INTERVENTION" PARTNERS WITH TCC TO HOST EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Interventionist Jeff Van Vonderen of the Emmy Award-winning A&E series "Intervention" tackled tough questions this May during a special town hall meeting at Trinity River Campus on drug and alcohol abuse.

Tarrant County College joined with A&E Network and local partners Charter Communication and Recovery Resource Council to host the event, which brought to light the real-life experiences of individuals and their relatives who experience such abuse.

Further confirming the local impact of these issues, the audience asked several questions of an expert panel featuring Van Vonderen, Fort Worth Chief of Police Jeff Halstead, CEO of Recovery Resource Council Eric Niedermayer and Physician Dr. Greg Phillips.

The event was moderated by Alice Rios, anchor of KRLD Afternoon News, and was attended by more than 200 community members, students, parents and treatment providers. It was filmed for broadcast and televised on Charter On Demand beginning in June.

A LOOK INSIDE ACHIEVING THE DREAM



An Achievement Institute

Community Colleges Count

The Data

Since May 2010, Tarrant County College has gathered, analyzed and mined data, which revealed achievement gaps among groups of students, particularly among first-time-in-college students.

"Based on the broad engagement data dialogues, Tarrant County College has taken meaningful steps to lasting instructional change," said Alma Martinez-Egger, interim director of Achieving the Dream. "The faculty and staff, through persistence and passion, have rigorously applied Achieving the Dream tenets to establish the College's priority areas for improvement."

The Priorities

TCC has identified two priority areas with interventions that are proven national best practices.

PRIORITY 1

Increase student success through a comprehensive First-Year Experience Program.

Planned Interventions:

- (1) Implement uniform, College-wide mandatory orientation.
- (2) Implement intentional, appreciative advising and case management, including faculty engagement in advising.
- (3) Review and strengthen the Transition to College Success course.

PRIORITY 2

Increase student success in developmental education and three gateway courses (initial college-level courses).

Planned Interventions:

- (1) Develop and implement an Early Academic Alert System (EAAS).
- (2) Review, strengthen and align math curriculum and instructional methods to support student success.

The Teams

Campus intervention teams include representatives from Academic Affairs, Student Development Services, and Continuing Education. In addition, 80 faculty, staff and administrators will help implement the five interventions.

"Our goal for diversifying the implementation team is to assure that many voices and many perspectives participate in the process of educational enhancement, because we are all responsible for student success," said Martinez-Egger. "Those who engage daily with students are those who will facilitate the intervention implementation teams."

We honor more than 100 faculty and staff retiring from Tarrant County College this year. Together, their generous dedication has amounted to more than 1,000 total years of service.

In recognition of their dedication to the College, we asked them to share thoughts on memories, meanings and milestones through the years.

Bill Lace

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADMINISTRATION 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

How have you seen TCC change during the period you've worked for the College?

The mission has remained the same, as has the dedication of our faculty and staff to that mission. Size, of course, has been a major change. But the most dramatic change, to me, has been the advance of technology and how much it has come to dominate the way we do things in the classroom and in our offices.

Kathleen Skinner

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE ASSISTANT, SOUTH CAMPUS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE

What do you think is the most important thing you've contributed to TCC?

I began my career as a student and enjoyed the feeling of family, so I decided to apply for a position. In a nutshell, all I can say is that I am going to miss everyone throughout the District and am proud to have been part of Tarrant County College.

Karen Baker

PRINTING SERVICES SUPERVISOR 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

What will you take from this experience? How has it impacted you?

The College is a great opportunity for people to further their education, skills and life experiences. It has enhanced my life.

Janice Morgan

COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, CONTINUING EDUCATION 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

How have you seen TCC change during the period you've worked for the College?

I have seen TCC grow in numbers of students, employees and even campuses. I have always been impressed with the level of care and concern for each individual student, and I am glad I have not seen that change.

Karen Burkhart

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, REAL ESTATE 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

What will you take from this experience?

Many fond memories of all the people I've had the opportunity to work with. I feel a great sense of gratitude and accomplishment for the many years I've been at TCC, and I'd like to say thanks to everyone who helped me through the years.

Frank Buchanan

POLICE CHIEF 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

How has TCC impacted you?

Teamwork and friendships renewed the spirit in me to be more community committed.

Juan Alamo

Southeast Campus Professor of Music

Recently had a new marimba method titled "Four Mallets Music for the Modern Marimba Player" published by Drop 6 Media Inc.

Kristi Argenbriht

Geology Instructor on South Campus

Organized Archosaur Park-Fossil Festival, a paleontological event held at the UT-Arlington Archosaur Site in April. The event was open to all TCC students and community residents.

Frank Becerra

Northwest Campus Continuing Education Instructor for the Fire Service Training Center

Was recognized by the Texas Association of Fire Educators as instructor of the year. He also received the George Hughes Instructor of the Year Award.

Penelope Bisbee

Southeast Campus Adjunct Instructor of Art

Was among 113 finalists for the 2011 Hunting Art Prize for \$50,000, historically the most generous award given for painting and drawing in North America.

Christopher Blay

Southeast Campus Art Professor

Received a \$2,600 arts grant in March for a project titled "Haltom City Stories" by the Arts Council of Northeast Tarrant County. The Grant Awards Dinner was held on Northeast Campus.

Pennie Boyett

Southeast Campus Instructor of English

Recently had an article published in the Denton *Record-Chronicle* describing how natural gas drilling affects water supply in North Texas. Her story was part of a series called "Citizens of the Shale."

Donnie Braziel

Northwest Campus Assistant Professor of Surgical Technology

Was elected president of the Texas State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists in March. He was also a delegate to the national conference in June.

Jeremy Byrd

South Campus Professor of Philosophy

Published an article in the *Southern Journal of Philosophy* titled, "The Necessity of Tomorrow's Sea Battle."

Mary Cinatl

Instructor for English as a Second Language and Reading on Southeast Campus

Is providing "Bucks for Books," an incentive program in the Southeast Campus Library aimed at getting ESOL students involved in reading new materials.

Carol Everhart

Director of the Library at Trinity River Campus

Was recently elected to the Council of the Texas Library Association.

Judith Gallagher and Nancy McKenzie

South Campus Divisional Dean of Humanities & Instructor of Reading

Delivered a presentation on Learning Communities at the Chair Academy titled, "Two Thumbs Up for Learning Communities" in Dallas in March. They discussed participation in the Developmental Education Demonstration Project grant from the Coordinating Board, design of the program, and its benefits toward student success.

Altheria Gaston

Department Chair of Education and Philosophy South Campus

In March hosted representatives from the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarleton State University, Stephen F. Austin, the University of North Texas, Texas Woman's University, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Christian University and Paul Quinn College. The education majors heard a presentation from each four-year school and discussed financial aid, degree plans, housing availability and other issues. She was also recently chosen to participate in "Pathways," a professional development program sponsored by the Fort Worth Black Chamber of Commerce.

Kim Jackson and Matthew Brown

Northwest Campus Associate Professors

Jackson was selected to present "Teaching and Leadership Excellence" at the 2011 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development International Conference in May. Matthew Brown, associate professor of Computer Science, also presented his topic titled, "I Have to Work: Helping the Nontraditional Student Succeed in a Traditional Environment."

Woody Kageler

Director of Health Sciences on Northeast Campus

Gave a keynote address at the Texas Society for Respiratory Care state meeting in Corpus Christi in May. His topic "AARC's Vision of 2015 and Beyond" covered the proposed education needs for respiratory care practitioners based on last year's conference.

Jennifer Lawrence

Southeast Campus History Professor

Recently elected by The Higher Education Coordinating Board to assess student learning outcomes for core history courses taught at community colleges and universities through Texas.

Mike Matthews

Northwest Humanities Division Dean

Served as program chair at the 18th Annual Humanities Series Workshop, sponsored by the North Texas Community College Consortium, at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History in February. Other Humanities Division faculty and three campus presidents also attended the sessions on "The Science and History Museum as a Classroom."

