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An Achieving the Dream[®] Institution
Community Colleges Count

**CONNECTING BEYOND
THE CLASSROOM**

FROM THE DESK OF



Erma Johnson Hadley
Chancellor

For most people, the concept of a community college brings to mind technical training and two-year degrees. But take a walk through any of our five campuses, and you'll quickly see that there is much more to this community college experience than what happens in the classroom.

At Tarrant County College, our student activities and bustling campus life match the quality of our instructional experience. Yes, our students—many of whom work full time—are busy, but they also find time to contribute on a larger scale, and my recent series of campus visits provide a testament to that.

Due to the determined efforts of our faculty and staff, the outlets for student participation are continuously growing and encompass much of what may be found at a four-year institution. As you'll see in this issue, extracurricular opportunities range from student organizations to leadership summits, intramural sports and even studying abroad.

We often hear of the healthy work-life balance, and the concept is no different for our students. Such balance provides true fuel toward our goal of student success and directly correlates to higher retention and graduation rates.

But in addition to the numbers, what's most noteworthy to me is that students at Tarrant County College have an opportunity to make a meaningful impact and let their voices be heard. And that's what becoming a leader is all about.

Want to keep up on the latest with TCC?
Stay connected through social media.



Are you a TCC graduate?

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

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Features



Briefs



Alumni



Foundation

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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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 and 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, veteran status or disability.

From the Editor



Cacy Barnard
Projection Editor

At Tarrant County College, all we do, whether directly or indirectly, is done with students in mind. For me, this issue of *Projection* is a perfect reminder of that, and as you read, I hope you'll agree.

Throughout the development of this magazine, I took great pleasure in talking with several students one-on-one. This interaction not only confirmed many of the qualities we already know about our students, but helped us to discover much more about what makes them tick.

I could go on about the stories behind each student, but will let you read for yourself in the pages ahead. Briefly, I learned that these individuals are more than students who come to campus, go to class and leave. They care about much more than just themselves, their next test or their grades. They contribute to the campus community, and the future of our society as a whole. And most important, they

are passionate, and eager to share their talents in ways that contribute to the greater good.

When we started this issue, we did so intending to reveal the ins and outs of how leaders are developed at TCC. While we often see the need to inspire students throughout their college experience, the reality is that, through this same process, we are equally inspired by students. Their zest for life is something from which we can all learn.

As you'll see, many of the personal touches and the profound sense of community that we speak of is owed to the campus' Student Activities teams—folks who work tirelessly to plan and take part in seminars, events and trips that connect all of the dots and complete the TCC experience.

So next time someone asks what student life is like at TCC, remember how much there is to offer, and just ask the students. You'll see, they say it best.

STUDENT LIFE PAVES WAY to Grow, Gain, Give

The measure of education is defined by more than a grade for Tarrant County College students who seek involvement beyond the scope of the classroom.

When classes are done, the learning continues as TCC students choose from a wealth of opportunities to complement the academic experience, thus maximizing their educational development.

Student Activities offices on all five campuses facilitate extracurricular avenues for students to find a match for individual interests. Once involved, students often discover their niche within the TCC community, and soon find that classes are only a portion of their time spent on campus.

Outside of organized groups, students, as well as faculty, allot additional time to interact with other members of the campus community. Peer tutoring and designated programs to foster faculty/staff interaction are just two examples.

Extending to the greater Tarrant County community, service learning and volunteerism are increasingly embedded in TCC's campus life and academic curriculum. The efforts impact the external community on multiple levels, opening doors for collaboration and giving back to organizations ranging from local food banks to children's centers.

The partnerships not only deliver tangible benefits for both parties, but also create a true experiential learning environment that bridges the activities to what's taught in the classroom.

Such deliberate dedication of resources ties to the College's institutional direction mapped by the Vision 2015 Strategic Plan. Primarily, it enriches student learning and success, but it also contributes to increased diversity and accessibility.

Beyond success at TCC, students also realize well-rounded involvement provides lasting benefits as they seek to enter the workforce.

"Personal involvement in student organizations and campus life is not only considered experience, but it is also a character-building opportunity."

-Southeast Campus Career Planning Specialist Darrell Whitsell



Student leaders gathered for a spring retreat at Possum Kingdom.



Student Chiayrsh Ford takes part in a team-building activity.



Katherine Spurlock participates in the Cowtown Brush-up.



Trinity River Campus students Marcus Price and Marceisha Howard



Students Melissa Porter, left, and Zulma Deterding, right, at the District Leadership Retreat

Trinity River Campus
Bible Thumpers
Gamers United
The Greener Club
Trinity River Dance Club
Trinity River Socratic Club

Northeast Campus
Alpha Beta Gamma - Radiography Program
Astronomy Club
Baptist Student Ministry
Broadcasting Association
Speech and Debate Club

Southeast Campus
African Culture Club
Gay-Straight Alliance
International Student Organization
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)
Women & Men of Science

Northwest Campus
Business Professionals of America
Criminal Justice Club
International Students Club
Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)
TCC Chess Club

South Campus
Latin American Student Organization (LASO)
Phi Theta Kappa
Robotics Club
Veteran's Club
Women in New Roles

Features

MORE THAN 250 WAYS TO get involved, and counting

When high school students start weeding out their college choices, one of their primary considerations is, "What is there to do on campus?" With more than 200 clubs and organizations available on Tarrant County College's five campuses – ranging from the heavyweight ruminations of the Socratic Society to the light-hearted musings of the Anime Club, our response would be, "Lots!"

continued

Student organizations provide something for everyone

by Rita L.B. Parson and Cacy Barnard

Not only are clubs and organizations providing our students with something to do between classes, they are the cord that keeps many of them connected as they achieve their educational goals.

“Once I learned about the (dance) club, it made me want to stay with TCC,” said Northwest Dance President Michelle Becerra. Hers is a common sentiment.

“International Public Affairs Club was one of the factors in my deciding to stay at TCC,” said Amanda Mitchell, parliamentarian for IPAC on the South Campus. “I was supposed to transfer to a university last semester.”

And, Caroline Kumwenda, president of Southeast Campus’ Invisible Children organization that raises money to help Ugandan children, said her involvement has helped her remain focused on her goal to be a doctor.

Experiences of TCC students support research that touts the important role that involvement plays in student retention and success.

Studies conducted by author and long-time higher education researcher Vincent Tinto show that social connections outside the classroom and the feeling of “fit” and integration within an institution are critical components of student retention.

Another researcher who addresses the positive impact of participation in extracurricular activities is Alexander Astin. In his *Theory of Involvement* developed in 1985, he identified student involvement as “a cornerstone of retention and student success,” further stating that “the more students are involved on campus, both academically and socially, the more likely they are to succeed in college.”

Groups Range in Focus

Organizations that are offered on TCC campuses allow students to express a variety of their interests whether academic, cultural, career or personal.

Distinctly Diverse

Every campus has organizations that promote understanding and support for general diversity and for specific ethnic populations in the TCC student body. The African-American Student Organization and the Latin American Student Organization are two that spearhead events on South Campus.

In February, AASO joined forces with the Texas Association of Black Professionals in Higher Education to sponsor an African-



Students Gloria Zabala and Carolina Herrera attend a TACHE conference in Austin.

American Health Forum. It also encouraged four of its members – Jennifer Abram, Aaron Easter, Tamarah Epps and Randal McCray – to present professional papers earlier this year at TABPHE’s annual conference in Austin.

On Northwest Campus, the International Students Club and Texas Association of Mexican-American College Students provide cultural outlets. TAMACS provides a method for students to address issues facing Mexican-American students, including recruitment and retention. It also promotes professional development and encouraged three members to attend the state conference of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education this year.

Political organizations on the TCC campuses include Student Political Awareness Club on Northeast, College Republicans on Northwest and Southeast, and TCC College Democrats on Northwest and College Democrats on Southeast.

South Campus recently revived its Student Government Association after several dormant semesters.

“In November, we held an election of officers and the student involvement in the election was phenomenal,” said club



Student Phillip Kreis participates in the Northeast Campus' Guitar Festival.

sponsor Martha Musgrove, an associate government professor. “A student government association should be the heartbeat of every college campus. We are devoted to ensuring that our heartbeat remains strong.”

Further allowing students to join through common backgrounds are religious organizations that provide students with opportunities to express their spirituality. Options range from Baptist and Christian Student Ministries to the Muslim Student Organization.

Especially Expressive

While some students connect through shared backgrounds, others connect through common expression. Northwest’s Anime Club works to introduce and gain knowledge about Asian culture and art through discussion, visual references and personal experience. Assistant Computer Science Professor John Kidd was recruited as sponsor after “word got out that he liked and watched anime.” The fundraising challenge that organizations share in trying to finance their activities is keenly felt by Anime. “These are highly creative students, and expressing that creativity without funds is very challenging,” Kidd said.

