FALL 2013

New study options for Owasso area residents
Safety: Priority No. 1

EXCELebrate Expands

BECOMING KNOWLEDGE-ABLE
Spotlight on TCC Magazine is published three times a year. The mission of Spotlight is to provide information about students, faculty and staff accomplishments as well as provide entertaining stories pertaining to all facets of the College. To submit story ideas, contact Cindy Barton at 918-595-7885.

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Dear Friends,

Thousands of students recently returned to classrooms on elementary, middle, high school and college campuses across Oklahoma. Whatever their age or stage in life, they all hold one goal in common: securing an education. Nobel prize winner Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” We at Tulsa Community College share that belief.

TCC faculty and staff began this academic year with the theme Making Connections for Student Completion at the annual convocation in mid-August. TCC’s commitment to Complete College America has led to the development of several initiatives designed to support students as they complete their education. As a result, TCC has realized a 20.4% increase in graduates since 2010-2011, with a total of 475 more graduates. In fact, May 2013 marked the largest graduating class in TCC history, with more than 2,800 students completing degrees or certificates during the 2012-2013 academic year.

We are committed to serving our new and returning students, and serving them well, as they pursue their educational goals, despite the challenges that have occurred in funding college operations. Over the past decade, appropriations from the state have become a smaller percentage of our revenue, while tuition income and local ad valorem tax collections have become a larger percentage of our revenue. While the increasing reliance on tuition revenue is necessary in order to sustain our College and its mission, we remain fully committed to providing students an affordable pathway to a completed college degree. In other words, we are committed to keeping tuition increases as low as possible while preserving the quality and integrity of our academic offerings.

Over the past five years, the average annual increase in tuition and fees for Oklahoma residents at TCC has been 3.45%. At its June meeting, the TCC Board of Regents approved a 2.36 percent increase in tuition and fees, the second lowest increase in the state for 2013-2014, which translates to a $2.50 per credit hour increase in resident tuition for fall 2013. We have also increased the overall total in tuition waiver funding for students to $3 million for fiscal year 2014, thus growing the number of students who can benefit from those waivers.

As president of Tulsa Community College, I appreciate the ongoing commitment by the members of our Board of Regents and our faculty and staff to provide accessible, affordable and applicable higher education to students throughout this region of Oklahoma who choose to complete their degrees at TCC.

Sincerely,

Thomas K. McKeon, Ed.D.
President
TCC teams up with TulsaTech to offer new study options for Owasso area residents
If you’re headed to Tulsa Community College this fall, you might be headed in a new direction… and we’re not just talking geographically… we’re talking occupationally, too. TCC is making it much more convenient for folks living in the Owasso area to take college courses by offering classes and new degree programs in the recently constructed Tulsa Tech Owasso Campus, located off of Highway 169 and 106th Street, North.

“The Owasso campus was conceptualized to meet the population growth and the demand from the community of Owasso and the surrounding areas including Collinsville, Skiatook, Claremore, Oologah, Catoosa and Bartlesville,” said Dr. Paula Willyard, dean of the Owasso Campus. “Tulsa Community College has held evening classes for adult learners at the Owasso High School for many years. Our partnership with Tulsa Tech allows us to continue to expand our academic offerings, address continued growth in health-related fields and expand access to higher education.”

The TCC Owasso Community Campus provides higher education access that is convenient and comparable to courses and services at traditional TCC campuses. Students will have access to computer labs and placement testing as well as academic career advisement.

The sharing of the new facility benefits students and makes good use of taxpayers’ money. Future plans include providing increased college access using technology, a wider variety of classes, and expansion of existing programs. In the fall of 2014, TCC will begin offering courses for a degree in cardiovascular technology on the Owasso campus.

“We will continue to provide accessible, affordable educational opportunities, and we look forward to continued growth,” said Willyard.

**Diagnostic Medical Sonography**

This fall will mark the inaugural class of Diagnostic Medical Sonography at TCC. Diagnostic Medical Sonography is a new program that will only be offered in Owasso. Ten years in the making, TCC research showed that local employers were in need of qualified sonographers.

The field of diagnostic ultrasound, or medical sonography, utilizes high frequency sound waves to image and evaluate organs and soft tissue structures of the body. The diagnostic medical sonographer is a skilled person qualified by academic and clinical education to perform sonographic examinations under the supervision of a qualified physician. The sonographer performs a variety of diagnostic examinations to include evaluations of the brain, abdomen, peripheral blood vessels, and studies of the pregnant and nonpregnant female patient. The sonographer has a unique and vital role in the diagnostic process.

Aimee François is the director of the new program.
and has worked in the profession for more than 25 years. She is enthusiastic about the opportunities diagnostic medical sonography offers as a career.

“What I love most about it is the flexibility and the growth it offers. There are full-time, part-time, on call and per diem positions available in a variety of different facilities: out patient, physician’s offices and hospitals,” said François. “Ultrasound/sonography also allows me to grow as a sonographer. I can learn new specialties like cardiac, vascular and musculoskeletal. This has allowed me to change, evolve and grow in my profession. It has never been boring for me.

“Sonography is one of the few imaging professions where the technologist is encouraged to go beyond the established protocol. We are expected to use our critical thinking skills in aiding the sonologist in a diagnosis,” François continued.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program will accept 12 students each fall. Classes will be offered Monday through Friday. In addition to the sonography courses, students will take classes in acoustical physics and instrumentation, medical communications and terminology, conflict resolution, psychology history and clinical practice. All classes will be taught by François, or Cindy Rich, the program’s clinical coordinator.

To qualify for the program, students must have a college GPA of 2.5 or better; an 18 or better ACT score; eight hours of clinical observation; and submit to a group interview.

François is enthusiastic about the new program and the new campus.

“The TCC community campus in Owasso is a beautiful, brand new facility. Our lab has two new ultrasound machines, which I chose specifically with student sonographers in mind. I am so very excited about the ultrasound/sonography simulator TCC has purchased for our lab. It will allow students to learn hands-on scan skills for situations that they may not come across in their clinical rotations. The lab is equipped with many other scan models and learning tools that are unique for an ultrasound school,” said François.

**LPN/Paramedic to RN Program**

The Owasso Community Campus will be home to another allied health degree program this fall -- the Licensed Practical Nurse/Paramedic to Registered Nurse Program, a program designed to take an LPN or paramedic through to an RN in a few semesters.

Jim Hicks, assistant professor of nursing and program coordinator for the Owasso site, explained that this is the same program that has been offered on the TCC Metro Campus for several years. The need to expand the program was great.

“This program is important to the citizens of Tulsa because we have a shortage of Registered Nurses in the Tulsa area. In Oklahoma, the average age of an RN is 50. This means that in the next 15 years, half of all working RNs will be retiring and will need to be replaced,” said Hicks.

Expanding the program to Owasso is important to TCC students as well.

“TCC is trying to fill the needs of our students. We have the same program at Metro Campus and have had it for the past several years,” said Hicks. “The Metro class meets on Saturday with the online work performed during the week. Many students are working weekends and could not come to the Saturday classes, and several were asking for classes during the week. Therefore, we are offering students weekday classes on the Owasso Campus.”
Renee Harrison, TCC nursing outreach coordinator offers further explanation, “All the students in this program are already providing health care in multiple communities in the Tulsa and surrounding areas. They want to increase their knowledge and ability to serve the health care needs of Oklahomans. They (students) are able to continue to work, provide for their families and attend this program.”

This fall, TCC will admit 55 students between the two campuses, with 17 students in Owasso classes. The program is three semesters of intense study. Designed for health care professionals who desire to advance their career, the program is only for students who are looking to increase their knowledge to better care for their patients.