Gary Montano

South Campus English Department Chair

Recently defended his dissertation at The University of Texas at Arlington, earning him the title Dr. Montano.

Josue Munoz

Southeast Campus Humanities Dean

Helped organize and host the Rotary Club of Arlington South's 27th Annual Recognition Banquet in March honoring top 10 students from each of the six Arlington Independent School District high schools.

Julie Russell

Northwest Campus Instructor of Business

Recently selected to serve on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Academic Course Guide Manual Learning Objectives Project.

Gary Smith

Northeast Campus Interim Vice President for Teaching and Learning

Recently chosen by the Northeast Campus as its 2011 Hometown Hero sponsored by the Northeast Tarrant County Chamber of Commerce. Continuing Education Program Coordinator Harry Johnson, nominated by the City of Watauga, also received the award.

Fred Spaulding

Northwest Campus Associate Professor of Visual Arts

Participated in two exhibitions and one large-scale sculpture exhibition: His 10-piece floor installation at the Dishman Museum at Lamar University in Beaumont, a large-scale outdoor sculpture with three smaller outdoor pieces and four small works on individual bricks exhibited at Gallery 111 in downtown Fort Worth, and a large-scale sculpture including contributions from his ceramic students in the Northwest Campus Sculpture Park.

Mina Thompson

Northeast Campus Instructor of English and Reading

Received the American Literature Award at the Conference of College Teachers of English (CCTE) for her essay and presentation on "The Yellow Paper" in March. Northeast English Professors Annette Cole, Shewanda Riley, Lorrie Wolfard and Rebecca Balcarcel also presented academic papers on creative work at the conference.

Linda Wright

Northeast Campus Business and Social Science Divisional Dean

Her presentation proposal titled "Developing and Implementing an In-House Assessment Process" was accepted for the roundtable discussion at the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting scheduled for December.

South Campus Automotive Instructors

Recently made a presentation on the campus' Collision Repair degree and other certificate programs at the vocational fair at Venture High School in Arlington.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A sampling of TCC's recent coverage in the media

May 8

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Article highlights the Trinity River Campus science camp field trip for 60 Riverside Middle School students sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fort Worth.

May 9

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Article features TCC's two-year associate dental hygiene degree and 21-week dental assisting program on Northeast Campus.

May 20

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A submission to the "Cheers" section praises Diane Enger and her students at Northeast for an entertaining Country Strings Concert.

May 22

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Newspaper highlights Southeast Campus President Judith Carrier's Discover Award from the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains.

May 26

El Lider USA

Online article announces the accomplishments of Northwest Campus Business Professionals of America students Mia Easley and Emily Almaguer who won top awards at the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

June 7

Dallas Business Journal

News article highlights the Computer Numeric Control Machine Operator Program Job Fair, hosted by TCC's Corporate Services, and quotes coordinator Stephanie Siphon regarding the current demand of machine operator skills.

June 17

Fort Worth Business Press

Education brief highlights the projected increase in scholarships available for students through the TCC Foundation.

June 18

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A column touts the various "career-track programs," specifically those to be offered at Trinity River East Campus, and emphasizes the high rates of job placement for graduates.

July 4

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Feature highlights the journey and persistence of Tomasa Herrera, a 79-year-old, who was among the 112 students earning a GED at TCC in 2010-11.

July 11

Arlington Citizen-Journal

Article on the 46th Annual Arlington July Fourth parade highlights the Southeast Campus parade entry, a space shuttle/NASA float that took home the Mayor's Award.

NE International festival brings world culture to Northeast

tudents, faculty and staff enjoyed food, music, dance and fas from around the globe during the third annual Internati Festival on Northeast Campus. The two-day event included d rformances by Conte de Loyo Flamenco Theatre, Ballet Folk teca of Fort Worth, TCC Dance Company, and a bachata d rformance and workshop.

The Northeast drama club, Delta Psi Omega, performed "Co a," a 14th-century form of masked comedy. Instructor of Music n Dewey and his students performed with African drums, and N erican flutist Erich Graywolf made a presentation, answering



Performances ranged from dance to comedy

DeeDra Parrish



Northeast Campus students

DeeDra Parrish

NW Northwest celebrates spring semester wrap-up

Northwest Campus students let loose before finals during the fifth annual Student Success Celebration in April. Along with popcorn, hot dogs, a DJ and an airbrush tattoo booth, students and faculty took turns in a dunking booth to raise money for the scholarship fund honoring former NW Campus President Michael Saenz. More than 150 faculty and students participated, and nearly \$200 was donated.



Students Amanda Vincent and Rebekah Bogdanoff

DeeDra Parrish



A dunking booth raised scholarship money

DeeDra Parrish

TR South campus offers summer Upward Bound Program

A science class gives 12th grade students a lesson on DNA as part of the South Campus Upward Bound Program. Through the federally funded program, students are prepared for college entrance through participation in a series of activities, including an involved summer program. Along with core and elective courses, the high school students participate in work-study opportunities, university tours and community service experiences.



Glen E. Ellman



Upward Bound students

TR TRINITY RIVER DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS HONORED FOR SUCCESS



North Side High School students with Castleberry ISD Superintendent Diana Ramirez (front left) and former Fort Worth ISD Superintendent Melody Johnson

DeeDra Parrish

Trinity River Campus held its second annual Dual Credit Celebration in May. Fort Worth ISD and Castleberry ISD dual credit students were given their certificates as well as a light dinner and public applause for their hard work in becoming college students.

Tahita Fulkerson, president of TRC, opened the ceremony. Former FWISD Superintendent Melody Johnson and CISD Superintendent Gary Johns congratulated the students and praised TCC for its partnership with the schools. Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley encouraged the students and their families to explore even more opportunities at TCC.

SE SOUTHEAST TRANSFORMS SIDEWALKS INTO ART



Student Stephanie Thompson

DeeDra Parrish

Using small pieces of chalk, artists brought big life to the sidewalks of Southeast Campus during its fourth annual "Chalk About It" competition in April.

From portraits to animals to the Texas flag, students filled the front entrance of the "E" Wing with color and originality. The \$200 grand prize winner, Amy Walker, surprised judges with her artwork titled, "Hubba Hubba." Natalie Ladines won the \$175 prize for "My Name Is Freedom," and Mariela Castro's "Color" won the \$125 prize.



From left to right: Surgical Technology student Angelina Roza, Nursing student Tolani Bankole, Radiologic Technology student Jennifer Coley and Respiratory Care student Brock Reames

DeeDra Parrish



get real

By Frank E. Griffis

REAL TRAINING. REAL CAREERS. REAL IMPACT.

Experiential learning at Tarrant County College's new Center for Health Care Professions makes students workforce ready on day one.

Ever wonder why many television shows are centered on hospitals? And what do these shows have in common – other than doctors, nurses and various technicians trying to cure some weird, exotic disease?

One answer is that real-life hospitals on a daily basis roll out fundamental human dramas ranging from birth to death, amazing miracles, occasional blunders, and the full gamut of emotions, from love to hate and everything between.

By extension, TV hospitals help us understand that trained, dedicated medical professionals go beyond job proficiency into the realm of human interaction and all that entails. Given that, the work that colleges do to prepare students for careers at hospitals and clinics cannot be underestimated.

Which is why components of Tarrant County College's new Center for Health Care Professions, such as a simulation hospital, will offer experiential coursework tied to what happens in actual work environments.

Not only will this hospital teach students to think on their feet, it provides them multiple learning situations with varied and complex conditions, exposure to bedside care situations, and increased opportunities for collaborations and internships.

For example, for students working with children for the first time, the simulated hospital uses mannequin infants in scenarios requiring the students to make assessments without risking harm to real patients. The mannequins, both children and adult, can be programmed for many challenging situations or simply to review students on dealing with real patients.