Students find that their creativity can also be taken outside their small groups

to the stage.

“As a group, we can work together to make our community a better place, while at the same time enjoying others’ perspectives within my degree plan,” said Marita Gardner, a member of the Dance Club on Northeast Campus. “The motivation I feel when interacting with others who have similar goals gives me that extra boost to keep pushing forward, even on days when I feel I’ve had enough.”

Her experience has been so positive that after she concludes her studies at TCC Gardner plans to remain active in organizations that promote professional dance while providing opportunities to give back to the community.

Fellow Northeast Dance Club member Jeremy Spradling credits participation in their club for providing several boosts. “I have learned better performance skills, technique and community outreach.”

As much as he values his development in those areas, Spradling added, “most important, I have learned about myself. It gives me focus, organization, confidence, patience, a stronger drive and even more integrity.”

Benefits also have resulted in overcoming anxieties for some. “I personally have a hard time public speaking, and as the president I have to speak with my peers a lot. This has helped me keep this fear to

a minimal roar,” said Becerra, the Northwest Dance Club president.

Career Concentrated

More than 20 TCC student organizations are related to career interests, ambitions and choices. They range from clubs for future broadcast and print journalists on the NE Campus to a criminal justice and a future business professions club on NW to a nursing student organization on South to a future science and medical professionals’ club and a future construction management club on SE.

Organizations focusing on careers include the Astronomy Club, Business Professionals of America, Computer Science Society, Psychology Club and Women and Men in Science.

continued

FOCUS ON Intramurals

For students with a competitive edge, intramural sports provide a way to participate in organized recreational competition.

Sports and activities include:

- flag football
- basketball
- soccer
- volleyball
- softball
- racquetball
- table tennis
- dodgeball

Intramurals are open to all students, faculty and staff and supervised by staff on each campus.

Team sports and games are officiated by certified officials.

More than 1,000 TCC students participate each year during the fall and spring semesters.

Features

Michelle Brown, president of the Culinary/Hospitality Student Organization on SE, said participating in her career-based organization has helped her improve her ability to work with others. "I have learned that things do not always go the way you want them, but if you have flour, eggs and butter, you have a cake."

Precisely Personal

The Walk for the Cure on NW is an example of an activity that links students through common a larger personal interest. A core group of six women started meeting this spring and organized a team of 13 to participate in the April 9 Komen Greater Fort Worth Race for the Cure. The "Pretty in Pink" team plans to take the summer off and hit the ground running next fall to increase its membership.

Student organizations provide opportunities for faculty and students to build valuable relationships beyond the confines of classroom walls.

"I thought that there ought to be more educational opportunities centered around student-faculty interaction outside of the classroom and that bringing people together based on a common love of film would be a great way to do it," said Film Club sponsor Jeremy Byrd, a philosophy professor on South.

Other groups provide students an opportunity to share their views and spread understanding. "What I learned is, if you speak up, people will listen," said Oscar

Avila, president and founder of Trinity River Education Equality. "I realized that there are people out there who are willing to listen, help and try to understand what our community is about."

Jonathan Williamson is a student Avila encouraged to join him in taking classes in downtown Fort Worth where he said that TREE offers a safe environment for LGBTQA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, and allies) students to address their concerns. "It's something exciting to sit with peers who are going through the same college experience you are. Being in an organization like this helps me interact with different age groups who are attending the same school focused on the same purpose."

Learning Life Lessons

Students often attracted to clubs for one reason discover they receive other benefits as well. "(I thought it) could help me grasp politics, government and...issues that are happening right now around the world, not just in the U.S.," said South International Public Affairs Club parliamentarian Amanda Mitchell. "My research skills have also developed greatly due to our participation with Model United Nations and public forums we host." She and five other students along with their sponsor went to New York for the first time this spring to compete in the international event.

Participation often is rewarding for stu-



Southeast Campus Culinary Arts students fine-tune skills and network through the Culinary/Hospitality Student Organization.

dents when they can observe how their efforts have expanded the lives of others. "It's nice overhearing someone continue conversations that you helped start. It gives the feeling that you may have made a difference," said Mitchell about the forums her group sponsors.

Having the opportunity to go back and serve in areas where they once received service is fulfilling for TCC students. "This really touched my heart because I was in the Assessment Center when I was a young girl, and it really made me want to join and



Faculty sponsor Alejandro Garza, center, and students Patricia Escobar, left, and Christina Lopez, right, promote a green lifestyle through the Northwest Campus Amigos Verde club.

give back the joy that was given to me," said Northwest Dance Club member Gabie Ray. Ray said her involvement with the center through her dance club helped her solidify her decision to pursue a career in social work.

Christopher Mitchell, who values the people skills he has honed, said he would organize a chapter of his organization at his transfer college if one does not exist.

"I learned that when and if we disagree with someone that we should be able to be

civil. This is a huge part of having good communication skills, which are needed in order to be successful in your field of discipline," said Mitchell. "These skills are currently helping me to see the bigger picture or goal and (avoid) an argument that would move us away from something we are trying to reach and instead trying to bring people together."

"Being active in a club does look great on a resume, but if that is the only rea-

son you do it, you will miss out on many great experiences," said Tom Bradford, president of Signum Lingua, American Sign Language.

Northwest's Gardner agrees. "The most rewarding part is the lifelong friendships that we have formed with each other. We all take care of one another and support each other in everything we do, like family."

LINKING to Success

Faculty and staff working with students day in and day out say it's no secret that students' participation outside the classroom is linked to success in the classroom. Here's why.

"A large body of research indicates the importance of students making those connections for student persistence, success and happiness with a college. The more involved students are and the more leadership opportunities they have, the more attractive they are as a candidate for jobs, a four-year transfer or graduate school."

Mike Baumgardner
Trinity River Campus
Director of Student Development Services

"All the research shows that getting students engaged is important to retention. Students who participate in campus organizations are more likely to make connections with others students of common interest, form lasting friendships, and have an overall more enriched college experience. All of this contributes to retention."

Charles Edmondson
Northwest Campus
Director of Counseling and Testing

"More and more children are turning to technology for their information and interactions. This often leads to diminished interpersonal experiences and reduced social skills. Clubs and organizations provide social support and opportunities for students to work in teams while collaborating on important social projects."

Joe Rode
Northwest Campus
Vice President for Student Development Services

"Student organizations provide an opportunity for students to develop skills in areas of leadership, critical thinking and communication. Skills developed through participation in student organizations prepare students for success and provide them with foundations that should prove useful in the workforce."

Vesta Martinez
Northwest Campus
Director of Student Development Services

"I would encourage students to get involved with organizations/service projects because it will provide them with an opportunity to help others in need. Service to others is a true gift that can positively impact many lives for years to come."

Nicole Bradford
South Campus
Vice President for Student Development Services

"Student organizations are especially important in commuter schools where everyone is on wheels and often leaves campus right after class. Clubs are intended to mirror real life for students and let them get a taste of the responsibilities and demands of their future life."

Paula Vastine
Northeast Campus
Director of Student Development Services

"Student organizations are essential avenues for the extracurricular learning and skills students need to succeed. Leadership in club activities such as service projects, fundraising for good causes, and writing club missions and goal statements gives students experience that even the best academic setting cannot."

Tahita Fulkerson
Trinity River Campus
President

"As educators and the institution providing the education, we are obligated in spirit to provide inspiration, motivation and opportunities to our student body that will enable them to compete in the job market. Student Development/Student Affairs provide such services. All of the top achievers I know are lifelong learners looking for new skills, insights and ideas. If they're not learning, they're not growing, not moving toward excellence."

Noel Garcia
South Campus
Student Development Associate

STUDENT VOICES

Compiled by Cacy Barnard
Photos by DeeDra Parrish

Once a year, students from each of the five campuses attend a District Leadership Retreat where they listen to speakers and participate in team-building and fellowship exercises. During the getaway, student leaders compare notes on their campus' challenges and share ideas for solutions.

These club presidents, ambassadors and innovative thinkers are our leaders of tomorrow, so we asked for a little insight.



CHIAYRSH FORD
Northwest Campus

Student Activities, Phi Theta Kappa

What is leadership to you?

Leadership to me is striving to be that positive example for others. Not settling for average, one can engage in leadership anywhere and change the lives of others.

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

I learned that as a student leader with trust and determination tasks that appear impossible can be achieved.

