

Tarrant County College REACH MAGAZINE

Achieving the Dream
LEADER COLLEGE

SUMMER 2014

REACH MAGAZINE

Vol. 1 • No. 1 • Summer 2014

REACH Magazine is produced semi-annually for the friends, faculty and staff of TCC by the office of Public Relations and Marketing.

Editor-In-Chief

Suzanne Cottraux
*Director of Public Relations
& Marketing*

Managing Editor & Designer

Sara Rogers
*Manager of Marketing
Communications*

Contributors

Writers and Editors:
Kendra Prince, Rita L.B. Parson,
Connie Wiebe, Terrance Gilbert,
Laura Hanna, Christine Hubbard
Back Cover: Brandon Tucker

Photographers

DeeDra Parrish, Brandon Tucker,
Glen Ellman, Aggie Brooks

For comments or address changes,
please email tcc.reach@tccd.edu.



SUCCESS WITHIN REACH.



CHANCELLOR'S CORNER

Over the years, many of you have read and enjoyed TCC's magazine called Projection. And, those of you who have been part of our TCC family for a while know that we are always looking for opportunities to improve, including how we tell our stories about student success, institutional excellence and community impact.

In this spirit of this continued improvement, I'd like to welcome you to our inaugural issue of REACH, named and designed to reinforce that making "Success Within Reach" for current and future students lies at the heart of everything we do at TCC. We help our students REACH to achieve what success means to them, and we REACH through our commitment to developing and maintaining a college-going culture, an educated and trained workforce and a nationally recognized institution that generates meaningful economic impact in Tarrant County.

This inaugural issue represents one of many changes we're making at TCC. In addition to the new programs, partnerships, agreements and facilities featured on the following pages, I'm proud to say that we have developed a new institutional master plan to ensure that every investment we make delivers the greatest possible return on student investment (ROSI). Ideas for new programs, facilities...anything that could benefit our students and our community...now go through the Innovation Forum, where the initiative receives a DREAM score that rates how the concepts deliver on our commitments to Diversity, Relevance, Engagement, Access and Metrics (DREAM). Through this very efficient, but thorough, new process, we will be able to evaluate more ideas for improvement, environmental enhancements and projects in a more objective way. To our knowledge, TCC is the first institution of higher education in the nation to put into place such a process for institutional planning. I believe it will allow a greater number of people to come to the table with ideas that will help drive student success. While it represents a significant change from how we have worked in the past, it poises us for a stronger and more relevant future for our students and community.

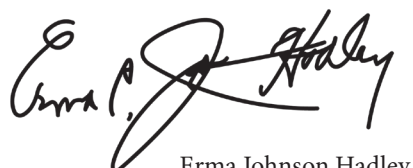
You'll notice that the first metric in the DREAM score is Diversity, which shows just how important diversity is to us at TCC. It's not enough for us to have a diverse workforce or a diverse student population, though. We absolutely must create and sustain an environment in which individual differences are not just respected, but valued and embraced, so that we foster a culture conducive to the best teaching and learning opportunities possible. That's why we instituted an Office for Diversity and Inclusion along with a steering committee and committees at each of our campuses. Thus far, these committees have hosted sessions to present the plan's content and Districtwide data as well as the campus' data from our 2012 diversity and inclusion survey (upon which the plan is based). This work is critically important and I'm pleased that more than 120 people are actively involved in moving us forward.

Finally, I'm pleased to say that TCC is one of only 72 Achieving the Dream Leader Colleges in the nation.

We earned this national distinction just three years after joining the ATD movement. The full story of our journey with ATD is inside, but what does it mean for us to be a Leader College?

First, it means that other colleges will look to us for help because we have valuable experience they need to drive student success on their campuses. And, it means we will continue to pursue the Achieving the Dream's Student-Centered Model of Institutional Improvement and strive for even higher levels of student success.

I hope you enjoy this first issue of REACH and, as always, I appreciate your confidence in Tarrant County College.



Erma Johnson Hadley
Chancellor



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. TCC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees.

Mission Statement

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

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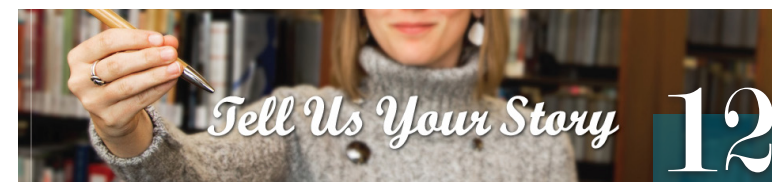
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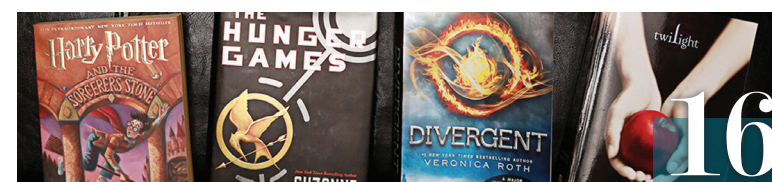
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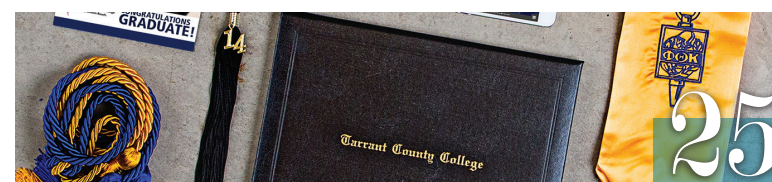
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Collaborating to Accelerate Student Success



MILESTONES

5,734 Graduates Embark on New Paths



TCC FOUNDATION

Alumni Profile, Donor Stories and Tributes

NEW
CONSTRUCTION
.....

SOUTH
New laboratories;
Science Building renovation;
Technology Building renovation;
Career Center renovation;
upgrades to the Learning
Studio classroom and lighting

NORTHEAST
Experiential classroom;
Instructional Media Center
renovation; Health and Science
Building renovation; Biology
lab renovation; 1222 A & B Arts
Building renovation

NORTHWEST
Theater, Library and office
renovations; Administration
Building offices renovations;
Loop I-820 access road;
new Firing Range;
new campus entrance road;
bookstore renovation

SOUTHEAST
New access road off Hwy 360;
new entry road on campus;
renovations to C, D and E
Wings and Culinary Arts;
new traffic signals on
Southeast Parkway and
New York Avenue

TRINITY RIVER
Student work space addition;
sound attenuation;
East Fork office renovation;
parking garage lighting upgrade

BRIGHT & SHINY
New Facilities & Programs

As part of a multi-year initiative, TCC is creating “sticky spaces” on each campus, designed to enrich student and staff interaction outside the classroom. By outfitting certain areas with furniture and amenities needed to foster collaborative discussion, learning and socializing, TCC believes students and staff literally will stick around campus longer (and feel more comfortable doing so). The Learning Studio at South Campus and experiential classrooms at Northeast and Northwest Campuses are complete. These spaces provide flexible environments in which instructors can experiment with different ways of delivering their subject matter.

TCC introduced Innovation Forums on all five campuses as a cutting-edge process to provide TCC employees, as well as the general public, an opportunity to vet new ideas for projects and programs across the District and allocate funding accordingly. Innovation Forum liaisons guide employees through the three-step process to determine how well new ideas support TCC’s institutional goals. The following projects resulted from the three-step design process.



Math Emporiums opened last summer on South (pictured below) and Northwest campuses. Designed as part of the Academic and Facilities Institutional Plan (the platform on which the Innovation Forums were built), the emporiums encourage students to work at their own pace to better understand material, providing an effective way for students to meet developmental math course requirements. The emporiums provide computer stations for instructors, lab assistants and up to 100 students, as well as break-out rooms and testing areas. Construction is underway for a Math Emporium at Trinity River and soon will be for Southeast Campus (more on page 10).



TCC purchased the Bell Helicopter building at Alliance Airport for TCC Northwest’s Aviation Technology, Logistics and Flight Training programs. Renovation construction is underway in preparation for these programs to move to the new facility for the Fall 2014 term.

TCC broke ground on the Energy Technology Center (pictured below) on the northwestern edge of South Campus on March 3, 2014. Slated for completion in August 2015, the newest Center of Excellence in the TCC system will position TCC as one of the nation’s premier training institutions for commercial and industrial air conditioning. Building construction for the 87,000-square-foot facility will cost approximately \$33 million. With 10 classrooms and 18 labs, TCC’s Energy Technology Center will be the largest of its kind in the nation and will accommodate much-needed expansion of the Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology Programs. In addition to these existing programs, TCC will introduce new programs including Geothermal Technology, Wind Generation, Active Solar, Oil and Gas Technology and Industrial Technology once the facility opens.



In partnership with the Arlington Independent School District, a new Early College High School will open in August 2014 at Southeast Campus. Early college high schools enable eligible students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously, allowing them to graduate with both a high school diploma and an associate degree.

Similar work is underway to renovate portions of the Multi-Purpose Classrooms (NMPC) building on the NE Campus for an Early College High School there in partnership with the Grapevine – Colleyville School District. Underscoring TCC’s commitment to offering an Early College High School on each of its campuses, district officials are working with the Fort Worth Independent School District to open an Early College High School at the South Campus in fall 2015.

TELLING OUR STORY



NEW CAMPAIGN

In planning its integrated advertising and marketing strategies for 2014, Tarrant County College District chose to move in an entirely new direction. Instead of continuing with straightforward image advertising, TCC is highlighting various technical programs and certifications that convey an important distinction for TCC. These programs, more than 70 in total, provide important opportunities for those who may not otherwise consider themselves “college material” to receive the education they need to pursue meaningful careers.

The campaign was designed entirely in-house, featuring photos of actual TCC students in their respective programs at each of the five campuses. The campaign launched in December 2013 with the debut of seven billboards showcasing visually interesting technical programs including culinary arts, fire training, nursing, radio and television broadcasting and welding, along with two general TCC

advertisements. Six new billboards debuted in June 2014 showcasing dance, art, robotics, aviation and surgical technology as well as online courses.

The campaign will continue throughout 2014 with print media, cinema advertising, mall advertising, sponsorships, radio and television. The advertising is designed to be aspirational, showing potential students that success is within reach at TCC.



NEW TAGLINE

Last fall, TCC changed its tagline from “Tomorrow Starts Here” to “Success Within Reach.”

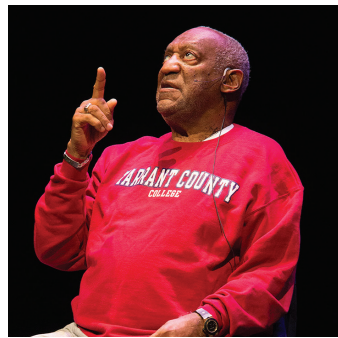
An in-house group consisting of marketing, graphics and web communications professionals convened to develop a tagline that best describes TCC’s key value propositions including accessibility, affordability, quality and variety. The brainstorming team quickly narrowed a list of 60 possible taglines down to six. Results from an extensive survey delivered to TCC students, faculty and staff showed that among the 3,300 people who completed the survey, “Success Within Reach” was the clear favorite.

“Interestingly, this result mirrored pre-survey feedback the team received and serves as testament to how well employees

know their constituents,” said Suzanne Cottraux, director of public relations and marketing. Reginald Gates, vice chancellor for communications and external affairs, said the new tagline serves as a reminder of the difference TCC can make in the lives of current and prospective students.



LOOK WHO'S HERE!



BILL COSBY

PRESENTED BY TCC FOUNDATION

Cosby's September 2013 performance at Bass Performance Hall to benefit the TCC Foundation was a sell out! "An Evening with Bill Cosby" raised more than \$210,000 for the Foundation Scholarship Funds, which help students fill financial gaps that could derail their dreams of attending college. Fort Worth-based BNSF Railway Foundation served as presenting sponsor of the event. Sandra and Rice Tilley Jr., along with Linda and Dan Dipert, served as honorary chairs.

PATRICK DUFFY

& THE CAST OF TNT'S "DALLAS"

In October 2013, the cast of the TNT hit series "Dallas" were at Trinity River Campus to film scenes for an upcoming episode. Filming is prohibited in actual federal buildings, so the producers of the show transformed the Trinity River Rotunda into a "federal building." The episode aired on March 3, 2014, featuring not only the Trinity River Campus, but TCC staff as extras.