“Students must be self motivated and willing to study long hours in order to complete this program,” said Hicks. “Since these students are licensed health care professionals, many of them are working a full-time job. Class time at Owasso will be limited to fit around the students’ work schedule. Students are required to perform a lot of online study on their own time outside of the classroom.”

First-semester students will be in the classroom on Thursdays. The curriculum is structured so that for the first eight weeks, students take a class called the Bridge. The Bridge helps students bridge the gap between LPN/Paramedic to RN classes with hospital clinicals. The second eight weeks, students study RN mental health nursing with clinicals at mental health hospitals. The second semester consists of students taking RN pediatrics and RN-level OB classes with hospital clinicals. During the third semester, students learn advanced medical and surgery nursing, and transition to professional nursing classes with hospital clinicals.

“The curriculum is based on the TCC Nursing Program curriculum, which is nationally accredited and has Oklahoma Board of Nursing approval,” explained Harrison. “The students earn credit for their LPN or registered paramedic standing.”

To be eligible to participate in the LPN/Paramedic to RN Program, students must have passed the LPN or paramedic boards and completed all college-level classes required for admission to the RN Program.

If this sounds hard, it is because it is hard. To help students be successful in the program, there are seven nursing faculty members that specifically teach this program.

“To be successful the student needs to be willing to learn and to work at it. It is a change of mind set and scope of practice for LPNs and paramedics,” said Harrison. “The student must take responsibility to prepare for classes, do preparations outside the classroom and be an adult learner.”

The hard work is worth it. Once they have successfully completed their board exams, students are employable anywhere an RN would work such as hospitals, doctor’s offices, home health care providers, schools and community health organizations. Registered nurses are able to work in leadership positions and are paid much better than LPNs or paramedics.
Students create chalk art that embodies their ideas of peace outside of the TCC Library on the Southeast Campus immediately following Poetry for Peace.
The pursuit of peace is as old as time. Today’s world is crowded with war, injustice, oppression and intolerance. As a species, we have gone from writing on walls to posting on the worldwide web; from tribal hunting and gathering to lunar greenhouses; from plodding the earth to commercial space travel... so why hasn’t the human race gotten any further along the path to peace, love and understanding?

Tough question... even tougher to find the solution. The study of peace and conflict resolution as an American psychology, sociology, and native and world cultures. Upon graduation, students transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree.

“We are looking at transfer possibilities in the state of Oklahoma with Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Oklahoma, although nothing has been formalized yet. There are three areas into which this degree might transfer: social sciences, homeland security and business,” explained Malloy.

**PEACE**

New degree emphasis combines poetry and politics

In an effort to give all TCC students the opportunity to experience the importance of cultural understanding and global awareness, peace studies were continued outside the classrooms and across campuses in the form of Teach Ins for Peace. Teach Ins for Peace was a series of events held last year that included a student poetry contest; an anti-hate event; a multicultural holiday series; gallery displays; and festivals.

Beginning last November, the first Teach In for Peace event was sponsored by the Liberal Arts, Communications, and Peace Studies programs as well as the Student Government Association. Initiated by the Muslim Student Association, this anti-hate event was later embraced by the SGA representing all of the student organizations on campus. Jillian Holzbauer,
from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), spoke against hate and Islamophobia, pointing out how some Libyans confronted their anti-American countrymen at the time of the American diplomat’s assassination.

The second Teach In for Peace was event was held in December. “Frieden Auf Erden” (Peace on Earth), a multicultural holiday series with stories, traditions, arts, crafts, food, music, and reflections on peace and understanding, was presented by the German Program and the International Language Lab under the direction of Roberto Maduro.

In January, library staff created a gallery display promoting peace. Staff member Kay Behar and student Krutika Patel created an exhibit with a 3-D effect of cutout doves. It showcased books and quotations by people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Jimi Hendrix.

This morphed into the fourth event in March when the library peace display was integrated into a gallery exhibit about the history of women’s rights in America.

Next, the International Language Lab and the Japanese Student Association sponsored the “Cherry Blossoms and Peace” festival in March. With more than 300 people in attendance, the festival included a full-tea ceremony, origami demonstrations, food, games, haiku, manga, poster displays and other activities.

The sixth “Teach In” was Fruhlingsfest, the German Spring Festival. This early April festival featured homemade German food, dancing, multimedia storytelling and a maypole. Sponsored by the German Student Association, the International Language Lab and Student Activities, the festival focused on the coming of spring and harmonious living with nature and others in building peace.

The final event in the series, “Poetry for Peace,” was held in late April. The event included a student poetry contest on the subject of peace and/or causes of violence. Poems were read by special guest, award-winning poet Dr. Britton Gildersleeve, director of the Oklahoma State University Writing Project. TCC faculty and staff also contributed to the day’s readings. All poems were compiled into a booklet anthology to commemorate the event. Complementing the festivities, Behar and Patel once again created a gallery exhibit. This time their art work was in support of Poetry for Peace. In addition, Josh Barnes organized a “Poetry on the Sidewalk” event for the students. More than 60 people participated in the day’s events.

The Poetry for Peace event was organized by Dr. Allen Culpepper, Assistant Professor of English, who not only wrote and performed two poems, but emceed the event as well.

“Learning is enhanced any time students interact outside the classroom and encounter new points of view. This was particularly good because students interacted with faculty, staff and guests as well as with one another,” said Culpepper.

Additional peace studies initiatives include an online resource center in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. It includes references to books, articles, films, websites and other resources about the causes of violence, alternatives to it, and ways to develop the moral imagination for peace building. More than 30 faculty, staff and administrators from all four campuses and every academic discipline have joined this online group. Other initiatives include plans for a peace or meditation garden on the Southeast Campus.

“We have established a peace studies faculty website and begun anti-hate teach ins to promote our capacity for conflict management for the affirmation and advocacy of human dignity and human rights in our pluralistic and multicultural world,” said Malloy.

Plans are being made for next year, including: an event on Islam that will involve the Northeast, Metro and Southeast Campuses; the next Poetry for Peace event; and a Drum Circle for Peace event.

“Diplomacy, debate, civil discourse, education about and alternatives to violence, eco-consciousness, cross-cultural negotiations and the challenges of peace building in the world… these are important lessons for our students to learn across the curriculum,” said Malloy.
Michelle Harris will be TCC’s first graduate to earn a Liberal Arts Degree with an emphasis in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. She will walk across the stage in less than a year from now and she couldn’t be more excited about her pending honors.

“How cool is that?” said Harris. “Because I have to explain it to anyone who asks, I call it my ‘hippie degree,’ and use it as an opportunity to open up dialogue and discuss important issues like peace building. It also helps me talk about how much my experience at TCC has meant to me and to encourage others to go to college.”

Harris had always wanted to go to college, but delayed attending in order to work in the family business and raise her family. A health crisis caused her to take stock of her life.

“I recognized I wanted an education—and the doors it could open for me—much more than I previously realized. I had already accomplished many goals, and it was the ideal time to begin the next phase of my life’s journey,” explained Harris. “I enrolled at TCC because it was close, affordable and a stepping stone to a four-year university. I originally thought I’d pursue some type of applied degree, as that seemed the most practical thing to do. It took only my second class to discover that I really needed to pursue my passion, and that I couldn’t settle for anything less.”

The class was Cultural Geography and the newly discovered passion was for “connections between people and cultures.” She then enrolled in history, humanities, English Comp, and other general education courses.