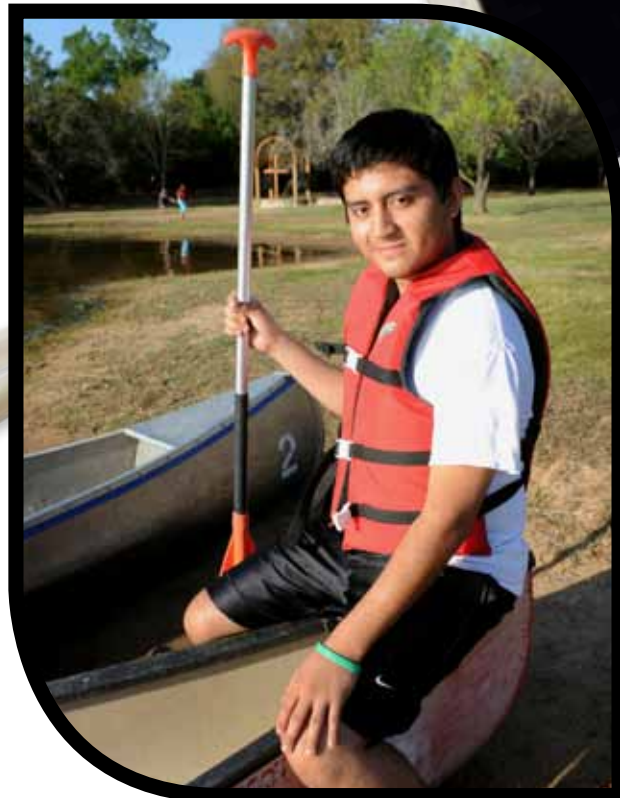
If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

If I were a superhero my superpowers would allow me to speak all languages. If I knew how to speak all languages I would not have any limits on communication. Oftentimes I pass by people who appear to be lonely or without a friend, so I would talk to them and offer them friendship or encouragement.

How do you lead by example?

It is important for one to have a vision—if you can see it than you can achieve it. It's a continual process for me to set goals. Every day I am focused to better myself and do whatever it takes to reach my desired goals.

Features



ERIC ESPINO
Northeast Campus

*Student Political Awareness Club,
Organization of Latin American Students*

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

Being a student and trying to motivate other students is no easy task!

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

In my opinion you don't need to be a superhero to accomplish what you set out to do, simply the determination and drive to go out there and do them. The best things in life are not easy to come by, and being a superhero takes away the challenge and the satisfaction that comes with a job well done.

How do you lead by example?

I don't follow the path made by past leaders but try and make a new one so that others may have an option as to which road to take.

TOM BRADFORD
Trinity River Campus

*Cornerstone Honors, Phi Theta Kappa,
Sigma Kappa Delta, Signum Lingua*

What is leadership to you?

Leadership to me is sacrifice and leading by example. The only way anyone will believe in a leader is if that leader is seen doing anything it takes to get the job done.

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

I never thought it would be this much work. It takes quite a bit of sacrifice to be a successful student leader.

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

I would choose speed reading, the ability to survive on three to four hours of sleep and being able to clone myself to get everything done on time. Flying would not be a bad thing either.





MILES MARTIN

Trinity River Campus

Historical Society, Phi Theta Kappa, Anthropology Club

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

We are all diverse; we are all identical...while the problems we face as college students are not unique, the solution to the problem can be. Each individual perceives both encouragement and criticism differently, and a true leader must understand this and consider the best method in order to expose one's capabilities.

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

If I had a superpower, I would very much like to be able to know in detail the lives and historical events that were played out at any given time and location.

How do you lead by example?

By never asking more of anyone than I ask of myself.



STACY LIEBEL

Northeast Campus

Phi Theta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Continuing Education Student Assistant

What is leadership to you?

It's a simple philosophy, a person that will do something with you instead of just telling you what to do is a good example of leadership. A person that has patience and a good attitude is an example of good leadership.

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

Super speed, it would allow me to get to where I need to be super-fast and I'd never be late again!

CEDRIC SAIDI

Southeast Campus

Leadership Academy

What is leadership to you?

Leadership is taking command and leading without be asked or told.

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

People are willing to listen, you just have to speak.

If you could be a superhero, what would you want your superpowers to be?

I would want a powerful voice, to have understanding and wisdom in my discussions.



TANDRANIKA JOHNSON

South Campus

African-American Student Organization

What is leadership to you?

Leadership to me is leading by example...being able to stand for what you believe in, and showing love and grace toward others.

What's the single most important thing you've learned as a student leader?

To listen, because sometime people just need someone to listen to them.

How do you lead by example?

By working hard at what I do no matter what it may be, practicing what I preach, and learning from my mistakes so I can help others avoid making the same mistakes.



Features

LEARNING to LEAD

by Jeri Petersen



DeeDra Parrish

Students attending college for the first time are often surprised to learn just how demanding coursework can be. But they may also grapple with additional transition challenges like managing individual freedoms, finances and time.

Leadership programs at Tarrant County College campuses help newcomers overcome those challenges by providing experiences where students interact with and serve each other, access campus resources, and practice what they learn in the classroom, both on campus and in the community. Each campus implements similar leadership training programs, but in ways specific to their own needs.

ALL-STARS and Leadership eXperience

Through Trinity River Campus' Center for Leadership Development, students gain leadership opportunities intended to help them succeed in higher education, careers and community service.

The All-Stars Program is a select group of about 20 students who apply to the TR Leadership Learning Community and are selected following a formal interview. Students attend summer training camp in mid-June, where each joins one of three squads with which he or she remains throughout the year. Each semester, All-Stars attend weekly meetings in which they explore leadership skills and traits; then they put theory to practice by doing projects on campus and in the community, including visiting local high schools to promote the value of attending college.

All-Stars such as Eric Ruvalcaba have high praise for the program. "What I learned and experienced during this yearlong process is truly breathtaking. You are put to the test only to emerge victorious. You learn to lead as well as follow, and nothing is more satisfactory than knowing that I will be successful because of the All-Stars Leadership Program," he said.

Reaching even more students, the Leadership eXperience Program consists of two Leadership Summits each semester featuring a prominent keynote speaker. The speaker is followed by panel discussions featuring local and state representatives or breakout sessions led by TR faculty and staff designed to help students develop and apply their own leadership style. All-Stars help plan the meeting and greet attendees.

Although geared toward students, the summits are open to the public and are free of charge. Michael Baumgardner, director of Student Development Services, said attendance at the last summit was about 115, and with a capacity of 150, he hopes the community will take advantage of this resource.

continued

"You are put to the test only to emerge victorious."

Features



DeeDra Parrish

Weekend College Director Leticia Gallegos leads a workshop for Trinity River Campus All-Star students, from back left, Ashley Guzman, Adrian Vasquez, Jessica Rodriguez, Eric Ruvalcaba and Norma Lopez.

SPOTLIGHT:

STUDENT EARNS NATIONAL ACADEMIC HONOR

Kelly Daves' dream of returning to college came true. And so has so much more for the Tarrant County College student who has been named as the 2011 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar representing the state of Texas.

A wife and mother of two young children, Daves originally turned to TCC at 31 years old to become a history teacher. But now, as she nears graduation this summer, she said the experience was more fulfilling than she ever imagined.

Starting in South Campus' Women in New Roles Program, Daves said it helped her to gain the confidence to continue. She became involved in student life, maintained high academic marks, and received a TCC Foundation Scholarship—raising the bar for herself each step along the way.

"As a non-traditional student, I thought it would be easier for me to start at Tarrant County College," she said. "And when I received the Foundation Scholarship, I knew I could at least afford to finish my two-year degree."

As an active member of the Rho Chi Phi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Daves was nominated by Campus President Ernest Thomas for the All-Texas academic team, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and administered by Phi Theta Kappa. This award meant prestige and a \$20,000 scholarship to The University of Texas at Arlington—just the inspiration she needed to press on.

"I've been so concerned about being able to complete my educational journey because of financial burdens. This solidifies my plan," she said. "I don't have to worry anymore."

Among those named to the state team, Daves placed as the

top scorer, based on academic performance, honors won, and service to the College and community. This status brought her recognition as a Coca-Cola Foundation's New Century Scholar—the national honor reserved for each state's highest-scoring student.

As a New Century Scholar, Daves was presented with the scholarship and plaque from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation during the 2011 American Association of Community Colleges Convention April 9-12 in New Orleans. And it brought other notable recognition plus an added \$2,000 award.



"I never in a million years expected to receive this," she said. "It's a humbling experience, and I'm flattered to have the opportunity to not only represent Texas, but also to represent TCC."

In her personal life, she says she owes her husband and mother-in-law for continuous support and help with her children. And at TCC, those whom she credits with her success are Triesha Light, Women in New Roles coordinator, and the team of Student Activities staff at South Campus including Director Cyrus Johnson. She added that she's seen the same talent in professors and staff at Northwest Campus, where she's finishing her degree.