"Workforce-ready on day one of employment," is a phrase that Tahita Fulkerson, president of the Trinity River Campus, often employs to describe the advantages of training health-care professionals at the new center. Although she won't take credit for the phrase, she was instrumental in the vision and ultimate design of the nursing and allied health programs that recently moved to the facility from the South Campus.

Programs that relocated include Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Surgical Technology, Health Information Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Respiratory Care, and Long Term Care Administration. All are fully accredited programs that produce licensed professionals to help meet the health-care needs of Tarrant County. The average licensure pass rate of the programs in the past year was 96 percent, with some programs obtaining a 100 percent pass rate. The success of the programs, in turn, fuels the health-care services industry, one of the fastest-growing segments of the county's economy.

AN ECONOMIC BOOST

The spending associated with this industry creates \$13.6 billion in economic activity in Tarrant County, supporting almost 136,000 total jobs paying in excess of \$6.2 billion in labor income, according to the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Committee. In 2008, the health-care services industry in Tarrant County generated an estimated \$7.2 billion in direct countywide economic activity, supported about 75,000 direct employees, and paid more than \$3.3 billion in salaries, wages and benefits.

Three of the occupations – registered nurses, radiologic technicians, and physical therapy assistants – currently pay annual wages in excess of \$46,000 per year, not including overtime, bonuses or other pecuniary income. Average wages for students receiving Continuing Education Health Certificates range from \$8-\$10 hourly for Certified Nurse's Aide to \$12-\$16 hourly for Long Term Care Activity Director.

As journalist Mitchell Schnurman, writing in the June 18,

"We call it a safety net, but it's really a career pathway, and there are many pathways into the allied health-care professions."

DeeDra Parrish



The spending associated with this industry creates \$13.6 billion in economic activity in Tarrant County.

2011, issue of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, put it: "For young people discouraged by double-digit unemployment and huge student loans, here's an option that sounds too good to be true: a career program that takes 12 months, costs \$4,100, including books, and places 97 percent of its graduates in jobs. And the median pay tops \$40,000 a year."

Schnurman added that community colleges, TCC in particular, are filling the employment gap for the two-thirds of Texas high school graduates who never finish college.

MEETING DEMAND

Currently, the Allied Health programs have an average of 26 students enrolled, and the College plans to increase that number with the opening of the new facilities. Presently, many of the programs have waiting lists of more than 100 students.

The programs are highly competitive: two out of three do not make the cut in many cases. For example, last spring 379 students applied for TCC's Nursing Program, and only 137 gained entry. The statistic is even more astounding for radiologic technology, the most competitive program, which has placed 100 percent of its graduates for the past several years, and which posts a median salary of \$58,190. Last year, 240 students applied for entry into radiologic technology and only 28 were accepted. All graduates have passed the national certification exam.

For students unable to gain entry into the most popular programs, TCC has developed a Pathways Program that permits them to retake certain courses, such as chemistry or microbiology, to raise their grade point average, or to choose less rigorous programs, such as nurse's aide or phlebotomist. Others can opt for part-time jobs at local hospitals.

"It's a paradigm shift, and one of our main goals is to offer alternatives to those who could not get a slot in their preferred program," Fulkerson said. "We call it a safety net, but it's really a career pathway, and there are many pathways into the allied health-care professions."

FUELING THE FUTURE

The relocation of the Allied Health-Care programs also will increase opportunities for new ways of delivering the curricula, she added. Administrators are talking with Fort Worth



Cristina Alvarez and fellow students in the TREC auditorium

Independent School District officials about offering dual credit entry points into the programs, and are developing Programs of Choice by engaging high school students with health-care careers.

To increase access, Fulkerson said, officials are studying alternative scheduling and delivery modes, such as distance learning, hybrid courses, and more weekend courses.

Other goals include modules for bilingual instruction and interpreting for the deaf, medical ethics, and multi-disciplinary trends in health care. Fulkerson said that new Continuing Education programs are being explored, such as medication aide, phlebotomy tech, and pharmacy tech.

If television hospital shows are a matter of art imitating life, then TCC's new facility with its simulated hospital and cutting-edge programs are merging life with art by bringing the fundamentals of human existence – birth and death, mistakes and victories, and the occasional miracle and all of the accompanying emotions – into the classroom.

By creating a learning environment that accurately mirrors real life, TCC's Center for Health Care Professions will produce graduates who are "workforce-ready on day one of employment." **TCC**

Nursing

At a combat hospital in Kuwait, U.S. Army medic Jesse Valentine worked alongside nurses who treated patients with wounds from gunshots and explosive devices suffered in Iraq.



As Valentine grew increasingly impressed with the hard-working nurses, he saw his post-military career path. “The nurses didn’t treat patients from behind a desk,” said Valentine, now 33. “They were always right there at the bedside.” In 2009, just a year after his military service ended, Valentine enrolled in the Nursing Program at Tarrant County College and will graduate this December. Valentine will complete his last semester of nursing classes at the new Trinity River East Campus, Center for Health Care Professions, which will provide more classroom and laboratory space and more advanced technology. TCC will join top nursing schools nationwide that use advanced simulation technology to train and prepare future nurses. Foremost among the new features is a state-

of-the-art simulation center that will give students firsthand experience in working with a variety of patient conditions.

Eight laboratories will be equipped with monitors, IV pumps, beds and other equipment found in real critical care, pediatrics and obstetrics rooms. Life-size, computerized mannequins will simulate symptoms, diseases and conditions that nurses are likely to see in real hospital settings. For example, the maternity room includes a mannequin that delivers a baby. Others will blink, cry and even speak through a microphone operated by instructors.

lives in Arlington. “The instructors really push clinical practice, and I feel prepared for a career in nursing.”

Lynn VanValkenburg of Southlake graduated in May and is working in progressive care at Harris Methodist Downtown in Fort Worth.

For years, VanValkenburg worked in retail management. But the 40-year-old mother of three decided to complete her degree work when her oldest daughter graduated from high school and left for college.

With many responsibilities as a mother, she worried that

“Nursing is such a mobile field, my options are wide open.”

“Our students will get crucial practice in making quick decisions in a safe, controlled and supportive environment,” said DeAnn Mitchell, interim director of nursing. “This is so important in introducing students to the scenarios they will certainly come across in their professional nursing careers.”

In addition, the move from the South Campus to TREC will provide much-needed space to add a second skills lab where students will practice basic procedures like bathing and bandaging patients, inserting catheters and starting intravenous lines.

New space will foster cross-disciplinary collaboration, which will provide a hospital-like environment, said Amy Gee, an assistant professor of nursing. Nursing students will work with students in several programs, including Physical Therapy assistant and Respiratory Care.

Closer proximity to Fort Worth’s hospital district also will benefit students who spend many hours working clinical rotations, Gee said.

Administrators are exploring ways to expand Nursing, which could include more distance education courses or a separate career path for Patient Care technicians.

A much-sought-after program, Nursing attracts 400 to 450 applicants annually. Close to 120 are accepted.

Typically, 92 to 95 percent of students graduate, Mitchell said, and close to 100 percent have jobs within a year after graduation.

After graduation, Valentine hopes to work in progressive or emergency care.

“I feel very ready for work,” said Valentine, who

the demands of attending school would be too much to handle, but she found TCC was flexible.

Initially, VanValkenburg thought she wanted to work in obstetrics or pediatrics, but after taking classes at TCC and learning about different paths, she was attracted to progressive care.

“TCC provided me with a really solid foundation which I’ll be able to build on with experience and more work exposure,” she said. “Nursing is such a mobile field, my options are wide open.” **TCC**



Interim Director of Nursing DeAnn Mitchell (center) and students Ludmila Kosmari (at left) and Tolani Bankole

Glen E. Ellman

Physical Therapy Assistant

By age 9, Cristina Alvarez knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care.



When her father suffered a stroke in 2005, Cristina Alvarez helped him recover and felt drawn to the challenges of physical therapy. Financial and familial responsibilities, however, prevented her from attending physical therapy school, which would have taken several years to compete.