Harris credits her Honors Humanities I Professor, Dr. Annie Malloy, with giving her the idea of pursuing a degree with an emphasis in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution.

“Dr. Malloy is so passionate about the subject of peace, she developed it as a course of study at TCC,” said Harris. “Prior to that, I didn’t even know such a degree existed. I was immediately intrigued and went to the course catalog to investigate. When I read the description and saw the required courses and electives, I knew that of all the degrees I could pursue at TCC and beyond, this was the one I could have written the description myself for what I wanted to do with my life.

“Dr. Malloy explored with me the classes I’d already taken and told me a number of them would contribute to the degree. With her encouragement and guidance, I made the decision. I’ll always be grateful to Dr. Malloy for being willing to take time to speak with me, and for recognizing my particular gifts and abilities and suggesting I steer in that direction. I’m honored she would want me as a student in this program that means so much to her,” continued Harris.

Harris, mother of six and grandmother of seven, plans to continue her studies after graduation from TCC.

“TCC is the only college within Oklahoma to offer a degree emphasis in Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, so unless I’m successful in obtaining scholarships that will enable me to attend a Peace Studies program at a four-year university outside of Oklahoma, I plan to attend The University of Tulsa to pursue their degree in Women’s and Gender Studies,” said Harris. “Beyond that, I’m taking a close look at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, the only United Nations-mandated peace university in the world, offering both master’s and doctorates in the field.”

After obtaining her bachelor’s degree, Harris, a former copywriter, proofreader and editor, plans to work for one of a number of large international or even grassroots agencies dedicated to addressing social justice issues such as poverty, forced migration, and human trafficking. She is particularly interested as these problems relate to women and children.

“Although there are plenty of social issues facing vulnerable populations in the United States, I want to go overseas where people have even less resources, and thus less power, to overcome the circumstances in which they find themselves trapped,” said Harris. “I hope to spend time working on a one-to-one basis with people in crisis and eventually move into the policy-making arena so I can help create and implement truly effective policies that work at the ground level.

“I believe an experiential understanding of how those policies affect real, live human beings, rather than attempting to apply theories that may not translate well on a practical level, will be crucial to eradicating some of these global problems as humanity moves forward,” she continued.

Harris encourages anyone who is a problem solver with a social conscious to explore the Peace Studies Conflict Resolution Program at TCC.

“I am a better person for having been a student here,” said Harris. “I have learned to trust my own creative ideas and problem-solving ability. I now view myself as a scholar, with the capacity to both learn from and teach others. I have always believed in and appreciated the power of teamwork, but collaborating with other students has reinforced for me that together we can accomplish more than we can alone, that anything can be achieved when people work together toward a common goal.”
There was a day, in the not-so-distant past, when high school students who wanted to take college credit classes had to leave their high schools and travel to college campuses. This was reason enough for many students to avoid concurrent enrollment. However, in spring 2011, a pilot project called EXCELerate removed the transportation barrier, enabling high school students to take college classes on their high school campuses.

The project, with the approval of the TCC Board of Regents and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, included seven policy exceptions that broadened the scope of students who could take concurrent enrollment. Of the seven exceptions, three were found to be the most beneficial in broadening access:

1. ACT scores necessary for admission to TCC for students in the pilot are 19 ACT or 2.5 GPA rather than 21 or 3.5 for juniors and 19 or 3.0 for seniors.
2. Sophomores are allowed to take a three-credit College Readiness course.
3. (added April 9, 2012) ACT Plan scores are allowed for satisfying admission requirements.

Today, these policy revisions have transformed concurrent enrollment in the two public high schools that were part of the pilot—Tulsa Public Schools and Union Public Schools—by making college affordable, convenient and accessible.

EXCELerate expands to offer college classes on more high school campuses

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"The partnership between TPS and TCC through the EXCELerate Program has markedly increased participation in concurrent enrollment," said Lisa Reynolds, Concurrent/Dual Coordinator of TPS. "Many TPS students lack transportation and/or the funds to participate in traditional on-campus college courses."

Lisa Witcher, Principal of Class 2013 and Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator at UHS, said the program has allowed students to take college classes at an affordable rate while still being fully engaged in high school.

"On the surface, taking college level classes on the high school campus allows students to stay involved with the culture of UHS," Witcher said. "Additionally, since Union Public Schools purchases textbooks and TCC has reduced fees and tuition to a small sum, our students benefit economically as well. Many of our graduates are whole semesters ahead in their degree programs thanks to EXCELerate."

Marisol Trejo, who graduated from TPS's East Central High School in May, is one of the many students who has benefitted from EXCELerate. She plans to attend TCC in fall 2013 and eventually transfer to the University of Oklahoma to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

In addition to the cost savings and elimination of driving to campus, she said she found EXCELerate beneficial because she was allowed to take a college readiness class, Strategies for Academic Success, as a high school sophomore. She was able to do this because of the OSRHE policy provision that allows qualified high school sophomores to take this specific
concurrent enrollment class.

“This course truly helped me and is what motivated me to continue taking college courses,” Trejo said. “Since I was successful in this course I was encouraged to take other courses. I am truly glad I did.”

Even though as a high school sophomore she took college classes that were held on her high school campus, Trejo said she was treated as a college student. She said the classes were different from high school classes because there was more lecturing and less free time, among other things.

“The instructor is not constantly reminding you assignments are due or anything, like it is done in high school,” she said. “College courses make you feel independent since you are treated like an adult.”

Roach said ensuring the quality and rigor of courses is of the utmost importance to everyone behind the EXCELerate program.

“We are ensuring the quality and rigor of courses that are delivered at the high school and community campuses through adherence to Concurrent Enrollment Partnership guidelines. The guidelines were developed by the TCC Faculty Association Concurrent Enrollment (FACE) council based on standards set forth by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). This national alliance is growing exponentially as more and more high schools that are adding concurrent enrollment on high school campuses want to measure up to NACEP’s standards,” he said.

Ensuring academic quality is measured by strategically gathering data from students. TCC’s Office of Planning and Institutional Research released “Concurrent Enrollment: Impact Study of ‘EXCELerate’ Pilot Project” in June, which reports numerous positive findings. For instance, researchers found that participation in concurrent enrollment more than doubled among African American and Hispanic students in spring 2011 when the EXCELerate Program began. Participation rose among African American students from 2.4 percent to 5.1 percent and among Hispanic students 2.3 percent to 5.1 percent. Overall, concurrent enrollment among TPS and UHS students increased from 21.4 percent to 37.4 percent.

Students have benefited so much, in fact, that EXCELerate is expanding. In fall 2013, TCC is offering college credit classes at 11 additional locations: high schools in Bristow, Bixby, Glenpool, Sapulpa, Sand Springs, Mannford and Cleveland; the TCC Community Campus in Owasso; and approved concurrent sites at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow, Central Tech-Drumright and Osage Nation Education Center in Hominy.

Staff have been added as well to assist with the expansion. TCC appointed Rick Roach, former Associate Dean of Business and Information Technology, as the Dean of High School Relations and the George Kaiser Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Collegiate Academies. Lissa Steadley, a part-time faculty member at TCC, is the High School Relations Concurrent and EXCELerate Coordinator.

The specifics of EXCELerate at these new locations are slightly different. For instance, the cost of a class will vary slightly for districts that were added after the pilot, but students will still see a large savings compared to paying full price college tuition and fees. However, Roach said they hope to eventually have a model program that is uniform, enabling a natural transition from high school to TCC.

“It’s an opportunity for us to bridge the gap with what students need to be college ready,” Roach said. “Concurrent enrollment is one method we use to bridge the gap. We are giving students a chance for early college success.”