"To me it's important to recognize people who have been with me along this journey," she said. "I couldn't have done it by myself."

Daves' plans have now evolved to continuing at UTA for a master's degree, and possibly even a Ph.D. at some point. And then she wants to pay it forward.

"It's my goal to return to TCC as a professor to teach environmental sciences," she said. "Just as so many people helped me, I want to help others."

STUDENT LEADERSHIP Academy Programs

Future leaders at Northwest and South-east campuses can take advantage of Student Leadership Academy programs. The Southeast Campus chapter was established in 2009 and is supervised by Student Activities staff and, when possible, a faculty representative. The Academy adopted the motto, "Esse Quam Videri," Latin for "To be, not to seem to be." Doug Peak, director of Student Development Services, says the motto reflects the idea that leadership isn't just about standing in front of a group; it involves small, everyday behaviors, such as etiquette, manners and dress that exhibit and inspire confidence.

Open to all students, the Academy consists of events that serve as training experiences for members, who are directly involved in planning and facilitating them. At events, students learn by doing, and after the event, they meet with Student Activities Department supervisors to evaluate learning outcomes. Last year, members learned proper manners and gained confidence in formal settings through an etiquette dinner event. They gained life experience when they served dinner to residents of the Arlington Life Shelter. They took the initiative to expand recycling on campus by placing bins with pictures of recyclable materials in every classroom.

To project a professional image, mem-

bers are provided a long-sleeved, white oxford shirt with the TCC logo that they can wear with black slacks or skirt to official events. For many students, dressing up is new experience. "It's amazing what you can do with a white oxford shirt," Peak said.

STUDENT Ambassadors

At the Northwest Campus, the Leadership Academy is a recent expansion of the Northwest Ambassadors Program. Like their counterparts at Northeast and Trinity River campuses, Northwest Ambassadors are a group of students interested in developing leadership skills and serving as campus representatives.

Ambassadors:

- conduct campus tours for large groups such as high school students interested in learning about the college;
- host visiting dignitaries and guests;
- serve in an advisory capacity for activities such as student focus groups; and
- provide three to five members to hear traffic appeals as part of the student appeals committee.

Examples of events with which the Ambassadors assist are the Spring Awards Ceremony and community activities such as the Fort Worth ISD "iDream, iLearn, iWin" one-day event. Vesta Martinez, director of Student Development Services, says the campus has 15-20 Ambassadors each semester. "I could not do that project without Ambassadors," she said.

Ambassadors receive instruction at four training sessions each semester as well as ongoing training for specific events. Those who also participate in the Leadership Academy can attend monthly training meetings. Some students continue their affiliation with the Ambassadors after they graduate from TCC. "Several have come back to work as part-time, paid tour guides for new-student orientation," Martinez said.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT Association

Noel Garcia, Student Development Services associate at South Campus, serves as a co-sponsor for the campus' newly instituted Student Government Association. "Leadership can entail how to motivate, inspire and persuade people when trying to promote a particular cause or issue," he said. "In exposing students to SGA and parliamentary procedure, we begin to teach them how they can be heard."

Through workshops and seminars, SGA members observe examples of leadership in community professionals and at the college and state levels of government. For instance, student leaders recently attended a regional conference at Eastland College in Dallas and a state SGA conference in Austin.

All enrolled students are members of the Student Government Association and may attend monthly SGA meetings; they elect SGA board members to represent them. Representatives serve fall and spring semesters and meet in weekly executive sessions to discuss student concerns and possible actions, which they then present to

TCC administrators.

"Sometimes students don't know where to go regarding concerns about things on campus. We want them to know that if they have an issue or complaint, they should take it up with SGA, who will do all in their power to address the issue," Garcia said.

Serving in student government is a real-life civics lesson, one that helps make better citizens and leaders.

"Leadership doesn't happen overnight; our students have to be exposed to many different opportunities to groom and develop them. Through SGA, they will have been exposed to the necessary tools if they want to take their experience to a four-year university level," Garcia said.

"Leadership can entail how to motivate, inspire and persuade people when trying to promote a particular cause or issue."

Features



Trinity River Campus All-Star students, from back left, Anita Weddle, Mariana Garcia, James McDonald, and Kevin Howard, participate in leadership development, presentations and various activities.

A Look Inside Achieving the Dream

Setting the Stage

Tarrant County College joined the Achieving the Dream initiative in 2010 with one main objective—increased student access and success.

Through nearly a year of data analysis and community engagement, the College moves closer to making lasting changes in policies, programs, and services and closing achievement gaps for all students.

June-July 2010

- National Achieving the Dream kickoff event
- Reviewed current policies and procedures

August 2010

- Internal kickoff event
- TCC Core and Data Teams received charge

September 2010

- Established monthly meetings on each campus
- Began to identify key campus champions
- Began to identify and review existing data and determine additional data needs
- Held focus groups for Diversity and Inclusion Plan

October 2010

- Evaluated existing barriers to student success and current interventions
- Received initial report on focus group data
- Awarded Title III, Strengthening Institutions Grant

November 2010

- Held Diversity Forum
- Organized 12 student focus groups on all campuses
- Hosted data dialogues on all campuses

January 2011

- Held meetings with full-time and adjunct faculty to review data
- Held Community Conversation with Tarrant County leaders
- Conducted campus conversations about the data
- Hosted data dialogues on all campuses

February 2011

- TCC team attended national Strategy Institute
- Began process to identify priorities and interventions
- Finalized data briefs
- Hosted data dialogues on all campuses

March 2011

- Continued work on priorities and interventions
- Developed draft of final proposal
- Hosted data dialogues on all campuses

May 2011

- Final TCC proposal complete

A Look Ahead

With significant headway, Tarrant County College will now proceed with an established set of priorities and strategies, all centered on delivering the best in student success.

First-Year Experience

- A mandatory program for students, including comprehensive orientation and advising for students on all campuses

Development Education and Gateway Courses

- Revised placement testing, preparation materials and collaborative opportunities to increase success in reading and math courses

Professional Development

- A collegewide program featuring professional development plans, speakers and events for faculty and staff

To keep up with TCC's progress related to Achieving the Dream, visit www.tccd.edu



History Instructor Andrew Hollinger participates in an Achieving the Dream Campus Conversation at Northeast.

ROBOTICS Project Inspires Future Science, Technology Leaders

Playing games in person, or even virtually, is nothing new for today's high school or college students. But factor in a robot as the competitor, and even the simplest game becomes uncharted territory.

As participants in the Project FIRST robotics competition, a team of local high schoolers sponsored by TCC is learning first-hand the challenges of such a task. Assisted by Bell Helicopter engineers and Tarrant County College student mentors, students put their creativity and problem-solving skills to work through weeks of preparation in anticipation of the robot's final competition.

"We have a committed group of 16 high school kids representing a diverse student population in every way, and they are all working very well," said Sheryl Harris, Southeast Campus dean of Business and Technology. "Each Saturday's work session has been an exciting time as the students worked out design issues and came up with best strategies."

The student team, TCC's first ever to participate in the annual competition, saw their efforts come to fruition against dozens of other schools at the regional Project FIRST competition April 7-9 in Dallas.

Participation in the project is funded by a grant from Bell Helicopter and assistance from JCPenney, supporting the importance of inspiring future science and technology leaders.

Furthering this mission, many students who competed in the project are also part of Southeast Campus' summer TexPREP Pro-



Bell engineer Rohn Olson, left, works with student Michael Youssef, right.

gram, which offers intensive coursework and seminars to increase interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Students are selected based on academic and citizenship grades and recommendations.

With nearly 200 Tarrant County middle and high school students already completing the program, the efforts seem to be working. And students who finished four summers of the program are eligible to receive high school credit.



Glen E. Ellman

Massage Therapy Program Graduates Inaugural Class

South Campus recently celebrated the successful completion of its first Massage Therapy Certification Program. The class of seven students graduated with a 580-hour certificate of completion, which exceeds the State of Texas' 500-hour minimum requirements, and includes a Swedish massage certification.

Differing from the traditional format of Continuing Education programs, massage therapy is taught in the cohort style with students starting and graduating at the same time. The full-time day program, with a capacity of 10 students per class, lasts for 15 weeks. During this time, students train through an intensive series of nine classes that make them eligible for state licensure.

"Having a small student-to-teacher ratio is essential in assuring that each student receives appropriate attention to technique

and guidance through the program," Program Coordinator Dana Gunter said.

Though the program launched in the fall 2010 semester, she says the demand for free massage sessions grew once clinic started in December. Friday clinics, a necessary component of the program that guarantees students have the required number of hands-on hours with clients to qualify for certification, quickly became a popular bonus for employees of South Campus and the entire District.

The appointment book filled up so fast that a stand-by list of 10 people was normal, she said, noting that appointments for future clinic dates are still coming in.