After researching her options, Alvarez, who at 27 is the first in her family to attend college, decided to enroll in Tarrant County College's two-year physical therapy assistant program at Northeast Campus.

"I didn't have the time or resources for physical therapy school, but I still wanted a fulfilling career," said Alvarez, a second-year student from Denton. "Physical therapy assistants are with patients from day one, working through every challenge, and that one-on-one contact appealed to me."

Alvarez and her classmates will now hone their skills at TCC's new Trinity River East Campus (TREC), which will provide more laboratory space and state-of-the-art equipment, including additional treatment mats and tables and a second mechanical spinal traction unit, which reduces a patient's nerve impingement on the spine.

For years, first- and second-year students shared one room for lecture and lab at Northeast. TREC houses separate spaces for first- and second-year students, which will provide more time to practice techniques, said Program Coordinator Jill Pool.

"Practice is so important to us," Pool said. "In this economy, a lot of our students work while attending school, and they had to plan their work schedules around the lab's availability. This will take a lot of stress off of them."

TREC also will make possible the future addition of continuing education courses for physical therapy assistant graduates.

The field of physical therapy assistance is expected to grow 30 percent in the next decade, Pool said, as more aging baby

boomers require physical therapy after knee and hip replacements and other issues.

A physical therapy assistant works under the direction and supervision of a licensed physical therapist, helping to implement a patient's treatment plan, performing routine therapy exercises and observing, recording and reporting the patient's responses. In North Texas, the median salary is \$59,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Competition for entrance will ease slightly with the new facility. Of the 150 to 200 students who apply each year, only 24 are accepted. Next year, that will grow to 32 students. In addition, Pool said, the program is working to add a nights- and weekends-only section aimed at full-time workers.

"Until now," Pool said, "that would have been impossible." For the past five years, she said, 100 percent of students have passed the state's certification exam, some on the second try. Job placement rates are close to 100 percent.

Guillermo Monjaras graduated in May and immediately got a job as a physical therapy assistant at a pediatrics home health agency in Dallas, where he began working several years ago as a case manager assistant. He works with children who have congenital disorders.

Monjaras, 38, had considered nursing but ultimately decided to pursue physical therapy.

"I was interested by the movements of the body and how each muscle works to make the body move," he said. "As a physical therapy assistant, you get to work with the whole body."

After graduation, Alvarez, the second-year student, would like to focus on rehabilitating either the elderly or athletes. Eventually, she hopes to open a physical therapy clinic for low-income Hispanics, who frequently do not get the treatment they need.

"You have the passion, and the professors give you the knowledge and skills," she said. "This is a great place to be molded into a physical therapy assistant." **TCC**



DeeDra Parrish

Long Term Care Administration

After a six-year wait, Alan Roget is months away from realizing his ambition to serve senior citizens as a long term care administrator. It's a career move from the financial world and a step that Roget delayed for his children's sake.

Roget was offered a paid Administrator in Training (AIT) position in 2005 to prepare for what he views as a fulfilling vocation. Long term care administrators, he said, have "a challenging job to manage all aspects of a facility, and it is a wonderful opportunity to assist people who are nearing the end of their lives."

But Roget declined the offer. Acceptance would have meant moving out of state before his children graduated from high school.

By 2009, however, he was clear to apply for admission to Tarrant County College's highly respected and competitive Long Term Care Administration (LTCA) Program – a 27-hour credit certificate program.

That was a delayed process as well. With enrollment consistently at maximum capacity, Roget applied three times before gaining admission to the class that began in January 2010.

Long term care facilities include assisted-living facilities, nursing facilities, long term care transitional settings and continuing-care retirement communities. Licensed administrators bring essential business expertise to their role.

About 50 to 65 students enroll in the LTCA Program each year. Typically, all pass the national and state exams for licensure on the first try. An average of 86 percent are employed within a year of graduation, earning an average of \$82,000 annually in Texas.

Along with classwork, the State of Texas requires 1,000 hours of AIT work in a facility before a student may take state and national exams. Roget is completing his AIT at an Arlington long-term care facility on a volunteer basis and expects to finish by early September this year.

Coordinator Princess Jackson said the LTCA Program is aimed toward business majors who "want to learn more about the elderly in an institutionalized setting" and aspire to specialize in long term care, a field that's focused on "the fastest growing population in the U.S" – people aged 55 and older.



Glen E. Ellman

Roget researched long term care administration programs throughout the state, but TCC's reputation sold him on the Northeast Campus program. Talking with people inside and outside of the long term care industry, "I heard great things about Dr. Jackson and the quality of the program at TCC," he said.

Jackson, who has been with the program since 1988, three years after it began, said the LTCA's transition to Trinity River East Campus, Center for Health Care Professions, in downtown Fort Worth will create many more opportunities for students.

"We will be able to collaborate with other allied health programs, and we will be closer to the medical district," she said, while weekend classes will be more conveniently located. **TCC**

Radiologic Technology

Lee Parry had never given the medical field much thought. That is, until a fateful day in 2007.

The 35-year-old North Richland Hills man spent his days as a freight company driver.

The work was steady, but he occasionally longed for more challenge and personal interaction.

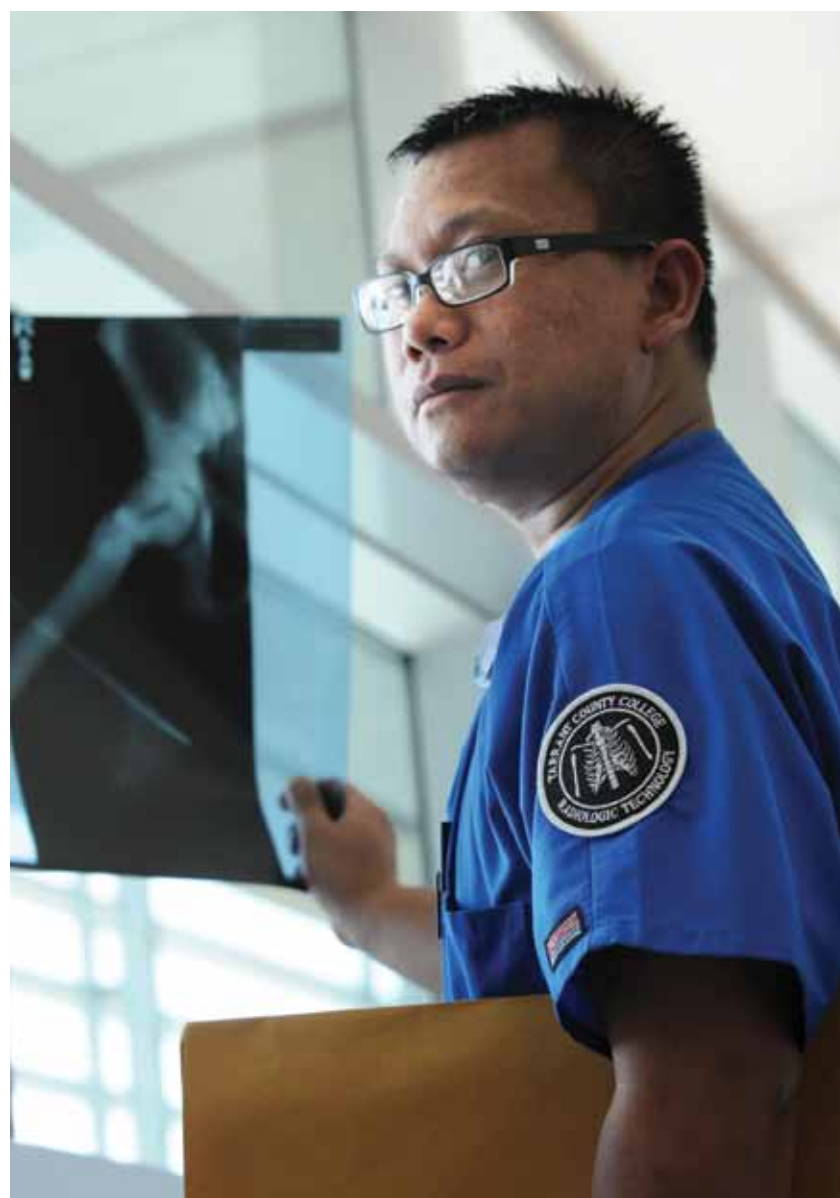
Then in 2007, Parry's 2-year-old daughter fell ill, and the hospital became a second home. Radiologic technicians were among the first professionals who helped the family.