Lisa Reynolds, Concurrent/Dual Coordinator of Tulsa Public Schools, recognizes Marisol Trejo for her superior academic achievement of earning 28 college credits from Tulsa Community College while still in high school.
The Center for Creativity will soon stretch its creative vibes outside its four walls with the addition of three pieces of existing art and one commissioned piece of art.

Tulsa Community College's Board of Regents approved purchasing art from the estate of Dr. Simon “Si” Levit in its June board meeting. The College purchased “Spirit Las Mesas” and “Broken Earth” by artist Jesus Moroles with plans to have Moroles create and complete a commissioned piece as well. The board also approved purchasing “Heart and Soul” by artist Candyce Garrett.

Plans are currently in development to transfer the pieces from Levit’s Tulsa home to the Center for Creativity on TCC’s Metro Campus, where they will be on display for downtown visitors to enjoy.

Levit, who died in 2012, was a Tulsa cardiologist who was dedicated to supporting the arts in Tulsa. He served on the Tulsa Arts Commission as well as the boards of many other arts organizations. He had an extensive art collection, of which the family has chosen to sell select pieces.
“Spirit Las Mesas” by artist Jesus Moroles

Listen as Sean Weins, Vice President for Administration and Chief Technology Officer, and Holbrook Lawson, Private Art Dealer/Advisor, discuss the pieces.
Spotlight: Why is it important for people in public service to know some ASL basics?

Cooper: The community can benefit from these classes at TCC in two ways: First, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 mandates that a comprehensive variety of public and private services as well as employers must be accessible to all people regardless of disability. When dealing with people who are Deaf, Deaf-Blind or hard of hearing, this means that communication must be accessible. In many cases, the best way to ensure this is to have a qualified interpreter.

Second, it would help reduce anxiety between the Deaf person and the public service worker, enabling them to become comfortable with each other by using basic ASL until the interpreter arrives. This would reduce misunderstandings and anxiety.

Spotlight: Is sign language difficult to learn?

Cooper: Many people assume that it is difficult to learn sign language, but their opinions change once they take ASL I. Many of the students fall in love with sign language and then decide to enroll in ASL II and then just keep going.
Spotlight: How did ASL originate?

Cooper: Since the Cratrylas days, sign language has been used so it has been around more than 1,000 years. Prior to the birth of ASL, signed language was used in the United States as early as 1541. During the early 19th century, sign language was heavily used in Martha’s Vineyard because there was a recessive nature of genetic Deafness on that island. Chilmark had a 5 percent rate of genetic Deafness, so both hearing and Deaf residents used sign language.

Once American School for the Deaf was founded in Hartford, Conn., in 1817, many Chilmark residents relocated there to work or enter their Deaf children into the first American School for the Deaf. Over the years, those children who graduated went to other states to establish Deaf schools for the Deaf. Many Deaf graduates became productive citizens with successful jobs.

Then oral communication took over and created some shift in the Deaf community’s communication. Many hearing people believed that oral communication would work better so more schools started switching to oral communication. In actuality, it was causing some issues with Deaf-identity and other areas.

During the ‘60s at Gallaudet University, Dr. Bill Stokoe, a linguist, studied ASL and discovered that ASL is a full-fledged true language that presents strong evidence of its grammar rules including phonology, morphology and syntax. That is when sign language became stronger in the Deaf education program, proving that Deaf babies needed to be exposed to their natural language, American Sign Language.

Spotlight: What do you hope that students can learn from you, as a Deaf adult, that they can’t learn from a hearing person?

Cooper: This is my opportunity to teach hearing students to become more aware of the Deaf world with its rich visual language and cultural aspects. At the same time, I want Deaf students to become empowered with their own Deaf-identify and their Deaf heritage and build self-esteem as a Deaf individual.

Spotlight: How are Deaf Culture and Deaf Community defined?

Cooper: The Deaf community constitutes a vibrant, living culture in every way. They have their own cultural and Deaf identity to cherish just like every other cultural community. The Deaf Community welcomes others to learn sign language and the Deaf Culture as long as people are respectful to the culture and community.

Glenna Cooper, TCC’s first full-time Deaf faculty member, signs “ASL,” which represents American Sign Language. She shares with Spotlight the benefits that exist for hearing people to learn ASL basics.

National Deaf Awareness Week is Sept. 22-29
In this file photo taken in 2008, Tulsa firefighters train in one of the designated areas the Tulsa Fire Department uses for practicing putting out blazes. The new state-of-the-art facility will give firefighters more versatility and control in their training exercises.
FIRE! 9-1-1 is called. The alarm sounds and out rushes the big red truck with sirens blaring and lights flashing. Help is on its way! Trained firefighters arrive. The blaze is battled. Rescues are performed. Basic life support services are provided and what could have been horrific is now hopeful.

This story is familiar in the Tulsa metro area. According to the Tulsa Fire Department’s (TFD) website, the TFD responds to more than 54,000 incidents annually. In addition, the TFD is an all hazards fire department, which means their services include responding to fire, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescues and many other dangerous situations. The TFD service area covers 201 square miles populated with approximately 400,000 citizens.

That’s a lot of ground, situations and lives to cover. The need for highly trained firefighters and eminently skilled emergency medical technicians is growing in the metro area. In response to this growing need, Tulsa Community College, in partnership with the City of Tulsa, is building a new TFD Safety Training Center to create state-of-the-art educational opportunities for rookie and seasoned firefighters alike.

Replacing the city’s current undersized and outdated training facility built in 1952, the $13.2 million project will include an actual fire station, where cadets and students can train in a building exactly like where they will work as firefighters.

The new Fire Training Center utilizes computer controlled, natural gas-fired training simulators. These training props provide realistic fire training scenarios including the intense heat, flames, smoke, sounds and the overall chaos of a real fire situation, but with control features for the safety of the trainees and staff. The natural gas props are clean burning with minimal environmental impact. Smoke is generated using a system, similar to those in theatrical productions, which produces non-toxic smoke. The props in phase one of the project include a kitchen fire, an
office fire, an electrical equipment fire, and a residential fire. The computer control systems used for the fire simulators monitor how much and where fire suppression water is applied and adjusts the flame accordingly. If adequate water is not applied, the system has the capability to allow the fire to spread to adjacent props or flash over. The system can be programmed to simulate a wide variety of situations, and records the activities during training for later analysis. The system is expandable to allow additional training props to be added in the future.

In addition to live fire props, the Training Center includes other training props that simulate a floor structure weakened by a fire below, a total floor collapse, several ceiling collapse simulators, and movable partitions to allow the building layout to be changed. The Training Center also includes an elevator cab stuck between floors, fire alarm and fire sprinkler simulators, and several forcible entry props at doors and windows. The six-story drill tower includes tie-off points for ropes to allow firefighters to rappel down the side of the building.

According to information provided by the design team, the training devices provide teaching tools to help firefighters know what to look for during actual emergency events. They also allow training for “May Day” events in which firefighters are trapped and need assistance.

Michael J. Mallory, Chief of Physical Resources for the TFD, explained, “The diversity of the fire field and props will allow all to develop and refresh fundamental skills while simultaneously experiencing new techniques and technologies.”

In addition, the Safety Training Center will include outdoor classroom areas, apparatus storage and a storm water detention pond for water rescue training.

“The new facility has the ability to continuously change training scenarios and include simultaneous activities that directly impact the safety and success of the scenario,” said Mallory. “Current facilities provide little opportunity to provide training experiences that complicated or vastly different from other previous training programs. Though instructors desperately try to change and liven up the drill, the training becomes more a repeat of a few skills with little opportunity for critical thinking. With the new facility, the drill may be as simple or complex as the instructor and students wish to experience or attempt.

