

· BONA FIDE ·  
**CREDIBLE**

The Genuine Article



**100% AUTHENTIC**

THE REAL MCCOY

**NO IMITATION**

— *The Real Deal* —



LEGITIMATE · DEPENDABLE · LASTING

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

For comments or address changes, please email [tcc.reach@tccd.edu](mailto:tcc.reach@tccd.edu).

**Editor-In-Chief**

Suzanne Groves  
*Executive Director of Communications, PR & Marketing*

**Managing Editor & Designer**

Sara Tucker  
*District Manager of Marketing*

**Contributors**

*Staff Writers & Editors*  
Reginald Lewis, Rita Parson, Kendra Prince, Connie Wiebe

*Contributing Writers*  
Angel Fernandez, Bill Lace, Alexis Patterson, Jennifer Sicking, Jody Wasson

*Photography*  
DeeDra Parrish, Brandon Tucker

**TCC** | Tarrant County College  
**SUCCESS WITHIN REACH.**



CHANCELLOR'S CORNER



**H**aving lived in Fort Worth for just seven months now, I can attest to the fact that everything really is bigger in Texas. And so far, during my time in Tarrant County, two things have stood out in particular: commitment and opportunity.

Long before my becoming Chancellor of Tarrant County College was even a possibility, I knew about TCC and the degree of commitment it inspires, because I had been regularly advised about TCC's excellence by my friend, Chancellor Erma Johnson Hadley. The ink was barely dry on the contract I signed on July 12 to become the College's fifth chancellor when community organizations and leaders, neighboring higher education institutions, local businesses, public school districts and civic organizations rolled out the proverbial welcome wagon. Not only did they extend their hand of friendship, but they also voiced their unwavering support of this institution and the important work we do in this community. What I heard again and again was COMMITMENT, rooted in a deep understanding of the role the College plays as a social and economic driver in this region. The respect Tarrant County College has in our community is a true testament to the College's commitment to our students, to our community and to making a profound difference in developing educated, qualified and capable people who will keep our economy vibrant and strong. It is also a testament to the community's fundamental belief that education serves as the most vital component of our economic infrastructure.

This commitment is rivaled only by opportunity, which abounds in Tarrant County. Tarrant County is the sixth fastest-growing county in the nation, with no signs of a slowdown anytime soon. This growth is fueled by numerous factors, not the least of which is a climate friendly to businesses and families. Yet, data show us there is a critical gap in workforce skills with some companies reporting nearly 50% of necessary jobs unfilled. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce summarized the problem best: "We have people without jobs and jobs without people." There's only one way to bridge this gap between supply and demand: forging a stronger and deeper partnership between business and education. The most critical challenges we face are getting students qualified and ready for their first venture into the workforce, and keeping their skills fresh and competitive throughout the course of their careers. We also face the challenge of being sure that businesses' needs are covered today, and ensuring that we are working with them to anticipate their needs 10 years from now. More than ever, Tarrant County College is dedicated to having the programs in place that ensure our workforce is poised to rise to the opportunities.

Without question, college is the path to a sustainable future...for every individual who seeks an education, for every business that wishes to remain competitive and for a region whose future opportunity is only limited by the availability of people who can bring that opportunity to fruition. Our pledge is and will continue to be to serve ALL of Tarrant County. And we look forward to doing so with your continued partnership and commitment.

Eugene Giovannini  
Chancellor, Tarrant County College

CONTENTS



2

**DEVELOPING EXPERTS IN A GROWING INDUSTRY**  
Meeting increased demands for health care professionals



6

**CUTTING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**  
Utilizing renewable energy across the District



10

**SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED US**  
Providing support for military-connected students



16

**KATIE MURRAY: PROFESSOR & DAYDREAMER**  
Painting the town, building by building



22

**COVER STORY: THE REAL MCCOY**  
Addressing major misconceptions about community college



30

**HEALTHY PASTA SALAD RECIPES**  
Featuring tips from a Southeast Campus culinary instructor



42

**DESTINED FOR A FIERY FUTURE**  
TCC alumna succeeding in profession dominated by men



44

**FILLING THE VOID**  
Training highly skilled workers for high-demand jobs



# DEVELOPING EXPERTS IN A GROWING INDUSTRY

By Alexis Patterson

While many people associate health care with advanced degrees, there is growing demand in North Texas for health care professionals with an associate degree, college certification or other post-secondary training. According to a 2015 report by JPMorgan Chase, health care is the leading industry for associate degree and certificate careers in Dallas-Fort Worth. There were nearly 33,000 of these health care positions (almost 25 percent of all jobs at that level) posted online for the region in a one-year period, and workforce needs will only increase.

“This is not an industry subject to fluctuations,” said Cynthia Miller, vice president, workforce development and education for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.



“The health care sector will continue to grow as science advances and people live longer lives. And there are a lot of great-paying jobs you can do with an associate degree or certificate.”

Cynthia Miller

TCC serves as one of the primary trainers for Tarrant County’s health care workforce. The College offers a variety of pathways into the field, primarily through Trinity River Campus’ Division of Health Care Professions, which includes the Department of Associate Degree Nursing and the Department of Health Sciences, composed of allied health programs. These accredited courses of study combine classroom learning with hands-on clinical experiences and advanced technology. Many programs take place in the Center for Health Care Professions, a \$185 million complex at Trinity River East Campus (pictured on page three).

“We are very proud of the fact that our programs are extremely affordable, successfully transition graduates into the workforce and offer such a high return on their investment,” said Joseph Cameron, divisional dean for Health Care Professions. “It isn’t uncommon for starting salaries to be four, five, even up to eight times higher than the cost of TCC tuition and fees. Our programs make excellent business sense, especially when considering costs for similar programs in the surrounding area.”

Students turn to TCC not only for its affordability factor but also its commitment to excellence. In 2016, TCC’s nursing program earned full reaccreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Accreditation is a voluntary process that reflects the program’s commitment to

best practices. TCC is the only ACEN-accredited associate degree program in Tarrant County and one of three in Dallas-Fort Worth. TCC nursing students gain bedside care experiences in skills labs and a simulation hospital outfitted with simulator mannequins; they also put their knowledge to work in clinical rotations in area health care facilities.

“We have a great reputation in the community for expert, hands-on graduates,” said De Ann Mitchell, director of TCC’s nursing program. “Our exceptionally qualified faculty set expectations that surpass basic nursing education standards.”

The College has a first-time registered nursing licensure exam pass rate of approximately 83 percent and climbing. With about 275 nursing graduates per year, TCC is a main regional pipeline to this critical occupation. While many health care companies now require registered nurses to pursue a bachelor’s degree, TCC allows students to affordably earn their licensure and work in the industry while achieving the additional credential. The College also partners with a number of Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs to facilitate student transfer.

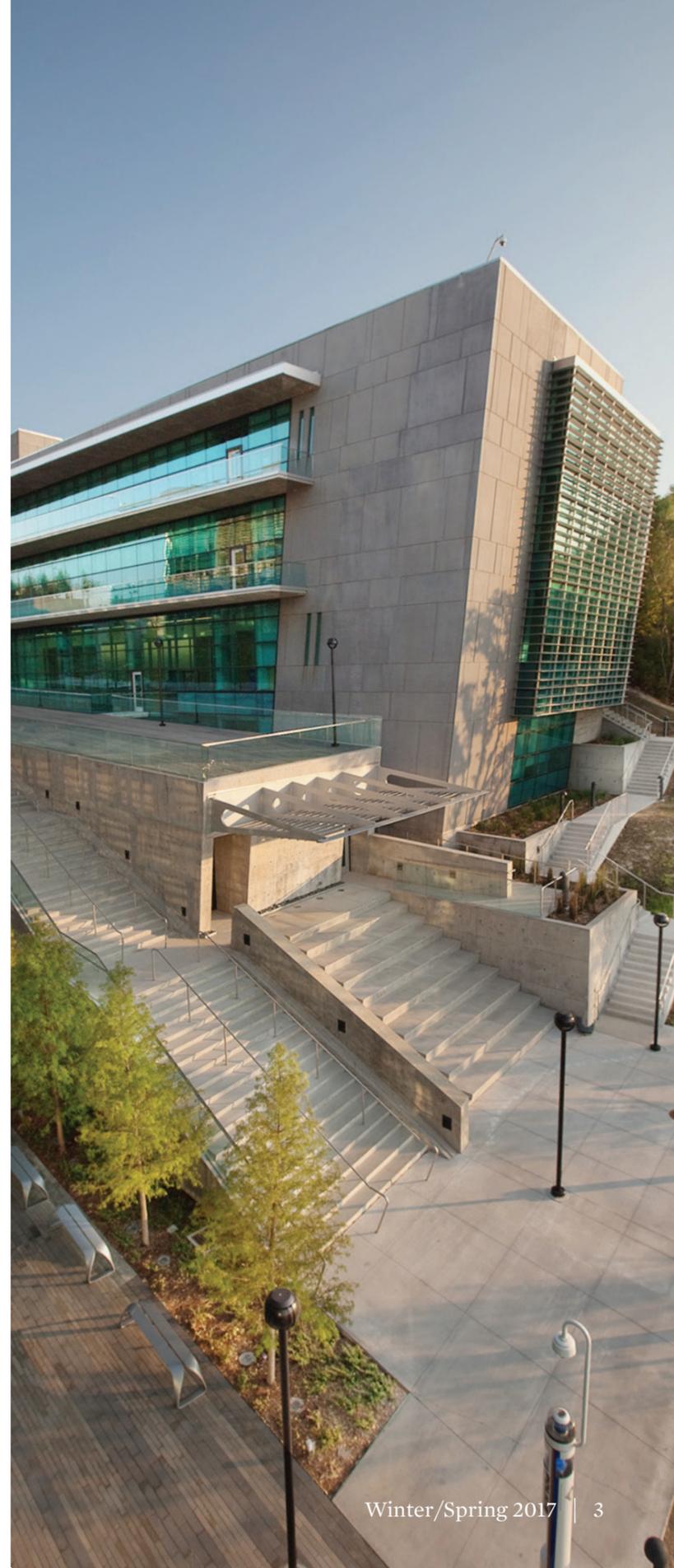
“The value in the TCC nursing program is enormous when coupled with a university like Tarleton State,” said Sandra McDermott, director of Tarleton State’s Midlothian Campus and assistant professor of nursing, as well as a TCC associate degree nursing graduate. “We partner to offer students enhanced financial aid for both our programs, and Tarleton State’s curriculum follows the TCC nursing curriculum extremely closely, so the transition is seamless.”

The Department of Health Sciences also presents opportunities for students to prepare for transfer to a university or directly enter the workforce. With the addition of new allied health programs expected to begin in the next 12 to 24 months, TCC will graduate up to 200 allied health professionals annually—twice as many as just a couple of years ago. Graduates excel at their licensure exams; in 2016, the Physical Therapy Assistant and Respiratory Care programs reported a 100 percent first-attempt pass rate.

Expert faculty are key to allied health students’ success and meeting the needs of the local industry. When possible, the division seeks to hire dual- or even triple-modality technologists, who hold multiple post-primary certificates in different specialties.

“This unique hiring philosophy allows us flexibility in future program offerings and resource allocation,” explained Troy Moran, director of the Department of Health Sciences.

Like nursing, allied health programs immerse students in premier technologies and simulation models to ensure they have employer-desired skills. TCC offers students the opportunity to learn on anatomage tables—state-of-the-art devices that display scans from cadavers and actual patients. Users can “cut” the body with a virtual scalpel to view cross-sections as well as see how different body systems connect.



It's a technology used by top medical schools, and TCC has two such tables.

Students hone their skills in real-life situations as well. To ensure clinical rotations provide appropriate learning experiences, TCC works closely with area health care providers.

"TCC's openness to include us during clinical program needs assessments, planning sessions and evaluations have ensured a rich learning environment for students," said Joan Shinkus Clark, senior vice president and chief nurse executive for Texas Health Resources.

In addition to credit health care programs, TCC offers Community & Industry Education (CIE) training. These courses of study result in noncredit certificates of completion, which reflect success in industry-validated classes that develop skills required to enter the health care workforce. CIE also offers opportunities for current professionals to upgrade skills and recertify in their field. On the other end of the spectrum, the College works to develop paths into health studies from K-12 schools. TCC's work in this area includes the Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences (TABs) early college high school program at Trinity River Campus and the pilot Strategic Pathways to Student Success program—a partnership among TCC, the Fort

Worth Chamber, Fort Worth ISD, United Way and the University of Texas at Arlington to encourage middle schoolers to set their sights on health care careers.

With its array of programs and initiatives, TCC provides an entry point to virtually every associate degree- or certificate-level occupation in the area health care industry or a foundation for advanced education. The benefits are felt on personal and community levels.

.....

**"Not only do we offer solid career paths for individuals, but by providing a strong workforce, we encourage local employers to reinvest in the county's infrastructure. That in turn creates growth throughout the area—and ultimately creates even more opportunities for our graduates."**

..... Troy Moran



# TCC HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

Credit-based programs resulting in an Associate of Applied Science or Certificate (Certificate of Completion or Marketable Skills Award)

TREC = Trinity River East Campus; TR = Trinity River Campus; SE = Southeast Campus; SO = South Campus; NE = Northeast Campus

## Current programs:

- Associate Degree Nursing (RN) – TREC
- Respiratory Care – TREC
- Radiologic Technology – TREC
- Physical Therapist Assistant – TREC
- Health Information Technology – TREC
- Surgical Technology – TREC
- Long Term Care Administration – TREC
- Computed Tomography (CT) – TREC
- Kinesiology – TR
- Dietetics – SE
- Emergency Medical Services – NE
- Dental Hygiene – NE
- Mental Health-Substance Abuse Counseling – NE

## Future programs planned for TREC:

- Central Sterile Processing (Spring 2016)
- Anesthesia Technology (Fall 2017)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) (Spring 2016)

## Recommended for new program proposals:

- Mammography
- Interventional Radiography
- Radiation Therapy
- Public Health
- Medical Laboratory Technology

## Community & Industry Education:

Noncredit programs resulting in continuing education units and Certificate of Completion

- Certified Nurse Aide – TR
- Computed Tomography (CT) – TR
- EKG Technician – TR
- Medical Coder – TR
- Medication Aide – TR
- Ophthalmic Assistant – TR
- Pharmacy Technician – TR
- Phlebotomy Technician – TR
- Dietary Manager – SE
- Massage Therapy – SO
- Registered Dental Assistant – NE



# CUTTING OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

By Reginald Lewis

Scientists believe climate change is one of the Earth's biggest threats, with consequences such as loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise, hurricanes and longer, more intense heat waves. As the Earth keeps getting warmer, the negative effects are expected to continue.

The more that is learned about the effects of climate change on environments around the globe, the more one can see why action needs to be taken to reduce energy waste causing climate change. This is why some countries are taking major steps to boost renewable energy production. In 2015, renewable energy investments reached nearly \$286 billion worldwide, six times more than in 2004, according to a report published by the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. Sustainable, renewable energy is growing in many areas, but not quickly enough to meet expected energy demand.

Here in the U.S., the Obama Administration's strategy to make the country more energy independent included the largest clean energy investment in the country's history. Since 2008, the country has doubled its renewable energy generation from wind, solar and geothermal sources. Several initiatives have been launched to advance clean energy deployment—increasing solar electricity generation by more than twenty-fold and tripling electricity production from wind power.

In addition to government-led investments, some industry giants are addressing climate change as well. General Motors announced a plan in 2016 to power all of its global operations with 100 percent renewable energy – such as landfill gas, wind and sun – by the year 2050. The automaker has pledged to generate or source electrical power for its 350 operations in 59 countries with energy generated from wind, sun and landfill gas. This builds on GM's previous goal to develop 125 megawatts of renewable energy by 2020. GM has already saved millions of dollars by using renewable energy.