"We were scared, and the radiologists made everything seem OK," Parry said. "They're problem solvers and great caretakers. They have to have a personal touch."

Parry, who had taken college courses off and on for years, decided then he wanted a career in medicine. Now in his second year in Tarrant County College's Radiologic Technology Program, he plans to graduate in May 2012.

Parry and other students will soon benefit from the program's relocation from the Northeast Campus in Hurst to the Trinity River East Campus, Center for Health Care Professions, in downtown Fort Worth.

Laboratory space will double in the new facility from two to four practice rooms. Digital imaging equipment, which does not



DeeDra Parrish

Radiologic Technology student John Paul Moratin

use film and is becoming increasingly common at hospitals and doctors' offices, will replace the older computed-radiography machines. Students will have greater access to Fort Worth's hospital district, where many students spend hundreds of hours getting clinical experience.

"We are always looking for ways we can prepare our students for the changing workforce," said Mark Holt, coordinator for the Radiologic Technology Program. "From

“

Greater collaboration with other specialties will simulate a hospital environment.

”

having more practice space to state-of-the-art equipment, this move will help us give our students the tools and experience they need to succeed."

Radiologic technologists produce X-ray images, which radiologists then interpret and use to make diagnoses. The median salary in North Texas is \$58,190 for this profession. Through 2018, the field is expected to grow 17 percent, according to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

There's heavy competition to enter TCC's Radiologic Technology Program. Of the 240 people who applied in spring 2011, only 28 were accepted. TCC is limited by how many it can accept because each student gets 1,500 hours of clinical experience, and there are not enough hospitals to train more, Holt said.

Each year, the program graduates about 93 percent of students and places 95 to 100 percent in jobs.

Teresa Carrington, 33, experienced that competitive process. She did not get in the first time she applied. But she continued taking college courses, applied again and succeeded.

The Burses mother of two graduated in May and is working at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Fort Worth. Laboratory experience and dedicated professors prepared her for the realities of work in the medical field, she said.

"They really made sure we knew what we were getting into. There were no surprises," Carrington said. "The new cam-



pus will allow the program to expand and emphasize training opportunities that are so important."

In the new facility, Radiologic Technology will likely add a program for graduates in computerized tomography, which is an advanced aspect of radiology that takes multiple images of a body part, Holt said. And in 2012, the program may add ultrasound sonography.

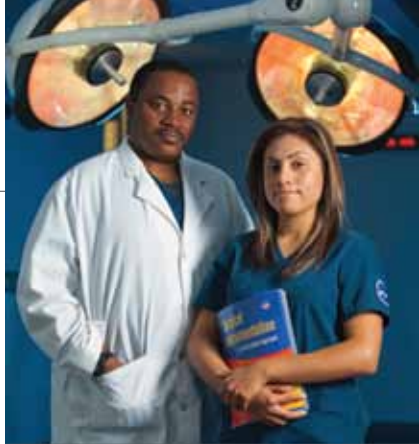
The Center's campus also will enable cross-disciplinary interaction with programs such as Nursing, which will share space, said Gloria Clemons, the Radiologic Technology Program's clinical director.

"Greater collaboration with other specialties will simulate a hospital environment," Clemons said. "Our students will utilize and share resources in a way that will lead to problem solving and teamwork."

Parry, who hopes to work in pediatrics after graduation, said the program has solidified and furthered his interest in radiology.

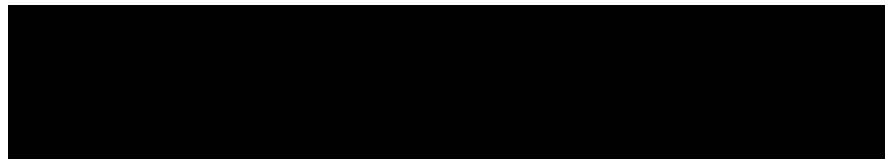
"It took me a long time to know what I wanted to do," he said. "But now I have no regrets. I know this is exactly where I want to be." **TCC**

Surgical Technology



Glen E. Ellman

Surgical Technology students Harold Kiggundu and Angelina Rozo



On the day she learned of the layoff, she also passed her surgical technology certification test and was clear to pursue a new career.

Farmer heard about surgical technology from a friend, a certified surgical technologist. Her friend described setting up instruments and equipment for surgery, passing instruments to the surgeon during the procedure and gathering used instruments for decontamination following the operation.

“What?” Farmer recalls saying to her friend. “I’ve never heard of this job.”

“You always assume a nurse does that. You don’t get any closer to surgery unless you’re a surgeon,” Farmer said. “My mom was a nurse, and I was a candy striper in my teens. This is my chosen path that I didn’t even know about.”

Farmer’s husband works at a local hospital with a TCC surgical tech instructor.

ing in the lab. This will allow us to critique them more easily and show them what they did,” Braziel said.

TCC’s superior training and a growing demand in health professions mean that a high percentage of students find jobs right away. Before Farmer graduated, she was offered a job at Arlington Memorial Hospital where she had completed a clinical rotation. Fellow student Angelina Rozo (see photo above, also other references to her in magazine) had a job waiting for her at Plaza Medical Center as soon as she became certified.

After completion of the short but

“...but I’ve found it’s true that TCC turns out the best students.”

Knowing of his wife’s interest, he inquired about the program.

“Of course, they’re going to toot their own horn, but I’ve found it’s true that TCC turns out the best students,” Farmer said. “They’re well-respected in the medical community, and hospitals look for TCC students before others. And their tuition is far lower than any of the technical schools.”

Indeed, the program is competitive: 120 students applied for 30 slots for the 2010-2011 year. Twenty-three completed the program.

After 40 years at the Northeast Campus, the Surgical Technology Program is moving to the Trinity River East Campus (TREC).

Until now, students have shared a mixed-classroom lab at Northeast Campus. TREC has a dedicated lab for surgical technology on the bottom floor of the east building. The lab boasts eight operating stations, each with an operating table, mannequin, surgical light and operating room equipment.

Don Braziel, a graduate of TCC’s second surgical technology class in 1971, a longtime professor and now its coordinator, anticipates the move with enthusiasm.

“We’ve been in this one classroom for at least 25 years, and it’s getting a little long in the tooth,” Braziel said. “We’ve had to stack tables and chairs to do labs, and now we won’t have to do that anymore.”

The simulation hospital at TREC will allow interface that wasn’t possible when the two programs were at different campuses. Practical work is done in lab and in actual surgeries in Tarrant County hospitals.

“We will also have the capability to (videotape) the students as they are practic-

intense 11-month program and certification, graduates can expect to earn between \$15 and \$18 per hour. Nationally, surgery technicians earn an average \$40,000 a year.

Farmer and her fellow grads say that friendships forged by helping each other through a grueling schedule are almost as valuable as the marketable skill and confidence they gain from the mentorship of dedicated faculty.

“You laugh and you pull your hair out together. We push each other because at moments we each doubted if this was what we really wanted to do.”

Roza and Farmer said they can’t praise TCC’s surgical tech program enough.

“During one of my rotations,” Farmer said, “I called my mother and said, ‘My eyes are watering, I’m so happy to be in surgery – I love it that much.’ It’s an amazing field.” **TCC**

Respiratory Care



Like many students in Tarrant County College’s Respiratory Care Program, Karen Dennis entered after working several years in another career. Unlike many who change careers because of layoffs or job dissatisfaction, however, Dennis’ reasons were close to her heart.