Regardless of economic trends, employment prospects for graduates are encouraging as the demand for massage therapists continues to grow. According to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2010, employment for massage therapists is expected to increase 19 percent from 2008 to

2018, faster than average for all occupations.

For some students, massage therapy is a starting point for a career. For others, it is complimentary and will lead to other avenues associated with massage and bodywork. In the inaugural class, six of the seven students are starting a second or third career with their certification, said Gunter. Only one student will start her career focused solely on massage and bodywork.

In a recent study by the American Massage Therapy Association, more than half of massage therapists (57 percent) also work in another profession—a common situation for individuals who either want to work part time or combine a variety of health- or beauty-related occupations in one setting.

"The industry leaves plenty of room to explore employment options and various avenues," said Gunter. "The future is very bright for these graduates and the Massage Therapy Program."

Forensics Teams TAKE TOP HONORS at State, Regional Competitions

Running your mouth apparently isn't a bad thing for Tarrant County College students from Trinity River and Northeast campus Forensics Teams who've taken top honors at two recent competitions.

The first event, the 2011 Texas Community College Forensics Association Tournament Feb. 11-13 hosted at Northeast Campus, gave reason for both campus teams to celebrate.

Jeff Hebert became Trinity River Campus' first student to capture an individual state championship by winning first place in the Extemporaneous Speaking contest. He also placed third in Parliamentary Debate alongside partner Kristin Taylor. Damon Latham, another Trinity River Forensics Team member, landed a fourth-place finish in Dramatic Interpretation, as well as a sixth-place ranking in Duo Interpretation with his competition partner Adonnys Wright.

"For a forensics program to produce successful student speakers is fantastic, but for a first-year program...to produce a state champion and place in multiple events, is phenomenal," said TCC Trinity River Campus Director of Forensics Phillip Morgan. "It speaks highly of the dedication and preparation of our students here at Trinity River."

The Northeast Campus Team earned high marks as a team and individually. Students Sean Gilliland and Brandon Wimmer took second place in Parliamentary Debate. In the overall Debate Sweepstakes, the Northeast Team earned third place, and winning another state championship, Wimmer placed first in the individual Impromptu Speaking contest.

"Our Northeast students do well in competition every year, and this year it was great to have two TCC state champions," said Northeast Campus Chair

of Communication Arts Lisa Benedetti. "Brandon did a fantastic impromptu speech to win state in his competition."

Also in Impromptu Speaking, Gilliland placed fifth, and Rafael Gonzalez placed seventh. Gilliland also placed fourth in the Extemporaneous Speaking category. In Prose Interpretation, Elizabeth Price and Courtney Stewart finished third and seventh respectively.

Carrying on the winning record, the Northeast Campus team also found success at a recent regional competition held in Tyler on March 11-13.

TCC's team members and their places were: Sean Gilliland, second in Parliamentary Debate, third in Impromptu Speaking, and fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking; Elizabeth Price, fourth in Prose Interpretation and in Dramatic Interpretation; Rafael Gonzalez, seventh in Prose Interpretation; and Courtney Stewart, sixth in Dramatic Interpretation.

The event was sponsored by Phi Rho Pi, an organization committed to increasing appreciation of the forensics arts at the junior and community college level.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN Heritage Events

Leave Audiences Something to Remember

For attendees of February's African-American Heritage celebrations, a lesson in history and culture came to life in a lineup of distinguished speakers. As is tradition, the national recognition brought exhibits, read-ins and more, but adding true distinction were the real-life stories told on each campus by those who can tell them best.

And each notable speaker—two-time Olympic medalist Hollis Conway, the first African American-Marine Corps aviator Retired Lt. Gen. Frank. E. Petersen Jr., and Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins, to name a few—came to campuses with a vivid message pointed at success.

Conway, who won the Olympic silver medal in 1988 and bronze medal in 1992 for the high jump, shared his personal path to overcoming obstacles with Southeast Campus guests. Petersen, who visited Northeast Campus, spoke from experience too, but from his view as the first African-American general and focused on "Six Decades of Change: Civil Rights and the Military." And telling his story, *Star-Telegram* columnist Bob Ray Sanders discussed his book, *Calvin Littlejohn: Portrait of a Community in Black and White* for a Northwest Campus audience.

Not forgetting there's always room for progress, campuses also invited guests who took a look at the present and future. Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins visited South Campus to discuss the "Innocence Project," a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing the release of those wrongfully convicted of serious crimes in the State of Texas. Trinity River included motivational youth speaker Al Duncan who shared "The Secrets of Thriving Student Leaders" during their Leadership eXperience Summit.

Added to these messages were opportunities to participate in read-ins on multiple campuses and, for those who opted to participate on their own time, campus displays included a traveling Black Inventors Exhibit and a month-long display featuring the work of African-American scientists.

Briefs

Briefs



From left, students Thomas Gunter, Mark Oaxaca, Stephen Gordon, and Joshua Barnes

Student Construction Team Awarded National "Rookie of the Year" Honor

Real-world application of in-class lessons paid off earlier this semester for a Tarrant County College Southeast Campus team of students in the Construction Management Program.

The group earned "Rookie of the Year" for their work in construction design earlier this semester at the International Home Builders Show in Orlando, Fla. A three-day event, it drew more than 50 secondary schools, colleges and universities nationwide to compete in several categories related to Residential Construction Management.

Participating for the first time ever, the TCC team was comprised of students Thomas Gunter, Joshua Barnes, Mark

Oaxaca and Stephen Gordon. Gunter also received the "Outstanding Student" Award. Orlando Bagcal, assistant professor of Construction Management and program coordinator, led the efforts and couldn't be prouder.

"Their experience in this event has given them the opportunity to demonstrate their learned knowledge and skills as well as to interact with the experts in the construction industry," said Bagcal.

In the Residential Construction Management competition, each team was to develop a proposal to build a house in North Carolina. The team prepared a package that included a detailed estimate, schedule, working drawings and a change order of

the project. The team then orally presented their proposal to a panel of five experts.

Aside from attending the competition, students participated in several seminars and focus group discussions. They were exposed to the latest technologies, and materials and methods currently employed in the construction industry, all applicable lessons that Bagcal knows will be brought back into the classroom.

"Valuable contacts were made as a result of participation in this event," he said. "Their experience in this event has given them the opportunity to demonstrate their learned knowledge and skills as well as in interacting with the experts in the construction industry."

TAKING THE

Energy Technology Center to Provide Breakthrough Learning Environment

Planning is under way for Tarrant County College's Energy Technology Center, a new sustainable learning and training facility at South Campus that will provide cutting edge opportunities for students and the community alike.

The first of its kind in the nation, the center will feature hands on teaching tools for students in the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology Program, and will provide room to expand curriculum to meet specialized industry needs.

Not only will the proposed building aim for LEED Platinum certification, but the center will use energy it produces to heat, cool, light and power the building. Added to the self sustaining design, mechanical systems will be peeled back, creating the truest model of a hands on learning experience.



Architects, planners and TCC facilities staff discuss strategies for the new Center.

DeeDra Parrish

“LEED”

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Meeting Academic Needs

- The new facility will allow for much-needed growth for the existing Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology associate degree and certificate programs, now in a 40-year-old facility.
- The Center will also service programs, such as geographic information systems and horticulture, housed on other campuses.
- New courses may include commercial air conditioning, commercial system design and duct fabrications.
- Real-time documentation of the facility's energy production will encourage a participatory environment.