The rise of renewables in the Lone Star State has gone virtually unnoticed, yet it has been quite impressive. Texas has added more wind-based capacity than any other state, with wind turbines accounting for 16 percent of electrical generating capacity as of April 2016. That number sat at two percent in 2001. Now, Texas is anticipating a large surge in solar power. State officials believe wind and solar power will play a significant and growing role in the state's energy future even when federal subsidies decline in the future.

Here in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Tarrant County College has taken measures to cut its carbon footprint by committing to use at least 70 percent renewable energy sources to run all District facilities, joining other colleges and universities investing in renewable energy sources.

David Hoelke, director of System, Infrastructure, Utilities and Energy Management, said that in 2015-2016, TCC consumed about 65,303,958 kilowatt hours of renewable energy to power its facilities.

.....  
"During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the entire TCC District utilized approximately 82.59 percent renewable energy through Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)."

..... David Hoelke

TCC South Campus has a slightly higher percentage of renewable energy, about 84 percent because of solar photovoltaic panels and a 10.0 kW wind turbine (pictured left) at the campus' 87,000-square-foot, \$42 million Center of Excellence for Energy Technology (CEET). Hoelke expects TCC to connect the wind turbine to the local grid, with the facilities department tracking the amount of energy used from these two. Overall, the campus consumed about 7,003,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Thomas Hart, department chair and assistant professor of electronics at TCC South, believes the proliferation of wind turbines being installed nationwide provides an opportunity for more businesses and communities to have the opportunity to benefit from renewable energy. "There are already businesses around the DFW area that use solar photovoltaic panels to power their entire facility. Trinity River Authority on Northside Drive is one example," he explained.

Industry experts believe Texas wants to have a diversity of resources because no one knows what gas prices will be in the future. ERCOT, the state's electric grid operator, expects explosive growth in solar power, with Texas poised to vault from tenth place among states in solar capacity to second in the next five years, trailing only California.

"NRG Energy management is encouraging its customers to use solar photovoltaic in addition to the electricity drawn from the local grid," said Hart. "This would provide electricity in times of emergencies when power lines are downed due to natural disasters."

Not only is TCC South educating the local community about the advantages of renewable energy, but the campus is training technicians for industry jobs through its renewable energy technology program as well. Texas has more than 100,000 people working in renewable energy, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. TCC currently offers two options for people interested in pursuing a career in renewable energy.

"Here at TCC, students can pursue an AAS degree in Renewable Energy under the Electronics Technology heading," Hart said. "We also offer a certificate of completion -- Renewable Energy Technician -- to help students prepare to enter that career field. These are not new technologies, but with the newer engineered materials, more energy can be generated and utilized than before."

Filled with natural light and the latest technology, the multimillion CEET provides a learning lab for students. Exposed ductwork and piping shows where the hot and cold water flows, where climate-control infrastructure is located, while three large touch-screen monitors provide real-time data on the building's energy consumption. The wind turbine a visual learning tool that will provide hands-on experience for technical students. Students will be able to monitor the output wattage from both solar and wind to determine the effectiveness of using these power sources.

"The Center of Excellence for Energy Technology facility is a teaching tool itself, showing students and others how a large complex can be completely powered by solar photovoltaic panels," Hart said. "Additional energy will be available soon from our new wind turbine." Students will be able to monitor the output wattage from both solar and wind to determine the effectiveness of using these power sources.

The building's Oil and Gas laboratory and Industrial Maintenance laboratory both contain training equipment that allow students to have hands-on experience with these energy sources. Students also will have access to the wind turbine to learn how to service a unit when it begins to fail in producing the desired energy.

Overall, Texas ranks second nationally for employment in the renewable energy industry. For individuals interested in finding out about conserving energy, reducing waste and being more environmentally responsible in the building and remodeling industry, TCC represents a convenient and affordable starting point.

"It gives me a sense of pride that Tarrant County College is taking such a significant role in the advancement of renewable energy," said Fort Worth City Councilwoman Gina Bivens. "I remember decades ago, when I was a corporate spokesperson for TXU, there were two voices heard on this topic: pro coal or pro solar and wind. Now things are different. I see individuals and the business community joining in the quest for renewable energy. The extra gem on this topic is the fact that we are seeing jobs created, which automatically fosters a job training component as well."

# COLLEGE, COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION

A Q&A SESSION WITH CHANCELLOR EUGENE GIOVANNINI



by Suzanne Groves

A few months after TCC's fifth Chancellor, Eugene Giovannini, stepped into his new role, we had a chance to sit down and get his perspectives on the College, the community and how the two become even more collaborative.

**Q: You had served the Maricopa Community College's system in several capacities over several years. What inspired you to apply for the Chancellor's post at TCC? And what cemented your interest once the interview process was underway?**

**A:** Even while at Maricopa, I was aware of Tarrant County College, primarily with my friendship with the former chancellor. Chancellor Hadley always talked about what a great place it was, so I did have some familiarity. When the opportunity became available, there were a few people who said, "This is something perhaps that might interest you," and so as I looked at it and I became more and more interested. Specifically, more interested as I got to know more about the College and the College's commitment, how ingrained TCC is into the community. Second, I was interested because of the community itself, which is a very unique situation in that the community embraces the College the way they do. I'm used to situations where you go meet people and they say, "Nice to meet you," but here they also say, "Let me know what I can do to help." That was across the board...not just one or two. So that told me a lot about the organization along with the community. So when you put it all together, it was a great opportunity.

**Q: Based on your career in higher education, including several community college posts, what differentiates Tarrant County College?**

**A:** I think it's the focus. There is a real understanding within the College community and employees of what we are here for, a

sense of purpose. A lot of great work going on. I'll go back to the Chancellor's Breakfast (in August 2016) where 1,800 employees showed up and they actually competed to give presentations! That doesn't happen everywhere. So that told me people have a real commitment to the institution and what we are doing, and not only serving the community but serving each other. That was quite unique. The other thing is many community colleges will say, "We are the best kept secret" or "We are taken advantage of" or whatever. Here, people really recognize and admire the value of the College and that sets it apart from other opportunities I've had.

**Q: What one word do you want TCC to "own" in the minds of our students, faculty, staff and community constituents?**

**A:** Service. Not just to our community and to our students, but to each other as well.

**Q: How should TCC grow?**

**A:** I think we grow through service. Not to be redundant, but the service is serving each other and serving students, serving the community. We are the community's college and therefore we need to always respond to community needs...whatever those needs are. That's just to maintain. We also need to be out front and anticipating what the needs of the community will be. How we are going to do that is by being involved and engaged in the community so that we are there and positioned to respond. That will maintain our viability and our growth.

**Q: Along those lines, what more do you think we can be doing for Tarrant County?**

**A:** I think we can do a better job at demonstrating what our value is and what we mean in terms of being an asset in this community. The more that's understood...the better that's understood...the more we are going to be tapped to serve that community.

**Q: What is your vision for more actively involving area corporations and businesses with TCC?**

**A:** I think it's really incumbent among us to present ourselves as a resource to the business community, as a one point of contact to fulfill all their workforce solutions needs. Those needs can be across the board from advertising, to recruiting, to hiring, to onboarding, to assessing, ongoing training, through succession planning. If you take the full business cycle, the community college is positioned to deliver on the programs and services needed for that business...no matter what cycle they're in...and to continue to deliver those as companies mature. A full workforce solution partner.

**Q: This is a bit theoretical, but when you think about how we measure our effectiveness at TCC, what counts that we are not counting?**

**A:** A lot of the nontraditional activity that the College engages in. The one-day seminars, the noncredit training for a number of months or perhaps years. All that is of value, but unfortunately it doesn't fall into the traditional measurements of what success is. It is really about understanding, valuing, recognizing, funding, promoting and delivering more and more of those programs and services that are not of a traditional nature. Not necessarily a credit hour, certificate or degree... those things are all important because they are our bread and butter, obviously. As the workplace changes, it changes in a manner in which the skillsets and competencies necessary don't fall into the traditional requirement, if you will, for a degree or certificate. If you look at the top 10 jobs that are here today, in 2004, seven of them didn't even exist. If you look at the top 10 jobs that are projected by 2030, seven of them don't exist today. So how are we going to be responsive to that? We really don't have the luxury, nor do we have the need, to respond to everything in a traditional method and so I think the future will be more in competency-based education. It's going to be about demonstrating competency to require and develop a skillset and deliver on that skillset. The College will be challenged to deliver on those needs, which are not of a traditional nature of credit hour, certificate or degree.

**Q: If we are sitting here a year from now celebrating what a great year it's been for you in this role, what did you achieve?**

**A:** Well, I think a couple things, hopefully! Building on our culture of one college with six unique campuses. That oneness is reflected in serving our constituents and serving each other. We become even more of a culture that is always ready to respond. And our community recognizes that we are of high value, not just importance, and that we are seen as an asset the community can't do without.



# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED US



by Kendra Prince

In 2015, Texas was one of three states with the largest population of U.S. military veterans, totaling 1.5 million. The U.S. Census Bureau indicates that only 36.5 percent of veterans who leave active duty do so with some college or even an associate degree. Shifting gears to civilian life means transitioning, in most cases, to a new career path and that often requires additional education.

In the fall 2016 term, Tarrant County College counted more than 2,200 active-duty or veteran students on its rolls, with another 458 military-connected students using Department of Veteran Affairs Education Program benefits.

A veteran herself, Joy Gates Black, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and Student Success, knows the value of higher education to military-connected students. “Through the old GI Bill, I was able to pursue my education while on active duty and complete my degrees after leaving the military,” she said. “This was a great opportunity for me and for many other first-generation college students.”

With a significant portion of the student body that is military connected, meeting the needs of this group is important to TCC. “They have given so much,” said Anthony Walker, director of Student Success and Online Advising. He admits that these students face myriad, unique issues when considering college, including the cultural differences between civilian and military lives. “Veterans are much more intentional and have a clear-cut objective,” Walker said. “A traditional student, ranging from 18 to 20 years old, may be

less disciplined. The veteran’s thought may be, “This is what I served for? You have no idea.”

Before coming to TCC, South Campus student Jason Roberts, who served in the Texas Army National Guard, said he was concerned about adjusting to being among civilians due to their lack of understanding. “I spent all my adult life in the Army and now, I had to try to assimilate,” he said. His concerns were justified. “It was like I had to monitor and censor all that I said.”

Chris Hunt, the veterans’ counselor at the Northeast Campus and a U.S. Air Force Desert Storm veteran, relates. After 10 years in the military, he says he is still transitioning.

.....”

“For our student veterans, transitioning into student life is often difficult, particularly for those who have recently returned home from active duty and are still adjusting to civilian life. Unlike the structured environment of the military, colleges and universities have a wide array of campuses, departments and administrative areas that can be difficult to navigate.”

..... Chris Hunt

Communication can be a challenge with TCC and the Veteran’s Administration as military-connected students try to understand what benefits are available. Even attempting to register can prove daunting, prompting them to give up before registration is complete.

Keri Wilcox, president of the Northwest Campus chapter of the Student Veterans of America (SVA), knows all too well how frustrating registering for college can be for military-connected students. After getting frustrated with the process, her son, a U.S. Army veteran, walked away for a year. “What seems simple to us, seems like a foreign language to veterans because the military operates so differently,” she said. Her son returned after Wilcox put him in touch with the right people to assist him. He is now in his second semester at TCC.

Darylron “Dee” May, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, also experienced frustration when trying to register for classes the first time. Like Wilcox’s son, he walked away. May recommends a location that specializes in registering only veterans. “It will give veterans who are getting out of the military a place to get familiar with a school environment at a small level before getting into a larger school and help them adjust to the civilian life much easier,” he said.

Hunt acknowledges the veterans he counsels experience “a variety of symptoms related to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress, relational difficulties and the stress of transitioning from military to civilian and becoming a student in a very foreign academic environment.”

Feeling connected is important, according to Hunt. “In the military, we experience connectedness as in no other environment,” he said. “Now, whether I’m talking to a retired flag officer or a four-year enlistee, we are all looking for something to belong to. A place where we are ‘in.’ Where we belong.” He said the challenges one faces in the military, such as danger, differing cultures and loss, create “an inseparable bond that cannot be duplicated anywhere. Civilians cannot fathom this type of loyalty and cohesion. I still miss that.”

Financial issues and family needs also are major concerns for military-connected students. Trinity River Campus student Fredy Torres, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years, faced the challenge of balancing a full-time schedule with a full-time job and financial concerns. “Financial aid and professors who understand work/life balance have proven helpful,” he said.

TCC is working to address each of the issues that affect military-connected students and their families. “TCC is ensuring a successful transition into college with resources

and staff members specifically dedicated to assisting our military-connected students,” said Ryan Kelly, program coordinator for the Veterans Learning Community at the Northwest Campus. Resources available include SVA chapters on campuses; VetSuccess counselors, Department of Veterans Affairs employees who assist with VA educational benefits; veterans specialists, who certify educational benefits; veterans counselors; veterans tutors and academic programs, such as a grant from Wal-Mart/Syracuse Institute of Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) that provided manufacturing/industry certifications for high-demand jobs.

Hunt believes TCC leadership has placed “highly skilled and experienced functional experts on the job and has empowered them to accomplish the mission of military-connected student success and retention.” He strongly recommends that every faculty and staff member attend Green Zone training, geared toward making TCC a more veteran-friendly college. The training provides information and resources related to issues military-connected students face. Attendees become a resource, not only for military-connected students but also to others on how to meet the needs of those students.

Walker believes Green Zone training has the potential to have an enormous impact at TCC. He is working with TCC Human Resources to make it a professional training opportunity.

Efforts in meeting these students’ needs seems to be working. Torres heartily recommends TCC to military-connected individuals considering college. “To all vets struggling with school, keep working hard. There are resources on campus that you may use and are at your disposal,” he said. “I finished last semester with a 4.0 GPA.” He is now attending Texas Christian University and majoring in education.

Torres serves at the Veteran Success Center at the Trinity River Campus and encourages military-connected students to stop by.

.....

“Keep your heads up. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. We were leaders in the military, now it’s time to be leaders in our communities. An education will facilitate that, especially since we have already paid for it.”

..... Fredy Torres



# CONTINUING *to fight*

by Kendra Prince

**K**eri Wilcox’s marching orders came from her husband, Tom, the night before he died. “I want you to promise me you will continue to fight for my brothers and sisters as you have for me, your son and your brother.” Tom, a U.S. Army veteran, died of myelodysplasia syndrome (MDS), which has been linked to Agent Orange, an herbicide and defoliant used during the Vietnam War.

After her husband passed, Wilcox said she became an introvert. “I lost my drive. I started to wonder, who am I? What is my purpose?” Wilcox eventually went through training that helped her discover who she is at the core level and her purpose in life – to fulfill her marching orders.

One day, Wilcox wants to establish a non-profit organization to help “bring our troops all the way home.” She envisions an automotive restoration organization that would help veterans with education, on-the-job training and emotional intelligence training. The goal would be to assist veterans in their transition back into civilian life, helping them enter the workforce with a strong sense of accomplishment and purpose.

In the spring 2016 semester Wilcox joined the Student Veterans of America chapter on the Northwest Campus. She now serves as the chapter president. At the time she joined, the chapter had approximately 65 members on the roll. By fall 2016, the number of chapter members had almost tripled.

“The Student Veterans Club is flourishing under her leadership,” said Ryan Kelly, program coordinator for the Veterans Learning Community.

.....”.....  
“I believe Keri’s commitment and energy are what the Student Veterans Club needs to establish a strong foundation to build a solid organization and support system for military-connected students on the Northwest Campus.”

..... Ryan Kelly

In June 2016, Wilcox was one of the speakers at the Veterans Support Network Discussion at the South Campus, the purpose of which was to connect TCC with area partners as resources to military-connected students. Wilcox’s speech focused not only on her journey through her husband’s illness, but also on the need to support military-connected students as a whole.