TOMMIE SMITH

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST

In celebration of African-American Heritage Month, Trinity River Campus hosted a film festival featuring 1968 U.S. Olympic Track and Field 200-meter gold medalist and sports icon, Tommie Smith. Following a screening of the documentary "Return to Mexico City," Smith held a conversational Q&A with viewers.



BETSY PRICE

FORT WORTH MAYOR

Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price took part in the groundbreaking of Tarrant County College's new sustainable Energy Technology Center on March 3, 2014, at South Campus. Mayor Price praised TCC for the value it brings to the community and added that she and her three children have all taken courses at TCC. She also spoke at the Northwest Campus "Mile with the Mayor" on April 22, 2014. She discussed her personal commitment to a healthy lifestyle, her Fit Worth program, and then joined in a one-mile walk around the campus lake.



@MayorBetsyPrice

Loved walking to #getfit this afternoon at TCC!



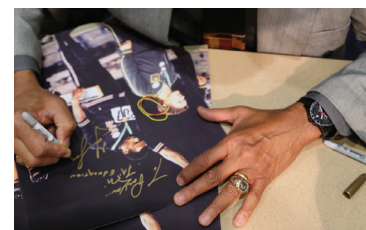
WENDY DAVIS & MARIA SHRIVER

Wendy Davis, a TCC alumna and now, a member of the Texas Senate and Texas gubernatorial candidate, returned to Northeast Campus for an exclusive interview with NBC's Maria Shriver for "The Today Show." The interview aired on January 15, 2014, as part of a week-long series of stories highlighting the personal and financial challenges many American women face.



@JulieGunter

Great @WendyDavisTexas interview on Today Show! Respect for @TCCollege & all colleges--huge help for those of us #doingitall



TCC's Own Champion Takes Things in Stride

by Kendra Prince

When Elizabeth (Eder) Northern ran in her first race at age four, little did she know that years later she would be participating in the Olympic trials. What drew her to running as a sport? "It doesn't take a lot of skill and I'm terrified of spherical objects," she laughs. To run fast is satisfying and freeing, according to Northern, who joined the TCC staff in early 2013 as a Title III research analyst in Institutional Research Planning and Effectiveness.

Northern won the Half Marathon and 10K for women at the Cowtown Marathon in Fort Worth this year. Last year, she set a new record for women in the Cowtown Marathon and plans to compete in the Ultra Marathon and 5K next year. She would love to win in all five races for the annual event.

In October 2013, Northern qualified to participate in the 2016 Olympic trials when she finished the Chicago Bank of America Marathon by beating the required time of 2:43. She will run in the trials in Los Angeles in February 2016.

Northern considers working at TCC's Trinity River Campus and running to be mutually beneficial. She appreciates the campus's close proximity to the Trinity Trails because she runs at lunch one to two times a week. The running helps her focus more on her work and energizes her for the rest of her day. Northern says her team in Institutional Research has been very supportive of her running. Her coworker, Jim Brown, a former NCAA basketball player, has a grandson who ran in the Cowtown Marathon. Brown cheers Northern on, relating to her on an athlete-to-athlete basis.

Running every day, Northern averages 60-75 miles a week when she is not training. When preparing for a marathon, that total can reach up to 90 miles a week. She says it has brought her and her husband, Will, a Fort Worth realtor, closer. Will often rides his bike alongside as she runs. The couple was married in May this year.

Northern's hard work is paying off. In addition to qualifying for the Olympic trials earlier this year, Northern became a member of Team Hurricane for Saucony. Team members consist of top-tier athletes who serve as ambassadors competing in communities across the nation while wearing Saucony gear.

Running and training provides valuable life lessons for Northern who says it puts things into perspective. "I've gotten very good at being uncomfortable," she says. If she has a rough day, she remembers to take things in stride. "Sometimes things do not go as planned." When that happens, it is important to adapt and keep going.

Northern believes that running and competing is 90 percent mental. "If your mind has the will, it is amazing what the human body can do. Optimism goes a long way and persistence is key," she says.



Liz running in the 2013 TCC Toro Dash

Join the Conversation

@TCCCollege



@HerbaGuy

@tcccollege
#tccsouth
thank you for
always giving this
student excellent
customer service.

@PHIMed8

Visiting with some
student nurses today
from @TCCCollege.
Thanks for
stopping by!
#HEMS #EMS



@CoachBFree

Running a 3 on 3
tournament with
@eyginc1999
@TCCCollege!
#Bracketologist
#PureShot



@JboneNeuser

91 on my first
algebra test. Take
no prisoners!
@TCCCollege



@ChrisGTurner

Proud to honor
founding president
Dr. Judith Carrier as
@TCCCollege SE
Campus renamed the
library for her today.

@whatchawantt

One of the main
reasons why my son
Brenden loves
going to #tccsouth
is for the fountain!



@mansfieldisd

New Mansfield ISD
& @TCCCollege
#dualcredit program
lets HS students
earn up to 48
semester hours!



@KellerCentralHS

Over 450 parents &
students in attendance
for the TCC Dual
Credit College
Presentation. Thank
You to @TCCCollege

@stevensonseth

Many thanks to
@TCCCollege for
letting me speak with
students. Great time,
great questions, great
Tex-Mex food.

@IFSTA

Thanks again to
@TCCCollege
Fire Service
Training for
helping us with
the photo shoot!



@HERSInstitutes

@TCCCollege, your
Chancellor Erma
Johnson Hadley
is inspirational.
#HERSSummit2014
#Womenlead

@thepoetjz

Had an amazing time
at the TCC Poetry
Grand Slam last night.
I was lucky to win
& many thanks to Big
Ant for inviting me.



Tarrant County College
May 5

That moment when you walk out of your last final for the semester.

(Photo credit: @lonely__barricade)



Like · Comment · Share

1,121 61 154 Shares

Tarrant County College

Instagram

PHOTO

Contest

Weekly Challenge

First signs
of Spring

@lavidabreve

Blooming outside TRC.

#tccpicoftheweek
@tarrantcountycollege
#tcctrinityriver

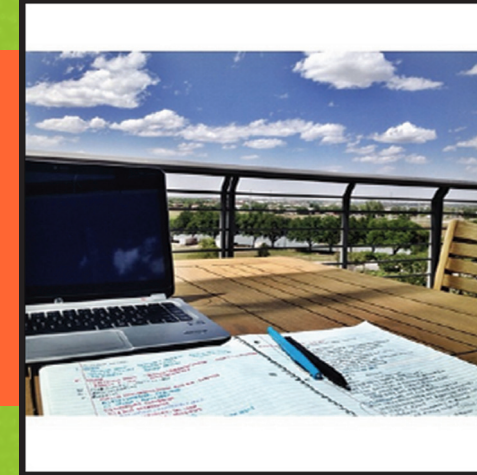


Favorite
Study Spot

@lebnyargas

Hard work pays off.

#tccpicoftheweek
#studyplace

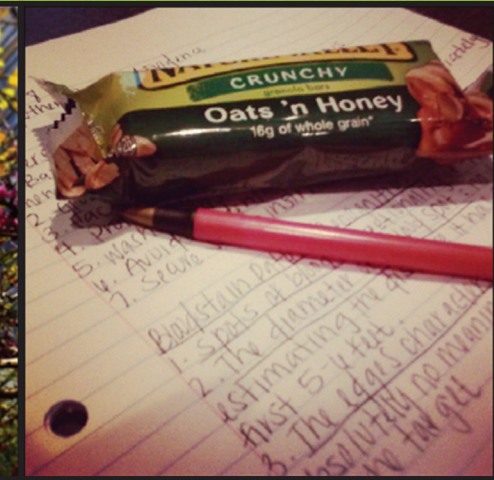


Snack Time

@22jsalinas

Uggg my breakfast!!
Wish I had real food!!

#oatsnhoney
#tccpicoftheweek
#northwestcampus
#snacktime #tcc



Day on
Campus

@mrslindsayaaron

Posing with the belly
dancer at the International
Festival this afternoon.

#spanishfriends
#tccpicoftheweek



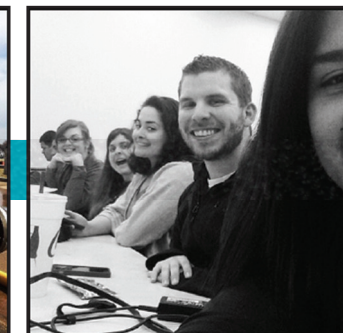
@tarrantcountycollege

@slshiplier



#fireacademy

@alextheintern57



Love my lab group.

@zerofret



#fortworthinsta



PRIORITY

1

Increase student success through a comprehensive First-Year Experience program

Intervention

1

Implement uniform, College-wide mandatory New Student Orientation

Intervention

2

Review and strengthen Appreciative Advising Model, including faculty engagement in advising and case management

Intervention

3

Review and strengthen Transition to College Success course (STSC)

PRIORITY

2

Increase student success in developmental education and three gateway courses

Intervention

1

Develop and implement Retention Alert

Intervention

2

Review, strengthen and align math curriculum and instructional methods to support student success

Are We There Yet?

Four Years of Achieving the Dream

by Sara Rogers

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is the largest non-government initiative in community college history and was on the front of Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley's mind when Joy Gates Black, vice chancellor of academic affairs and student success, joined TCC in 2010. As Hadley and Black discussed the importance of ATD, both were amazed that TCC was the last large community college in Texas to join the movement. The ATD network now includes more than 130 institutions in 24 states and the District of Columbia, reaching more than 1 million students.

When Hadley attended the American Association of Community Colleges meeting on the west coast that same year, ATD staff encouraged her to apply. "Some people did not think we needed ATD to help us make changes, but sometimes you need an external perspective and accountability pushing you to change," Black said.

Hadley returned with a mission: TCC would gain ATD status, showing the College is dedicated to identifying strategies to improve student success, close achievement gaps and increase student retention, persistence and completion rates. With the support of the Chancellor's Executive Leadership Team (CELT), Black and Jaqueline Maki, associate vice chancellor for grants development, immediately began writing TCC's original proposal to become an ATD college.

With student success as the centerpiece of TCC's Vision 2015 Strategic Plan, TCC could not have chosen a better time to join the nationwide movement. "We were still functioning under our mission of access, but it has since broadened to include access *and* success. ATD helped us refocus ourselves on why we exist," Black said. TCC made an initial two-year commitment to focus on closing performance gaps among student sub-groups, including students of color and low-income students.

SETTING OUR PRIORITIES

Colleges must commit to the ATD Student-Centered Model of Institutional Improvement, which includes five principles that help colleges transform themselves: committed leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement, systemic institutional improvement and equity. Each college approaches the work differently, but ATD provides practical guidelines for keeping the focus where it belongs: to help more students earn post-secondary credentials, including occupational certificates and degrees. Since community college students often take several years to earn certificates or degrees, ATD works with institutions to improve student progression through intermediate milestones.

Once TCC committed to join ATD, the next step was to make an in-depth assessment of student outcomes, identify barriers and opportunities for improvement and articulate those that should be addressed as priorities for the next four years. "TCC set these priorities by using a data-driven decision model to identify student achievement gaps and effectively measure outcomes," said James Ramirez, director of student success initiatives.

TCC reviewed five years of cohort data, as well as data gathered from campus leadership when each president asked their teams, "What keeps our students from succeeding?" Alma Martinez-Egger, director of employee online learning, who was interim director of student success at the time, said they conducted student focus groups and had conversations about how to eliminate achievement gaps and improve student outcomes with faculty, community leaders, staff and administrators. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected, analyzed and divided into categories to establish initiatives. From these initiatives, TCC established its ATD priorities. (See sidebar.)