“The introduction of new ideas and techniques will be welcomed and then tested for success or failure. It will be from these developed lessons from which the knowledge, skills and abilities will be enhanced and introduced into the mitigation of real time emergencies,” he continued.

The partnership between Tulsa Community College and the City of Tulsa’s Fire Department goes beyond the bricks and mortar of the new facility. The two entities are working in tandem to help student learning.

“Qualified personnel may have opportunities to teach, new firefighters will have an opportunity to work with seasoned veterans to hone their skills, and students wishing to become firefighters may have the opportunity to acquire certifications that are historically reserved to only members of a fire department,” said Mallory.

TCC President Tom McKeon said the facility will help expand opportunities for students working toward a fire safety associate's degree from the college.

“Those in the program will have the opportunity to train in a state-of-the-art facility and the Safety Training Center will allow us to help better prepare a student for a career in the fire services,” said McKeon.

This partnership and this new facility benefits everyone, not just students. Through shared resources, the new facility will help provide the opportunity to conduct joint training between area fire departments.

Mallory explained, “While the delivered services are pretty good now between the departments, it will become even better in terms of safety and efficiency.”

Mallory, who has been involved in the basic design of the tower, props and fire-training field, is proud of the diversity that is being built into the entire fire training field and the opportunities it offers to nearly all fire departments and emergency service providers.

“The facilities are being developed to accommodate both large and small departments alike. As an example, the process of pumping water from a pit or pond is rarely conducted by Tulsa Fire Department, but may be common place with rural departments,” he said. “The systems are in place for the smaller departments to
train as if they would in their jurisdictions, and their knowledge and skills may be passed along to those departments where they rarely acquire water from sources other than a fire hydrant. In reverse, the metro departments may help teach the delivery of large volumes of water with an assortment of hose lines.”

All involved in the creation of the new training facility are pleased by the innovative design of the educational facility. The design team consists of Fritz Baily Architects, P.C., designer of the facility and architect-of-record; Abercrombie Design, specialty fire training design; Elliott, LeBoeuf and McElwain, specialty drill tower structural engineering; Wallace Engineering, civil and general structural engineering; Lee and Browne, mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering; and Howell and Vancuren, landscape design.

Tulsa Community College invested roughly $2.2 million in buying the land at the site. Money from the 2005 General Obligation Bond Issue is funding the first phase of construction. The facility will be located on the Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus at 2819 N. New Haven Ave. Crews began construction work in April 2013 with completion scheduled for sometime in 2014.

The location also allows TCC to provide more of the initial firefighter training as a part of their Fire Services program, which in turn, is expected to reduce recruit training costs for the city. The larger facility also allows TCC to offer specialized fire and emergency training to meet the needs of other fire departments, businesses, and industries. This should further increase revenues and allow the training center to become more self-sufficient.

Mallory said, “This is only the first phase of a multi-phase program. The facility will continue to grow as other organizations, including private business, are introduced to the physical and educational resources that are available to them.”

A master plan developed by the design team describes several subsequent phases that include more specialized training buildings and a new classroom building overlooking the training field. “I am hopeful that the facility will become the all-inclusive training facility for dispatchers, fire suppression, fire prevention, fire investigation, pre-hospital emergency medicine, hazardous materials response, incident management, emergency vehicle technicians, apparatus testing and business management of emergency service organizations,” Mallory said. “The expertise is already in Tulsa. The new facility is merely the catalyst for successfully preparing personnel for the challenges of the ever-changing fire service.”
BLOOMING WHERE

Student cultivates thriving business out of rough patch.

Karen Gardner
In spite of her name and her line of work, Karen Gardner isn’t your garden-variety entrepreneur. Yes, she is a gardener, and yes, she owns a nursery and landscaping business, but the success of this determined young woman, along with that of her business -- Roses Inc. Green Country, by any other name, would still be as sweet.

Only a few months old, Roses Inc. Green Country, located at the intersection of 131st street and 129th in Broken Arrow, has more than 500 rose varieties and more than 5,000 rose bushes. Gardner and her team specialize in designing, constructing, planting and maintaining rose scapes throughout Northeastern Oklahoma. The business currently boasts of multiple wholesale clients; contracts signed with Keep Broken Arrow Beautiful and Bringing Back the Roses; a design and consulting position with the City of Broken Arrow for the revitalization of downtown as The Rose District; and more than 100 monthly maintenance customers whose roses are serviced throughout the growing season.

Gardner’s life has not always been sunshine and roses. In fact, she has experienced her share of dark days. After completing an International Baccalaureate diploma program in the south of France, Gardner was pursuing an art degree from New York University when, at the age of 20, she suffered a debilitating stroke that left her needing medical care for months.

The young woman who had accomplished so much thought she had lost everything. She returned to Oklahoma to live with her mother and recover. At the time of her return, she had lost most of her ability to read, write and think like she had prior to the stroke.

As Gardner’s health slowly returned, she took the advice of her mother, went to work for a local nursery where she could work outdoors and rebuild her strength. Gardner went to work for Mark Stelljes, owner of a 13-year-old nursery, Roses, Inc., and it was there, where she worked long days carrying five-gallon buckets of water and pouring fertilizer on customer’s lawns that Gardner’s health and spirits really began to blossom.

After months of dedication and intense labor, Gardner worked her way up to operations manager of Roses, Inc. When the owner become disabled she had to make a decision: return to New York University to continue her degree in studio art, or withdraw to keep his nursery up and running. Choosing the latter, she took Accounting as well as Nursery and Greenhouse Management at Tulsa Community College, but soon realized that she required a more holistic understanding of what running a business entailed.

“When I read about the Launch Program in the Tulsa World, I knew that it was the opportunity that could facilitate the growth I required to not only continue running Mark’s nursery, but later create a career for myself,” explained Gardner.

Tulsa Community College’s Launch program takes entrepreneurs with an idea through the critical steps of creating a start-up business in 16 weeks. The results are the groundwork to launch their businesses and build relationships with some of Tulsa’s most well known business startup leaders.

Gardner had concerns when she applied for the Launch Program.

“If was so worried that I would not be accepted as my situation was an anomaly: I wasn’t launching my own brainchild start-up, but fixing a pre-existing (and crumbling) business,” said Gardner.

Roses Inc. Green Country is the outgrowth of Gardner purchasing Roses Inc. Tulsa from her former employer, and Gardner credits TCC’s Launch Program for equipping her with the business tools to make such an enterprising decision.

“The people that I met and the advice that was given is absolutely invaluable,” said Gardner.

During the program, Gardner pitched her business model to a group of “Thought Leaders.” After the pitch, she was approached by a local real-estate investor who recommended “the perfect property” for her nursery. Within two months, Gardner made the big decision and purchased a 7-acre property at the entrance of Broken Arrow’s Rose District (91st and Lynn Lane). She plans to transplant the entire business operation to the new location by this coming fall.

“Everything about being an entrepreneur is very intense: when you run a business, the buck stops with you. That means that you enjoy the benefits of working for yourself, but you are also forced to face and solve every problem that arises in day-to-day operations,” said Gardner.

The, now 23-year-old, nursery owner feels she has gained both personally and professionally by participating in the Launch Program.
“When I got a taste of working outside with my hands, sweating, creating total awe-astounding beauty from a little tiny stick, I knew that this was something I could do for a long time. Then upon running the business (Roses Inc.), I found the administrative side to be just as exciting: learning something new every single day; people relying on me for my hard work and precision,” said Gardner.