Following her speech, partners lined up at her table to offer their resources to TCC students. Wilcox built relationships with the partners and now has numerous resources such as The Mission Continues, the Cohen Veterans Network and Stay the Course, available to military-connected students in need.

Lisa Schellenberg, a U.S. Army Reserves veteran and fellow NW SVA chapter officer, sings Wilcox’s praises. “Keri is very dedicated to learning everything there is to know about the available resources that benefit military veterans and their families. She works tirelessly, spending her nights and weekends attending conferences, meetings and visiting area resource centers.”

Every Tuesday, the chapter offers Breakfast Break for military-connected students on the Northwest Campus. It provides opportunities for area partners to meet with the students.

It was during one of the Breakfast Breaks that Northwest Campus student Jennifer Milewski learned about the NW SVA chapter. Milewski, whose husband serves in the U.S. Marine Corps, originally sought out the organization for assistance for her spouse, who is considering attending school. She saw the work Wilcox was doing on behalf of military connected students and their families and wanted to help. “I saw Keri’s passion and that she is doing great things for veterans,” she said. Milewski now serves as vice president and secretary of the chapter.

Nick Murrow, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, also met Wilcox at one of the Breakfast Breaks. “I had a lot going on in life and didn’t want to ask anyone for help. We spoke for a while and she got me in touch with the right people for assistance,” he said. “Now I am an officer with the SVA and VFW, trying to help people that are facing the challenges I was dealing with. Keri makes a positive impact on everyone and everything she is involved with.”

The chapter is making a difference in military-connected students’ lives. Wilcox often hears comments such as, “My family got fed,” or “Thank you for finding that resource. I didn’t have to sleep in my car last night,” and “I can continue school.” Some have told her, “I’ve never told anyone this before, but you seem like you understand.”

Wilcox understands all too well. Her husband struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They separated for a time because of it. Tom went through experimental therapy, which helped. What came out of the therapy is that he did not feel worthy to be a father because of some of the things they had to do in Vietnam.

“I’ve heard similar stories from veterans who don’t feel worthy,” Wilcox said. One veteran shared with her stories about children playing outside one moment and getting shot down the next. “So veterans lose their self-worth. They have a trunk-load of shame and horror. Flashbacks are common.”

Another struggle facing military-connected students and their families is finances. While Wilcox receives benefits from the Veterans Administration, they do not adequately meet her family’s needs. As a result, she and her family have had to scale back on everything.

Finances also were an issue during Wilcox’s husband’s treatment at the VA Medical Center in San Antonio. When the VA Medical Center said there was nothing more they could do for Tom, they suggested treatment at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Wilcox had not worked for a year and was attending school before her husband got sick, so there was no additional insurance to cover treatment.

Although Wilcox was ready to sell their house, cars and whatever it took for him to be treated, her husband said “no.” He told her, “We are going to be hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt. What kind of life are we going to live? Just let the Lord take me home and you keep fighting.”

Through tears, Wilcox said, “So I sacrificed. He sacrificed. That’s why I fight.”

What Wilcox wants military-connected potential students to know is that TCC is here for them.

.....  
“Every campus has a SVA chapter. They are fighting for your benefits and for you. I am that person that stands in the gap. If you don’t know who to ask, I will find that person and ask. Get connected. Stay connected! Because we are here.”

..... Keri Wilcox



# PAVING PATHWAYS to Higher Degrees

by Reginald Lewis

In keeping with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) 60x30TX Plan, which aims to boost the number of college degrees and certificates achieved in the state, Tarrant County College has strengthened existing partnerships and forged new alliances as a way of increasing access and improving completion rates. Currently, 38 percent of Texans have a degree or certificate, according to THECB, but the winds are shifting.

Since opening its doors in 1965, TCC has provided an affordable way for thousands of Texans to obtain a bachelor's degree—by completing the first two years at TCC then transferring to a four-year institution with junior standing. Students can enjoy a supportive academic environment and a sense of community—all while saving thousands of dollars.

Statewide, approximately 34 percent of all first-time transfer students from a public two-year college to a public university in Texas had completed the core curriculum (11,054 of 32,531 students), according to a report published by the THECB. The core curriculum is a 42-semester-credit, general education program of study that fulfills lower-division general education requirements. Once the core curriculum has been

completed, students may have the block of courses transferred to any Texas public institution.

TCC offers approximately 70 detailed articulation agreements with four-year institutions, paving a pathway to help students transfer (visit [tccd.edu/magazine/transfer](http://tccd.edu/magazine/transfer) for complete list). The most recent TCC Transfer Success Report -- which charts the progress by a cohort of TCC students who transferred to a four-year college or university -- shows the 10 largest community colleges in the state sent a total of 22,900 transfer students to Texas public universities in fall 2014, with TCC sending 12 percent of those transfers.

## Top five schools receiving TCC students as first-time transfers:

- University of Texas at Arlington – 1,186
- University of North Texas - 546
- Tarleton State University – 212
- Texas Women's University – 154
- Texas Tech University – 77

“To be honest, I thought I was above TCC at the beginning. I was 17 years old, with 26 college hours from high school. I mean, schools like Baylor had not only accepted me, but had offered me automatic scholarship offers. Let me tell you something, I was proven wrong very, very fast,” said Gerardo Montes Rascon, TCC Northwest alum. “As competitive as I was in high school, I had no concept of some the major skills needed that would ‘make or break you’ at a four-year university.” Rascon is currently an entrepreneurial business management student matriculating at UT Arlington.

One of the biggest obstacles to transfers is the credit-transfer evaluation. According to Nancy Curé, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs for TCC, evaluators have a range of professional responsibilities and are inconsistent in their application of academic application standards. Some institutions in North Texas, however, are working together to change this perception of the transfer pathway.

“TCC, along with partner Dallas County Community College District, is working together with The University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Dallas, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Texas Wesleyan University, Texas Women's University, University of North Texas and Texas Christian University to facilitate the transfer process, making it more seamless for students,” said Curé.

While this level of collaboration is happening behind the scenes, TCC campuses host transfer fairs each semester for students interested in pursuing a bachelor's degree. These one-day events allow students to meet one-on-one with recruiters from four-year schools to learn about admissions, financial aid, majors and much more. TCC Northwest, for example, hosts the Transfer Fiesta in September and the Texas Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers (TACRAO) Annual University Transfer Fair in January.

“Our students are highly sought after because they are known to be high achievers, and of course, studies show that community college students complete their bachelor's programs at higher rates than other students,” said Lourdes Davenport, coordinator of the transfer center at TCC Northwest.

Last spring, at least 40 recruiters visited each campus during TACRAO Week, with the Trinity River Campus hosting 70 schools. Their goal? To find impressive TCC talent to add to their respective student populations.

“In my experience as an undergraduate recruiter at Tarleton State University, I've noticed that TCC students are incredibly eager and motivated to pursue their educational goals and start their careers,” said Ryan Dickerson, outreach specialist for Tarleton State University.

“TCC students are prepared for the university experience by the time they earn their associate degree, which not only makes them the ideal university transfer student, but also effective community leaders.”

..... Ryan Dickerson

Additional efforts to improve the transfer pathway include data sharing between members of the regional transfer and articulation council, which has allowed all stakeholders to take a closer look at student success trends and improve upon those.

“All partners are coming to the table willing to share data about students,” Curé explained. “What we've learned is that the four-year schools want our transfer students. Most of the four-year schools have organized or developed transfer departments on their campuses completely focused on assisting students with transfer to the four-year school.”

## Benefits to students beginning their academic journey at TCC:

**Emotional** - About 80 percent of students entering college are not certain what major to choose, according to the website MyMajors.com. Since community college offers a wide range of courses, students can test drive a major before attending the four-year school of choice. Attending a community college for the first two years is especially beneficial for recent high school graduates because they will experience some personal growth and maturation the first few years after graduation.

**Financial** - While paying for college is a big consideration, Tarrant County College can help students lower the cost of pursuing a four-year degree. Tuition for a 15-hour course load at TCC is \$885, one of the lowest rates in the country.

**Intellectual** - Because the average community college class holds between 25 and 30 students, there is more opportunity for students to interact with their professors and each other. Students can learn from seasoned veterans teaching at TCC. Most faculty members possess a master's or doctoral degree in their discipline.



# Katie Murray

## PROFESSOR & DAYDREAMER

by Sara Tucker

After earning her bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Arlington, Katie Murray went to work as a graphic designer. Yet, sitting in front of a computer all day, she found herself dreaming of her true love: fine art and painting. To turn that dream into reality, she went back to school for a master's in painting from Texas Woman's University.

"After graduating with my master's, I had my first child and took some time off," Murray said. "I wanted to get back into art, but I didn't know how!"

Her answer came when a position opened for an adjunct professor at the Tarrant County College Northeast Campus. After teaching her first design class, Murray was hooked and continued teaching one class per semester. She now teaches at the Northwest Campus.

Busy with teaching and family, however, Murray was not creating art of her own. That quickly changed when her friends from Texas Christian University opened their own commercial real estate company, M2G Ventures, whose mission is to bring public art to the community through real estate. M2G reached out to Murray to collaborate on unconventional and inspiring public works of art on commercial buildings around Fort Worth. Each mural sets their buildings apart from other properties and puts their stamp on the community.

"We believe projects are a reflection of not only the art that is on them, or the building that you're redeveloping, but the community it's for, and we believe art is one of the most important pieces in creating a brand," said Natalie Pedigo, M2G Ventures marketing manager.

"Katie has an incredible ability to create thought-provoking art that everyone can identify with. She is the only person we ever would have considered!"

..... Natalie Pedigo

The local recognition of Murray's urban murals exceeded her dreams. "It's crazy! I never expected it," Murray stated. "I didn't even tag myself in the first mural until later on, so I was kind of anonymous for a little while."

Today, Murray is anything but anonymous. When *Fort Worth Business CEO Magazine* came out featuring Murray's public work, she finally felt established as a Fort Worth artist.

"When the *CEO Magazine* article came out, I felt really proud. I'm from Plano originally, but I finally felt like a part of the arts community in Fort Worth -- which is what I've been trying to do since moving here," Murray said. "It was such an honor. It's something you dream about when graduating but don't know how to get there!"

Murals became the majority of her art. Located at The Crossing on Camp Bowie Blvd. (5702 Locke St.), her first outdoor mural is titled "Dream on Dreamer." With the idea of dreaming being abstract, the mural features an abstract sunset behind a female face. (View the mural at [tccd.edu/magazine/murray](http://tccd.edu/magazine/murray).)

The collaboration evolved into the "Dreamer Series," spreading the message to dream and dream big. The series continued at 200 Carroll St. with "Don't Quit Your Daydream," featuring a community coexisting in various walks of life. The series concluded with "Follow Your Dreams," an interactive mural on the side of 1305 W. Magnolia. The Magnolia Ave. wall was later covered in dreams the community submitted during local events like ArtsGoggle, on social media and by writing on a chalkboard stationed at the mural.





With portraits as Murray's specialty, the Dreamer Series features figurative female dreamers. She appreciates the artistic freedom and trust given to her by M2G Ventures. Murray has worked on additional murals for Cowtown Marathon and Girls Inc. Her most recent project was a mural at the Thomas Place Community Center.

Murray likes to explore new endeavors, so between painting murals and portraits, she opened a contemporary gallery called Art Room. The art space features mid-career artists in the Dallas/ Fort Worth community and adds to the culture that is continually growing in Fort Worth.

"Dallas has a big arts community and that's where people think the art is, but we're bringing that to Fort Worth," Murray said.



"There are great artists here that have been underrepresented, but opportunities are here now. Sustainable, fun, exciting...that's where art is going in Fort Worth!"

Katie Murray

Pedigo agreed. "Fort Worth has always had a strong art following. However, I don't think it was as prevalent as it

is today. We believe millennials are more focused on art and culture in their everyday lives, not only a trip to the art museum," she said.

Murray teaches her TCC students how important art is to the community. Her goal each semester is to get students to consider "why" artists create and to appreciate and understand the artistic process.

"I have taught at other schools and TCC students are just more motivated and willing to do the work -- they really want to learn," Murray explained. "They are absorbing everything that I say and they try very hard. That's what I love about teaching at TCC."

Murray enjoys teaching art appreciation classes because the students are not necessarily artists, with many having minimal appreciation or understanding of the arts. She has the opportunity to introduce students to the importance of artists and their work.

Art appreciation classes are traditionally taught in lecture format for non-art majors, but Murray and her fellow instructors at the Northwest Campus deviate from the standard approach and integrate hands-on art projects into the curriculum. Students receive a seminar approach to getting involved in what is happening locally and nationally.

"The majority of these students are in other fields (nursing, business, sciences, etc.)," said Trish Igo, associate professor of art at the Northwest Campus. "We hope they will discover an interest in art-making, even as something they do on the side of their chosen career."

According to Murray, art is not just for those who enjoy drawing, painting or other mediums; it influences all disciplines across the board (see page 20). "When students incorporate art into their lives, and really think about why art exists, it forces them to think in a different way -- for the brain to work differently," she said. Her goal is for students to walk away with a different mindset and deeper appreciation for all types of art.

Igo hopes TCC students are contributing to Fort Worth's growing support of the arts. "Our instructors encourage students to find opportunities to explore art," she said. "That excitement about and commitment to art is contagious. Fort Worth is fortunate to have some alternative spaces available to exhibiting artists. We are also constantly encouraging our studio arts students to get out and show their artwork in these spaces."

The Northwest Campus also has several exhibition spaces designed for students to apply and undergo a juried process, as professional artists do. Igo and Murray each claim that the other was instrumental in the development of hands-on projects for art appreciation. They encourage students to ask questions, have open discussions and learn together. The instructors look for new opportunities for students to get out in the community and look at art, as well as bring in guest artists. Thanks to their approach, students are experiencing the art world in ways they may not have before.

"Murray is great at coming up with projects that are easy for students to execute in a short amount of time, while giving

the students great-looking works of art they can keep," Igo said. "The hands-on art projects help students understand not only the materials and processes involved in art-making, but also help them to experience some of the intangibles of art-- communication, inspiration, enjoyment and expression."

Murray believes the fundamentals can get lost when aspiring artists just want to work on projects in the outside world. If they do not learn the fundamentals of art, they cannot proceed. She coaches her students on the basics, but does not push them too hard in terms of content.



"I see a lot of artists that have their 'look' but I feel like I'm trying to push myself and my students to experience new things every day."



Katie Murray

Murray is still exploring new ideas. "I think my aesthetic changes yearly. Seeing local art pushes me even further -- that and research keep me from becoming static," she said. "I am definitely still growing and haven't reached my peak yet!"

# THE IMPORTANCE OF ART

by Angel Fernandez, associate professor of art

It's a sad truth most artists must reconcile at some point in their creative lives: the role of the arts is constantly being questioned. Some people question whether the arts are necessary or justified, most often when the subject has to do with funding arts curricula. For others, there is no debating the belief that the arts have never been more important to our society and should be fully integrated into our lives, our community and education in general.

First, art is the barometer that measures levels of cultural sophistication. Throughout human existence, we have learned about cultural accomplishments from the cultural artifacts left behind. Many of these artifacts have left behind permanent marks on the planet. Consider the construction of Stonehenge, the Greek Parthenon, the Roman Colosseum, the Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, gothic cathedrals, St. Peter's Basilica, Meso-American

pyramids, the Taj Mahal and even, the Statue of Liberty. Each of these iconic structures also is a piece of art that communicates important messages about the time, place and context in which the structure was created.

In addition to providing commentary about the larger culture, art makes life more manageable, tolerable and enjoyable. One may not think about more utilitarian items and places as "art," but they do contribute to one's aesthetic experience. Think about the iPhone, the Fort Worth Water Gardens, Call of Duty: Black Ops, floor rugs, royal processions, Gucci's Spring line, Versace furniture, Ducati motorcycles, Land Rovers, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia, Calvin Klein, Calatrava bridges, sunglasses, military uniforms, *Star Wars*, *Rolling Stone Magazine* covers and the Transformers. Now, remove any element founded in creativity, art and design, and all that remains are piles of materials that require human imagination and visual thinking.