YEAR 1

Gather and analyze data on student outcomes; Research best practices; Consult with experts and other institutions; Attend seminars and workshops; Prepare and share summary reports of findings with our team of committed leaders

YEAR 2

Propose a Districtwide model; Engage committed faculty and staff; Determine policies and procedures; Develop training; Train faculty and staff

YEAR 3

Evaluate student success; Make adjustments to models and procedures as necessary; Implementation of interventions

YEAR 4

Evaluate student success interventions; Make adjustments to models and procedures as necessary; Data theme focus: retention in fall and graduation in spring

DEDICATED TEAMS

To implement these priorities, TCC has taken bold steps to create policies that nurture and support student success with the engagement of faculty, staff and administrators. Collectively, these committed professionals worked to identify student success initiatives, analyze data and provide recommendations. "The successful implementation of interventions and infrastructure supporting student success across the District is exceptional given the time frame and the vast scope of our work (five campuses and more than 50,000 students)," Martinez-Egger said.

The first step in the ATD improvement process is for the College's leadership to make a clear commitment to improving student outcomes and to communicate that priority to internal and external stakeholders. As an example, Hadley begins and ends all of her internal and external speeches by reminding her audience that student success is everyone's priority at the college.

What about TCC's Board of Trustees? Louise Appleman, president of the board and board representative for ATD, attends most Districtwide meetings. "I keep the board apprised of ATD plans and programs, and share on behalf of the Board to the ATD Committee, assuring compliance with the mission of the College and its policies," Appleman said. "My time with the ATD Committee has confirmed my suspicions -- that TCC has an A+ team of intelligent professionals who are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that TCC provides the very best experience and that our graduates are ready for the workplace or the university."

Every CELT member serves on the ATD Core Team, with some also serving on the ATD Steering Committee. The CELT supports policy changes and resource allocations to improve student success. Many initiatives were implemented rapidly, requiring many of the CELT members to move quickly to support the implementations.

In addition to executive staff support, student success initiatives are broadly supported on all five campuses and at all levels. Faculty meets regularly to discuss course and program outcomes, and also serves on the Developmental Education Councils, the District and Campus Data Teams and the District and Campus Implementation Teams. TCC works with full-time and adjunct faculty to engage all faculty perspectives relative to student success.

"The successful implementation of interventions and infrastructure supporting student success across the District is exceptional given the time frame and the vast scope of our work (five campuses and more than 50,000 students)," Martinez-Egger said.

The ATD Executive Steering Committee, Core Team, and Data Team follow TCC's unique District-to-Campus level structure. "ATD really helped us create a framework and structure where we are better positioned to support the success of our students," Black said. The Collegewide ATD Core Team consists of a cross-functional group of key leaders from each campus who provide intervention and campus updates. Likewise, there is a District Data Team that drives the data collection and analysis for the District. The Core Team focuses on implementing and sustaining the institutional change work that impact student success while the Data Team collects and analyzes data to support the core team, encouraging the development of new strategies or the adjustment of existing ones.

Hadley also approved the addition of ATD coordinators on each campus. ATD coordinators are standing members of the data and core teams. These faculty members, appointed by campus presidents, administer ATD information and surveys on their campuses, then send the outcomes to the Data Team for published results and findings. "Results do not just sit idle on a shelf," Ramirez said. "TCC has become more intentional in teaching campuses about the importance and uses of data and surveys."

ATD assigned coaches to support all of these teams. TCC's coaches, Christine McPhail and Rhonda Glover (since replaced by Ted Wright), educated TCC employees on ATD principles and expectations at the 2010 Annual Chancellor's Breakfast. Martinez-Egger explained that the coaches help TCC stay on track through the data processing and systematic decision process. They also help organize data for effective interpretation so that each area can report and distribute success numbers. "What ATD does through its coaches is provide external accountability--an objective perspective," Black said.

DATA, DATA, DATA

Data-driven evidence helps TCC to identify and monitor key student achievement gaps and barriers to student success. "We evolved our services to meet the needs of those students. ATD changed the way we are using data," Black said. ATD colleges work to increase student success as measured by key indicators. TCC gains qualitative data through the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) and the Community College

TC²S⁴

TCC STUDENT SUCCESS SCHOLASTIC SUMMIT

More than 290 faculty, staff and student representatives from each TCC campus came together on April 11, 2014, at the Arlington Convention Center to share best practices, data analysis, program evaluations and program developments in furthering TCC's Culture of Evidence.



NATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Brandon Tucker, web design coordinator for TCCD, won the national ATD photo contest in 2012 while he was a Northeast Campus student.

The contest was open to all students attending ATD institutions. Participants were asked to produce a piece focused on students dreaming big, graduation, studying and hard work. Tucker's photo wowed contest judges and was selected from a large pool of submissions.

Tucker attended the ATD D.R.E.A.M. 2012 National Conference in Dallas, where his photo was presented to ATD board and staff members.

His winning photo (pictured below) hangs in the ATD national headquarters and the Lumina Foundation, one of the principal underwriters of ATD. The photo has since been used on numerous materials for TCC and can be seen throughout District offices.



Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), tools designed to help colleges gain insight on student behaviors and experiences.

The Institutional Research Planning and Effectiveness (IRPE) department, along with District and campus leaders, is developing a new Student Engagement Survey (SES) as an alternative to the CCSSE. While CCSSE recommends the survey be conducted once every three years, TCCD has administered the CCSSE every year since 2010 to obtain sufficient baseline data. SES survey questions can be tailored to the specific services offered at TCCD and can target specific student groups. The first draft has been submitted for approval.

IRPE has grown from eight to 21 employees. In the last year, IRPE has become more deliberate in communicating data to the college community by developing data briefs focused on the success and evaluation of the interventions, hosting data discussions for the Districtwide data team and supporting campus data team discussions as requested. IRPE also has created a data dashboard that allows the user to enter a data request and receive the information in seconds. IRPE hosts three data meetings per semester, where the Executive Steering Committee and Data Team receive info electronically to take back to their campuses for campus conversations, department meetings, presidential meetings and other campus dialogues.

Historically, TCC did not have a culture of sharing data broadly. Since TCC joined ATD, the college has made great strides in using evidence to improve policies. "There seems to be a renewed and heightened awareness of, interest in and commitment to the relevance of data," Appleman said.

READY TO ROLL

During 2012-2013, TCC implemented several ATD interventions, which serve as tools for students to build their own paths to success. One of the first changes came in 2010 when TCC eliminated late registration as a student success measure. TCC also has increased student success through a comprehensive First-Year Experience program, as outlined in TCC's ATD Priority 1.

The first step to this program began in spring 2013 when a New Student Orientation (NSO) program was implemented at all five campuses to connect students, prior to classes beginning, with faculty, staff and peer students, as well as introduce them to behaviors that will increase their success in

college. All First Time in College (FTIC) students are required to register for NSO before registering for classes.

The second intervention under Priority 1 involved the introduction of Intentional and Appreciative Advising, which includes open-ended questions and dialogue. All students must see an academic advisor two times per semester until they complete 30 credits and all developmental education course work. Once students complete 30 college level courses, they are matched with a faculty member in their major to mentor them until they graduate. All students participating in the Men of Color Mentoring Program or Empowering Links program must meet with an advisor and mentor twice per semester and attend activities designed specifically for these populations.

To review and strengthen the Student Transitions to College Success Course (STSC) as outlined in Intervention 3, TCC brought the course to full scale in year three. STSC is a college readiness course focused on developing skills (e.g., critical thinking, time management and study skills). Designed to increase student success in subsequent courses, the course was scaled up and is now required for all FTIC students who are Texas Success Initiative (TSI)-liable in one or more areas. The purpose of TSI, mandated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is to grant institutions of higher education the flexibility and responsibility to improve individualized programs and ensure the success of students in higher education.

Under ATD Priority 2, TCC committed to develop and implement Retention Alert, an early alert system designed to notify students at risk. "We are currently testing Retention Alert through a pilot group of biology faculty at South and Northeast campuses," Ramirez said. "The plan is to roll out Retention Alert by fall 2014." Retention Alert will provide faculty additional support needed when a student is identified as potentially in jeopardy of failing a course or in need of additional campus resources.

To increase student success in developmental education, as outlined in Priority 2, TCC also introduced Math Emporiums in 2012-2013. Mastery-based and adaptive learning are two key elements of the math emporium curriculum implemented on all campuses. This faculty-led, computer-assisted method of instruction focuses on mastery in developmental mathematics. TCC opened Math

Emporium on the South and Northwest campuses last summer. These emporiums allow students to work at their own pace, where students have the opportunity to complete more than one class during the semester or complete their classes early. Focus groups are currently being held to gather data on the success of Math Emporiums (more on page 2).

LEADER COLLEGE STATUS

In the past four years, TCC has made tremendous strides in developing programs and policies that have transformed the institution and increased student success. These efforts were rewarded in April of 2013 when TCC was recognized as a finalist for the American Association of Community College Excellence Award in Student Success and in July of 2013 when TCC was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College. Becoming a leader college in just three years represents an unbelievable effort on the part of TCC's entire college community. "We pulled together our strategies as five colleges working as one," Martinez-Egger said. "We worked hard, we worked fast and we stuck to our plan." Martinez-Egger said she, along with many, cheered in their offices while reading the Districtwide email informing employees that TCC had achieved Leader College status.

Institutions seeking Leader College status are held to a higher standard and must prove that student achievement increased on at least one measure for three or more years. TCC has truly become an institution that uses data to inform its decision making and one that uses broad engagement to gain support for making lasting changes. "Becoming a Leader College

was an 'assumed' goal from the beginning so we were extremely pleased (and proud!) to be named a leader after only three years." Appleman continued, "Our ATD Coaches and the TCC faculty and staff were in concert from the beginning, which paid off and will continue to sustain our continued improvement and progress." Becoming a Leader College underscores the extensive changes TCC has made and the resulting increases in the success of its students. Every college invited to join ATD is entitled to receive coaching, data facilitation and other support to help implement the ATD evidence-driven process for increasing student success. ATD Leader Colleges are institutions that have implemented this institutional improvement process and met high standards of practice and

performance. To apply for Leader College status, TCC was required to submit yearly reports that exceeded ATD standards.

Achieving Leader College status allows TCC to proudly display the ATD Leader College logo, recognizing TCC as an expert and leader in the field. It also provides access to more funding and pairs TCC with a non-leader college to guide. TCC was paired with Houston Community College before becoming a leader college itself. Today, TCC is a model to help other institutions streamline their processes. "Other colleges are looking at us now—as a role model—looking to see what makes us successful that they can implement on their own campuses," Martinez-Egger said.

MOVING FORWARD

"Anyone looking at TCC today will see a very different institution than just four years ago thanks, in part, to our work with ATD," said Kimberly Beatty, associate vice chancellor for student success.

Creating pathways for student success and developing the supporting programs and services has become the number one priority at TCC. This shift is evident throughout TCC's campuses, publications and, most importantly, in how the institution interacts with students. "ATD will continue to be a vehicle for change," Black said. "It hasn't made the change for us, we as an institution have made the change through our efforts, but we made it because ATD forced us to look at ourselves and think differently."

Ramirez explained that TCC's goal for the future is to align efforts from an institutional standpoint so there is more connected support and a streamline of measures and efforts. "We must also focus on reapplying for Leader College status, providing data to show progressive increase in two of our measures over these three years," Ramirez said.

Continuing these efforts requires a commitment to ongoing program development and process improvement. "TCC will never stop looking at data to evaluate strategies and make necessary improvements," Martinez-Egger said. "It is a constant cycle of making informed decisions—one that never ends—because we make needed improvements and then move on to the next area of improvement." As strategies prove successful and are brought to scale, TCC will continue to repeat the process, identifying new areas to address.

STUDENT BUTTON CONTEST

In a recent competition, TCC students designed buttons to illustrate themes of ATD. A winner was chosen from each campus. From the five finalists, one design was selected as District winner.

Northwest and Districtwide Winner
Deanna Stewart



Trinity River Winner
Alycia Lee



South Winner
Alexander Roper



Northeast Winner
Timothy Veach



Southeast Winner
MarQuis Shine



SUCCESS QUOTES

“The day I was to start my college education was about seven years too late. I was in my late 20s, had two kids and found myself sitting in my car that morning, scared to death. I had never dreamed of college or ever considered it an option. Now, I love my job and I love TCC. I tell my students that you can do anything you set your mind to, which is something I honestly did not believe until I attended TCC.”

Jennifer Lamb

TCC Adjunct Professor of Sociology, SE Campus

TCC Student, 2006-2008
B.A. in Sociology, UTA, 2010
M.A. in Sociology, UTA, 2012

.....