Her father died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in 2004. Her mother died of lung cancer in 2007.

“In caring for them through their illnesses I realized I wanted to do something in the medical field, and respiratory therapy seemed to be a perfect fit,” she said. “TCC is one of the best programs around.”

Halfway through the 21-month program, 47-year-old Dennis, a former business analyst for a steel company, said she’s excited to be starting a new career at this stage of her life.

Holly Baker, another respiratory care student, began attending TCC in 2008, taking prerequisites for the Nursing Program. On the recommendation of a classmate who worked with respiratory therapists, Baker investigated the profession and was so impressed by what she saw that she applied to the program.

“I am currently in my second year and I absolutely love it,” she said. “I have gained so much confidence from the situations, the learning processes, the friendships, and just being a part of the program.”

For nearly 40 years, TCC has trained respiratory therapists and provided the local medical community with accredited, well-qualified specialists. This fall, the program will move to the Trinity River East Campus, where the program will have three times the space it has had at Northeast Campus.

A full floor will be dedicated to respiratory care training, including two classrooms, a large lab, lecture hall and storeroom.

John Hiser, TCC’s Respiratory Care Program coordinator, who has taught at TCC since 1977, is enthusiastic about the new space. “The facilities are just fantastic,” he said. “We’re hoping to do a lot of collaboration with other Allied Health programs and Nursing, so we’ll have opportunities to team-teach, and we’ll share the simulation hospital.”

The simulation hospital gives students hospital experience in a controlled laboratory setting. Throughout the five semesters, students spend three days in class and two days – beginning at 6:30 a.m. – in practicum at local hospitals.

Respiratory Care is a competitive, selective-admission degree program. Of more than 100 applicants annually, 26 to 30 are admitted – a number that fills community need without saturating the job market, Hiser said.

Most respiratory therapists start out working in hospitals, but they find employment in diverse settings, from ventilator equipment companies, sleep laboratories and long-term nursing centers to emergency transport services and pulmonary rehab centers.

Baker said she is most interested in hospital critical care, but she would also enjoy a floor therapy job at a children’s hospital. Dennis

said clinical rotations are helping her figure out her area of interest.

The Respiratory Care Program culminates in an associate degree, and students can begin practicing immediately after completing the program. According to the American Academy for Respiratory Care, the starting yearly salary in North Texas is about \$42,000. As therapists acquire more credentials, pay increases to an average salary of around \$62,000.

“We encourage our students to go on and get a bachelor’s degree,” Hiser said. “There are four bachelor’s programs (in respiratory care) in Texas, and we have articulation agreements with all of them.”

Until the economic downturn two years ago Hiser could boast that he never had a graduate who couldn’t find a job right out of school.

“Still, we have about 99 percent placement,” he said. “If you compare this profession to others, it’s still one of the fastest-growing ones in the nation.” **TCC**



DeeDra Parrish

Unconventional Instruction

→ The Center for Health Care Professions brings a wealth of new opportunities to downtown Fort Worth. But the most innovative connections with the community stem from TCC's partnerships with local schools and institutions – joint ventures designed to create opportunities for students and make education accessible to as many people as possible. The Allied Health programs have forged important connections to the larger community – from dual-credit courses in the high schools to nursing partnerships with local hospitals. Here's a look at some of them.

NURSING AT JPS

→ The mutually beneficial partnership between TCC's Nursing Program and Fort Worth's John Peter Smith hospital system helps its nursing grads reach their full potential. "There is a push nationally for hospitals to acquire what's known as magnet status," Cameron said. To achieve that status, hospitals want their registered nurses to achieve the top degree in their field, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, from a four-year institution. To encourage that at JPS, TCC has partnered with the hospital and with local universities. "Once (Nursing grads) are hired [at JPS]," Cameron said, "they become eligible for admission into four-year institutions that already have contracts with JPS. They can work while concurrently pursuing their advanced degrees." The University of Texas at Arlington, for example, admits these TCC alums to its BSN program. Cameron calls the plan a "winning scenario" for everyone involved. Many TCC nursing grads going on to earn four-year degrees. In turn, JPS gets the prestige of having more RNs on staff who pursue a bachelor's degree. And the four-year institutions benefit, Cameron said, because "they get great students –our graduates."

CAREER PATHWAYS

→ TCC now offers Continuing Education (CE) courses in health-care fields with plans to increase the offerings in the near future. That's good news for students, because a new program called Pathways will use those CE courses to help more students enroll and succeed. Many of TCC's health-care programs have far more applicants than can be accepted. For students who don't make that initial cut, Pathways offers the option to enroll in courses that will help them prepare a bit more, then reapply. Said Cameron, "We hope to redirect students who apply to our (health-care) programs and are unsuccessful toward our CE programs." It keeps them in school, working on their education, and it will prepare them for another shot at admission. How does it work? If, for instance, students apply to the Nursing Program and aren't quite qualified for admission, TCC will suggest they enroll in Certified Nursing Assistant training. "If they are able to do that successfully, we view that student as being better prepared for our (Nursing) program," Cameron says. "They've been able to master some of the same competencies." At that point, students can opt to reapply for the Nursing Program or use their training to go straight to work. Either way, they have a better chance of success.

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

→ Next summer, TCC hopes to offer a summer program for middle-school students. They'll be able to visit the Trinity River East Campus, Center for Health Care Professions, explore its simulated hospital, and use some of the equipment, said Robert Muñoz, vice president for Continuing Education Services. "Now that we're going to be in a more central location," he said, TCC can host sessions that "introduce (middle-schoolers) to all the programs we have and get them involved in some cool projects." At that age, Muñoz said, students think entering the medical field means a career as a physician or nurse. A summer program could help them understand how many options they have – and it might encourage them to pursue a medical career while in high school by enrolling in one of TCC's dual-credit programs. They'll have spent time on campus and can picture themselves there, Muñoz said, seeing TCC as a place where even middle-schoolers can start a medical career. "We want to make those connections early," he said, "and build their confidence, letting them know this is doable. We want to eliminate the feeling of the unknown."

DUAL-CREDIT PROGRAMS

→ TCC partners with high schools in the Fort Worth Independent School District to give students a chance to get a jump on their careers in the health professions. Students explore medical professions at North Side High, nursing at O.D. Wyatt High and health-science technology at Carter-Riverside and Trimble Tech high schools. Students interested in medical careers can earn dual credit from TCC for some of their high school courses, which gives them a head start on a career in college and beyond. "We are interested in developing the best type of graduate we can," says Joseph Cameron, divisional dean of Health Professions. And to develop those quality graduates, it's in TCC's best interest to reach into the community and those students before they get to college. "We can begin to educate students who are interested in health care long before they make applications to TCC," Cameron said, ensuring that those students are better prepared to succeed. Eventually, Cameron said, TCC hopes to make room for those high school students to take courses on campus. It will take some planning, he said, because TCC can't simply mix high school students into its college courses, but the school's Continuing Education Program may expand to accommodate dual-credit students.

"I'M AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM VIETNAM. I WAS INSPIRED (BY MY FAMILY) TO LEARN ABOUT DISEASES AND HOW TO GET HEALTHY."



Hien Le, Respiratory Care Program

"TCC has great instructors who are willing to help, and they know what they are doing. If you have a question they have an answer."



John Paul Moratin
Radiologic Technology Program

"I was out of school for six years until I realized I wanted to go back. I've heard that TCC is a better program, and employers are more likely to hire TCC graduates."



Brock Reames
Respiratory Care Program

"I THANK GOD FOR THESE CLASSES BECAUSE THEY HAVE REALLY HELPED ME. THE INSTRUCTORS ARE AWESOME."



Tolani Bankole
Nursing Program

"The program is personalized one-on-one, and the instructors simplify things to make it easy to learn. It makes me love the field, and I feel like the sky is the limit."



Angelina Roza
Surgical Technology Program

Alumni

Graduate Thanks TCC for Nursing Her Education

Helen Hernandez tried her hand at many jobs, but she couldn't find one she liked enough to make a career.