Art forces humans to look beyond that which is necessary to survive and leads people to create for the sake of expression and meaning.

Our own city, Fort Worth, is home to three world-renowned museums: The Amon Carter Museum of American Art, The Kimbell Art Museum and the Modern Art Museum. This city's moniker of "Cowboys and Culture" is apt—a merging of Fort Worth's rich western history as equally shaped by cowboys, expansive ranches, the Chisolm Trail AND important fine art institutions. It is the cultural arts that elevate our city onto the international stage.

Art can communicate information, shape our everyday lives, make a social statement and be enjoyed for aesthetic beauty. Tarrant County College reinforces Fort Worth's rich culture. Each campus offers a variety of fine art experiences for students of all majors to attend and become inspired. These opportunities include theater performances, music concerts, dance performances and visual art gallery exhibitions. Trinity River Campus is even home to a large techno-centric art collection. These free resources represent an extension of the classroom and can be utilized and appreciated by the entire community.

In an informal conversation with Scott Robinson, dean of humanities at the Trinity River Campus, several Design I students were discussing the importance of art and why it is necessary in an academic environment. Through much discussion and some arguing, the group concluded that the arts are necessary to give meaning to things. The sciences provide the facts and information that give order to our world and are at the vanguard of innovation and human achievement. For example, science can teach us about the life cycle of organisms. It explains why organisms age, it provides the ability to prolong life through medicine and it gives an insight into the workings of death and decay.

On the other hand, art can give meaning to the concept of death. Egyptians mummified individuals and laid them to rest in magnificent tombs, while present-day humans place loved ones in the ground (or in mausoleums) and decorate that resting place with plaques, memorials and flowers. El Dia de los Muertos celebrates the passing of loved ones and remembers them through visitations, offerings and the

belief that their souls remain near. These cultural practices, combined with our scientific understanding, allow us to process life and death more holistically.



Is it fair or even justified to separate art from the sciences? The only answer to this question is a resounding "NO." The arts and sciences have a symbiotic relationship. Leonardo Da Vinci best captured the relationship of the two in his claim that they are separate but intertwining paths that lead one to the same end: knowledge.

Angel Fernandez

The focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is one of the current buzzworthy initiatives in academia. The acronym can easily be transformed into STEAM by the inclusion of art into the formula. Art should be included and the focus should change. The exclusion of the arts is a disservice to the world's youth. A popular bumper sticker asserts that "Earth" without "art" is just "Eh," a desolate and meaningless place. We can do better than that. We must. Art is the key.



## Fine and Visual Arts Events

In keeping with its commitment to excellence in the arts, TCC offers a variety of opportunities to enjoy dance, drama, music and visual arts exhibits each semester. For a complete list of upcoming events, visit:

[tccd.edu/magazine/arts](http://tccd.edu/magazine/arts)

· BONA FIDE ·  
**CREDIBLE**  
The Genuine Article



**100% AUTHENTIC**

THE REAL MCCOY

**NO IMITATION**

— The Real Deal —

★★★★★  
LEGITIMATE • DEPENDABLE • LASTING

by Bill Lace

**N**o matter how often they're killed, they just won't stay dead: Dracula, Jason, Leatherface, Freddie Krueger and the notion that community colleges are somehow not "real."

"What?" South Campus English Department Chair Sandi Hubnik asked in wonder. "Are people still saying that?"

Just ask Jasmin Moreno. When she said at a family dinner celebrating her high school graduation that she planned to go to TCC, a female relative attending a private university said, "Aren't you going to a real college?"

Moreno, a first-year student at the South Campus, is hardly alone. When 22 members of her class were asked if they had ever been victim to a community college putdown, 10 raised their hands.

Moreno did not suffer in silence. "I told her that her school is a college and my school is a college," she said.

.....  
"When she told me I was kind of stupid for going to community college, I said, 'You learn the same things during the first two years, right?'"

..... Jasmin Moreno

Besides, she added, TCC seemed more welcoming than she imagined a university would be. "It had that kind of family vibe you want to get."

Moreno is not the only one to turn such a slur on its head. "Do I think there's still a stigma?" said Martha Parham, senior vice president for public relations at American Association of Community Colleges. "Sure, but we use it as an opportunity to educate people about what community colleges can do for them."

Elva LeBlanc, president of TCC Northwest Campus, employs the same strategy. "I listen to what the person is saying and figure out what the person is wanting and needing" she said. "I then respond with how the Northwest Campus can help him or her get there. We use the appreciative model in order to turn a negative into a positive."

Nevertheless, community colleges still find it necessary to explain themselves. This perceived lack of respect prompted The Hechinger Report's Jon Marcus to dub them "the Rodney Dangerfields of American higher education."

So what factors play into this? People, out of either ignorance or snobbishness, seem to think community colleges are not "real" because:

*"Anyone can get in."*

Pretty much true. If you have graduated from high school, and sometimes even if you have not, you can be admitted to TCC. Accessibility has been a cornerstone of community colleges for more than a century. Those who find themselves, often through no fault of their own, unprepared for college-level coursework have a chance to catch up.

Others may be prepared academically, but are not sure what they want or how to find it. "So many of our students are candles in the wind," LeBlanc said. "We devote a lot of time to asking them what their goals are and telling them how we can help achieve them."

That was the experience of Chassidy Dunn, one of Moreno's classmates. "People don't understand that TCC can give you the same experience as a university and also help you decide what," she said. "I had to sit down with a success coach, who went over everything with me. Now I know I want to get a bachelor's degree in fashion."

*"Their graduation rates are terrible."*

No, they are just not as high as those of universities, which can admit only students with a high probability of success. Community colleges have open door policies, and through those doors come students with wide ranges of abilities and perseverance levels. Some students make it, but many do not, despite all the assistance provided. Getting into a community college may be easy, but getting out – with a degree or certificate – may be another story.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that only 20 percent of community college students graduate within three years of enrollment. But consider that 60 percent of them work half- or full-time and many are married with children. Consider also that many students have no intention

of graduating. Their plan may be to attend only for one year before going on to a university. Or they may be interested in only a few courses out of a desire to learn Spanish or how to fix a carburetor.

*“Nothing that inexpensive can be high in quality.”*

Community colleges prefer “affordable” to “inexpensive,” but their costs are, indeed, far lower than those at universities. The non-profit College for All Texans Foundation lists the average tuition and fees for two semesters of 15 semester hours at a public community college in 2016-2017 as \$2,587. That compares with \$8,686 at public universities and \$27,518 at private universities. The cost for In-District TCC students is \$1,770, or \$59 per semester hour.

Cost thus becomes a huge factor in drawing students, many of high academic ability. That is how it was for David Clinkscale, a now-retired TCC government professor who came as a student in 1967, the College’s first year. “Obviously the monetary savings were significant,” he said. “Even paying out-of-county tuition, as I had to do (living in Johnson County), tuition was \$6 an hour. Of course, that was a time at which the minimum wage was, I think, \$1.25 an hour. But still, compared to a four-year school, it was a huge, huge bargain.”

For Claudia Jackson, who graduated in the 1970s and is now a senior administrator at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, there was no other choice. “When I was asked why I was going to (then) TCJC, my answer was that I was being raised by a single mom and, even with tuition as low as it was, needed a scholarship to make it,” she said. “I needed a foothold somewhere, and TCJC was it.”

Community colleges are affordable because their communities have chosen to make the investment. State appropriations now cover less than 20 percent of TCC’s annual budget, but the citizens of Tarrant County have shouldered the load and will pay TCC taxes of more than \$200 million for fiscal year 2016, second in the state only to Dallas County.

*“The courses don’t transfer.”*

Some do not, but that is more often the fault of the student than the College. No, a technical program course at TCC likely will not transfer to a bachelor’s program at The University of Texas at Arlington. That is why students are encouraged – repeatedly – to know to which academic program in which university they want to transfer and to check, both with TCC’s counselors and the university, to ensure a smooth transition, especially when transferring to a private university.

.....  
“Every single semester hour I had at TCJC transferred to Southwest Texas State. That, to me, means it’s a real college.”

..... David Clinkscale

“Community colleges do not prepare you for good jobs.”

Try telling that to alumni who have used TCC as a springboard to bachelor’s, graduate and professional degrees. Or to those who have graduated from technical programs such as nursing; heating, air conditioning and refrigeration; automotive or aviation technology and moved directly into careers with starting salaries of more than \$60,000.

But even though there are good answers to the derogatory claims, community college adherents are understandably frustrated by what amounts to an endless game of Whack-A-Mole, countering such assertions only to see them pop up over and over. “I’ve devoted a good part of my career to battling this idea,” Jackson said after a session trying to convince local legislators that non-credit technical education is, indeed, enrollment.

She and her colleagues can find solace, however, in the knowledge that what they do on a daily basis vastly improves the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and their respective communities across the country.

“Community colleges are more real and relevant than ever,” TCC Chancellor Eugene Giovannini said.

.....  
“Emergency medical technicians, police, firefighters, phlebotomists – just to name a few – are trained and credentialed at community colleges. These are real degrees, granted by real colleges, which prepare graduates for careers and immediate entry into the workforce. The education and training provided by community colleges is integral to our day-to-day lives.”

..... Eugene Giovannini



## CREATING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE

By Alexis Patterson

Many people associate Tarrant County College with its role as a primary trainer for the North Texas workforce or an affordable start to undergraduate education. But TCC is reaching area residents long before they finish high school.

“We connect with students at every age,” noted Joy Gates Black, vice chancellor for academic affairs and student success. “It helps them see themselves as future college students.”

Whether it’s a year or a decade away, preparing for higher education is essential. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s strategic plan, 60x30TX, calls for at least 60 percent of Texans aged 25 to 34 to hold a college certificate or degree by the year 2030 to ensure competitiveness and prosperity.

The challenge is significant. In 2013, only 38 percent in the 25-to-34 range had a postsecondary credential. TCC offers a variety of pre-college programs to build a college-going culture—a mindset that college is more than a possibility; it is an expectation.

“The way we meet 60x30TX goals is to develop better pathways for our students, and that begins early,” said Gates Black.

.....  
“When we connect with children starting in elementary school, there’s a natural progression to higher education. That’s especially important for those who will be the first in their family to go to college—and frequently those students are part of our fastest-growing populations.”

..... Joy Gates Black

One of TCC’s most visible youth programs is College for Kids (pictured above), a summer enrichment program that includes academic, technology, arts and fitness classes for grades 1 through 8. The College also hosts TexPREP (Texas Prefreshman Engineering Program) in the summer for middle and high school students. Offered in partnership with The University of Texas at



San Antonio, TexPREP gives students high school credit, college preparation and a head start on skills needed for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

Younger students' exposure to TCC isn't limited to summer. The College Access and Community Outreach team works with area districts and community organizations to have a presence in elementary, middle and high schools as well as at family events. TCC's Mobile Go Center (pictured above) made more than 80 visits last year, connecting with some 10,000 youth.

"The Mobile Go event offered scenarios of life after high school and illustrated the significance of a post-secondary education and college degree," explained Rozlyn Faulhaber, counselor at Irma Marsh Middle School, part of northwest Fort Worth's Castleberry ISD.



"We are fortunate that TCC realizes and embraces the necessity of implementing college readiness for the youngest scholars."

Rozlyn Faulhaber

TCC's mascot, Toro the Trailblazer (pictured on page 27), also plays an important role in the college-going culture. In addition to his TCC appearances, Toro accompanies Mobile Go to K-12 schools and community celebrations. Initially, children may know him only as a big stuffed animal, but they come to associate him with pride, excellence and higher education.

"Toro excites younger students about college," said Noemi Vela, director of College Access and Community Outreach. "When kids see Toro, they see themselves at TCC."

College is a relevant consideration earlier than ever. Discussions of career interests and related skills take place in middle school in preparation for selection of an "endorsement"—a pathway to Texas high school graduation tied to a specific career cluster—during ninth grade.

The Dual Credit program allows high school students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit in Core and technical subjects. Unlike Advanced Placement classes (which are taught by high school faculty and require students to achieve a certain exam score to get college credit), Dual Credit is taught by College-credentialed faculty on high school or TCC campuses, and credit is attained by successfully completing the course.

Through Dual Credit, students can finish a year or more of college by high school graduation. Not only does that save time, but it also saves a significant amount of money—as they earn

transferable credit at affordable TCC prices. Some districts even cover the cost of tuition for their students. If those students finish a year of college that they would otherwise complete at the average state university, they save nearly \$9,000 in tuition and fees, plus incidental costs.

For a growing number of students, there is an opportunity to complete a tuition-free associate degree during high school. Early college high schools (ECHS) enable students to complete up to two years of college, or the entire Core Curriculum. Each of TCC's physical campus locations now houses an ECHS in partnership with an area school district.

"These programs provide intellectual, social and physical integration of high school and college," said Benjamin Leos, principal of Marine Creek Collegiate High School on Northwest Campus. "We reduce the intimidation of attending college and give students access to more academic support and career planning services."

Since the first class graduated in 2014, Marine Creek Collegiate High School has maintained a 100 percent high school graduation rate. Associate degree achievement is increasingly impressive: 68 percent of graduates in 2014, 70 percent in 2015 and 91 percent in 2016. The average Marine Creek student graduates with 71 transferable college hours.

TCC's involvement with high schoolers extends beyond

programs that result in college credit. College Access provides seniors step-by-step guidance through admissions, financial aid, advising and more; the program paved the way to enrollment for almost 3,000 students last year. Upward Bound is a federally funded TCC program that annually provides approximately 200 high school students intensive academic support, mentorship, leadership development and college preparation.

"The continued increase in participation in our youth programs is a reflection of their value for students," said Gates Black. "Children learn about the importance of education, how to establish goals and what it takes to achieve them. And that will benefit them their whole life."

That's certainly true for Ariana Hartman, who first became involved with TCC as a College for Kids participant in elementary and middle school. When Hartman went on to Seguin High School in Arlington, she enrolled in Dual Credit—earning college credit in psychology, sociology, history, economics, government and English.

"Being on a college campus as part of College for Kids built my confidence," she said. "And then Dual Credit allowed me to experience college classes before actually making that transition."

Today Hartman is a student at the Southeast and Trinity River campuses, majoring in Human Resource Management and planning to transfer to a university. Challenging classes don't faze her. "I feel like I had a preview of college in my early years."

# the road TO SUCCESS



Share your student success story with us!  
tcc.successtories@tccd.edu



I am currently in my second year at Tarrant County College, enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program and looking forward to graduating the summer of 2017. I am a 36-year-old single father. While attending TCC, I am working as a student assistant, helping in both kitchens at the Southeast Campus. My road to success has been rocky, to say the least.

Like a lot of kids fresh out of high school, I did not choose to go to college right away. I had a passion for food that was sparked by my father being in the kitchen when I was young. I did not know if I had what it took to make it in the food industry. Instead, I chose to get a job and get ahead by just working hard as a commercial carpet cleaner for 15 years. While working at night and providing for my family, though there is absolutely nothing wrong with that, I could not find the success I was looking for. I kept getting overlooked for management positions, mostly because I did not have a college degree or any type of management training.

Cooking was always with me. No matter what I was doing, or hard times I was facing, it always helped me through. But after my daughter was born, there was no time to have my head in the clouds chasing dreams. It was time for me to prepare to make HER dreams come true. I stayed diligent in my field, saving when I could, running myself into the ground until I pushed myself into a series of three heart attacks before I was 30 years old. The first came as I was driving home from work around three o'clock in the morning. Lying in the hospital bed, looking at my daughter's face and imagining not being here, was too much to bear.