“I began my journey at TCC in 2010 at the age of 59 and graduated in May 2014. This is a journey I never dreamed I would be taking. I have my associate degree and a certificate in business management, as well as an assistant accountant I and II in accounting. It has been a long journey but one well worth taking. I hope people starting their own journey will be encouraged to not give up and continue to persevere that they will achieve their goal.”

Dorothy Berry

A.A. in Business Management, TCC, 2014

THE PATH ISN'T ALWAYS EASY

Without Tarrant County College my life would have taken a totally different direction. A good one I am sure, because I am the kind of woman who sees the good in everything, however I am so grateful to this educational institution for what it has given me.

Born in Greece without much opportunity for education, I was fortunate to marry a man in the U.S. Air Force and relocate to the USA. After a few years of homesickness, adjustments and culture shock, I decided to study for my GED. I taught myself English and studied for my GED at the Fort Worth West Branch Library.

Pat, my GED teacher at the library, was so impressed with my GED test scores that she suggested I continue with college. I was shocked and scared since I was never encouraged to believe I was college material in my country or from teachers. She believed in me so much and walked me through the registration process.

My teachers were very encouraging and impressed with my discipline, giving me confidence in myself. After two and a half years, I graduated with an Associate Degree in Applied Science as a legal secretary with high honors. Immediately after graduation I was hired part-time at TCC as a senior secretary in the Community Services Office. I had worked as a student worker in several TCC departments prior to this job. I went full time at TCC in the same office after six months and have been here for 30-plus years.

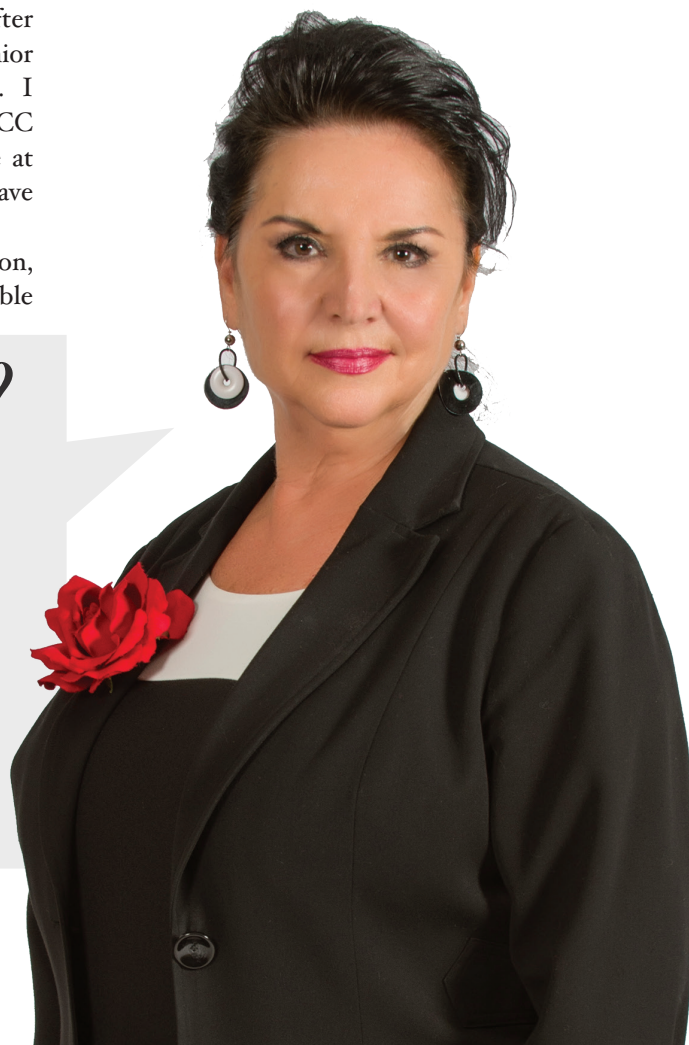
My wonderful job, secured by my education, afforded me the opportunity to live a comfortable

life, which in return allowed me time to find my purpose. I could have pursued even higher education, but I had already achieved my impossible dream which was to be a secretary. TCC not only paved the road to my career, but the road to my purpose in life. It was at this college, on Northwest Campus, where I took a yoga class with Irene Bengé, who later informed me that because of my affinity to yoga she wanted to recommend me as the next yoga instructor at TCC Northwest.

Since I was already full time, I volunteered my services as a yoga teacher to the Senior Education program, which I later coordinated for several years. My love for yoga blossomed and I have expanded my teaching and established an “Agape Yoga Business,” which reaches international level students. I still teach a free class after work at Northwest Campus.

TCC gave me more than education. It gave me a quality life with a great purpose.

-Kathy Saburn



What did TCC give me?

It gave me education.

It gave me confidence.

It gave me a degree.

It gave me acceptance.

It gave me a future.

It gave me a good paycheck.

It gave me a good life.

It gave me lots of friends.

It gave me ME.

Do you have a success story to share?
Email it to TCC.SuccessStories@tccd.edu.

I started at TCC in January 2011 during a very difficult time. I have three children under the age of 11 and am recently divorced. During my first semester at TCC, my grandfather, who raised me, passed away on Valentine’s Day. The next semester my marriage began having issues and by my third semester I had separated from my ex-husband. Through all of my personal struggles and trials, I not only attended school taking at least nine hours a semester, I also held down a full-time job, took care of three kids and cared for my disabled mother and grandmother.

I have a very busy, hectic, wonderful life. I struggle, I succeed, I fall and I get up again. I have thought about taking a semester off many times, but each time I do, I remember why I came back to school in the first place. I had my son when I was 18, two weeks after my high school graduation, which I did not attend as a nine-month-pregnant 18-year-old. I have been told since the age of 18 that my life was over and that I would not amount to anything because I was a young parent. My success is not only that I am a college student, my success is that I have overcome the naysayers, who believed I would not succeed and provide a good life for my children. I work full time, attend school online, I will start at Texas Wesleyan this fall. I have my kids every day. During this busy time, I have never missed a school program, a basketball

or football game and have never let them see me quit.

It may take me 10 years to get the law degree I want and I might not even get that dream job, but my success story is so much more than being a student, it’s being a mom. I love TCC and everyone who has helped me come as far as I already have. The professors, counselors and everyone at TCC are amazing. I graduated May 10, 2014, with my head held high and my children there to root me on. When life got tough and I was at rock bottom, I did not give up on my education or our future. No matter what happens, I will continue to succeed and keep my pedal to the ground because I have three amazing people watching my every move. When I succeed and keep going, so do they. Thank you for taking the time to read my story and for giving me the opportunity to share it.

-Candice Turner

- Candice celebrated with her
- three children at TCC’s May
- 2014 graduation ceremony.



SUCCESS QUOTES

“I enrolled at TCC in 2005 with the same lack of ambition I had in high school and then re-enrolled in 2013 with my mind set to succeed and reach my goals. My hard work and perseverance paid off last semester as I was named to the Dean’s List and had the opportunity to tell my mother. The pride I heard in her voice as she congratulated me has been a continuing inspiration this semester. When you want to give up and slip back into your comfortable lifestyle, remind yourself of what your end goal is, look back at what inspired you to better yourself and use those factors and ideas to re-motivate yourself.”

Samer Alrayyan-Cobb

Civil Engineering Student,
NE and NW Campuses

“I love making movies. Getting to write a story and see it come to life is not like any feeling in the world. At TCC, I discovered what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to make films. After I die, I will have something that people will remember me by, so that I can influence others to do what I did. I love TCC for giving me this opportunity to live my dream and make movies. If it wasn’t for this school, I would have never realized who I’m meant to become.”

Rafael Flores

Broadcast Journalism Student,
NE Campus

GREAT WORK PAYS DIVIDENDS

by Laura Hanna

Three students have been recognized for their leadership and academic achievements, but that's not all. They all faced heavy competition and all have ties to Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). Lori King-Nelson (left) serves as PTK president at TCC South, Nathaniel Peoples (middle) is co-president of the Beta Sigma Mu Chapter and Lynda Le (right) was named a Bronze Scholar in a program administered by the PTK Honor Society.



South Student Awarded Prestigious Transfer Scholarship

Lori King-Nelson graduated from TCC South in May, knowing her educational career had only started. She graduated with highest honors and now plans to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology and religion, followed by a master's in religion and a doctorate in the sociology of religion.

Thanks to a scholarship award, she will not have to worry about the cost of higher education while finishing her bachelor's degree. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation awarded King-Nelson a 2014 Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, which pays up to \$30,000 a year for as many as three years. What's almost as nice as winning the award is the way King-Nelson heard the news.

"Our campus president, Dr. Jordan, had tried to find me in class, but my instructor had canceled lab that day because she was ill," King-Nelson said. "Dr. Jordan called me and asked if I could come back up to school. When I arrived at his office, I was told to go to the library. As soon as I walked in, he introduced me to students and then told me I had won the award. I cried. It took a little while to process the information; I kept thinking it could be a mistake because the odds of receiving this scholarship were astronomical."

King-Nelson was selected from the largest group of applicants in the scholarship's 13-year history. A pool of 3,705 applicants from 737 community colleges was narrowed to 85 recipients nationally. She is one of only six students selected in Texas.

Her long-range plans will bring her home to where it all began. "I would like to teach at TCC in the future," King-Nelson said, "As well as create a non-profit organization to educate people on religious and cultural differences."

Distinguished Chapter Officer Award Goes to PTK Co-President

Nathaniel Peoples, co-president of the Beta Sigma Mu Chapter, was selected as one of Phi Theta Kappa's 2014 Distinguished Chapter Officers. Peoples, who attends classes on both the Trinity River and South campuses, was one of 30 recipients the judges selected from more than 450 nominees internationally.

When he was notified of the award, Peoples was happy – but quick to share the credit with others.

"I truly was excited to the maximum," Peoples said. "I immediately told my family about the award and stated, 'Even though I won this award, my officer team helped me achieve this. Without Everett Davis, Jack Roudolph and Candace Eldridge, this would not be a reality today.'"

Peoples, who is studying Business Administration with a focus on Entrepreneurship and Global Innovation, was on hand to accept his award during the national convention in Florida.

Southeast Student Wins Bronze in Academic Competition

Lynda Le, a Southeast campus student, was named a 2014 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar. More than 1,700 students applied and only 50 were chosen.

Students were awarded based on their scores in the All-USA Community College Academic Team Competition.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the scholarship program, which is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

Everyone is College Material

by Terrance Gilbert
TCC Student

Depending on whom you ask, the term "non-traditional student" can have various definitions. At TCC, thousands of dedicated students juggle school, work and parenting, along with countless other responsibilities during their educational journeys.

Consider Brittany Brelsford, a nursing student at Trinity River Campus East Center for Health Care Professions. Brelsford is accomplishing her goals while raising her three-year-old daughter, Ashlynn, attending class full time and working for the nursing department in supplemental education as a mental health tutor. "Of all these things, my daughter is the most important job – the joy of my life," Brelsford said.

Brelsford hoped to attend college after high school, but circumstances were not right at the time. By 2011, she was dealing with the effects of an abusive relationship and was homeless, living in her car for several months. In close proximity to the Northeast Campus, she grew up in Hurst and had several friends who were attending TCC. "I was always familiar with TCC, but life was busy and school was not a top priority," she said.

After getting back on her feet, Brelsford scheduled an academic advising session at TCC and discovered she could attain the affordable education she had always wanted. "I recall the first time I saw the Trinity River Campus East. I was amazed at how beautiful the campus was and how accommodating the faculty and staff were during my visit," Brelsford recollected. She attributes the birth of her daughter as the final call to begin achieving her educational dreams.

"Brittany is motivated to the core, and follows the Trinity River hallmarks, particularly when it comes to endless service to our program," Nursing Academic Advisor Katherine Aultman said. "We truly have the best of the best and she is a great example for other non-traditional students facing unique challenges, who want to attain a quality education while making a difference." In becoming involved with organizations on campus, Brelsford often tells her story and works directly with academic advising to assist current and potential students in accomplishing their goals."

Brelsford will complete her studies at TCC in December 2014 and plans to attend Tarleton State University for her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, followed by graduate school. "After graduation from TCC, I plan to stay involved through alumni activities and the TCC Foundation. I can see myself returning to teach nursing at TCC one day," she said.