By Pamela Smith

Hernandez had worked in a factory in Illinois making computer monitors and printed circuit boards, but she was excited about moving to Texas with its warmer weather and opportunities for pursuing a tech job in electronics. "I liked working in the tech field," Hernandez said, "but in the mid '80s the tech jobs were starting to dry up, and I decided it was time to make a career change."



Glen E. Ellman

Helen Hernandez at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital

EDUCATION IN NEED OF CRITICAL CARE

Hernandez decided that taking classes at Tarrant County College was the best option for going back to the classroom. She needed a fresh start and a chance to build her confidence. "I had to take everything all over again!"

"At TCC, everyone goes out of their way to be sure you have what you need whether finding your way around campus or in life."

Hernandez recalls. "And I couldn't have done it without TCC. Going to a university was out of the question; I had no money. And since I had a bad experience in Illinois at school, I knew I needed an environment where I could get more personal attention and help with my academic life."

It turned out that Hernandez had a passion for science, and going to TCC was the booster shot she needed to jumpstart a lifelong career in nursing.

"I learned how to learn, how to

study and make good choices for myself," Hernandez said. "You know I think TCC helped me to grow and grow up in a lot of ways. I had a great group of instructors and staff. And I think it says a lot that I continue to take classes there for FUN!"

DEGREE/CAREER INFECTIOUS AMONG SISTERS

When Hernandez graduated from TCC with an Associate Degree in Nursing in 1994, she had no idea that her sister would soon follow her footsteps. With nursing degree in hand, Hernandez was focused on her job in the health-care field.

But when her older sister, Kathy Wynn, decided to make a career change too, it was Hernandez' job satisfaction that inspired Wynn to switch from business to nursing. Wynn graduated from TCC two years after Hernandez with her Associate of Arts Degree in Nursing. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Alumni

Hernandez and Wynn then earned their bachelor's degrees together in nursing from The University of Texas at Arlington. Now a registered nurse, Hernandez works at Texas Health Arlington Memorial Hospital as a supervisor in the medical surgical unit. Wynn earned a master's in nursing administration from UTA and is director of Public Health Nursing for the Indian Health Service in Arizona. Wynn went on to receive the 2011 IHS National Nursing Leadership Council Award for Public Health Nursing.

CAREER RECOVERY

Hernandez enjoys her job as a registered nurse and supervisor, taking satisfaction that she is in a profession that allows her to truly help people. "Every day you are going to do the best that you can for others, and that's a great feeling," she said.

At the same time, Hernandez believes that nursing is challenging in many ways. "Our job has become incredibly high tech," she said. Another challenge, Hernandez noted, is that "when you are in school you have to learn a lot of material, but when you get out...you have to find a specialty and focus on staying current in your job. I often tell new students that the nursing part isn't really that hard, but rather the challenge is providing the particular care that the family needs to get well."

TCC THERAPY

Hernandez reminisces about her time in college. "TCC gave me an excellent foundation for my career overall," she said. She describes the College as friendly and a place for growth and opportunity. "At TCC everyone goes out of their way to be sure you have what you need whether finding your way around campus or in life."

Wynn agrees and added that "TCC was excellent training for becoming a nurse. I have not seen anything better."

As Hernandez celebrates her 19th year at Texas Health Arlington Memorial, she marvels at finally having a career. "When I was in school, I just wanted to get my foot in the door," she said. "I just wanted to get a good job and start making some money. I never thought I would be at my job for 19 years. It's been a really good fit for me."

Hernandez encourages other nursing students to "really take advantage of every experience that you can while you are at school," she said. "Students get tired like everyone else, but those who show the initiative... are the people who are going to get the most out of it. Take advantage of the experiences, because you don't know where you might end up. You might think you are going into pediatrics and then end up working with the elderly. Be open to anything. I'd rather try it and say it didn't work, than not try at all." **TCC**

BY THE NUMBERS

SINCE 2000 TCC HAS PRODUCED NEARLY 3,000 GRADUATES IN THE HEALTH-CARE FIELD.

DEGREES OR CERTIFICATES, 2000-2011

GRADUATES	PROGRAM
178	HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
1,831	NURSING
173	PHYSICAL THERAPIST A
314	RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY
234	ESPIRATORY CARE
208	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY
2,938	TOTAL

Alumni

Family and Friends Night at the Ballpark

Tarrant County College's Alumni Association held its inaugural Family and Friends Night during the first Texas Rangers Silver Boot Series game June 20. Sitting in a section together, the nearly 250 alumni had the opportunity to meet with each other and with faculty and staff while door prizes were given out. Prizes included Casa Mañana tickets, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History tickets, wine-tasting gift certificates for up to 10 people, and restaurant gift cards.



(from left) Andrew, Lacreacia, Mikey and Michael Sanders



Kristin (left) and Kathy Chandler

ALUMNI GIVE BACK

For the first time, TCC alumni were given the opportunity to volunteer and give back to the College through service on scholarship selection committees. TCC alumni were quick to respond to the need this summer and filled 30 of the 50 available committee member spots.

The five selection committees reviewed more than 700 scholarship applications. The categories include Arts, Music, Education and Horticulture; Aviation, Technology and Public Service; General; Nursing and Allied Health; and Business and Hospitality.

Alumni and Scholarship Specialist Andrea Craig said the committees are a great way for alumni to stay involved with the campuses and their students.

"We want the community to know how much the alumni care and are giving back to TCC," said Craig, "and we want people who may not have been aware of the committees to know how to get involved."

"I love TCC, and know how important the scholarships are, since without them, there would be many students who would not be able to further their education," said alumni Aleshea Nobles.

COMING THIS FALL

TCC ALUMNI, WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS ON UPCOMING FALL OUTINGS AND NETWORKING EVENTS AT:

WWW.TCCD.EDU/ALUMNI

TCCD Facilities

Opening the Doors to Experiential Learning

The Center for Health Care Professions provides the ultimate backdrop for experiential learning, engagement and innovation.



STATE OF THE ART CLASSROOMS AND TRAINING CENTER



The Center's instructional environments range from state-of-the-art classrooms to a unique training center and an auditorium. The variations in space allow for professors to teach students in an area that is best designed for their particular use, maximizing space and academic impact. Specialized spaces also enhance opportunities for Distance Learning.

NATURAL DAYLIGHTING

It's proven that natural daylighting increases and enhances the educational environment, even contributing to achievement rates, general development and overall student health.

The Center is designed with panoramic views and natural daylighting. Many of the classrooms have a sense of the outdoor environment to create the most effective, productive learning spaces.



OPEN SPACE CONCEPT

The open space concept, featuring expansive, airy spaces, encourages flexibility and expression. Learning is not limited to the classroom, as the environment encourages interaction on many levels and optimal student engagement.

Outdoor learning areas also add a venue for students to study and socialize and for professors to hold classes.



SIMULATED HOSPITAL



The new skills and LIVE simulation hospital labs replicate actual hospital rooms and enable hands-on student training. This allows the students to work in classes that recreate hospital healthcare scenarios. Simulation mannequins are also used to create the best real-world experience working with patients while in a safe environment.

Bringing Ideas to the Table

More than 40 local corporate chief executive officers and representatives joined together at the invitation of Matt Rose, chairman and president of BNSF Railways, for the TCC Foundation's CEO Roundtable event May 2 on Trinity River Campus.

DeeDra Parrish



From left to right, Ben Muro and Jeff Fegan with Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley

community and corporate services, insight was given on HR issues and possible future challenges of North Texas. Attendees were asked for input through the following questions: What do you think we are doing well? What do you think we can do better? What do you feel are some of the top impending workforce needs for the Tarrant County area that we as a community will need to address in the next five years?

“ It is important for the College District to be in continuous contact with business and industry leaders in our area... ”

TCC Foundation Executive Director Joe McIntosh said he intends for the group to convene again in the future.