Gardner also said that the Launch Program taught her that anything -- even an obstacle -- could become something invigorating and conducive to happiness. She now understands how to recognize opportunity and proactively pursue it. In addition, Gardner found the Launch Program helpful in building her business acumen and business confidence.

“There were moments of realization that absolutely made me want to throw in the towel, like realizing it was completely up to me to create a sustainable financial model for a seasonal, niche business... but I said to myself that as long as I still woke up totally jazzed about continuing the journey, I would push myself to keep going,” Gardner said. “It was arduous mentally, emotionally and in my industry, even physically!”

She explains further that “in the Launch Program you are always with a crowd of supportive peers who learn from your mistakes as much as they do your successes, and vice versa.

“Every single class we had to make a three-minute pitch and every class someone messed up, someone froze, someone totally nailed it. You could absolutely tell who was working hard, or hardly working. It was intense -- there was a standard to live up to,” said Gardner.

Gardner is recently engaged to Stuart Barrett who helps her run the nursery. The couple has big plans and several long-term goals for their business. They intend to turn the new property into a destination location where people come from around the world to visit Broken Arrow’s Rose District before stopping in to see their display gardens, bouquet arrangements, potted roses and boutique. In addition, there is a small grove of trees on the property that they would like to turn into something like the Osage Forest of Peace in Sand Springs. Gardner envisions it as a spot where visitors can escape from the hustle and bustle of their daily lives to find tranquility in the wonder of nature. A “bark park” is also in the plans, as the nursery is known for being dog friendly.

Also, Gardner has plans to branch out from the traditional retail nursery business by contributing to the cultural practices in growing rose bushes. She intends to create a research-based facility to study rose pathology, propagation and common pests.

“Within the next five years, Roses Inc. Green Country will become a premier, niche nursery that upon visiting creates a memorable experience,” enthused Gardner. “Think ‘Yoga in the Roses,’ bouquet arrangement classes, general rose care seminars, weddings, tea parties... my biggest goal is continued customer participation, satisfaction and fun!”

Feeling safe while on a college campus is important. Whether you are a student, an employee or a community member attending an educational event, it is essential that people on Tulsa Community College’s campuses feel safe so that they can perform their roles.

TCC administrators recognize how important it is to have a strong and prepared campus police department. Therefore, they have spent the past year strengthening TCC’s Campus Police Department presence to support safety across the College.

“TCC has always maintained the safety of our students, faculty and staff as a highest priority,” said Sean Weins, Vice President for Administration and Chief Technology Officer. “As the world of higher education has changed over the years it has become ever more critical to ensure that we have a Campus Police Department that is fully prepared to ensure the safety of our over 28,000 students, faculty and staff annually.”

Weins said the first step they took toward improvement included developing a multi-year relationship with Margolis & Healy, a nationally recognized law enforcement firm specializing in higher education. The collaboration led to several changes, including the addition of professional police officer uniforms. All TCC police officers now wear uniforms with the “TCC Campus Police” designation, making them clearly distinguishable on campus.

“I’m still hearing compliments about the uniforms and we’ve been wearing them now for several months,” said Carmelia Brossett, TCC Campus Police Officer. “With the new uniforms, we are more readily identified as police officers.”
officers and I think that is what everyone responds to and likes.”

Another method TCC Campus Police uses to strengthen the force is adding more full-time officers and limiting the number of part-time officers. Being on the job full time allows officers to get better acquainted with their responsibilities as well as their surroundings. Officers have more time to familiarize themselves with TCC’s four campuses, including learning the locations of student service offices, personnel offices, popular gathering spots, etc. Having a thorough knowledge of the four campuses is critical during an emergency. They also have time to develop social, professional relationships with their colleagues on the campuses, which encourages communication.

TCC Campus Police also continue to update TCC Alerts, a college wide, real-time emergency notification system. Students, faculty and staff who register to receive notifications from TCC Alerts are contacted either through email, phone or text message in the case of an emergency. The message not only provides information about the critical event, it also instructs recipients on what actions they need to take, if any. For example, TCC Alerts can notify people that the College is closed, prompting them to stay home instead of traveling to class. Ensuring this system stays updated secures fast, accurate communication in case of a critical event.

Gene Wideman, Director of Campus Public Safety, said that safety is the No. 1 goal for the department.

“The goal of Campus Police is to become a proactive department where student and staff safety is the first priority,” Wideman said.

Maintaining safety includes having a plan for emergencies. In fact, having a plan in place is critical, Weins said.

“Waiting until the event occurs to ‘practice’ for the first time is simply too late to effectively ensure that people respond appropriately and are able to minimize or reduce the impact to our TCC community.

“A great positive example was recently exhibited during the response to an electrical fire at the Metro Campus. As the Tulsa Fire Department and the TCC Campus Police Department responded immediately to evacuate and safeguard the building, our students, faculty and staff were outstanding in fulfilling their part of the safety equation by calmly and quickly evacuating the building just like they practice during fire drills,” Weins said.

More improvements are under way. Soon, TCC Campus Police will have its own centralized phone number, enabling callers to reach officers on any of the four campuses without needing a different phone number for each campus. Of course, anyone can call 9-1-1 in case of an emergency, but a centralized phone number for TCC Campus Police gives people on the campuses another option. Plus, the number, 918-595-8888, can be used any time.

“Not everyone is aware that we are never closed and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Brosset said. “Campus Police is always here and available, even when the college is closed.”
SEARCH IS ON FOR
Barry Epperley will give his final bow as conductor and director of the Signature Symphony after the 2013-2014 season.

The Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College is looking for a new maestro to take the stage for the 2014-2015 season. After 35 years behind the baton, the man who started it all—Dr. Barry Epperley—will retire at the end of this concert season.

Epperley, the symphony’s director and conductor, started the Tulsa Little Symphony 35 years ago. He nurtured the orchestra through growth, name changes and performance halls until the journey brought the orchestra to TCC 17 years ago. The Symphony is housed on the TCC Southeast Campus in the VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education. Its unique blend of music education, outreach and performance has yielded programs such as Higher Scale Music Education Outreach, TulsaFest Festival of the Arts, Performance Plus and New Dimensions II. Through the years, the symphony has played alongside music icons such as Patti Page, Simon Estes, Leona Mitchell, David Gates, Larry Dalton and many others.

Dr. Barry Epperley, Director and Conductor of the Signature Symphony at TCC, is retiring after the 2013-2014 season.
Kelly Clark, Dean of Performing Arts Education, said that Epperley’s work with the symphony has been “amazing.”

“He has worked hard both on performance and on repertoire to help the musicians and, the group as a whole, improve. The next artistic director will have his/her own vision and may take all of us on a new adventure. That is the exciting part about the search, hearing all of the ways these talented individuals envision the orchestra of the future.”

Dr. Brett Campbell, Provost, has assembled a team of Signature Symphony Advisory Board members, staff and a musician to establish a timeline and process for the search. The team has identified seven industry publications, both online and print, in which to advertise the position and spread the word about the orchestra, Tulsa and TCC.

“Members of the Advisory Board were extremely helpful in developing a process for the succession planning of Dr. Epperley,” Campbell said. “Board members, musicians and Dr. Epperley himself participated in developing a plan that identified the values and skills needed to lead the Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College.

“The next Artistic Director of the Signature Symphony at TCC will expand the role of the orchestra into the college experience of our students and the Tulsa community.”