I made a decision to be happy in all aspects of my life. I suffered through a divorce, multiple deaths in my family and the murder of one of my dearest friends. All these things kept me postponing and postponing. But in November of 2014, I finally took the first step. I registered for classes.

From the very first day I knew I belonged here. It just felt like home. The people and how they spoke, the instructors and how they treat you. It is a family. In my student assistant position, under Chef Katrina Warner, I have learned a lot of skills that will be of great use to me in the industry. Another instructor, Chef Alison, the certified pastry chef, encouraged me to enter in an American Culinary Federation (ACF)-sanctioned Student Chefs competition. It was my first, I was terrified and doubting myself. Chef Alison helped me to overcome my fear so that I could compete. After a sweaty and nervous performance, I was awarded a bronze medal for my dish.

I was overjoyed that in my first competition I was able to medal. The warm welcome I received after the competition from all the chefs and staff is very indicative of the support you receive in this program. I have now been bitten with the competition bug and I look forward to future events. But mostly, I am proud to be a future graduate of the TCC Culinary Program!

- NATHAN PRICE

Last January, I began my journey to earn an associate degree from Tarrant County College in Logistics & Supply Chain Management and I'm looking forward to completing the program this summer. As a U.S. Army reservist, wife and mother of two children, going to school to earn an associate degree used to be a far-fetched goal. I imagined I would have to work between two and three jobs to make ends meet after I came off active duty.

Today, I am proud to say that I have the support of my family, friends and TCC staff as I work to earn my degree. One of the biggest motivators for me is that I will be the first person in my family to earn a college degree. My husband and I are both going to school to show our families and our two children that getting a degree is possible.

When I was an active duty member of the Army, I worked in logistics and had access to logistics systems. While I was cross-trained to do supply chain in the military, I did not receive any formal schooling during that time. I thought those same skill sets would translate to the civilian sector but there was a catch. Nowadays, in order to work in most civilian logistics jobs, you have to have a bachelor's degree.

My goal of earning a bachelor's degree after completing an associate degree at TCC motivates me every day. In addition, I am motivated by the fact that you don't see a lot of women working in or pursuing logistics as a profession. On average, there are about three to four women in my classes and I always encourage them to continue pursuing their dream of working in logistics.

TCC is preparing me and my fellow female students to fill critical industry jobs. For any women out there considering a career in logistics and interested in going to school to earn a certification or degree in warehouse and transportation logistics, there is an enormous opportunity for women to make a huge impact in this male-dominated industry.

### Tips I follow to reach any goal:

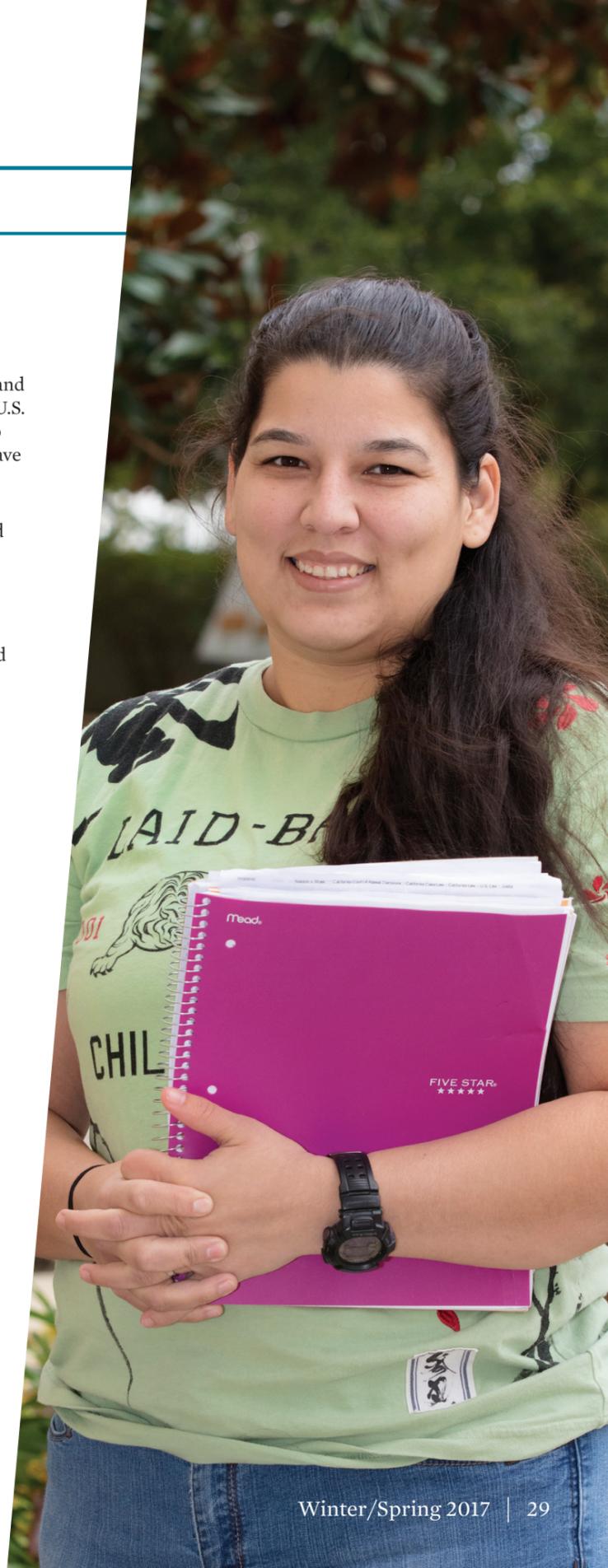
**Stay Committed to Accomplishing Your Goal** - Goals require commitment and dedication. If you are struggling with committing to a specific goal, start the process over.

**Build a Support System** - You may need external support to accomplish your goals. If you need help or support, ask someone you trust to help you stay on track.

**Keep Your Eye on the Finish Line** - Think about the big picture! Envision the end result of your efforts to stay motivated.

**Celebrate Every Success** - This will build your confidence and commitment and make it easier for you to keep pushing towards your future goals.

- ABIGAIL RANSAW



# HEALTHY PASTA SALAD *lunches*



With tips from Katrina Warner, instructor of culinary arts





• Pasta salads make an easy lunch to pre-pack in containers on  
• Sunday and grab all week long. Enjoy with toasted bread, crackers  
• or gluten-free choices. If following a gluten-free diet, substitute  
• tortellini with 8oz (dry weight) of your favorite GF pasta. Cook as  
• directed on package.

## CHICKEN TORTELLINI SALAD WITH CILANTRO LIME DRESSING

### Pasta Salad

1 package cheese-filled tortellini

2 1/2 cups chicken, cooked and diced *(If in a hurry, pull meat from grocery store rotisserie chicken, any flavor. This salad is also great for leftover chicken.)*

Optional: black olives, cherry tomatoes, artichoke hearts, avocado, celery or any other chopped vegetables.

### Dressing

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded, coarsely chopped

1 clove garlic

3/4 tsp. minced fresh ginger root

2 tsp. balsamic vinegar

1/4 cup cilantro leaves, packed

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

### Method

1. Cook tortellini per package instructions. Immediately drain and submerge in ice water for several minutes. Drain again and gently mix with chicken and other optional ingredients.
2. To create the dressing, finely chop the jalapeno, garlic and ginger in a food processor. Add lime juice, honey, vinegar and cilantro. Pulse a few times to blend. With the food processor on low, slowly drizzle in olive oil. Season to taste with salt, if needed.
3. Pour dressing over pasta mixture and gently stir to combine.



## BROCCOLI & FETA PASTA SALAD

### Pasta Salad

- 8 oz. (about 3 cups) whole-wheat fusilli, uncooked (can substitute gluten free or vegetable flavored)
- 2 cups fresh broccoli, chopped into bite-sized pieces
- 1 3/4 cups grape or cherry tomatoes, halved
- 15-oz. canned chickpeas, rinsed well and dry
- 1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled

### Dressing

- 1 clove garlic, minced or 1 teaspoon garlic paste (available in tubes at any grocery store)
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp. chopped fresh dill or 1 tablespoon dried (tarragon or basil can be substituted for dill)
- 1 tbsp. distilled white vinegar

### Method

1. Cook pasta per package instructions. Immediately drain and submerge in ice water for several minutes. Drain again and gently mix with broccoli, tomatoes, chickpeas and cheese.
2. To create the dressing, make a paste by mashing the garlic and salt together with the back of a spoon. To the paste, whisk in all other ingredients until well combined.
3. Pour dressing over pasta mixture, gently stir to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper, as desired.

## HAM & CHEDDAR PASTA SALAD

### Pasta Salad

- 10 oz. whole-wheat elbow noodles, uncooked
- 1 cup ham, diced (or cooked turkey, if preferred)
- 1 3/4 cups button mushrooms, sliced
- 1 3/4 cups peas, fresh or frozen (thawed; do not use canned peas)
- 1/4 cup sweet onion, finely chopped
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
- 1/2 cup diced cheddar cheese

### Dressing

- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup buttermilk (or add 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice to 1/2 cup milk and allow to thicken for a few minutes before mixing in dressing)
- 1/4 cup reduced-calorie mayonnaise
- 3 tbsp. chopped fresh dill or 1 tablespoon dried (tarragon or basil can be substituted for dill)
- 1 tbsp. distilled white vinegar

### Method

1. Cook pasta per package instructions. Immediately drain and submerge in ice water for several minutes. Drain again and gently mix with ham, mushrooms, peas, onion, egg and cheese.
2. To create the dressing, make a paste by mashing the garlic and salt together with the back of a spoon. To the paste, whisk in all other ingredients until well combined.
3. Pour dressing over pasta mixture, gently stir to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper, as desired.

These creamy pasta salads are lower in calories and fat compared to a classic pasta salad. Using whole-wheat pasta and loading it with plenty of vegetables makes it as nutritious as it is delicious.



# ELVA LEBLANC

## FROM TCC STUDENT TO TCC CAMPUS PRESIDENT

by Sara Tucker

**E**lva LeBlanc, president of the Northwest Campus, was born in Mexico, Chihuahua. When she was a child, her family immigrated to the United States. She was raised in El Paso, a multi-cultural city and entry point to the U.S.

“We did not speak English, did not understand the culture and were not educated—incredible barriers to overcome,” said LeBlanc. “We held a firm belief in the American Dream and that focus sustained us. My parents understood they had to work harder than everyone else, be open to a new environment and get an education.”

She struggled in school as one of only two Hispanics in her class and the only student who did not speak English. “I remember bringing home my first report card,” LeBlanc said. “My teacher wrote, ‘Please speak English to Elva’ and I was translating her note to my parents. You can’t teach what you don’t know. It was frustrating that I could not be more successful.”

As she learned English, there were more opportunities to translate for her parents and develop leadership skills. She was excited to learn new things and use that knowledge to help others. Her interest in education stems from her ability to empathize with struggling students.

Her mother began taking basic ESL (English as a Second Language) adult classes and ultimately earned her master’s degree. She worked as department chair of foreign languages until she retired. LeBlanc’s father began cleaning the warehouse of a glass company and by the time he was 40, he owned his own glass company.

“These successes didn’t happen overnight,” said LeBlanc. “My parents are the smartest and most visionary people I know. We were in Mexico, barely making it, and my parents said, ‘We have to move to the States and we have to make it.’”

Regardless of her circumstances, LeBlanc always ended up in leadership roles. “I owe that to my parents—they helped shape my natural leadership qualities and had faith in me,” she said. “They depended on me to figure things out and move forward, developing my leadership skills and putting me in positions to succeed.”

Her siblings went to college and several own their own businesses. All siblings picked a path they love and believe people never have to settle in life.

LeBlanc married very young and spent her newlywed years working full-time while her husband finished his master’s degree. At the time, they had limited funds so she worked at a daycare down the street from the Northeast Campus, where she eventually enrolled in classes.

“TCC was affordable and I could complete 59 hours in one year,” she said. “I went to class at 7 a.m., worked until 5 p.m., then went home to make dinner and study.”

After graduating from TCC, LeBlanc knew she wanted to attend the University of North Texas and become a teacher. She earned a bachelor’s degree in three years, graduating summa cum laude. Fort Worth ISD had a teaching job waiting for her in bilingual kindergarten. She taught while completing her master’s degree in education in two years. She then worked as an adjunct at UNT while working on her doctorate degree in philosophy.

Upon receiving her doctorate, LeBlanc accepted a teaching position at TCC Northeast Campus. “As a student, I loved the professors at the Northeast Campus,” she said. “Professors whose classes I wasn’t even in would help me with research and lend me books or advice. I loved my student experience and never dreamed I could teach there—it seemed like an impossible goal. So, when I was hired I couldn’t believe it!”

LeBlanc believes in the community college model because it is an American concept rooted in access to education for all. She served TCC for many years as a professor, faculty chair, director of institutional effectiveness and dean of instruction. She also taught graduate courses at the University of North Texas. She was then recruited and spent the next seven years working for Austin Community College and Galveston College.

“We were happy that she found new places and challenges she loved, but we were sad to see her leave TCC,” said Janice Yoder Smith, divisional dean of mathematics and sciences at the Northwest Campus. “Her influence on TCC lingered, though.”

In 2006, LeBlanc was recruited back to TCC, this time in administration at the Northwest Campus. “Be careful what you teach your students, they could come back as your supervisor!” LeBlanc joked.

“It’s true,” said Joe Rode, vice president for student development services as the Northwest Campus. “One of my takeaways as a counselor when Elva LeBlanc was a student was ‘treat each and every student with respect and kindness for you never know, they may become your boss one day!’”

Yoder Smith was thrilled to have her back. “We felt like our family member had returned after a long absence,” she said. “From the moment she returned, her focus has been on empowering

students, faculty and instructional leaders. She was, and is now, a student and faculty advocate.”

LeBlanc immediately held visioning sessions with faculty to discuss what they wanted the Northwest Campus to look like. She held similar sessions with students and the community, developing action items that turned into committees where people could serve and have their voices and recommendations heard.

“LeBlanc is an amazing leader,” Rode said. “She has the vision required to provide leadership for a large, ever-changing and diverse student body, faculty and community. At the same time, she nurtures and supports her team.”

She began to serve on community boards again, and slowly reinvented herself and the Northwest Campus. “You have to reinvent yourself each year, even on a great year you have to grow and learn and reinvent,” she said. “I have to do that if I ask my students and staff to do the same.”

Rode believes that is what makes LeBlanc a dynamic leader.

.....  
“LeBlanc truly gives 100% in everything she attempts. She seeks input from others and is not afraid of change. In fact, she embraces it!”

..... Joe Rode

LeBlanc has watched the Northwest Campus transition from a small campus in the middle of nowhere to a hub of activity. She prides herself on the strong workforce programs and partnerships with the business community. “Our presence at Alliance is amazing,” she said. “TCC talked about that for more than 20 years and now it’s a reality!”

Northwest Campus programs like the Fire Academy have whole regions depending on them for training. In essence, these programs have become an extension of the municipalities. “We transform programs to better meet what the community needs,” LeBlanc said. “We also offer a lot of continuing education. The District continues to support the economic development of the region.”

What do LeBlanc’s future plans for the Northwest Campus entail? There are additional workforce programs she would like to look at, as well as expand partnerships with local agencies. She looks forward to Fort Worth’s Trinity Vision (a pedestrian-oriented urban waterfront neighborhood) becoming a reality for marine creek. “The Trinity River Vision will open doors for strong partnerships with parks, water districts and others.” LeBlanc is excited to work with them.

“I hope she stays with us many more years,” Yoder Smith said. “She is a servant leader who bridges gaps, involves many people and supports her team.”



## SOUTHEAST CAMPUS

### *Celebrating 20 Years*

by Jennifer Sicking

For Bill Coppola, president of the Southeast Campus, the motto, “The Spirit of Southeast” infuses all they do. “It is truly the spirit of all employees and students that you find on the campus that is entirely different than our sister campuses,” he said.