“We want to build strong relationships with area corporations so that TCC can remain responsive to expressed needs, and the regional workforce can remain strong,” said McIntosh.

Among the Roundtable attendees were Larry Anfin, president, Coors Distributing Company of Fort Worth; Natasha Augustine, human resources director, the Omni Hotel; Mike Berry, president, Hillwood; Jeffrey Fegan, CEO, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; and Gary C. Wortel, president and publisher, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. **TCC**

Rose, a recent appointee to President Barack Obama's Presidential Advisory Council, spoke of his new position, the council and involvement with TCC. Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and Rose welcomed guests, expressing their enthusiasm for the first-time opportunity to exchange information. Hadley discussed TCC's important role in Tarrant County and cited examples of the many services the College's Corporate Services can offer corporations. “It is important for the College District to be in continuous contact with business and industry leaders in our area. We want to be a source of service and support for them so that the workforce is at its very best,” said Hadley. “The CEO Roundtable is one means of communication we have developed to ensure that strong partnerships are established and maintained.”

In addition to sharing information on TCC's economic contributions to the

Bolen Math Competition Yields Top Scholarships for Students

Tarrant County College students received more than \$100,000 in scholarships to local four-year universities and nearly \$4,000 in cash prizes during the 23rd Annual TCC Jim Bolen Math Competition.

Top-achieving students from each campus, including 10 scholarship recipients, were honored at the spring awards event hosted by the Tarrant County College Foundation. The ceremony featured keynote speaker Vallean Wilkie Jr., executive vice president of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation.

The TCC District team tied for 1st place in Texas with Austin Community College, placed 1st in the four-state Southwest Region comprised of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, and 21st out of 186 participating colleges nationwide.

Named after former Northeast Campus Math Department Chair Jim Bolen, the national competition consists of approximately 8,000 community college math students who compete in two rounds of comprehensive testing in trigo-



al Wilkie, Ginny Tighe, Hon. Bob Bolen and Shalyn Clark

nometry, geometry, analytical geometry and college-level algebra. The test is sponsored by the American Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC).

This year, three new universities added support – partners are Dallas Baptist University, Texas Wesleyan University and Texas Woman's University. **TCC**

TOP DISTRICT WINNERS

Nghi Bui, Nguyen Cao, Reinaldo Carrillo, Joshua Dombrowsky, Damien Hagedorn, Maryam Moradi, Thinh Nguyen, Bipul Pandey, Jeremy Smeltz and Linh Vu

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

TCU

Trang Le
Hieu Nguyen
Truc Nguyen
Jeremy Smeltz
Quan Nguyen

UTA

Joshua Dombrowsky
Jeremy Smeltz
Linh Vu
Nghi Bui
Reinaldo Carrillo

1ST-PLACE WINNERS FROM EACH CAMPUS

NORTHEAST

Bipul Pandey and Jonathon Patterson

NORTHWEST

Thippaghone Chanthavong and Juan Figueroa

SOUTH

Indra Adhikari and Sehoon Kim

SOUTHEAST

Joshua Dombrowsky

TRINITY RIVER

Damien Hagedorn and Reinaldo Carrillo

DeeDra Parrish

Grants Foster Opportunity for Academic Advancements

This year, the Tarrant County College Foundation received \$80,000 in grants to enhance educational opportunities for TCC students. The grants were donated on behalf of the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, the Leo Potishman Foundation and the C.B. Baird Jr. Foundation.

C.B. BAIRD JR. FOUNDATION

\$5,000 for the purchase of 50 graphing calculators for the Marine Creek Collegiate High School, TCC's Early College High School at Northwest Campus.

The Early College High School (ECHS) is an innovative program that creates a high school on or near a college campus and provides students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours.

Unlike advanced placement (AP) or dual-credit programs, which give high school students who are likely to attend college the opportunity to earn college hours, ECHS offers an incentive to stay in school and continue their education.

Of the more than 250 Early College High Schools nationally, approximately 50 are in Texas. Marine Creek Collegiate High School is the first ECHS in Tarrant County and is serving about 35 ninth-grade students from the Lake Worth Independent School District in its first year. During the 2011-2012 academic school year, that first group of students will move on to the 10th grade and the program will add 50-55 new ninth-graders from Lake Worth ISD and another 50-55 from Fort Worth ISD. New students will be added at the ninth-grade level each year thereafter from both ISDs.

SID W. RICHARDSON FOUNDATION

\$50,000 for the third year of funding for TCC's Academy of Mathematics and Engineering (AME).

The college preparatory program targets underrepresented student populations for participation in leading academic fields of mathematics and engineering. The principal focus of AME is to increase the number of students who are technologically knowledgeable and highly trained to step into the workforce and/or transfer to four-year schools. Recruitment, education and training begin with students in the seventh grade and continue to students in their sophomore year of college.

The two main parts of AME are a pre-college preparatory summer program for middle and high school students and a college career program for high school upperclassmen and college freshmen and sophomores majoring in mathematics or engineering. AME activities are held on South and Southeast campuses. Last year, 244 students were enrolled in the pre-college program, and 630 were involved in the college career program.

The Sid W. Richardson Foundation initially donated \$100,000 in 2008 to support the first years of AME operation. Due to the program's success, additional funds have been contributed.

"This is a very important program," said Val Wilkie Jr., Foundation executive vice president, "and we are pleased to be able to participate once again."

LEO POTISHMAN FOUNDATION

\$25,000 grant to the TCC Foundation to support scholarships for Nursing and Allied Health Professions students.

The grant provides 12 scholarships of \$525 a semester for up to four consecutive semesters for qualifying students.

TCC Foundation Executive Director Joe McIntosh is thankful

for the support. "This grant is a testament to the tremendous support of Tarrant County College and TCC Foundation provided by JPMorgan Chase," said McIntosh. "It addresses the need to provide critical financial assistance to those who are pursuing TCC's rigorous health-care courses of study – those who will serve as our future health-care professionals."

SUPPORTING THE HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONS

For many aspiring health-care professionals, access to higher education is made possible by a number of scholarships at Tarrant County College.

Dr. May Owen established the first health-care scholarship for nursing students in 1984. Since then, support has continued to grow through the years, and now amounts to \$37,500 in awards to these students each year.

DORIS BELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS EACH YEAR | Established in **2008**

Established by gifts from family members and friends in memory of Doris Bell, wife of longtime TCC Board of Trustees President Dr. J. Ardis Bell.

SHARON HOLLAND BURNS MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **2011**

"We chose to create a scholarship in my mom's memory through the TCC Foundation because the Nursing Program at TCC is both cost- and time-efficient, allowing students to be able to begin earning a living in nursing quickly without being burdened by debt. That is exactly the type of program my mom needed when she became a nurse three decades ago as a single mom."

Monica Rachel, daughter of the late Sharon Holland Burns

DWAIN H. HUGHES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

5 NURSING STUDENTS EACH YEAR | Established in **2001**

NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP

12 NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS EACH YEAR | Established in **2011**

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **2005**

Established by distinguished Dr. May Owen, a former Tarrant County College trustee, known for her kind spirit and accomplishments as the first female doctor in Tarrant County. A generous \$100,000 was donated in 1984 to begin the scholarship.

MAY OWEN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **1984**

JEAN PRYOR SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **1993**

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

1 RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **2009**

JACQUELYN KAY ROWE MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

3 NURSING STUDENTS EACH YEAR | Established in **2004**

TCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR NURSING STUDENTS

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **2010**

TEXAS HEALTH RESOURCES SCHOLARSHIP

6 NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS EACH YEAR | Established in **2001**

ANNA MILLER SAINT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

1 NURSING STUDENT EACH YEAR | Established in **2000**

FORE!

If you enjoy golf and would like to support TCC students, mark your calendar for the upcoming fall area event. The golf tournament benefit scholarships for Tarrant County College.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011
IRON HORSE GOLF COURSE**

- Professional Aviation Maintenance Association Golf Tournament
- 7 a.m. registration
8 a.m. start



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JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2010

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