To buy tickets to Epperley’s final 2013-2014 season, call 918-595-7777 or visit signaturesymphony.org.
2013-2014 Season

**TTCU Pops**—Easy to Love, Oct. 4 & 5; A Night in Old Vienna, Nov. 1 & 2; Christmas in Tulsa, Dec. 13 & 14; Cirque De La Symphonie, Feb. 7 & 8; Broadway Babies, March 14 & 15.

**Williams Classics**—The French Connection, Sept. 21; Classics Alive, Oct. 19; Classics Opera, Jan. 25; Bartok & Brahms, Feb. 15; Mahler Resurrection Symphony, April 12.
Congratulations to the 2013 Graduates

Tulsa Community College students pack the house at the Oral Roberts University Mabee Center.

Tulsa Community College welcomed Meredith Siegfried, CEO of NORDAM, to speak at the 2013 TCC commencement as well as shake hands onstage with graduates.

Thomas A. Edison High School students present the colors at graduation.

TCC President Dr. Tom McKeon congratulates graduates onstage.

WANT MORE
VISIT SPOTLIGHT ONLINE
tulsacc.edu/spotlight

YOUTUBE EXTRA: Hear, see and feel the excitement from graduates’ point of view.
Pinning Ceremonies

Students receive pins for completing the Nursing Program in anticipation of graduation night at the VanTrease Performing Arts Center for Education on the TCC Southeast Campus.

Students receive pins for completing the Physical Therapist Assistant Program on graduation night. Many family and friends attended in support of their graduates.
Aaron Walker, TCC student, downloaded TCC Mobile 2.0 this summer. The revised app provides interactive maps, TCC employee directory, course schedules and other useful tools that students can access on their phones. The app is available in iTunes, Google Play and at tccmobile2.tulsacc.edu.

Dr. Ric Baser, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Tulsa Community College, left, and Dr. William M. Mayfield, Vice President of Graduate and Continuing Studies at St. Gregory’s University, sign a program articulation agreement that enables TCC graduates who have earned Associate in Applied Science degrees to transfer to the Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration Program at SGU.

Outside the Hardesty Center for Fab Lab Tulsa, middle and high school students show off skateboards they designed and built during the Tulsa Alliance for Engineering Skateboard Camp this summer. The alliance provides learning opportunities to promote engineering careers to young students. The students attend various area schools, including Union, Booker T. Washington, East Central High School, Carver Middle School, KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program), Owasso and more.
Young students from across the Tulsa area enjoy College for Kids every summer at TCC. The program, offered by Tulsa Community College Continuing Education, offers numerous classes for children in areas including Italian, astronomy, art, stamp collecting, jewelry making and much more.

High school students learned the value of biotechnology by experimenting with enzymes during Math and Science in Health Careers (MASH) camp this summer. The students compared the ease of making cheese from milk with the enzyme rennin, a freely available product in supermarkets that allows customers to make cheese or ice cream. Rennin is produced by the splicing of a gene into a bacterial plasmid.
Founded in 1970, Tulsa Community College Foundation was established to support the mission and vision of Tulsa Community College. The Foundation’s primary focus is to provide scholarships and programs for our students, faculty and staff by providing resources that bring an extra measure of excellence.

Board Executive Committee
Mary Shaw, Chair
Larry Mocha, Vice Chair

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Lauren Brookey, Vice President of External Affairs
Calvin Moore, Director of Development
Jenna Grant, Foundation Assistant

To contact the TCC Foundation, please e-mail Jenna Grant at jenna.grant@tulsacc.edu or call 918-595-7836.
The Tulsa Community College Foundation is pleased to announce Donald E. Walker, President and CEO of Arvest Bank, Tulsa, as the 2013 Vision in Education Leadership Award recipient. He received the award at the TCC Vision in Education Leadership Award Dinner at the Tulsa Convention Center this fall.

Walker is a fearless community leader, with ties to numerous successful organizations and initiatives. He has served leadership roles in several organizations, as well as served on numerous boards. Walker is a current board member of the Oklahoma Business Roundtable; Indian Nations Council – Boy Scouts of America Board of Directors; River Parks Authority Board of Trustees; Morningcrest Charitable Foundation; Land Legacy – Oklahoma Land Trust Board of Directors; and Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce.

He is a past board member of the Tulsa Vision 2025 Leadership Team; 2012 Vision 2 Co-Chair; Tulsa Community College Foundation Board of Directors; Tulsa Young Professionals (TYPros) Advisory Board; John Brown University Board of Directors (Director Emeritus); and the 2007 Oklahoma Centennial Committee.

As a 1974 graduate of the University of Arkansas, Walker began his career with Arvest as a Loan Officer in February 1978. In 1984, he was appointed President and CEO of First National Bank, Siloam Springs, Ark., until 1991 when he was appointed President and CEO of the Bank of Bentonville. He remained President in Bentonville until his move to Tulsa in 1998.

The Vision Dinner, held each year to honor a community leader who advocates for education, raises significant funds each year for the Tulsa Community College Foundation. The TCC Foundation funds programs that support students, faculty and staff at TCC including scholarships, student leadership programs and academic innovations.
Nathaniel S. Waters, Tulsa Community College graduate and community activist, is receiving the 2013 Stephen J. Jatras Award, posthumously. The award was established by the Tulsa Community College Foundation to recognize individuals whose service to higher education reflects the community spirit and commitment of Stephen J. Jatras, a benefactor and community leader who served as both a State Regent and a TCC Regent.

Waters was an advocate for people with disabilities and access to higher education. His community involvements included service for The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges, Tulsa Area United Way, Tulsa Sports Charities, the Mayor’s Commission on the Concerns of the Disabled, The Bridges Foundation, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, the DREAM Institute, DVIS, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Parent Child Center, St. Pius X, 3D Confidence, Center for H.O.P.E, Child Abuse Network, Transit Matters, Transportation Advisory Board, among others. In 2009, he was recognized as the inaugural honoree for the Live United Spirit Award, an award created to honor a volunteer from one of Tulsa’s 63 United Way agencies who serves as an example for others.

He began his life anew when he enrolled at TCC after undergoing a catastrophic, life-altering injury as a victim of domestic violence. Waters’ spinal cord was severed during that domestic altercation, and he had to learn to live life as a quadriplegic.

For some, such a drastic change in circumstances might have meant giving up; for him it meant working harder. He began by going to the disAbled Student Resource Center (now the Education Access Center) at TCC’s Metro Campus. Working with therapists there and in TCC’s Physical Therapist Assistant program, he developed dexterity in his hand in order to use a pointer for the computer keyboard, then a roller ball and eventually was able to write again. He was a great student. Despite his limitations, he completed the required GED, became a full-time student and completed the requirements for an associate degree within three years.

As a strong believer in education, he spoke often to students in area public schools, mentored students at TCC and co-taught a psychology course devoted to the psychology of the disabled at Oklahoma State University. He talked about the importance of education, setting goals, dreaming big and never giving up.

Over the course of the 16 years he spent in his wheelchair, he completed two college degrees, worked diligently with physical therapists to improve his spinal cord injury level from a C3 to a C6 so that he could move from living in a nursing home to living in his own home and secured a job with Williams Co. as an accounting assistant.
He also continued to cultivate his own entrepreneurial spirit as a voiceover actor and as director of finance for CleanNG, a company started by a group of OSU graduates interested in developing a lighter weight compressed natural gas fuel tank with increased storage capacity for longer driving distances.

At the time of his death, he was preparing to pursue an MBA in order to become a certified financial planner and dreaming of opening a nursing home for people 30 and younger.

“You’ve got to think big,” Nate said in a 2007 interview with the Tulsa World. “You can’t be small-minded. You’ve got to be universal. You can’t be limited to be successful.”