Her advice for other non-traditional students:

*"Set small goals and become active in campus life.
Make the most out of your time."*



Modern-Day Fairy Tales

WHY DYSTOPIAN TALES ARE GOOD FOR YOU

by Christine Hubbard
TCC Connect Vice President
for Academic Operations

The last two decades have witnessed a sharp rise in widespread popularity of young adult book series including J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter," Stephenie Meyer's "Twilight," Suzanne Collins' "The Hunger Games" and Veronica Roth's "Divergent." These book series have, in turn, spawned some of the most successful films of the past 13 years. What makes these stories so popular? The answer may be surprising. While some may see these series' popularity as a recent fad, the truth is that the plots and characters in these stories are as old as literature itself.

From the fifth-century BC "Aesop's Fables," to the 18th-century folk and fairy tales collected by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and the 20th- and 21st-century series by Rowling, Meyer, Collins and Roth, stories of youth who venture out, learn harsh truths about the society in which they live, overcome obstacles and gradually find their place in the world have consistently spoken to young and adult audiences alike. These stories, also known as bildungsroman, or "coming of age" stories, appear in folk tales, young adult novels and teen films and share some common threads: the absence of parental authority propels the main character into the adult world alone, and the young protagonist

must make his or her own way. Most often depicted as disadvantaged in some way, commonly as poor, weak or bullied, the protagonist finds throughout the story that he or she is special, endowed with a unique gift and that it is his or her duty to use that unique gift to save family, friends or even the entire world.

One of the most effective ways to present a critique of current society is to set a story within a fantasy or science-fiction world. These environments allow the writer to criticize modern society and the reader to imagine how he or she would deal with the problems the protagonist faces.

The "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" series, set in familiar, modern-day environments, include fantasy elements to create the conflict each protagonist will face. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" uses fantasy to reveal a hidden alternate world of witchcraft and wizardry. Harry, an orphan, taken in by his aunt and uncle, is mistreated and bullied throughout his youth. He comes to realize that he is part of a secret world of witchcraft and wizardry, where he is a star. The society depicted in the series addresses real 20th- and 21st century issues of discrimination, genocide and totalitarianism.

The "Twilight" series features Bella Swan, a shy, gawky girl who lives with her father and loves a boy from school who is a vampire. Bella learns that she has powers, which help her protect her family, friends and the entire race of werewolves and vampires against a corrupt vampire leadership, the Volturi. As in the "Harry Potter" series, those with power are shown as easily corrupted, and it is the responsibility of the protagonist to stand against that authority to do what is right.

Other young adult series inhabit the science fiction genre and are set in dystopian future worlds that have resulted from the failure of the society in which the reader lives. "The Hunger Games" series features Katniss Everdeen, a girl who lost her father and has taken on the caretaker role her mother cannot fulfill. Set in a future version of Earth, society has been divided into districts, overseen and controlled by Panem. A critique of the disparity in power and resources between 21st-century first- and third worlds, Katniss represents a citizen from a disadvantaged district. She is a source of inspiration for the citizens

of the other districts and becomes leader of the rebellion against Panem.

In "Divergent," set in a future version of Chicago, Tris Prior is part of a society divided into five factions, segregated from the others and relegated to specific roles. At the age of 16, members take a test to determine the faction they will join. Tris finds she does not belong to a single faction when her test results are "divergent," showing that she has attributes to join any faction. Tris leaves her family and joins a faction of wild and brave citizens. She overcomes her physical shortcomings and learns that the faction system is corrupt and divisive. Ultimately, Tris sacrifices herself to save all of the factions and to free them from the experiment in which they have been living.

All of the teens in these series leave home, learn the truth about the world and make decisions about the kind of people they want to be and the kind of world in which they want to live. Although they are not privileged, they find they have something unique to give, and that their bravery and sacrifice can change or save the world. In all of the stories, the main characters face the choice to ignore the injustice around them in order to protect themselves but in every case make the brave choice to do what is right. Teen readers and viewers can identify with the clique system depicted in the Hogwarts houses in "Harry Potter," the clan conflict between the vampires and werewolves in "Twilight," and the segregation and inequity in the districts of "The Hunger Games" and the factions in "Divergent." Just like the characters in these series, readers and viewers find inspiration in the realization that everyone has a gift and the responsibility to find the bravery to make the world a better place.

Although a cursory summary of these book and film series might lead one to think of them as dark or violent, they, like the folk and fairy tales that have preceded them, are morality tales in which good triumphs over evil and truth will win in the end. Ultimately, it is this optimistic message that has led to their popularity. In times of war and genocide, when it is tempting to look away from terrible things happening on the other side of the planet, these series remind us to be brave and to do what is right, even when it isn't easy. We don't need to be popular, strong or wealthy. If we act against injustice where we see it, we may inspire others, and in our own small way, save the world.



For more information, contact the Transfer Center at any TCC campus or the counseling center of the institution to which you plan to transfer.



“Weekend College is designed to offer a flexible program for working adults. We anticipate seeing an increase in completion rates for students who often can get sidetracked by life events,” said TCC Connect President Carlos Morales. “Based on the solid success rates of similar programs across the country, we expect this new offering to be very beneficial to our students.”

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FACULTY & STAFF *Braggs*

Terry Aaron

Director of Continuing Education Services, Southeast Campus

Received the Outstanding African American Alumni award, the alumni chapter's highest honor for an alumna or alumnus during the 24th Annual African American Alumni Chapter banquet. Also named a University of Texas at Arlington 2014 Alumni Honoree.

Tod Anderson

Adjunct Professor of ESOL, Northeast Campus

Received the Texas Adult Education Teacher's Credential, presented at the 2014 Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education state conference in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Tramaine Anderson

Instructor of History, Northeast Campus

Completed the PATHS Forward leadership development program as part of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to prepare promising African-American professionals to participate as leaders in the local community.

Rebecca Balcarcel

Associate Professor of English, Northeast Campus

Her poem, "Kind of Purple," appeared in the January issue of *Voices de la Luna*. Rebecca also was nominated to be president of Conference of College Teachers of English.

Christopher Blay

Instructional Assistant, Liberal Arts, Southeast Campus

Received the 2013 Moss/Chumley Artist Award presented by the Southern Methodist University Meadows Museum to an outstanding North Texas artist who exhibits professionally for at least 10 years and has a proven track record as a community advocate for the visual arts.

Jeremy Byrd

Professor of Philosophy, South Campus

Awarded the 2014 Faculty of the Year Award at the Celebration of Excellence. His article, "Kant's Compatibilism in the New Elucidation of the First Principles of Metaphysical Cognition," was included in Christopher J. Insole's article, "Kant and the Creation of Freedom," and was published by Oxford University Press.

Candace Eldridge

Adjunct Speech Instructor and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor for Beta Sigma Mu Chapter, Trinity River Campus

Honored with the 2014 Paragon Award for New Advisors presented by Phi Theta Kappa Society during NerdNation 2014, the annual convention in Orlando, Fla. Recipients were honored during the Association of Chapter Advisors Luncheon and the Hallmark Awards Gala.

Staussa Ervin

Assistant Professor of Psychology, South Campus

Received the 2013 Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership with the Fort Worth Sister Cities International. The award honors a member of the board who shows extraordinary dedication to the mission while providing exemplary leadership toward the organization's goals.

Sean Foushee

Instructor of Graphic Communications, Northeast Campus

Notified by Adobe that TCC is one of two colleges in the state of Texas teaching Digital Publishing Suite. Foushee has been asked by Adobe to join the Adobe Educational Leaders program. He will travel throughout the state of Texas conducting workshops on DPS tools at community colleges and universities.

Tahita Fulkerson

President, Trinity River Campus

Honored as the 2013 Bold Woman of the Year on February 28 by Girls, Inc. of Tarrant County.

Aaron Gutknecht

Instructor of Mathematics, South Campus

His intricate maze artwork was chosen for display on a maze card for the 2014 TC²S4. Additionally, Gutknecht was chosen to install a creative maze mural in the north hall of the South Campus Nursing (SNUR) building.

Earline Green

Instructor of Art, South Campus

Nominee for the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Award, which honors professors who demonstrate exemplary teaching in higher education across Texas. Green also was featured in a testimonial advertisement for Paragon Kilns.

Mark Hicks

Instructor of Computer Science & Information Technology, South Campus

Recognized for more than 10 years of participation and service in the Cisco Networking Academy Program by Harbrinder S. Kang, senior director of the Cisco Networking Academy at Cisco Systems Inc.

Adrian Jackson

Publications Manager, Graphic Services, Trinity River Campus

Received an honorable mention in *Writer's Digest's* First Annual Self-Published e-Book Awards for her historical fiction novel, "Kindertransport."

Amy Johnson

Adjunct Faculty, Child Development, Northeast Campus

Received one of four prestigious scholarships given by Texas Woman's University at the 12th Annual Virginia Chandler Sykes Leadership Award Luncheon.

Peter Jordan

President, South Campus

College Delegate Assembly of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) elected Jordan to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges, Class of 2016.

Paul Luyster

Associate Professor of Biology, South Campus

Selected as one of 10 national Bellwether Award finalists in the "Instructional Programs and Services" category at the Community College Futures Assembly for his presentation titled, "Increasing Student Success in Sciences without Sacrificing Rigor." Mr. Luyster serves as president for the South Campus Faculty Association.

Mark McClendon

Vice Chancellor for Financial Services, District Office

Received the *Fort Worth Business Press* 2014 CFO of the Year Award in the Education Category.

Tyson McMillan

Associate Professor of Computer Science, Trinity River Campus

The Texas Association of Student Special Services Programs (TASSSP) honored him as a 2014 Outstanding TRiO Achiever.

Julie Murphy

Library Specialist, South Campus

Published her first novel, "Side Effects May Vary." The South Campus Library and Student Development Services hosted a book signing in the Drake Café.

Adrian Rodriguez

Vice President for Student Development, Trinity River Campus

Honored with a 2014 Distinguished College Administrator Award, presented by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during NerdNation, the Annual Convention in Orlando, Fla.

Magdalena de la Teja

Vice President for Student Development Services, Northeast Campus

Received the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award at the TACHE State Conference. Received the 2014 NASPA/Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Pillar of the Profession Award and the NASPA Community College Division National Community College Professional Award at the NASPA Conference in Baltimore, Md.

Modesta Lopez-Tollison

Assistant Professor of ESOL, Northeast Campus

Received the TACHE Distinguished Community College Faculty Award and elected to the State Board of TACHE as vice president of membership for 2014-2016 at the 39th Annual State Conference.

Laura Matysek Wood

Professor of History and Government, Northwest Campus

Awarded the Appleman Professional Development Award for the spring. Asked by a St. Edward's University professor at the World History Association of Texas to present and work with her and her students in her Summer Abroad Program in Angers, France next summer.

This is not an exhaustive list of the many distinguished awards received by TCC faculty and staff in 2014. Please submit your 2014 awards to TCC.Braggs@tccd.edu.

THE COLLEGIAN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Print and online journalism by TCC's weekly student newspaper, *The Collegian*, recently scored top honors in separate state and regional competitions sponsored by three leading news organizations.

The Collegian was named the best college non-daily paper in Texas by the *Associated Press* Managing Editors in April 2014 at South Padre Island. Editor-in-chief Kenney Kost accepted the award. It is the first time *The Collegian* has won this prestigious award and is considered the highest Texas honor for a college newspaper. Karen Gavis, who now attends TCU, was editor-in-chief, and Kost was managing editor of the issues submitted for the competition. The award also reflects the hard work of section editors, reporters, photographers and designers.

The Collegian staffers won numerous awards at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) competition in Kerrville. Kost won TIPA's Mike Warms Scholarship and received an additional honor at the TIPA conference when he was named TIPA Reporter of the Year.

They also earned honors in the Society of Professional Journalists Region 8 (Texas and Oklahoma) contest. Results were announced at the spring conference in Austin.



There's Power in Partnerships

by Rita L. B. Parson

People nationwide endure long commutes and hours at work to cover life's basic expenses. And for many, it's not enough... especially when catastrophe strikes. Their only option is to turn to public assistance.