While TCC bought the 123-acre tract in southeast Tarrant County in 1987, construction could not begin until Texas State Highway 360 was partially completed.

“When we went to the groundbreaking it was raw, ragged farm land at the end of a developed road,” said Gwendolyn Morrison, TCC trustee since 1976.

After years of waiting by the community, the campus opened in 1996 with just under 4,000 students taught by 44 full-time faculty. “We were received by the community immediately because we were, and are, their community college,” said the first Southeast campus president, Judith Carrier. By 2011, the campus served 10,000 students on campus and in dual credit courses at nine area high schools. In 2014, TCC opened a collegiate high school on the campus.

As Southeast grew, the ragged farmland surrounding it changed too. The campus spurred economic growth through commercial and residential developments and new K-12 schools, according to Morrison.

By 2016, 140 full-time faculty served 11,000 students on the campus and an additional 3,500 at 11 area high schools.

That rapid growth in its short 20 years has made it difficult for the facilities to keep up with enrollment. But that’s where the Southeast spirit filters through all that they do.

“The ‘close proximity’ of our living space has created a sense of one, or you might call it bonding that permeates our campus,” Coppola said. “No matter what your role or responsibility on the

campus, everyone pitches in and makes initiatives successful.”

From its beginning, that spirit has welcomed students to the campus in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

“Preparing students for a gratifying and ultimately successful collegiate experience must begin with that first step onto the campus and then continue throughout their academic career, not only with us, but also as they pursue completion of a bachelor degree,” Coppola said.

The campus works with local school districts and The University of Texas at Arlington to create a seamless pathway for students to earn a college degree. The economic development in the area, particularly in the culinary, hospitality and entertainment sectors, offers numerous training and employment opportunities. And the campus offers the only certified dietetics program in the state.

“As our surrounding cities evolve and grow, the Southeast campus must continue to be a partner to support the transformational change that is occurring,” Coppola said. “The role of the community college is becoming even more diverse and we must have the leaders available with the skills necessary to meet these demands.”

The Southeast spirit can be found in its outreach with the various ethnic chambers of commerce and the open invitation for such events as a performance by the North Central Texas Ballet or a speech by former President George W. Bush when he was the state’s governor. It also led it to start a sustainability initiative with a community garden, farmer’s market, recycling program, bee hives and monarch butterfly way stops.

“It is our belief that these will continue to strengthen the relationships with our surrounding communities, make our employees feel more productive and energized, and continue our commitment to overall success,” Coppola said.



## SOUTH CAMPUS

### *Celebrating 50 Years*

by Jennifer Sicking

When South Campus President Peter Jordan began his role, he met with faculty, staff and community members to develop a shared vision for the diverse campus. At the end of one meeting, a young man turned to Jordan and asked, “Do you know what we call this campus? ‘Harvard by the Highway.’”

In that moment, Jordan found his vision. It’s one that still guides the campus, which turns 50 in 2017.

“The fact of life is that many of our students couldn’t make it to Harvard – not because they’re not intelligent enough – but because of jobs and life,” Jordan said of the campus near where Interstate 35W intersects with Interstate 20. “They need us to provide them that quality of education.”

That education for 50 years has put students on a highway to brighter economic futures.

Jordan sees the powerful metaphor transform into reality every day. The South Campus offers access to quality teaching and learning for a diverse student body that includes many first generation, college-bound students.

From its mechanical and industrial programs, to preparing students to pursue bachelor degrees, “TCC continues to change and save lives,” Jordan said. “Where else can a young man or woman from a family with a median income of \$20,000 learn skills and earn credentials that lead to starting salaries of \$50,000 and above in three short years? That’s the TCC and South Campus story.”

While Tarrant County Junior College began with voters’ approval in 1965, the South Campus opening with more than 4,700 students in 1967 made it a reality.

“What developed on South that first year set the pattern for everything that was to follow,” Jordan said.

Many of the original faculty, staff and administrators moved to

the Northeast campus and others, taking with them the precepts that guided the South campus’ development.

“It’s the lessons learned by these early adopters and founding faculty and the example they set that have become the gold standard for TCC and community colleges across Texas,” Jordan said.

More than 100,000 students study at TCC’s six campuses, pursuing degrees, certificates or continuing education courses. At the South Campus, about 8,700 undergraduates learn with an additional 5,000 enrolling in continuing education courses study.

In its early years, the South Campus developed an innovative method of teaching drama by bringing in a small company of professional actors who acted in lead roles while teaching and mentoring students. Now, it continues to lead the way with its Center of Excellence for Energy Technology with its exposed mechanical systems for learning and training.

“South has always been the campus where you could incubate an idea, where you could try it first,” said Gladys Emerson, vice president of Continuing Education Services for the South Campus.

That can be seen throughout its history from a program that for decades helped high school students enhance their English, writing and math skills to the newest program of Generation Hope, which encourages middle school students in science, technology, engineering and math.

“It’s the people of South Campus, their commitment to serving students and the community, their creativity and innovative spirit and their passion for teaching and learning that sets South Campus apart from others,” Jordan said.

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary throughout 2017, the College wants to honor the legacy of those who designed, built and sustained the College. “It’s our goal to reconnect the campus with a past that will fuel and sustain its future,” Jordan said.

# NARROWING THE GAP

GRANT ENSURES LOCAL WORKFORCE NEEDS ARE MET

by Jody Wasson

The struggle, as they say, “is real.” According to an article in the September 2015 issue of *The Atlantic*, the U.S. economy finds itself at the mercy of an interesting paradox: millions of Americans looking for jobs, while millions of jobs remain unfilled. What can be done to narrow this gap, and what happens if we cannot? Further, who is responsible for finding a solution?

Nationwide, community colleges play a critical role in developing skilled workers through Career and Technical Education programs that can and should be developed in conjunction with regional workforce experts to ensure local workforce needs can continue to be met. Given the sophisticated nature of many of these programs, and the expensive equipment required to properly train future employees, Tarrant County College applies each year for the Carl D. Perkins Grant.

This annual grant, which TCC has received for at least 16 consecutive years, allows the College to grow and/or develop robust technical education programs that prepare students for employment in high-skill, high-wage or high-demand jobs in current or emerging industries. According to Joy Gates Black, vice chancellor for academic affairs and student success, “This grant further enables TCC to work with its community partners to support the State’s 60X30TX plan that seeks to have 60 percent of Texans, ages 25 to 34, possessing a certificate or degree by the year 2030. In so doing, Texas and Tarrant County can maintain its global competitiveness as more students are prepared to enter today’s workforce.”

TCC’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are competency-based applied learning programs that challenge an individual’s academic knowledge, problem-solving skills and job-specific skill sets that today’s business and industry both want and need. CTE students are able to learn and train on industry-recognized equipment purchased with grant funds, allowing them to be prepared and marketable for the workforce at graduation – all without attending a four-year college and without the burdens of large student loan debt. Currently, TCC tuition totals \$59 per credit hour, or just \$885 for a 15-hour semester.

“Our CTE programs can help students to find jobs and then they can move forward from there,” said Nancy Curé, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. “We want people trained, employed and self-sufficient. Then, we want them to come back

to us and get additional training, as they need it, so they can continue to advance in their careers.” Ongoing news coverage of the nation’s current and forecast shortage in skilled workers, particularly in allied health and industrial trades such as welding and logistics management, suggests that CTE programs play a critical role in developing the workforce needed for continued economic health at the local, regional and national levels.

“The message I want to send... what community colleges do, is that we can work with a student for short-term training programs and get them to working fairly quickly,” Curé said. “For those who want to move up in the career, we can help them also.”

The Perkins grant also is intended to help students explore non-traditional trades based on gender. Women, for example, can excel and be financially successful in jobs traditionally held by men, such as fire-fighting, welding, logistics, aviation mechanics, emergency response and automobile maintenance, to name a few. Similarly, roles traditionally held by women are equally worthy for men to consider.

The key, according to Curé, is for people first to understand these programs are viable options and, second, to have the support needed to complete the programs and confidently step into their new careers.



“You have nursing as a career that pays well – high demand, high wage. It is in this day almost the perfect career with its high demand – high wage. But, for years, men would not go into that career. You would go to be a doctor. You wouldn’t go to be nurse. And so, I think that the Perkins Grant has really been focused on disabusing people of the notion that they must choose a career based on gender.”

Nancy Curé

The Perkins Grant recently was re-funded with some recommended changes addressing CTE programs at the federal level. They have worked to align the new iteration of the grant with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which is all about helping job seekers secure the employment, education, training and support services they need to become successful

in the labor market AND to match employers with the types of workers they need to be competitive.

“It’s a connect that been there all along, but I think this is really going to strengthen it. So, in terms of the future, this is great,” Curé said.



## Autumn Luxton

Thirty years ago, Autumn Luxton chose the path followed by many women at the time—she got married and started working. While raising her family, Luxton started work as a delivery driver for an auto supplies store and later became a sales rep for an automotive glass company. For the last 23 years, she has worked for a company that sells automotive paint and equipment. A solid job, yes...but it still wasn’t the work of her dreams. Luxton wanted to get her hands dirty. So, she enrolled in TCC’s Automotive Collision Repair program at South Campus.

“Autumn has been working in the industry many years. She’s seen the industry change and adapt,” said Collision Repair instructor Royce Wyatt. “Because of her work and goal to teach repair and refinishing, she’s helping break down stigmas that women can’t do this work.”

Luxton wants to teach refinishing here at the College. “There is such a shortage of automotive technicians, it’s unreal,” she said. “Everyone isn’t going to be a math or science major. A lot of people are better working with their hands.”

“The level of the technician is much more than what it was 15 or 20 years ago,” Luxton said. But, she emphasized that it’s still hard work and very labor intensive. “It’s much more than what people think – it’s very technical,” she said.

Today, Luxton sees graduation on the horizon. Before that, however, she will visit the Collision Repair class to describe life working in the industry. She also will help train her peers on the College’s new high-strength compression spot welder. Luxton points out, “A woman’s attention to precision, detail and, of course, color and our natural ability to multi-task better, makes us uniquely qualified to do this work.”

# DESTINED FOR A *fiery future*

by Jody Wasson



There wasn't a real connection between high school theatre and the apartment fire until I reached the command class," said Jessica Eiswald, TCC graduate and fire inspector for the City of Burleson, TX Fire Department. The apartment fire she referenced had destroyed her then-boyfriend's home while she was a student at TCC.

While a student at Azle High School, Eiswald was devoted to theatre and served as the drama department's stage manager. Along the way, she got a "wild hair" to become a fire investigator and found her way to TCC's Associate of Applied Science in Fire Investigation. "The Incident Command Systems class was basically just like being a stage manager in theatre, which I was already good at," she recalled.

Eiswald actually has received three degrees from TCC: the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Fire Investigation, the AAS in Fire Technology and an Associate of Arts. Eiswald also earned the basic police certification from TCC Police Academy and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Tarleton State University. In a short amount of time, this 27-year-old, soon-to-be mom already has racked up the achievements in a profession dominated by men. It is obvious she has let little stand in her way.

After graduating from TCC's Fire Investigation program, Eiswald began her career as a volunteer – and the only female – with the Hood County Fire Department. Volunteering also led to her first industry job as fire investigator with the Hood County Fire Department, still as the only female. "I guess when you're 20, you don't really notice that you're the only female. It was just exciting to know that my knowledge was wanted in Hood County," she said.

"She's a great success story. I think the world of her and everyone who works with Jessica loves working with her," said former Hood County Fire Marshal Brian Fine. He currently serves as a lieutenant with the State Fire Marshal's office.

Fine began working co-deputy fire marshal with Eiswald in the Hood County Fire Marshal's office in October of 2008. "I was able to count on her assistance as needed during any type of investigation," said Fine. Hood County was where Eiswald did much of her growing as a fire inspector.

As Eiswald finished her certification as a police officer

through TCC's Police Academy, Fine took the reins as Hood County's Fire Marshal. Fine realized he could immediately make Eiswald a better fire inspector by getting her out in the field to get the police training the county Sherriff's Department could offer. "During her field training phase, I received reports from multiple officers that Jessica was performing her duties above the standards. Once Jessica returned to our office she continued to accept new and challenges and duties," said Fine.

Now with the Burleson Fire Department, Eiswald is the only female. She doesn't view that as an issue.



**"I've always been the only female; through all my fire investigation and technology classes, at Hood County and even in Burleson, I'm the only female."**

**Jessica Eiswald**

"I grew up with a bunch of brothers, so I work well with men and it doesn't affect me," she said. "I enjoy working with guys. I think we're very driven in what we do and there's not a lot of side nonsense." She did emphasize that being the only female on the job, and only 4'9" tall, "You definitely have to prove yourself by going out there and digging into the work. When you're digging into a fire, you do have to have some 'oomph' behind you."

Eiswald's job requires her to enter burned-out buildings and dig through the remains to determine the cause of the blaze. She remembers standing with her partner in a garage, trying to determine how it caught fire. She concluded that the building had a pitched roof, which contributed to the behavior of the fire. Because the roof was non-existent, her partner wondered how Eiswald reached that conclusion. Her answer was simple – the ghosting on the walls. "It was one of those moments in your life when you are doing exactly and you are exactly what you want to be. I knew what I was talking about," she said confidently. "I really do love digging through fires."



# FILLING THE VOID

## TRAINING HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS IN HIGH-DEMAND JOBS

by Rita L.B. Parson

**W**hen Albert Woolum (pictured above) walked into the Tarrant County College Opportunity Center to visit his brother, he had no idea he was embarking on a life-changing experience.

Impressed by the computer numerically controlled (CNC) equipment, Woolum – who was job hunting after being laid off as a supply clerk – realized for the first time that he could earn a profitable living with his hands.

“The last time I had been around machinery was in high school shop class with my brother. It wasn’t even on my radar,” said Woolum, also a former math teacher and businessman. “It’s nice to have an academic skill, but it’s also good to have a hands-on skill.”

Woolum discovered his status as a military veteran qualified him to learn to operate the sophisticated equipment at no personal cost, so he enrolled.

Woolum interviewed eight weeks later for his first job as a CNC operator. His interview was on the Friday he graduated

from the intensive course. He started working the following Monday. That was two years ago.

“The very fact the Walmart Foundation paid for it was extremely helpful,” he said. “There is no way that I could have afforded it.”

Woolum, now 65, is just one of the thousands of people who benefit from TCC’s ability to leverage its course curriculum to meet the training needs of local businesses in Tarrant County. The CNC course that equipped Woolum with the skills to operate the complex equipment was originally designed to fill the void of highly skilled workers needed to operate the sophisticated equipment that form metal parts. TCC not only met the business need, but also created a pathway for their community partners to guide the unemployed and underemployed toward careers in high-demand jobs with impressive salaries. The development of the curriculum for that one course would yield another benefit later when it helped to establish TCC as an integral element in attracting new industry to North Texas.

### Changing Lives One Check at a Time

Each time someone like Woolum navigates his or her way through a TCC skills training program, it strengthens the economic base of Tarrant County. Just imagine the difference it makes for a family when the breadwinner goes from bringing home no money, or the minimum wage, to \$15 per hour (\$31,200 a year), slightly higher than twice the federal minimum wage of \$7.25.

This infusion to the economy can total a little more than \$1 million annually when the entry level salaries are calculated for the other 34 veterans who also were trained as part of special veteran initiatives such as the Walmart Foundation Vocational Acceleration Grants Program.

The economic surge of the participants in just this one class has the potential to hit nearly \$2 million per year. It only takes half of the course graduates to maintain their entry-level salary, while one-fourth of the class advances to the mid-range salary of \$29.41 per hour or \$61,172.80 a year and the remaining one-fourth eventually advances to top wages of \$53.33 or \$110,926.40 per year.