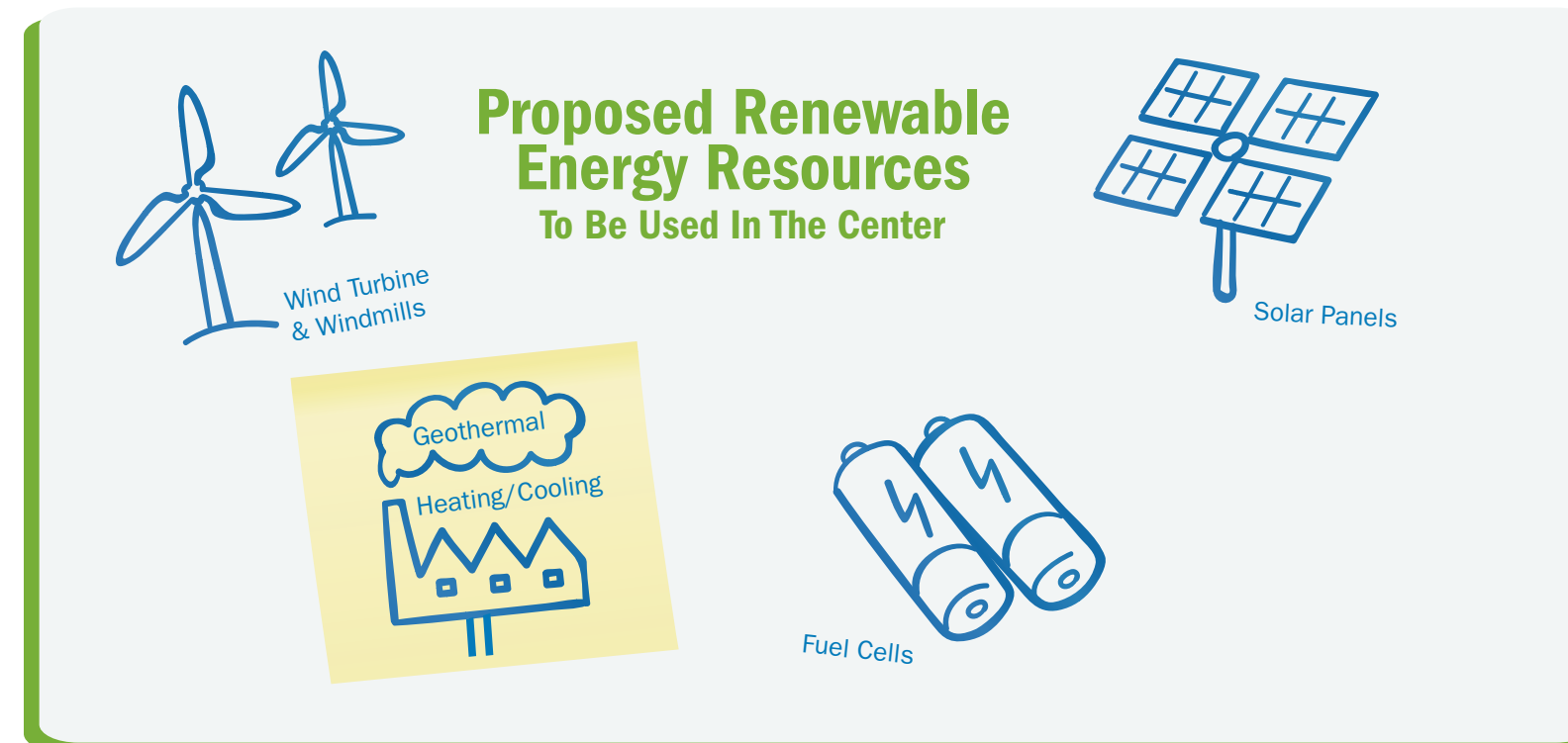
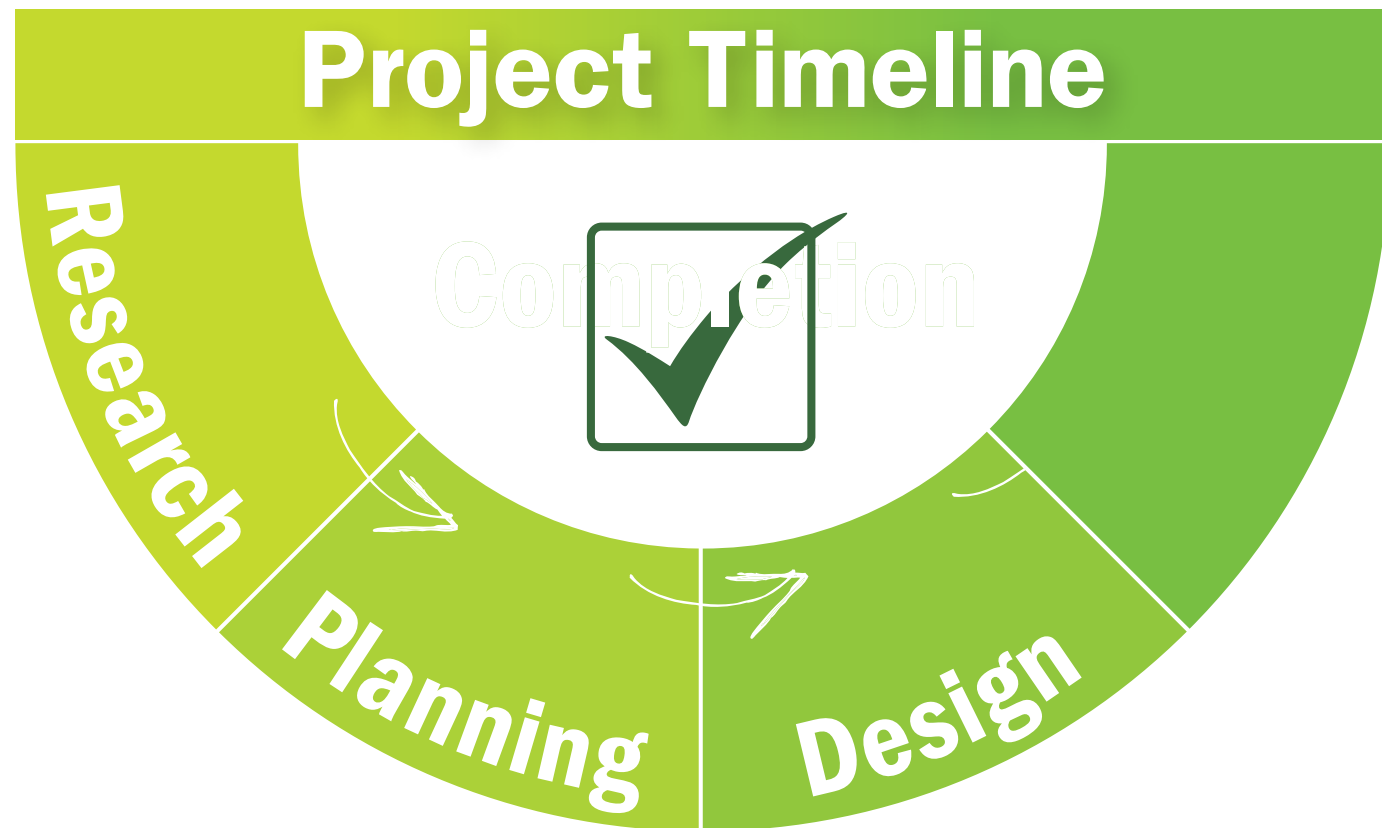
Meeting Industry Needs

- Job training will fill new needs brought by the Barnett Shale and the state's energy management/efficiencies initiatives.
- Many longtime technicians now need to be retrained with certification on new technologies.
- Newly created programs designed to fill current demands may include:
 - An industrial refrigeration program that would be the first of its kind in DFW
 - Building Operator Technician
 - Industrial Maintenance Technician
 - Renewable Energy
 - Active Solar Photovoltaic Technician
 - Wind Generation Technician

Meeting Community Needs

- The Center will serve as an educational hub and community resource.
- Space will be available to host seminars, conferences, demonstrations and more.
- Opportunities for collaboration include industry leaders, business and school districts.
- The proposed LEED design will create community awareness and serve as an example for projects to come.

Facilities



NEWS FROM THE INSIDE

In Every Issue

An article titled "It Is Time To Move It, Move It...Engage Your Students with Active Learning." by Southeast Campus Instructors **Ashley Alfaro, Tonya Blivens, Pert Durapau, and Courtney Kopecky** was published in *Innovation Abstracts*, a publication distributed to NI-SOD members.

Chair of the Northwest Performing Arts Department **Brent Alford** received rave reviews for his performance at Dallas Theatre Center, co-starring with Betty Buckley and Tovah Feldshuh in "Arsenic and Old Lace." Lance Lusk of *D Magazine* wrote, "...Alford embodies his role with crazy-like-a-fox aplomb. His San Juan Hill charges up the stairs, his bugle playing and ramrod posture produce an uncanny, winking portrayal of the 26th president."

Northwest Campus Adjunct Instructor and Firefighter **Frank Becerra** was selected by the Texas Association of Fire Educators as the "George Hughes Instructor of the Year" among nominees representing Texas fire departments and training entities. Becerra was honored during the Tex-

as Association of Fire Educators Annual Conference March 2 in Galveston.

Northeast Campus English Professor **Cindy Baw** was selected as a member of the 2011 *Star-Telegram* Columnist Panel. In her January column entitled "Tarrant County College Students Defy Stereotypes, Headlines," she writes about students she sees every day who model intelligence, character and personal integrity.

Northeast Campus Associate Professor of Art **Karmien Bowman** judged the first competitive state ceramics exhibition, "Best of Texas Clay." She also demonstrated the wheel for Irving High School art students and is chair of the Flower Mound Arts Committee for the Town FM PALS Board, planning the first Regional Art Competition for this June.

Work by Southeast Campus faculty member **Angel Cabrales** was on display as part of the 500X Expo in Dallas. He also had a show in Tempe, Ariz., through the month of March.