Yet, state and federal governments already are strained, creating challenges for local communities to stay economically viable. In response, the search for creative ways to help families become and stay self-sufficient is accelerating because data reflects that a community's economic viability is intricately tied to the well-being of its residents.

Throughout the country, individuals and organizations are seeking solutions, including the highest office in the nation. President Barack Obama and others believe community colleges can spur economic recovery by serving as a bridge between unskilled workers and a job market demanding a highly skilled labor force. In his State of the Union address this year, the President said he has tapped Vice President Joe Biden to lead the charge and help transform job training to bridge this critical gap.

"They have one mission: train Americans with the skills employers need, and match them to good jobs that need to be filled right now. It means connecting companies to community colleges that can help design training to fill their specific needs," President Obama said. "We're working to redesign high schools and partner them with colleges and employers that offer the real-world education and hands-on training that can lead directly to a job and career."

Working with ISDs

Long before the President sounded the alarm, Tarrant County College had consistently answered the call to help citizens acquire the skills needed to fill available jobs. TCC's long-term relationship with the Fort Worth Independent School District represents just one example. FWISD and TCC announced a collaborative effort to provide advanced aviation and engineering training for students at Dunbar High School. Representatives from Bell Helicopter, FWISD and TCC landed in a Bell 407GX (pictured) at Dunbar High School to introduce the program to students and members of the community.

The aviation and engineering program is expanding this fall with newly created curricula that includes expertise from industry partner Bell Helicopter. The changes will start for the ninth-grade class, with other grades added as the inaugural class progresses.

Students who complete the rigorous program can earn industry certification and dual credit. This program, one of the District's Gold Seal Programs of Choice, will allow students to complete their training in 18 to 24 months. It includes a senior-year project that will help determine if the student will be recruited by Bell Helicopter or other companies in the aviation industry once they are finished.

"The big advantage for students is that at the end of the day,

these students who now are in high school, in places like Dunbar, have skills that companies, like the Bells and Lockheeds of the world, need as their workforce," said Clint Grant, divisional dean for TCC's Northwest Campus Business Technology and Transportation.



Working with Community Organizations

Other TCC partners recognize the merits of high school students learning skills to prepare them for existing jobs in the market place.

"I have felt forever that students ought to be prepared for a meaningful and financially viable life," said Cynthia Fisher Miller, senior director for education at the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. She

said studies increasingly show that more than 50 percent of available jobs require some post-secondary education. "Everyone benefits from an employment perspective."

Miller works closely with TCC representatives on the Chamber's Quality Workforce Committee. The partnership not only helps the Chamber to educate local businesses about the hands-on training that TCC can provide to help them enhance their employees' skills, but also assures companies evaluating Fort Worth as a new home that Tarrant County has skilled laborers needed to run their businesses.

Community partnerships with organizations such as the Community Learning Center (CLC) as headed by Angela Traiforos, the United Way of Tarrant County and the Women's Center of Tarrant County allow TCC to take training to people wherever they are located.

Traiforos has trained people of all ages. She first sought TCC's assistance for training about 25 years ago when Fort Worth was selected to receive a U.S. Department of Labor grant to train older workers to fill manufacturing jobs. "We have continued to work with the College. The partnership has become stronger and better from all kinds of programs ranging from the dislocated, unemployed, youth, at-risk youth and ex-offenders," Traiforos said. "TCC provided the resources that we didn't have available — teachers, computer labs, software and instructors."

Sue Matkin, vice president for Community Development at the United Way of Tarrant County, lauded her organization's partnership with TCC.

"We have been partnering with the Financial Stability Initiative for over six years and Adult Literacy for over eight years," Matkin said. "TCC brings expertise and dedicated staff to the relationship and has been instrumental in helping United Way achieve our outcomes."

Working with Local Businesses

Opportunities to work with more companies keep growing as news continues to spread of TCC's ability to efficiently provide effective training. One of TCC's latest partners, Alexander's Machine, was one of four companies that received a Skills Development Fund Manufacturing Consortium grant totaling nearly \$890,000. The company elected to work with TCC after seeing the same equipment their company uses during a campus tour. "Having access to this grant will give Alexander's Machine the opportunity to train our current employees with a much-needed skill," said owner Ron Alexander. TCC's expertise in the use of this equipment made it the clear choice to provide on-site training to Alexander's employees. "In the past we have tried to train new hires. That has not worked for us because our shop is so unique. Being able to partner with TCC to train our current employees is going to enable us to train our employees in our shop environment."

Since 2008, TCC has received grants totaling more than \$9.5

million to work with approximately 30 organizations to train more than 11,300 workers.

Whether it's with industry or community groups, TCC's success at playing a key role helping prepare the workforce is expected to continue thanks to the willingness of partners such as Tom Knight, technical training manager at Bell Helicopter.

"The known capabilities of the Tarrant County College support staff and highly skilled professional trainers solidified our relationship and defined our joining in this partnership to further support and advance our community youth," Knight said. "The major benefits for Bell being involved in the development of this partnership are knowing the skills and capacities of the students when they graduate."

And, as Knight told students on the day the program was announced, the final result is in their hands. "We will provide the opportunity, (but) the one to really make this happen is you."

Working with Campus Partners

Even while their children were still in elementary school, Miriam Rodriguez and her husband knew that one day they would need to attend college. They were committed – but they didn't know how this dream would materialize.

That was before Tarrant County College opened its Trinity River Campus downtown in 2009. Not long after moving in, Campus President Tahita Fulkerson and her staff embraced Charles E. Nash Elementary School as part of the campus's commitment to "Service and Community Engagement."

TCC partnered with the Fort Worth Independent School District and The University of Texas at Arlington to issue the Nash Academic



Challenge, which was recently renewed. “When I heard the gift that TCC and UTA were going to give our children, it was just such a gift that some of us cried,” Rodriguez said. Her children, Freddy and Samantha, were among the first and second group of children to take advantage of the opportunity. Freddy is taking college courses already at TCC’s Northwest Campus.

Rodriguez is excited that their children now have “a future where everything is possible (and) nothing can stop them.”

TCC will provide a full-tuition scholarship plus books for each student who satisfies the conditions of the Challenge, including graduating from Nash Elementary and a Fort Worth Independent School District high school. Additionally, the recently renewed Challenge provides financial support for Pell-eligible students who go on to complete an associate degree at TCC. UTA will guarantee sufficient funding to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees not covered by other grants and scholarships for a period of two years.



Making Collaboration an Art Form

TCC also collaborates with community leaders to invest in programs that one day will benefit not only its students, but will enhance the quality of life in neighboring communities.

When Larry Darlage became president of the Northeast Campus 18 years ago, he immediately worked to make his TCC campus an integral part of the community. “I made a special effort to become involved in the chambers of commerce in the area. Because the campus is located in two cities, Hurst and North Richland Hills, I especially became active in the HEB and Northeast Tarrant Chambers and developed close ties with the mayors of these two cities,” he said.

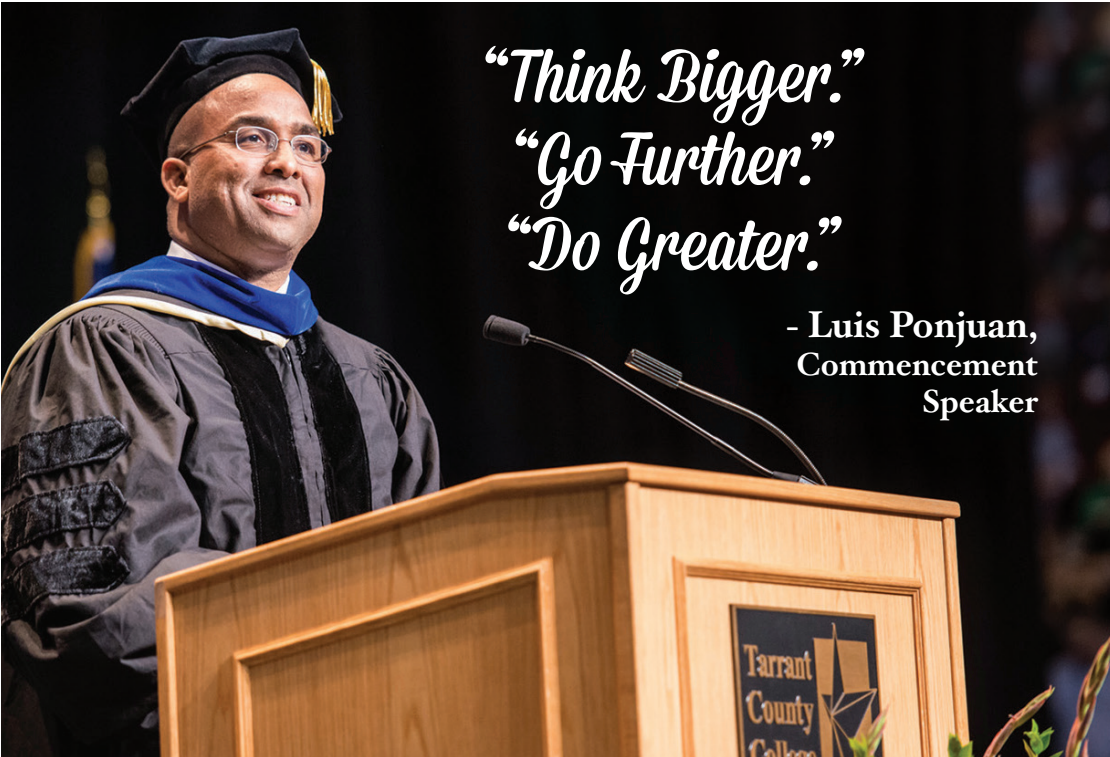
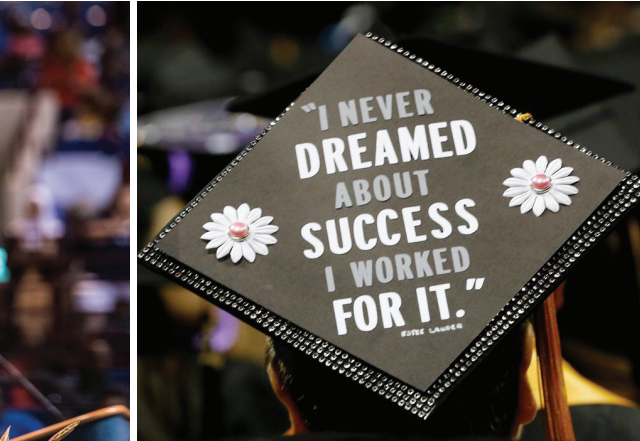
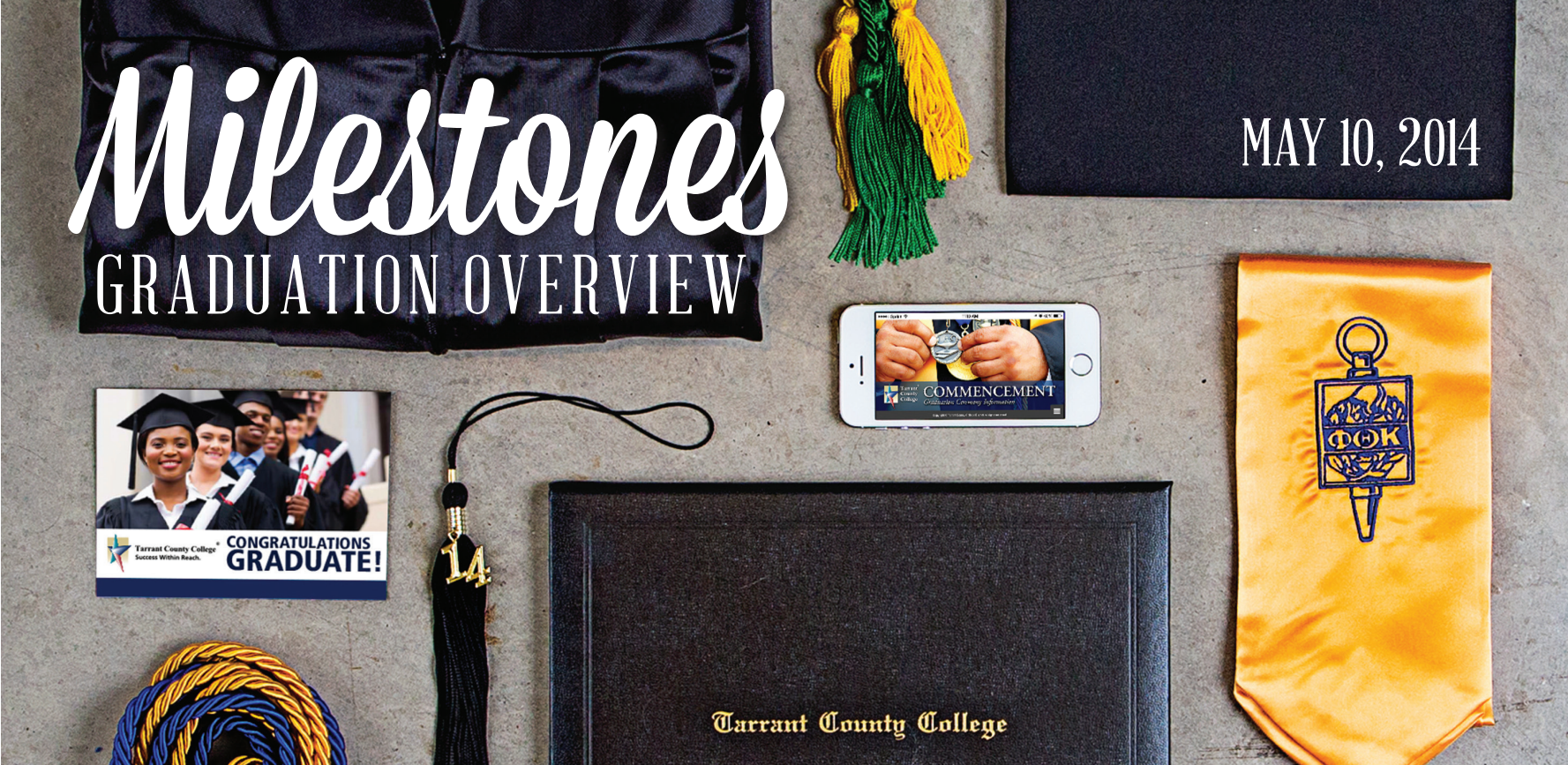
As a result, his campus laid the groundwork so that the community one day will benefit from a Visual and Performing Arts Center that will serve as an “instructional facility for our students in the Humanities,”