These results are all possible because TCC’s strong reputation as a quality provider of skills training put the College at the top of the list when the Walmart Foundation sought a partner in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

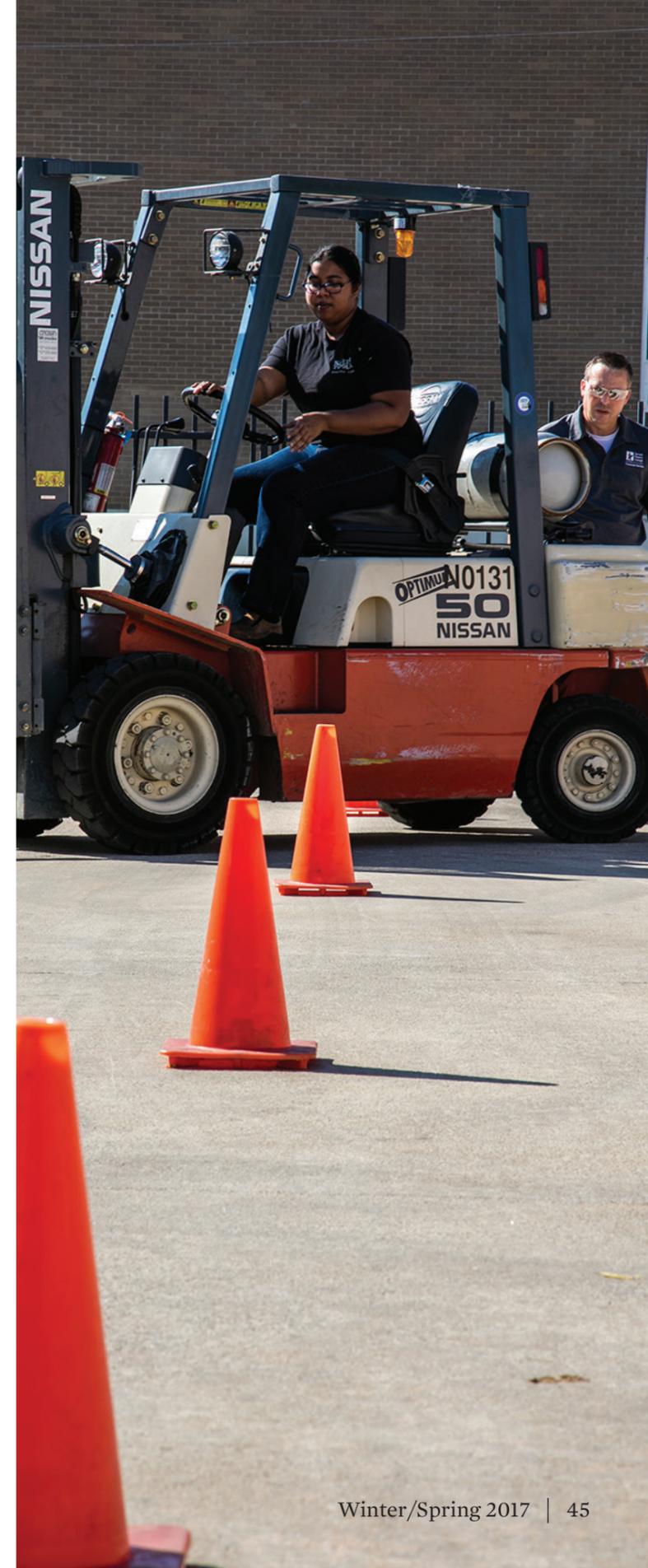
“We are a provider of choice to do things like skills upgrades and we provide workplace solutions,” said TCC Chancellor Eugene Giovannini. “We are in position to be a comprehensive workforce solutions provider from assessing, recruiting, hiring and onboarding, to continuing education.”

The CNC training course is just one of the short-term training programs TCC offers. Courses in Composite Manufacturing, Computer Repair Technician, Hydraulics and Pneumatics and Forklift Safety also are available. “Earning a certification in any of these areas can make a difference when job hunting, but a graduate who earns more than one certificate is even more marketable,” said Jennifer Hawkins, director of Corporate Solutions and Economic Development.

.....

“Just a fork lifter certificate can make a difference in the entry level wage for someone entering the workforce. If that certificate is combined with an Occupational Safety and Health Administration certificate, in three short days, the job seeker qualifies to earn as much as \$5 more an hour.”

..... Jennifer Hawkins





Changing the economic landscape, one paycheck at a time, adds up quickly and enables TCC to contribute nearly \$1.7 billion annually to Tarrant County's coffers.

### Multi-purposing Training and the Multiplier Effect

The Fort Worth and Tarrant County economic bases benefit daily because TCC flexed its ability to take existing curriculum and modify it, resulting in a rapid response to the market's urgent training need. For example, TCC's participation and preparedness helped Fort Worth leaders convince GE Manufacturing Solutions that Fort Worth was the best place to open another plant in 2012.

The agility of Hawkins and her team further strengthened TCC's reputation as the go-to place for employers needing to train or upskill their people so they reach optimal productivity quickly. When GE needed CNC training, the timing could not have been better for TCC. Hawkins' team had just delivered training financed by a \$441,660 Texas Comptroller's Office grant in partnership with the TCC Foundation and The Women's Center to train its clients.

Approximately 80 percent of the programs' graduates found jobs immediately. And the successes do not end there. In the last three years, TCC's Corporate Solutions and Economic Development staff has trained nearly 860 students who were brought to them by community groups, according to Hawkins. These Tarrant County residents are clients of partners such as

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, the Women's Center, Cenikor Foundation, ACH Child and Family Services and Ladder Alliance.

Now, an even greater number of Tarrant County residents can access the training. Hawkins' team further optimized the course by including it in open enrollment. Initially available to existing business partners in fall 2016, the CNC course now is included in TCC's online Community & Industry Education catalog. Besides CNC, manufacturing courses will include welding and forklift operator. Training to enhance office skills also is available in three levels of Microsoft Excel – Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Tuition ranges from \$200 and \$450 for the courses that require from six to 18 hours for completion.

No matter where in Tarrant County they live, students may take the open enrollment courses, but Hawkins said they should be of particular benefit to those who live near the Opportunity Center in the Stop Six area of southeast Fort Worth.

"People who may be trying to find their way may not have as many options to take classes," Hawkins said. "We are sitting right here in the middle of this community. If they have transportation issues, it is not a problem to come here."

Opened in its current location in 2000 as the Fort Worth Opportunity Center, the Center began as a result of TCC's partnership with key groups including the Stop Six community, the City of Fort Worth, Hillwood Development Corp. and Bell Helicopter.

"Recognizing the neighborhood's unemployment rate of 14 percent, more than 10 percent above the county average, the partners together established the center's mission to enhance the skills of the unemployed, underemployed and dislocated workers," according to "The TCC Opportunity Center Overview."

Major renovations to the facility in 2008 enabled the Center to offer not only the CNC training courses, but classes in Logistics, Management, Computer Skills and Advanced Composites that prepared graduates for jobs in the competitive fields of aerospace industry, construction, warehouses and business offices. That same year, the College took over the Center's operation, changing the name to the Tarrant County College Opportunity Center (TCCOC).

These programs became part of Hawkins' department as it evolved from offering training focused on leadership and management for mid-level managers at its original location at TCC's Northwest Campus, to providing technical training in response to the needs of local businesses.

Gwen Morrison, TCC's longest-serving board member, was on the board when the College gained sole responsibility for the facility, which is located in District 6 that she serves. She has long been a proponent of the potential impact the Center could have on its neighboring community.

"When the TCC Board of Trustees was offered the transfer of ownership for the Opportunity Center, I immediately knew that it could have a positive impact on the community. The TCCOC has wonderful staff that is open to the community. Strategic

relationships have developed with elected and appointed officials through our open door policy," Morrison said.

### Health Care Training Provides Paths to Economic Mobility

The impact TCC has on the economic impact of the Tarrant County workforce is not limited to its work at the Opportunity Center. Veterans are among those targeted to benefit as the College is poised to expand its offerings in the health care industry, a major contributor to the area's economy.

"We also have a credential and career pathway for veterans. We're creating a pathway for medics and others in the military with medical skills so their training can count in a registered nurse program," said Ben Rand, TCC's associate vice chancellor of Economic and Workforce Development. "Of course, we will test those skills before they enter the program. But once they are in, they can become a registered nurse in one year, as opposed to two."

Rand said TCC is in the process of implementing a coding camp to meet the ever-growing demand for medical coders.

Chancellor Eugene Giovannini also cites the importance of health care to the region's economic success. "One of the greatest areas of opportunity is certainly in the health care industry. We will continue to meet that need and expand to meet that need where the industry dictates," he said.

Health care lends itself to the development of career pathways that become even more lucrative as students acquire more credentials. According to Health Care Professions Dean Joseph Cameron, these enhanced credentials provide strong economic benefits for individuals and institutions alike.

“In the health care industry today, qualifications are measured by the number of credentials a health care professional has in any given field or area of specialty. This could advance job security and lead to other competitive advantages,” Cameron said. “Increasing a health care employee’s number of credentials increases their professionalism and the quality of patient care – a strong economic benefit for the employer.”

Students are able to advance as they study related courses. As students “stack” credentials, they increase their ability to qualify for jobs that can pay them top salaries in competitive careers.

“Upon graduation, our radiography graduates soon will have the option to continue their education by earning post-primary certificates related to medical imaging,” said Troy Moran, director of Allied Health Care. “Added to their primary Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in radiography, these pathways can lead to higher wages and better employment opportunities, which in turn increases their contributions to the local and state economy.”

Moran said the basic AAS degree could result in salaries of \$40,000 to \$65,000 per year. When students stack their

credentials by taking additional courses, these salaries can be augmented from five percent to 25 percent, Moran said, explaining that potential salary increases would be dependent on the occupational demand, location, size and need of the hospital, clinic or community.

Throughout its 50-year history, TCC has focused on meeting the needs of Tarrant County. It’s all about what Rand describes as “being nimble and deeply entwined with the needs and direction of a region.”

As Tarrant County continues to be responsive to business and its community partners by enhancing what courses it offers where, Board Member Morrison said she is dedicated to the College availing itself to its diverse citizenry.

“Through all of our learning platforms, it is imperative for TCC to offer every resident of Tarrant County an opportunity to engage in successful learning experiences,” Morrison said.

..... ” .....  
 “Student success should know no age limits. As the community college – the people’s college – it is our responsibility to take our learning opportunities where the learning is needed.”  
 ..... Gwen Morrison

# RELATIONSHIP WITH JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. HAILED AS A WIN-WIN

by Kendra Prince

Strengthening Dallas-Fort Worth,” a skills gap report by JPMorgan Chase & Co. about the region, indicates DFW “ranks among the top three U.S. metro areas for business expansions, relocations and employment growth.” Growth is projected to continue through 2023.

The report stated that middle-skill jobs -- those which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree-- comprise 29 percent of jobs in the region. However, some area employers report difficulty in filling high-demand jobs and finding qualified applicants. For example, middle-skill healthcare jobs are taking up to 50 percent longer to fill than the regional average for open positions.

According to the report, the trend suggests the skills gap in DFW labor market would present challenges over the long term “if the region does not expand its talent pipeline for middle-skill occupations.”

In December 2013, JPMorgan Chase launched New Skills at Work, a \$250 million global initiative that aims to prepare youth and adults for careers in high-demand, middle-skill occupations. Because the organization recognizes the important role community colleges play in equipping the work force and offering value-added skills training to help students earn competitive wages, TCC is included in this initiative.

In total, JPMorgan Chase has issued \$320,000 in grants to TCC since 2012, with funding used for Adult Education, which includes basic literacy English language acquisition/ESL instruction, high school equivalency/GED preparation and test completion, college and workforce training. TCC used the most recent grant of \$125,000 for Workforce Initiatives, a program to recruit Adult Education completers interested in pursuing career pathway training.

“The goal is to provide training that will not only allow students to obtain a job, but also to enter a career pathway that

will allow for upward mobility,” said Jill Jorgensen, CE grants administrator in TCC’s Community & Industry Education Services.

Career pathways selected are based on job market data from Tarrant County Workforce Solutions and relationships with various TCC departments, such as Corporate Solutions & Economic Development, have with area employers and agencies. Currently, training is being offered for industrial maintenance and medical office personnel.

Accelerated training provides opportunities for immediate placement. Companies looking to hire include MillerCoors, Ben E. Keith, Bell Helicopter, Lockheed Martin, Trinity Industries, Community Health Services at Hill Regional Hospital, Cook Children’s Health Care System and Dental Health Arlington.

“This commitment means more people will get better jobs, helping them provide a better life for their families. It means our businesses will have the supply of skilled workers they need to grow,” said Michelle Thomas, JPMorgan Chase & Co. vice president, relationship manager southwest region, global philanthropy. “Innovative public-private initiatives like this have the power to make our economy stronger and more inclusive.”

Thanks to the grants received over the past two years, more than 100 students in the Workforce Initiatives Training program have received tuition assistance. The most recent grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. will allow 80 more students to receive training.

“TCC is very thankful for the financial support received from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and excited about continuing this relationship,” said Larry Anderson, director of Workforce Services. “On several occasions I have received feedback from one of these students (who has gone through training) with positive stories of continued growth and success. And that is what I call a win-win for JPMorgan Chase & Co., TCC and the community.”



# JOIN THE CONVERSATION!



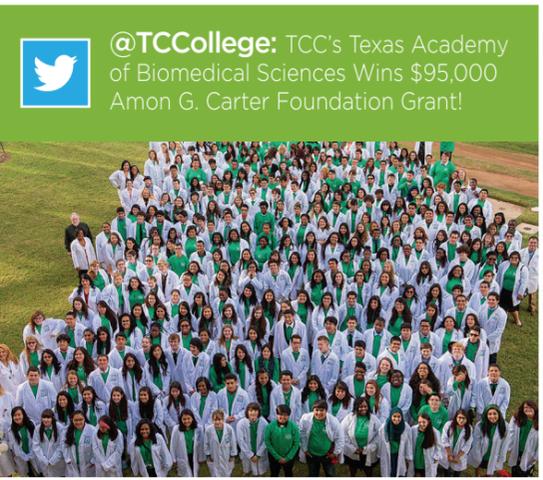
**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Live at TCCSoutheast! @themarchingstorm



**@laureniceskater:** Thanks @TCCCollege for having #therapydogs during #finalsweek! They are soo sweet. #stressrelief



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Hanging out with some of our 2nd year PTA students. TREC chill out until noon! #TCCTrinityRiver



**@TCCCollege:** TCC's Texas Academy of Biomedical Sciences Wins \$95,000 Amon G. Carter Foundation Grant!



**@TCCCollege:** Barbeque with the Blue: A Salute to Our #TCCSouth Campus Police Department!



**@TCCCollege:** Join us at #ArtsGoggle today and visit the @AVOCAcoffee stage sponsored by TCC!



**@FortWorth\_ISD:** There is a connection between literacy and correct vision. Thank you #KidsVisionFest #Essilor and #Alcon and @TCCCollege



**@TCCCollege:** The waterfall at #TCCTrinityRiver was renamed the Allan Saxe Waterfall to recognize the contributions he's made to TCC



**@TCCCollege:** Transfer Coord, Terrell Shaw, received the Excellence in College Admission Counseling Award from @TxTechAdmission! Congrats!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** One of our favorite spots at #TCCNorthwest!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** We had a great day at #TCCNorthwest for #campustakeover!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Chancellor Giovannini represented TCC at the Rangers game and threw out the first pitch! Great job, Chancellor!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** President Coppola stopped by for a pic with TORO and the Advising and Counseling team! #TCCSoutheast



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** #tcctrinityriver attending the American Student Government Conference today!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** The Horticulture department at #TCCNorthwest is hosting their Farm Stand today!



**@TXWorkforce:** Pleased to partner w/ @TCCCollege and @LockheedMartin to provide job training using a Skills Development Fund grant.



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Happy 20th #TCCSoutheast! Ready to celebrate!