Department Chair of the Biological Sciences **Charlene Cole**, Northeast Campus, has been invited to serve on the 2011 Tuning Oversight Council for Engineering and Science (TOCES). This council will assist the Coordinating Board in course-level alignment. Funded by the Lamina Foundation, the "Tuning USA" initiative is a faculty-led pilot project designed to define what students must know, understand, and be able to demonstrate after completing a degree in a specific field.

Work by Trinity River Campus Associate Art Professor **Angel Fernandez** was displayed in the "pARTners" exhibition at the Cohn Drennan Contemporary art gallery in Dallas.

A presentation by South Campus Education Instructor **Altheria Gaston** was one of 10 selected to be recorded at the Texas Community College Teachers' Association 64th Annual Convention presented. She presented "Preparing Teachers for the Diverse Learners of the 21st Century," with two students and focused on the impor-

tance of enlightening future teachers on how best to serve the next generation.

Five poems by South Campus Associate Professor of English **Bill Holt** were published in *Rambling Poets at Café Cyber*, a collection of poems posted in cyberspace as part of a unique poetic conversation.

Southeast Campus Instructor of English **Yvonne Jocks** is the author of a new romance novel, *Underground Warrior*, and was the guest of honor in February at the Arlington Highlands Barnes & Noble Romance Reader Book Club. She has authored 19 novels.

Nursing Professor **De Ann Mitchell** and Associate Professor **Nancy Kupper** wrote portions of the U.S. and Canada number-one selling nursing textbook *Nursing Management of Inflammatory and Structural Disorders of the Heart*. Assistant Professor **Mona Gaw** also served as a reviewer for a chapter.

Adjunct Instructor of Chemistry at Northwest Campus **Leslie Lesikar** was recently recognized at a meeting of the American Chemical Society as one of DFW's new young investigators. Lesikar was part of a team with TCU investigators who presented a postdoctoral poster *Aluminum, Gallium and Zinc Formamidate Complexes* at a meeting held at Southern Methodist University.

South Campus Professor of English **Ruth McAdams** participated in a book signing with her co-authors who collaborated on a cookbook featuring recipes of many of Texas's outstanding women of the 20th century.

Northeast Campus Counselor **Anita Peters** was a presenter at the state conference of the Texas College Counseling

Association (TCCA). Her talk was titled "The Invisible Barrier: Learning Disorders and the College Student," and emphasized tools to help college counselors best serve students.

Northwest Campus Professor of Biology **Lynn Preston** was a contributing author for *Essentials of Biology*, Third Edition, and *Human Biology*, Twelfth Edition, both published by McGraw Hill. She wrote five chapters in each book and end-of-chapter material for both books, which are her first two textbooks in print.

Web Content Editor **Susan Ragland** has been selected to present a "writing for the Web" workshop at the Higher Education Web Professionals Association's Arkansas Regional Conference in July and was named chief editor of the association's professional journal. She has also been appointed as co-chair of the Marketing, Management and Professional Development track at the national conference to be held in Austin in October.

South Campus Instructor of Music **Rick Stitzel** was appointed the conductor of the Rodeo Orchestra and performed throughout the recent Fort Worth Stock Show events.

District Director of Student Financial Aid Services **David Ximenez** has been elected to serve as the 2011-2012 chair of the Advisory Committee of the TG Center for Financial Aid Policy in Community Colleges, a nonprofit corporation established by the Texas Legislature that promotes educational access. As chair, he will lead the efforts of this Advisory Committee.



In the News

A sampling of TCC's recent coverage in the media

January 28

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Newspaper covers a recent Town Hall meeting held by U.S. Rep. Dr. Michael at Tarrant County College Northeast Campus.

January 30

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Feature story covers the Trinity River Campus CARE Team and action plan, dedicated to providing resources and counseling to students in need.

February 10

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
News story features the Districtwide spring enrollment increase of 6.7 percent at Tarrant County College campuses.

February 14

Fort Worth Examiner
Online article highlights a theatre performance of *Crazy and a Half* directed by John Dement at Southeast Campus.

February 16

Fort Worth Weekly
Arts section features a performance by Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and Tarrant County College as part of the Spectrum Chamber Music Series at First United Methodist Church.

March 10

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Article mentions the increase in veterans enrollment at Tarrant County College campuses.

March 25

Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Article highlights the Northwest Campus Horticulture Program's donation of plants for a new community garden, created by a partnership between the City of Arlington and The University of Texas at Arlington.

April 8

Fort Worth Business Press
News brief highlights the "Campaigns for a Cause" event hosted by Northwest Campus students, who designed advertising campaigns for local nonprofits.

In Every Issue

LATELY AT TCC

In Every Issue



Southeast Campus Dedicates New Math and Science Wing

Southeast Campus celebrated the official opening of its Science and Academic Wing, which offered classes for the first time this spring. TCC Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley and Southeast Campus President Judith Carrier were joined by U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger, Arlington Mayor Dr. Robert Cluck, and Arlington Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Wes Jurey for the ceremonies.

The new 114,519-square-foot Science and Academic Wing provides classrooms for computer science, speech and laboratory sciences. It also features additional office space for faculty as well as meeting areas for student organizations and the Student Activities Office.



Astronaut Shares Insight with Students

World renowned astronaut Leroy Chiao talked with students at Northeast, Trinity River and Northwest campuses during March and shared his experiences in leadership and positive change.



Northwest Campus Participates in Fort Worth Gallery Night

Tarrant County College Northwest Campus' "Sculpture: Inside-Out" exhibit featured more than 30 works from Texas and national artists, including university faculty and independent artists. An artists' reception and gallery talk for the exhibit at the Lakeview Gallery kicked off the March 26 Fort Worth Art Dealers' Association Spring Gallery Night. Works ranged in height from 15 feet to a few inches and are made of materials ranging from wood to mashed-up found objects and an Airstream baby carriage.



Women's Symposium Emphasizes a Unified Voice

The 10th Annual Women's Symposium hosted by South Campus in celebration of Women's History Month provided free educational and networking opportunities including speakers, exhibits, workshops and entertainment. The theme "Sisters Bridging Cultures: One Voice, One Heart, Many Hands" tied to the keynote speech delivered by Staussa Ervin, South Campus' Fort Worth Sister Cities Project Delegate.

In Every Issue

Employees Shine Through Annual Giving Campaign

Tarrant County College employees demonstrated their generosity and support of TCC students, with contributions to the 2010-2011 Employee Annual Giving Campaign marking a 4 percent increase over the previous year.

"Our employees have given graciously, and the funds serve as valued contributions to the TCC Foundation's scholarship funds," said Foundation Executive Director Joe McIntosh. "The Foundation is very grateful for their responses to the campaign."

Each year, the TCC Foundation directs the Employee Annual Giving Campaign, offering the opportunity for employees across

the District to express financial support for TCC student scholarships and the work of United Way partner agencies.

This year's campaign garnered a total of \$196,320 in employee gifts and pledges, equaling 112 percent of its stated goal.

"The Foundation congratulates and thanks all TCC employees for their collective efforts of support," said McIntosh.

Alumni Profile: Benita Whitaker

Inspiring the Pursuit of Education

by Pamela Smith

Amidst the mounting news of state shortfalls in education, teacher cut-backs, and an increasingly competitive global workforce, lies the story of one teacher striving to make a difference despite the challenges thrown her way.

If you ask Benita Whitaker Cleveland, she'll tell you that she has the most important job there is—educating the future leaders of Fort Worth, of Texas, and possibly of the United States. Whitaker works as a dedicated teacher at O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, but her path to becoming a teacher wasn't a straight one.

Whitaker is a lifelong resident of Fort Worth. When she graduated from Paschal High School she had a desire to work more than anything else. She started at Texas Christian University, but quickly found that going to school full time while working was more of a challenge than she realized. Not wanting to give up her career, she began taking classes at Tarrant County College, which enabled her to pursue an education while working at the Texas Department of Human Resources (DHS).

"I went to school part time for a couple of years," Whitaker said, "but around 1995 or '96 I had a work injury, so I took it as an opportunity to go to TCC full time and finish my degree."

She earned her Associate Degree in Business Administration from TCC in 1997. Because of the reasonable cost and with help from her employer, Whitaker managed to complete her work at TCC without any school loans.

By the time Whitaker was cleared to return to work from her injury, the state had implemented a hiring freeze, and her



Benita Whitaker

position was terminated. She began working as a substitute teacher for two school districts, Fort Worth and Everman, as a temporary source of income.

Whitaker said her time working with the youth at Elm Grove Missionary Baptist Church and working with the public

she returned to Fort Worth ISD full time as a Career and Technology Education instructor at O.D. Wyatt High School.