Darlage said. The new structure would allow growth in the program that is now stymied because the current location, now shared with Health and Physical Education, is consistently booked every day and evening.

“The addition of an art gallery will provide a more professional venue for student and guest artist shows,” said Darlage, who is retiring this fall. “The large performing arts theater will give our drama and music students the ability to perform for larger audiences and afford them the opportunity to participate in community Lecture and Performing Arts Series.”

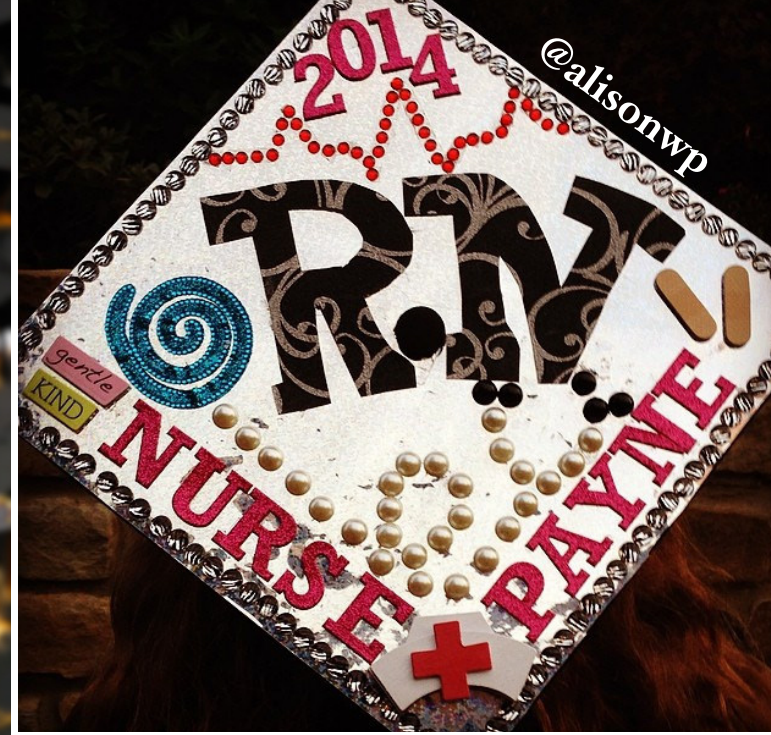
Other Northeast Campus partnerships have resulted in the creation of the annual Heart of North Texas Business Conference and the Haltom City Northeast Center (HCNC). Each year, business leaders collaborate on key issues facing northeast Tarrant County and support the Texas Scholars Program for all public high schools in their area. HCNC’s transformation from an old library building is making it possible for more than 1,000 students to take credit and continuing education classes without leaving their neighborhood.

Getting to know its neighbors will remain a vital part of TCC’s longstanding commitment to put success within reach for the communities it serves.





The first Early College High School students in Tarrant County to graduate from college with their associate degrees. And, they did so before earning high school diplomas.



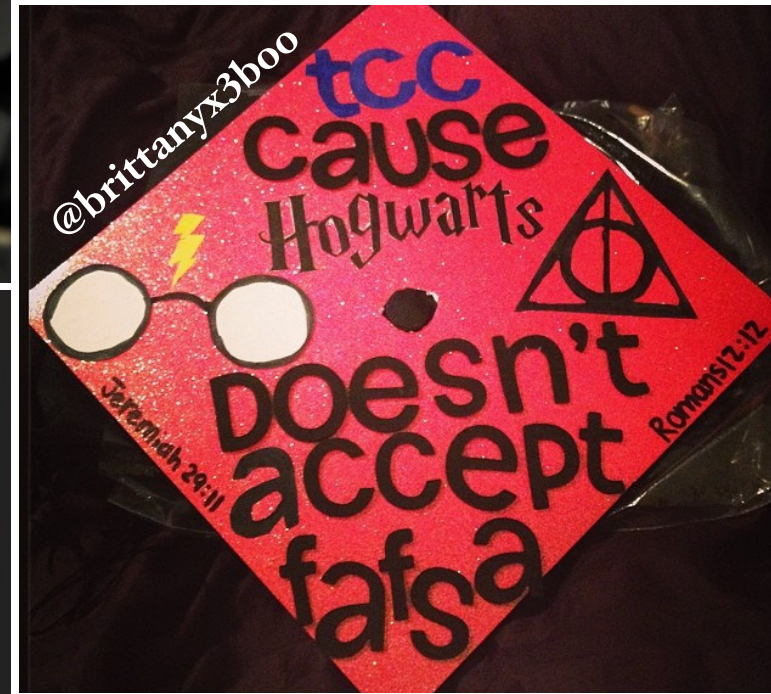
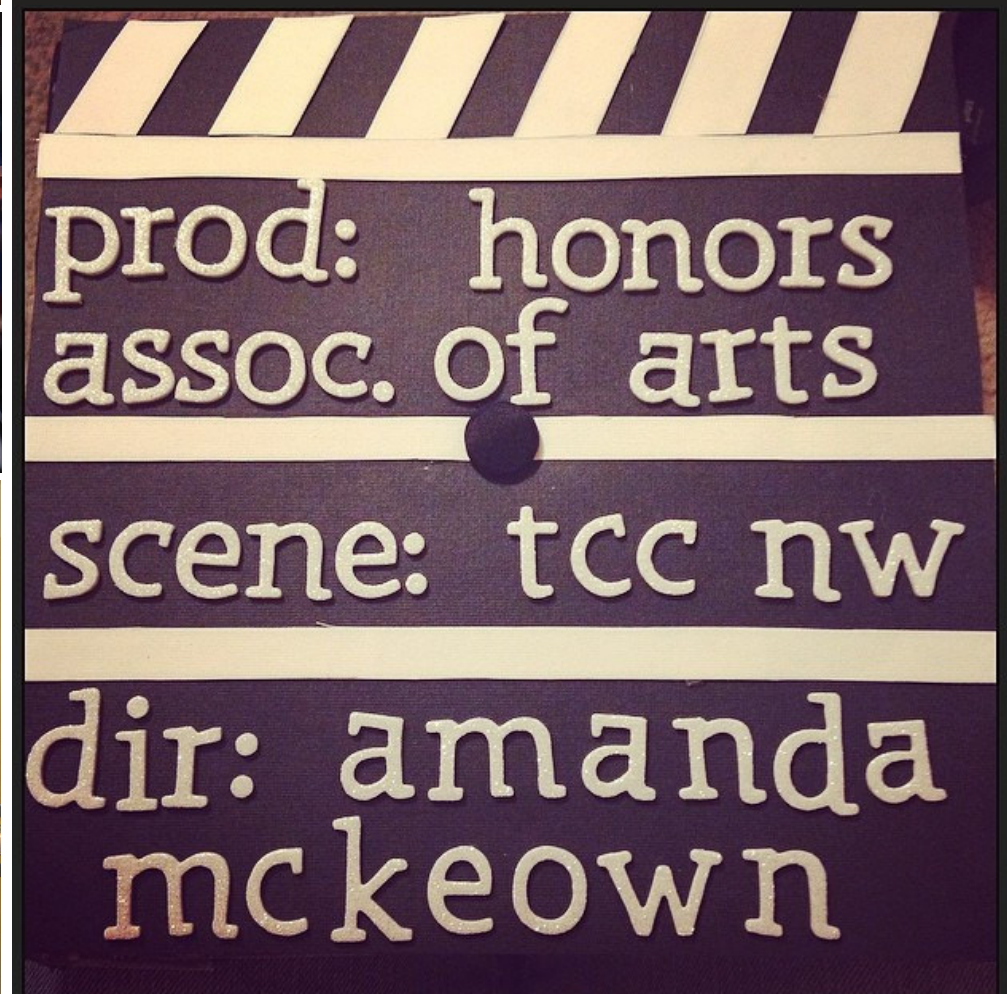
6627 DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES



5734 GRADUATES



WINNER @amandapanda18



Alumni Profile: *Amanda Nickerson*

By Rhonda Aghamalian

A professional journey came unpredictably full circle for Texas Christian University administrator Amanda Nickerson, who has served as the university's director of transfer admissions since 2009. The Fort Worth mother of five is particularly well-suited for her job. Nickerson was a former transfer student herself, transitioning to The University of Texas at Arlington in 1998 after a year's worth of studies at the TCC South and Southeast campuses.

"I felt a little overwhelmed," she recalled of that time. "On the other hand, I was excited because I had taken a big step in achieving my goals," she went on. "I think many transfer students feel the same way."

In retrospect, the opportunity for Nickerson to lead the TCU transfer program seems fated. Her bachelor's degree was in business information systems, but she developed a passion for education while working part-time as a substitute teacher. While finishing her master's degree in education at TCU, Nickerson worked on campus as an institutional researcher, which often required her to analyze the university's transfer student data. A chance encounter with the then-outgoing transfer admissions director led to the interview that landed Nickerson the job.

Like many students at two-year colleges, the lure of affordable tuition was a factor in Nickerson's decision to attend TCC in the 90s. "For me, a two-year college was an obvious choice," she recalled. "In my family, I was a first-generation college student and I also had a baby daughter while I was a student. I had received some scholarships, but they weren't going to pay for the whole four years at a university."

"I realized I could save so much money and check off the same requirements at a two-year college," she said. "For anyone in a similar situation, who wants to get a foot in the door and figure out how to manage college, I highly recommend a two-year program. You can save a lot of money and learn a lot about being a college student."

In her current role, Nickerson leads a team of admission officers who approve the entrance of around 600 transfer students each year. "We usually have about 150 transfer students from TCC each fall and about 50 each spring. Plus, many of our other transfer students start at TCC and then move to another college before coming to TCU."

"We have a lot of veterans coming in through the transfer program and I love working with them," she added. "I end up working with TCC a lot in this regard because I frequently advise vets without a lot of college classwork to start at TCC before applying to TCU."