**@TCCCollege:** Thanks to to the Student Activities office at #TCCNortheast for a great #campustakeover today!



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Costume contest fun at #TCCSouth!



**@TCCCollege:** #TCCSouth students experiencing African Drumming with Ubuntu Drumming today.



**@TarrantCountyCollege:** Chancellor Giovannini joined Toro Dash 2016 this morning!

# FACULTY AND STAFF BRAGS

## Adrian Neely

*RTVF Program Coordinator,  
Northeast Campus*

Selected as a National Association of Television Program Executives Faculty Fellow for the 2017 National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE) Marketplace.

## Adrian Rodriguez

*Vice President for Student Development Services,  
Trinity River Campus*

Invited to serve on the Texas Education Consortium for Male Students of Color through The University of Texas at Austin.

## Alaina Webb,

*Adjunct Instructor of Sign Language,  
Trinity River Campus*

Received the Adjunct Award at the 2016 Trinity River Awards Celebrating Excellence (TRACE).

## Alison Hodges, Instructor of Culinary Arts, & Katrina Warner, Coordinator and Instructor of Culinary Arts, Southeast Campus

Selected to instruct audience members on the Celebrity Chef stage at the State Fair of Texas.

## Amy Jennings

*Associate Professor of Dance,  
Northwest Campus*

Accepted to Waco's {254} DANCE-FEST; collaborated with musician Brittany Padilla to perform "A Butterfly's Parasol" at the 13th Annual Modern Dance at the Modern Museum of Fort Worth, hosted by Contemporary Dance/Fort Worth.

## Belinda Lopez

*Coordinator of Student Support,  
South Campus*

Elected as state treasurer for the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) through February 2018.

## Belvia Moody

*Coordinator of Academic Support Services,  
South Campus*

Completed the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) Consortium Leadership and Renewal Academy (CLARA).

## Bill Coppola

*President,  
Southeast Campus*

Selected to join the City of Arlington Transportation Committee.

## Brandon Tucker, Web Design Coordinator, & Sara Tucker, Manager of Marketing, District

Received platinum for REACH Magazine STEM cover design and photography at the 2016 MarCom Awards; received gold for REACH Magazine food and cover photography at the 2016 MarCom Awards.

## Brandy Niccolai-Belfi

*Associate Professor of Dance,  
Southeast Campus*

Chosen to perform Amy Sleigh Jennings' (associate professor of dance at the Northwest Campus) solo "La Serenissima in Concert A" as part of Waco's {254} DANCE-FEST.

## Brent Alford

*Instructor of Drama,  
Northwest Campus*

Appeared in the Trinity Shakespeare Festival's productions of *The Winter's Tale* (Leontes) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Quince); played to sold-out audiences as King Arthur in Lyric Stage's production of Lerner and Lowe's *Camelot*.

## Cassandra Haskins

*Instructor of Radiologic Technology,  
Trinity River Campus East*

The December 2016 issue of *Radiologic Technology & Science* published Haskins' article, "Exploring Reflective Writing Among Radiologic Technology Students."

## Charles DeSassure

*Associate Professor of Computer Science,  
Southeast Campus*

Invited by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development to write an Innovation Abstract and facilitate a webinar based on his presentation, "Everyone Needs a Reminder."

## Cheryl North

*Instructor of Sociology,  
Northeast Campus*

Honored with the Shining Stars Award for service to the community by the Northeast Arts Council at a banquet at the Hurst Conference Center.

## Cheryl Sohns

*Instructor of Sign Language Interpreting Program,  
Trinity River Campus*

Named vice president of the DFW American Sign Language Teachers Association.

## Communications, Public Relations & Marketing Department

*District*

Received silver for *TCC Talk* and What's Stopping You? radio ads at the Collegiate Advertising Awards; received platinum for TV spots and interviews (along with Ralph Bissey, ITV manager) and gold for CEET video and radio ads at the AVA Digital Awards; received a PRSA Worthy Award for REACH Magazine and PRSA Award of Achievement for What's Stopping You? social media campaign; received platinum for What's Stopping You? advertising and social media campaign and gold for REACH Magazine at the MarCom Awards; received gold for CEET video, TCC online ads, TCC Talk, radio spots, electronic campaign and silver for What's Stopping You? social media campaign at the EDU Digital Marketing Awards; received Gold for What's Stopping You? microsite at the EDU Digital Marketing Awards and the Collegiate Advertising Awards (along with Stephen Fornal, manager of web development and Brandon Tucker, web design coordinator).

## Deann Mitchell, Director of Nursing, & Nancy Kupper, Associate Professor of Nursing, Trinity River Campus East

Co-authored Chapter 35: Inflammatory and Structural Heart Disorders in *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Assessment and Management of Clinical Problems* (9th Ed.).

## Debra Sykes West

*Community & Industry Education Program Coordinator,  
Northeast Campus*

Accepted into the 2016-2017 Class of Leadership Northeast, a program of the Northeast Tarrant Chamber of Commerce, where she will represent the TCC Northeast Campus.

## DeeDra Parrish, District Photographer, Brandon Tucker, Web Design Coordinator, & Sara Tucker, Manager of Marketing, District

Received gold for marketing campaign photography at the 2016 Collegiate Advertising Awards; received Gold for advertising campaign photography at the 2016 MarCom Awards.

## Demetrice Thompson

*Coordinator of Special Projects,  
Crowley South Campus Center*

Appointed to the Board of Trustees for Ladder Alliance; selected to serve on the Campus Performance Objective Committee (CPOC) for Bill R. Johnson CTE Center.

## Dipa Trivedi

*Assistant Professor of Nursing,  
Trinity River Campus*

Self-published her book, *New Age Nurse*.

## Garrison Henderson, Professor of Sociology, & Rhonda Lewis, Instructor of Developmental English, Southeast Campus

Accepted to participate in the Mastery of Teaching Institute (MTI).

## James Ciolek

*Associate Professor of Respiratory Care,  
Trinity River Campus East*

The American Association for Respiratory Care magazine, *AARC Times*, included Ciolek's article, "Improving Health Care in Belize."

## Jeremy Byrd

*Professor and Department Chair of Philosophy,  
South Campus*

Had an article cited as a source for "The Asymmetry of Space: Kant's Theory of Absolute Space in 1768" in the *Kantian Review*; co-authored with his wife, professor of philosophy at The University of Texas at Arlington, a paper on the Socratic Method for a book on academic discourse by professors at Texas Woman's University.

## John Hartley

*Associate Professor of Art,  
Northwest Campus*

Selected for the art exhibition "2016 Gallery Night" at Artspace 111; featured in "Preservation is the Art of the City" at the Fort Worth Community Art Center.

## John Hiser

*Program Director for Respiratory Care,  
Trinity River Campus East*

Received the 2016 Jimmy A. Young Medal from the American Association of Respiratory Care; served as guest editor for the December 2016 issue of *AARC Times*. Contributed a nine-page article, "International Respiratory Care Update."

### John Lundberg

*Professor of History,  
South Campus*

Published the chapter, “Errant Moves on the Chessboard of War: The Battle of Spring Hill, November 29, 1864” in “The Tennessee Campaign of 1864;” published “Texas Must be a Slave Country: Slaves and Masters in the Texas Low Country, 1840-1860” in the *East Texas Historical Journal*.

### Jonathan Perez

*Academic Advisor,  
South Campus*

Completed the North Texas Community College Consortium (NTCCC) Consortium Leadership and Renewal Academy (CLARA).

### Josh Blann

*Associate Professor of Drama,  
Northwest Campus*

Member of the cast of *Long Day's Journey into Night* at Undermain Theatre, which was awarded Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Cast by the D-FW Theater Critics Forum.

### Joshua Goode

*Department Chair of Fine Arts,  
South Campus*

Solo exhibitions of his artwork were displayed at The Razliv Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia and The Capellades Museum in Barcelona, Spain.

### Kelly James

*Adjunct Professor of Art,  
Northwest Campus*

Had seven pieces selected for display in the Art Space in the Walsh Library.

### Larry Rideaux

*Vice President for Student Development Services,  
South Campus*

Elected as the National Council on Student Development (NCSD) vice president of membership and marketing director.

### Lea Stevens

*Assistant Professor of Nursing,  
Trinity River Campus*

Elected as a national director for the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing (OADN).

### LeeAnn Olivier-Sapp

*Assistant Professor of English,  
Northwest Campus*

Co-wrote the chapter, “Dreaming the Green Man: Toward a Pedagogy of the Resonant Mythological,” for an upcoming anthology from McFarland & Company called *Ideology and Identity in Young Adult Literature: Connections to the Composition Classroom*.

### Lyvier Leffler

*Vice President of Student Development Services,  
Southeast Campus*

Appointed as legislation coordinator for the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA) Texas.

### Marjeanna Burge

*Academic Advisor,  
Northeast Campus*

Received the first Friend of Veterans award from the NE Veterans Association, recognizing civilians who have distinguished themselves by above-and-beyond service, advocacy and dedication to and for the veterans and military-connected students at TCC.

### Mark Penland

*Instructional Associate in Photography,  
Northeast Campus*

Commissioned by the Amarillo Museum of Art to photograph the Gabriel Dawe's site specific sculpture Plexus 33. At AMoA, Dawe installed Plexus 33, a work from his ongoing Plexus series of temporary site-specific installations of sewing thread.

### Marisa Reyes

*Community & Industry Education Services Director,  
Northwest Campus*

Completed the CLARA program and received an award at the 22nd Annual Fall Leadership Conference on at North Central Texas College Gainesville Campus.

### Melissa Evans

*Associate Professor of Kinesiology,  
Southeast Campus*

Elected as vice president of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (TAHPERD) College Division.

### Orlando Bagcal

*Associate Professor of Construction,  
South Campus*

Appointed by the Texas Higher Education Board (THECB) as a member of the Architecture and Construction Program of Study Advisory Committee; selected as one of the Top 3 Finalists of the National Housing Endowment (NHE) – 2017 Homebuilding Education Leadership Program (HELP) Grant out of 16 colleges and universities in the US that applied.

### Patricia Richards

*Associate Professor of Photography,  
Northeast Campus*

Had five photographs in the BERLIN FOTO BIENNALE 2016 in Berlin, Germany; selected to show in the following exhibitions: URBAN: YAAM in Berlin, Germany, 30 URBAN: Konfederacka 4 in Krakow, Poland and 30 URBAN 2016 in Trieste, Italy.

### Rebecca Balcarcel

*Associate Professor of English,  
Northeast Campus*

Won Community College Humanities Association SW Division's Educator of the Year award in November 2016; performed with the “Who's Who of DFW Poets” (*Dallas Observer*) at Dallas's Deep Vellum Books in a marathon reading of Ranier Maria Rilke's book, *Selected Poems*. Balcarcel's poem “May Snowstorm” is now in use in two Dallas elementary schools' poetry unit lessons.

### Rick Stitzel

*Instructor of Music,  
South Campus*

Had his original music chosen to be performed by three bands at a school outside of Edmonton, Alberta in Canada; commissioned to write an original piece of music for Tarleton State University's 100th Anniversary Celebration Concert in January 2017 to recognize the anniversary of the university joining the Texas A&M system.

**Sammie Sheppard**, *Coordinator of the Sign Language Interpreting Program,*

**& Alaina Webb**, *Adjunct Instructor,  
Trinity River Campus*

Were two of six individuals chosen to teach at the Board of Evaluators of Interpreters Summer Institute Training.

### Sara Tucker

*Manager of Marketing,  
District*

Awarded gold for bus bench advertising design at the Collegiate Advertising Awards competition.

### Sean Madison

*President,  
Trinity River Campus*

Appointed to the Advisory Board of the Fort Worth Chapter of the National Gospel Announcers Guild, an auxiliary of the Gospel Music Workshop of America Network, Inc; joined the Young Men's Leadership Academy Advisory Board; selected to participate in the 2016-2017 Leadership North Texas (LNT) Class 8 program.

### Sherrie Bodiford

*Instructional Assistant,  
Trinity River Campus*

Received the Disney Spirit Award at the 2016 Trinity River Awards Celebrating Excellence (TRACE).

### Stacy Luecker

*Student Development Assistant,  
Northeast Campus*

Awarded the Debbie Reynolds-Hazen Young Leadership Award for outstanding public service and leadership to further historic preservation in Tarrant County by the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

**Stephen Fornal**, *Manager of Web Development,*  
**& Brandon Tucker**, *Web Design Coordinator,  
District*

Won gold at the 2016 MarCom Awards and silver at the EDU Digital Marketing Awards for REACH Magazine online version (along with the Communications, PR & Marketing Department).

### Terrell Shaw

*Transfer Center Coordinator,  
Southeast Campus*

Received the Excellence in College Admission Counseling Award given by Texas Tech University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions and honored with a presentation at the Southeast Campus.

### Theresa Schrantz

*Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Trinity River Campus*

Recognized in the First International Art/Photo Competition of The Berggruen Institute: B Studio.

### Tracy Williams

*Coordinator of Career and Employment Services,  
Northwest Campus*

Served as president of The Texas Cooperative Education and Internship Association (TxCEIA) for the 2015-16 year and now takes on position of past president for the 2016-17 year on the Executive Board of the Association.

**Trish Igo**, *Associate Professor of Arts,*  
**& Jill O'Brien**, *Adjunct Professor of Dance,  
Northwest Campus*

Collaborative artwork was selected by a panel of judges for “Texas Biggest 10 for Art” exhibition at the Katy Contemporary Art Museum in Katy Texas. Three of Igo/O'Brien's artworks were chosen for the exhibition “Fun House: Art of the Surreal, Fantastic and Bizarre” at the Barrett Art Center in New York, where Igo received third place.

### Web Communications Department

*District*

Won gold for website redesign, mobile website and website design at the 2016 MarCom Awards; won gold for Proof of Performance microsite and website redesign at the EDU Digital Marketing Awards.

### Yizeng Li

*Professor of Mathematics,  
Northeast Campus*

Published a book on applied mathematics titled *Functional Differential Equations: Advances and Applications*.

### Yolanda Sifuentes

*Coordinator of Special Projects,  
South Campus*

Selected as the recipient of the 2016 Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) Distinguished Community College Staff Award.

# 2016 CHANCELLOR'S EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

At the annual recognition event, faculty and staff were honored for their dedication and commitment to their students and to TCC's institutional excellence.

## Exemplary Teacher Awards

Receiving recognition for the Chancellor's Awards for Exemplary Teacher were (pictured left to right) Northeast Campus Chemistry Professor Susan Patrick; Northwest Campus English Instructor Wendi Pierce; South Construction Assistant Professor Orlando Bagcal; Southeast Campus Developmental ESOL Instructor Mary Cinatl; and, Trinity River Campus Biology Assistant Professor Sophia Garcia.



## Employee Excellence Awards

Receiving recognition for the Chancellor's Employee Excellence Awards were (pictured left to right) Gary Preather, associate vice chancellor for Real Estate and Facilities, for Access and Diversity; TCC Career Services Coordinators and Foundation Specialist for Forward Thinking; South Campus Starpoint Champions Team for Innovation and Creativity; Southeast Campus Accounting Associate Professor Karen Haun, for Service to Community; and, Paul Benero, South Campus Art associate professor, for Student Success.



HOW DO YOU  
**FIND AND KEEP THE RIGHT TALENT**  
IN TODAY'S COMPETITIVE MARKET?



*You develop it.*

Investing in employees' continued training – for certifications, accreditations or postsecondary degrees – yields big payoffs in employee engagement, retention, productivity and bottom-line impact.

Each year, TCC's dedicated Economic and Workforce Development team works with more than 80 regional companies across all industries to provide customized training programs that enable employees to be more effective and employers to be more competitive.

**What's stopping you?**

Visit [tccd.edu/CIE](http://tccd.edu/CIE) to learn more.



100% RELIABLE

*Held in High Regard*

PROVEN • VALID • PURE