"Teaching came easy for me," said Whitaker. "I was able to bring my past experiences into the classroom. I believe because I didn't go directly from college into the classroom,

"I encourage my students to consider TCC for college because you are in a smaller community and you really get to know your instructors..."

at DHS made teaching a natural fit. Everman recognized her passion and commitment for teaching and offered her a long-term substitute teaching position at Everman Junior High School. Her time there made her realize that she would enjoy teaching full time.

After her substitute term was over, Whitaker went back to school to complete her Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management at Dallas' Paul Quinn College and to receive a teaching certificate through the University of North Texas in Denton. She said that she was thankful that all her credits from TCC transferred to Paul Quinn. After graduation,

I could better relate to the students."

As a business education instructor, Whitaker believes in teaching the students real-world applications for what they study in class. "I didn't just teach them theory," she said. "I was able to bring them real world experience and tell them why they were doing accounting and business assignments."

Previous classes learned about accounting debits and credits, balancing a budget and taxes. One year, students conducted a free federal income tax preparation clinic for people in the community. While at O.D. Wyatt, Whitaker has volunteered with the National Honor Society, after school and

continued

lunch tutoring and the girls' volleyball team.

"Some of my students don't believe they are college material," Whitaker stated, "but I explain to them that 'Yes you are. You just have to focus a little harder and work a little harder, get your degree, and move forward.' Get the degree because it shows potential employers that you are teachable, willing to learn and to change. It shows them that you are willing to gain knowledge and learn their process."

"The education and the experience you get at TCC are indescribable. You get the same or better education at TCC at a lower cost than some of the other colleges and universities. The students really start to listen to me when they realize how much college costs."

"I went to TCC and I am glad I went," Whitaker added. "If it hadn't been for TCC, I would have never completed my degree. My counselor walked me through the process. My instructors were helpful. They taught me about the real world because they were working in the field. They gave us scenarios from their daily activities on the job that pertained to the class. We were then able to connect the dots. 'This is why I have to do this, instead of that,'" she said.

Whitaker credits her parents, the late Tilford Whitaker and Juanita Davis Whitaker, with her success in college and as a teacher. "When I was growing up, I was considered the family secretary," she said. "When my dad needed a letter, he'd tell me what he wanted to say, and I would have to write it up. I've always been business-minded because of how our training was at home," she said of her and her sister and three brothers.

"My parents instilled in us to become lifelong learners," she said. And her desire to learn hasn't stopped yet. In addition to her undergraduate work, Whitaker has a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Grand Canyon University and is working online to complete a Master of Education in School Counseling from the University of West Alabama.

Whitaker is in her eighth year with Fort Worth ISD. Looking back on her experience at work and in school keeps her motivated. So despite the growing news of tight school budgets and teacher layoffs, Whitaker commits to never give up on her students and their pursuit of an education.

Mix 'n' Mingle



The most recent alumni social event connected graduates at BJ's Restaurant located in the north Fort Worth-Keller-Alliance area.

Watch for additional alumni events coming to your area in the future.

Top right: Debbie Kerwin
Left: Bradley and Jennifer Carter
Bottom right: From left, John George, Susie George, James Harvey, and Geneva Halverson

TCC Alumni, Family & Friends Night at Texas Rangers Game

Alumni, mark your calendars to enjoy a night out at the ball park this summer with the Tarrant County College family!

The TCC Alumni Association is hosting the first-ever TCC Alumni, Family & Friends Night with the Texas Rangers, complete with the opportunity to win various door prizes. Tickets are available through the TCC Alumni Online Community.

Date: Monday, June 20, 2011
Time: Game starts at 7:05 p.m.
Tickets: www.tccd.edu/alumni

Questions?
Call the TCC Alumni Office at 817-515-5777.



FAMILY Legacies

by Jean Weaver



Members of the McNeil family Barbara Beerling, far left, Linda Stegall and Ed Stegall, far right, with student Patrick Hicks

Glen E. Ellman

passed on through the scholarship, established with the Tarrant County College Foundation, to students pursuing an education in aviation. Daughter Linda Stegall, former instructor at TCC's Northeast Campus and retired president of Lone Star College-

Kingwood, said that her parents appreciated the quality of TCC students and of the aviation program that her dad had helped create. "I'll never forget my grandmother's decision to establish the scholarship in Granddad's name and the look on her face when she wrote the \$30,000 check," said Stegall's daughter, North Side High School teacher Rhonda O'Brien. "She was so happy. [My grandparents] valued education so much. We all hope to have scholarships established in our names when the time comes. It's a family tradition."

minimum requirements. Based upon criteria and essay, scholarship winners are selected by committee members who are not related to donors. Students of various ages and backgrounds compete for the awards.

"Mom wanted to meet the students," said Stegall. "She was so proud of the scholarships and being able to help." Another McNeill daughter, retired real estate broker Barbara Beerling, and Stegall noted an especially memorable winner who made "a lasting impression" on them when he spoke with Verna McNeill at her wheelchair's side. The student, a veteran, brought his wife and young child with him. He told the McNeills how important the scholarship was to him and how grateful he and his family were that he was chosen.

"I'll never forget him," said Stegall. "It's so nice to know what an impact the money has. He went on to receive his license. That's another place where scholarships fit in. When students win an award, it's incentive to keep going."

Beerling said that her mother beamed when she met the student, and she enjoyed hearing his story and telling him about Mac. "It's an honor" to be selected, he told them. He said that the honor meant more to him than the money did.

"And it helps [our family] to know that the students appreciate it," Beerling said. "It's such a good cause."

The effect on Verna McNeill was such that her family promised her that they would set up a scholarship in her honor when the time came. And they did. The Verna Mae McNeill Scholarship, reserved for business students, is reflective of Verna McNeill's guidance in the family's financial, real estate and airport businesses alongside her husband.

"It's not about the donor family," Stegall said. "It's a huge investment in the future of the community, especially when the student maximizes his or her opportunities. That's great to see. But, what we hope is that other families and individuals will be inspired to create scholarships in their loved one's honor. It's money well spent and it lasts into perpetuity."



Partnership Begins With Event, Lasts a Lifetime

The annual Celebrity Breakfast, hosted by the Women's Policy Forum, held special meaning for Tarrant County College this year as Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley delivered the keynote address.

"It was truly a joy to be part of such an outstanding event that serves to honor the dreams of Tarrant County's young women and brings together so many remarkable community leaders," said Hadley.

Addressing a sold-out crowd of community leaders at the Omni Hotel in Fort Worth, Hadley shared her story of a life beginning in Leggett, Texas, and leading to Tarrant County College. Joining the ranks of the event's notable speakers of past years—ranging from Pulitzer Prize winners to Olympic athletes—Hadley, who was recently inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame, imparted a new message of inspiration.

Such inspiration for young leaders, specifically women, is at the heart of the Women's

Policy Forum, a nonprofit focused on partnering with the community to support the success of young women.

"It is a way to give back and help others who deserve an education."

"TCC grows leaders and develops potential...When WPF talks about women taking their place at policy-making tables, it depends on institutions like TCC to prepare women of all ages for this role," said WPF Chair Mary Lee Hafley.

Though the annual Celebrity Breakfast brings prominent leaders together each year, the reach at TCC will now extend even further thanks to a scholarship established by the nonprofit in honor of Hadley.

Coordinated by the TCC Foundation,

the award will specifically benefit students in TCC's Women in New Roles Program, which is designed to empower women returning to college. Beginning this fall, \$500 will be granted to a select applicant, taking her one step closer to attaining a higher education.

"This will make it possible for some economically challenged students who are in transition to attend college at TCC," said WINR Program Coordinator Triesha Light. "This scholarship makes the difference between some students being able to attend college or not."

Light also pointed out the benefit to community organizations who partner with Tarrant County College, emphasizing the opportunity for direct involvement with students. "It is a way to give back and help others who deserve an education," she said. "The impact is personal because we change the world one student at a time."

The Foundation

The Foundation

A Group Effort

Thanks to support from community groups like those below, hundreds of students have found their way to education at Tarrant County College.

- AAUW - Fort Worth Branch
- Carswell Retired Officers' Wives Club
- The Professional Aviation Maintenance Association (PAMA)
- AAUW - Tarrant County Branch
- The Fort Worth Herb Society
- The Round Table of the Fort Worth Woman's Club
- The Fort Worth Institute of Supply Management
- United Way's Women's Leadership Society
- Arlington Sunrise Rotary Club
- Downtown Arlington Rotary Club
- HEB Rotary Club
- Grapevine Rotary Club
- Southlake Rotary Club
- Colleyville Lions Club

Special thanks to donors for gifts and pledges to the Tarrant County College Foundation

January 1-December 31, 2010

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