Besides staffing admissions, Nickerson and her colleagues also engage heavily in recruitment efforts, staffing booths at college fairs, sponsoring counselor breakfast and student information sessions and meeting one-on-one with prospective students. Nickerson also manages the awarding of transfer student scholarships, such as TCU's full-ride scholarship offered to top competitors of TCC's annual Jim Bolen Math Competition. Nickerson views scholarship opportunities as a critical element that blends work at both two- and four-year institutions.

"If you can go to a two-year college, do well, then receive grants and scholarships for a lot of the tuition at the school you transfer to, you can end up only having to finance or pay for a very small portion of your total education," she said. "Dual credit programs can also help knock off some expense and graduate faster or get a double major."

One project that particularly excites Nickerson is the work of some of her former students on Advise TX, a "near peer" college counseling program that places recent college graduates on high school campuses to advise lower-income and first-generation future college students. "I'm most proud of students who had some kind of turnaround or had to overcome a big challenge," she said.

"If I had one piece of advice to offer students, it would be to never underestimate yourself or sell yourself short of any goals you may have. Keep your options open — and keep education a priority during your college years."

Foundation Donor Honors Late Wife's Passion for Nursing

When Sharon Holland-Burns' roof sprouted a leak, she replaced the roof herself. When she wanted to learn to fly an airplane, she purchased a plane and hired an instructor. When she wanted to become a nurse, she put herself through college and nursing school while raising two children as a single mother.

Holland-Burns is now the namesake of a TCC Foundation memorial scholarship in nursing, started by her husband, Bill Burns. In 2010, Holland-Burns died at age 59 after a lengthy battle with adrenal cancer. "My wife was an incredibly strong woman and an advocate for women's health," said Burns, who lives in Colleyville. "I knew I had to find a way to honor her and all of her contributions."

The Burns were first introduced by friends in 1999. Years earlier, Holland-Burns had moved to Texas from Portales, N.M. She worked as head of nursing at a Denton hospital before becoming a nurse practitioner, serving 15 years. The couple got engaged in 2003, one month before Holland-Burns was diagnosed with cancer, and wed in a small ceremony before she underwent surgery. Doctors then gave Holland-Burns 18 months to live. She would live for seven years.

The couple spent her remaining years enjoying time with children, Shane Foster and Monica Rachel, and their grandchildren, and traveling the world. Holland-Burns visited 13 countries and more than 75 cities. Favorite spots included New York, Italy, Hawaii and Seattle.

As his wife's health worsened, Burns pondered a way to honor her. She cared deeply about women's health issues and helping the underserved. "She felt a calling to help people," Burns said. "She wanted to do something beneficial for mankind, and was drawn to nursing."

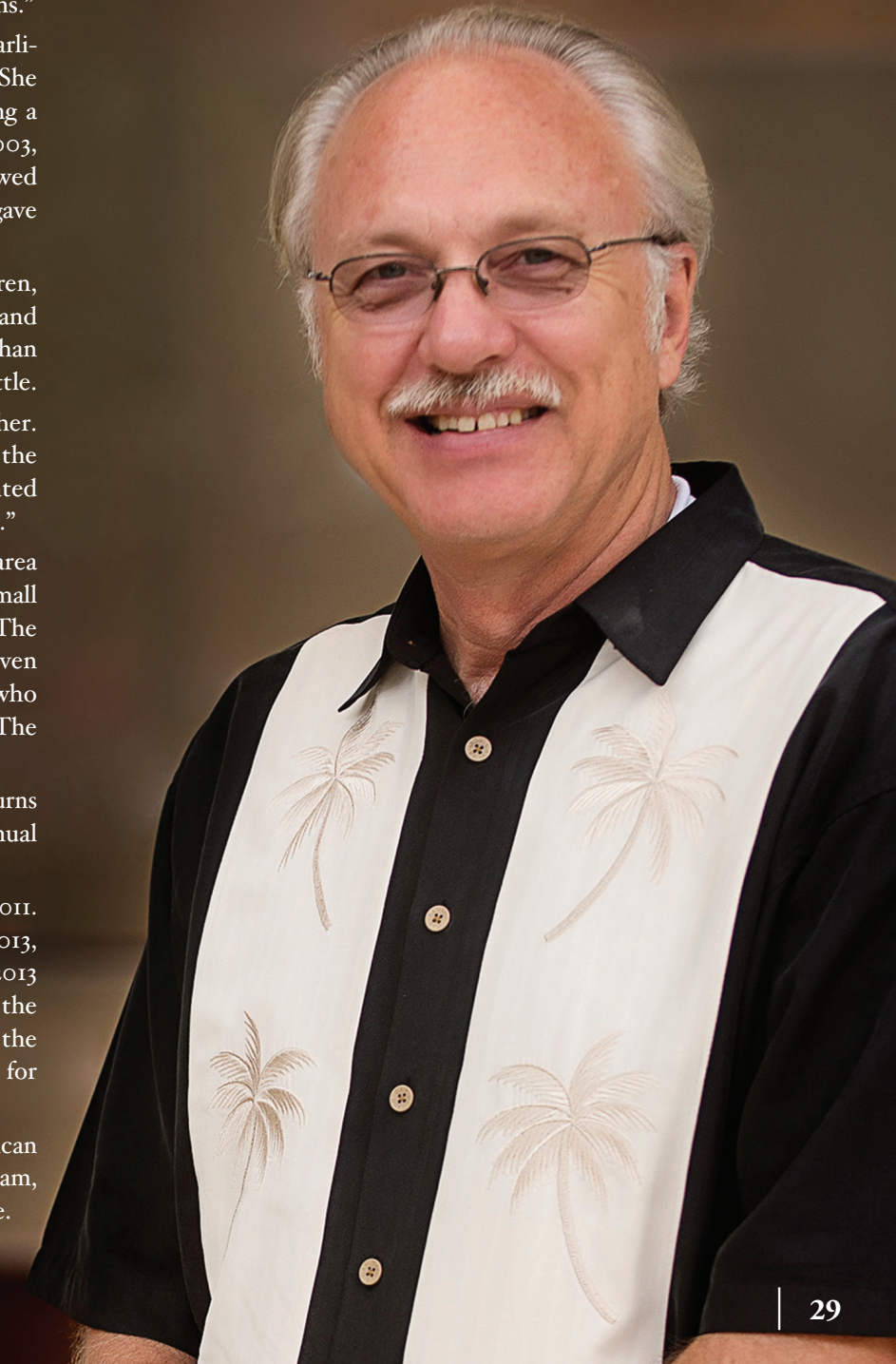
When Holland-Burns died in 2010, the family began to study area nursing schools to fund a scholarship. Attracted to the relatively small size and student-centered atmosphere, the family selected TCC. The Sharon Holland-Burns Memorial Nursing Scholarship is now given each year to a nursing student, with preference given to those who want to pursue careers in women's health and are single parents. The scholarship is renewable for up to six semesters.

Liz Sisk, donor relations officer for the TCC Foundation, said Burns is passionate about honoring his wife and her work, attending annual dinners and making an effort to meet scholarship recipients.

The first recipient, Faith Bonokoski, graduated in December 2011. The second, Kathy Birt, renewed the scholarship for fall 2013, graduated December 2013, and is pursuing a BSN degree. A fall 2013 recipient, Nanda Reamy, is scheduled to renew the award for the 2014-15 academic year. The fourth recipient will be named by the scholarship selection committee this summer. The family plans for the scholarship to eventually become an endowment.

Burns retired in 2011 as manager of flight training for American Airlines, and now serves as an adviser to TCC's aviation program, as well as a member of the college's scholarship selection committee.

"Bill is just a normal, everyday man who sought to extend the impact of the life and legacy of his deceased wife who did such wonderful nursing work," Sisk said. "He is passionate and kind and gracious, and he always makes time for TCC."





THE FOUNDATION

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Tarrant County College Foundation hosted the 26th Annual Bolen Math Competition Awards Ceremony. In addition to cash prizes, top award recipients received scholarships to area universities.



TCC Foundation's annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner brought together scholarship donors and recipients. Ms. Lillie Biggins, President of Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth and TCC alumnus, was the guest speaker.



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Sharon Moore
Mary Morfeld
Timothy and Bethanye Morgan
James K. Morton
Curtis Nash
Andrea Neal
Oksana Nemirovski
Doug Newsom
Julie Nichols
Annette Nolte
Sue Ochsner
Mike Ortega, J.D.
Ludwig and Maxine E. Otto
Karen Pace
Roy Paley
Jaime Palmer
Ernestine Palos
Kristin Paris
Donnell Parish
Elizabeth Parish
Lori Parker
Victoria L. Parks
DeeDra Parrish
Julia Patterson
Doug Peak
David R. Pearse
PEO Chapter HN
Beth Porter
Richard J. Powell
David and Elise Price
Marita Prince
Sandra Rabbass
Vikas Rajpurohit
Elizabeth Ramon
Demesia Razo and Vince Jackson
Jeff and Shirley Rector
Fedies and Selma Reed
Dr. Tara Reed
Leigh-Anne Regenold
June M. Relyea
James Reynolds
Robin M. Rhyand
Robin Riccelli
Sherri Richbourg

Larry Rideaux
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James Rogers
Maria and Javier Romero
Macario Ben Romero
Christina Ross
Larry Ross
Vera Rowell
Bruce Russell
Elise Russell
Alton and Anne Rye
Kathy Saburn
Nancy Saenz
Deborah Sanford
Brunilda Santiago
Vicki J. Sapp
Teresa Saucedo
Eva Schaffer
Deborah Schall
Carl Scherrieb
Traci Schmedel
Billy Schott
Terrance Schranz
Peter and Leslie Seggeling
Lisa Self
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Angela Shearry-Snead
Karen Shelton
Nelda Shelton
Yolanda Sifuentes
Kal and Karen Silverberg
Loretta Sisson
Jackiedean Smith
Katherine Smith
Judie Smith
Mary Ann Smith
Danny Smith
Ban Song
Becky Staats
Donna Stallard
Anne Stanberry
Fred Stanley
Liz Stepp
Nancy Stevens
Jeannene Stewart
Marlene Stewart
Jeff Stone
Larry Story
John and Cecilia Sublette
Richard Sullivan
Kenneth Swaim
Debra Sykes West
TCC Nursing Department
Shereah Taylor
Cheryl Taylor-West
Janet Thomas
William Thomas
Irene Thrower
Quopsiyarn Tinner
Transervice Logistics, Inc.
Ann and Paul Triplett
Theresa Tryon

Maisha Tsiboe
Jo Tucker
Zoi Tucker
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Ismael (Richard) Vela
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Marvin and Lisa Walling
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Shane Whitehead
Chris Whitley
Beverly Wiley
Linda Wilkins
Tracy Duncan Williams
Angela and Vaughn Williamson
Kelly Willing
Kathy Winans
Samantha Windschitl
Linda Wise
Keioka Wood
Berry Woodson
Dana Worsham
R & R Wright Family
Xueyuan Wu
Bernadette Yee
Jean Young Crane
Janet Younger

TCC Foundation wishes to also acknowledge and thank those who purchased tickets to attend or provided in-kind contributions for “An Evening with Bill Cosby,” supporting student scholarships. (See page 4 for photos.)

SUCCESS -BY- THE NUMBERS

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**
Total TCC enrollment
in Fall 2013

51,386

Led to

Students Completing Degrees & Certificates
5,908

Hats off
to the
2013
GRADS

for
2012-2013
we disbursed

**\$123
MILLION**

in financial aid



TOP 20 in the nation for
TOTAL
Associate Degrees Awarded

Completed certificates
from 2005
to 2013

**UP
92.3%**



ESL Student
Enrollments

4,202



Students
Completing
Workforce
Programs

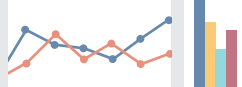
1,760

EACH YEAR,

1 OUT OF 18

Tarrant County citizens
enrolls in a course at TCC.

The Tarrant County economy receives
\$444.8M ANNUALLY
due to TCC operations



Students enrolled in online
distance learning courses
19,023

Dual Credit Students
enrolled at TCC
8,000

Active grant \$\$\$ being
managed by TCC

\$16,150,768

More than **4,000** professional development & training
activities were taken by faculty & staff.