Nathaniel S. Waters
March 11, 1978 – April 20, 2013

The Tulsa Community College Foundation is proud to highlight the contributions of David Kollmann, President of The Flintco Companies, Inc.

Kollmann became a member of the TCC Foundation in 2010 and immediately rolled up his sleeves and got to work. In that same year he served on the steering committee for the TCC Vision in Educational Leadership Award Dinner honoring Gov. Brad Henry. The effort generated $226,000 in philanthropic support to fund scholarship and development programs for students, staff and faculty.

Kollmann is passionate about Tulsa, and it shows. His support for the TCC Foundation is an outgrowth of that passion. He believes that as we create quality, accessible educational opportunities, we also form a catalyst for success within the Tulsa community.

“TCC gives students of all ages opportunities to further their careers which benefits Tulsa,” he said. “It is an upward spiral. When Tulsa Community College is successful, Tulsa is successful.”

Following the successful Vision in Educational Leadership event, Dr. Tom McKeon, TCC President, asked Kollmann to chair a major donor gift society. In 2011, the TCC President’s Society was formed to cultivate major gifts to expand the margin of excellence in TCC programming. The society, which continues today, is a group of donors who annually pledge to give generously to support McKeon’s vision for the College and to directly support expanded educational opportunities for TCC students. Since its inception, the TCC President’s Society has contributed more than 68,000 to support vital student programs and faculty initiatives.

“The fund allows President McKeon to support visionary student programs, target important student scholarships and support initiatives that aren’t funded by other resources,” he said. “We have confidence in Dr. McKeon. We know that he will be a good steward of the dollars for students and faculty.”

Kollmann volunteers on the board of directors of Tulsa Area United Way; Big Brothers and Sisters of Green Country; and Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also volunteers for Tulsa Zoo Management, Inc. He has numerous professional affiliations, including Associated General Contractors, Construction Management Task Force, Leadership Tulsa, Leadership Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University Alumni Board.

He graduated from OSU in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology. He has been at Flintco since 1993.
It is my pleasure to serve as Chair of the Tulsa Community College Foundation. Over the past year we have seen the College and the Foundation make tremendous strides. Our core values of student success, stewardship, diversity, innovation, and excellence, are at the heart of why we have been successful.

One of the most important lessons I have learned during my term as TCC Foundation Chair is that our people are our most valuable resource. We have talented and diverse leadership in the TCC community, and together there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

Another reason we are so successful is your relationship to the College. Your commitment as partner in the pursuit of excellence has been exceptional and your philanthropic support enables us to achieve great things.

I want to challenge you to take your involvement to the next level by joining the President’s Society. You know what an outstanding asset TCC has in President Tom McKeon and his leadership team. The President’s Society provides resources to fulfill the President’s vision for the College and expand access to quality higher education. This society also provides Tom with needed flexibility when assigning additional support to essential initiatives at TCC.

I support Tom’s vision and I appreciate his leadership. That’s why I support the college at the Executive Membership Level.

Membership is affordably priced between $1,000 - $5,000 and offers a range of benefits. Visit us on the web at www.tulsacc.edu/presidentssociety to obtain additional information and join.

Thank you for your strong commitment to the TCC Foundation. Your investment will provide vital financial resources to strengthen the legacy of leadership and innovation at the College.

Warm regards,

Mary Shaw, Foundation Chair
Tulsa Community College Foundation recently announced that the fundraising goal has been met and exceeded for the Nate Waters Physical Therapy Clinic on TCC’s Metro Campus. The campaign raised $1,427,985.18. This amount is 19 percent over the original goal, which translates to $227,985.

Additionally, the TCC Board of Regents officially approved naming the clinic after Waters in its June meeting. The board’s approval is part of the required process when facilities at TCC are named for individuals.

An anonymous donor challenged the Tulsa community with a grant to complete the proposed clinic in honor of Waters by pledging $157,500 in April shortly after he passed away. Within one month, the community as well as TCC faculty, staff and students met and exceeded the goal.

The funds are being used for the renovation and expansion of the currently owned Allied Health Building at 815 S. Cincinnati. The Nate Waters Physical Therapy Clinic will provide ample classroom, office and lab space for TCC’s Physical Therapy Assistant Program, enabling students to complete their clinical training on-site.

The clinic will be an asset to students as well as the community because students will train with actual patients who are benefitted by physical therapy, but are either uninsured or underinsured. The clinic will give the College the opportunity to enhance student learning outcomes while meeting a great humanitarian need.

For more information, visit ptc.tulsacc.edu.
CONGRATULATIONS
TO PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK
TO IMPROVE ECONOMY AND
SERVE OTHERS

“Tulsa Achieves gave me the opportunity to go to college and earn my degree. I was able to choose classes to fit my crazy work schedule and attend multiple campuses to accomplish my educational goals.”
Leah Harrell
Team Coordinator
Selser Schaefer Architects

“Since graduation, I have pursued a career in the military, started two small businesses, and run for federal office. That was all possible through the education I received at TCC. The broad range of classes provided a great foundation to build on.”
John Olson
Attorney
John B. Olson & Associates
Tulsa Community College Alumni & Friends honors a select group of individuals each year for serving their communities through their professions, and this year’s group includes a judge, a realtor, a managing editor of a newspaper and more.

This year’s honorees, professions and places of employment are: Lester Brown, ReStore Manager, Tulsa Habitat for Humanity; Pat Bruner, Community Leader; Jason Burnette, Director of Membership & Marketing Services Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma; Carlos Chappelle, District Judge, State Of Oklahoma; Melanie Christian, Account Director, Saxum; Sarah DeSirey, Interior Designer, Selser Schaefer Architects; Linda Rodgers, Staff Assistant/Realtor, Montie Box Co. Realtor; Melinda Seymour, Corporate Director, St. John Health System; Amber Shannon, Recruiter, OSU-Tulsa; Josh Driskell, President, Jenks Chamber of Commerce; Angene Gibbs, Managing Editor, Sapulpa Daily Herald; Mikaela Harding, Office Support Specialist, Tulsa Technology Center; Mark Hargis, Sales Manager, Tulsa Sports Commission; Leah Harrell, Team Coordinator, Selser Schaefer Architects; Jennifer Hicks, Senior Account Counselor, OSU-Tulsa; Cathy McClanahan, Chief, Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice; John Olson, Attorney, John B. Olson & Associates; Cheri O’Neal, Personnel & Budget Manager, Tulsa Police Department; Pamela Webb, Writing Specialist, Tulsa Community College.

In addition to honorees, four current TCC students were recognized at the event as this year’s TCC Alumni & Friends Scholarship recipients. The students who received $1,000 scholarships were Katherine McMillan, Amber Giddens, Carlie Cahill and Michael Tucker. This scholarship is funded by proceeds of the Best of TCC event, and students are chosen based on academic excellence.

Preston L. Doerflinger, Secretary of Finance and Revenue of the State of Oklahoma, was the keynote speaker.

Corporate table sponsors for the 2013 Best of TCC Awards Dinner were Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma; Habitat for Humanity; Jenks Chamber of Commerce; Montie Box Company; Oklahoma State University-Tulsa; Selser Schaefer Architects; Tulsa Community College; and TulsaTech.
The Tulsa Community College Foundation welcomes Eileen Kenney, Development Coordinator, to its staff. Although this position is new for Kenney, she is not new to TCC or higher education. She has worked at TCC for six years in enrollment services and worked in higher education for more than 15 years.

But, one of her first loves is music. Growing up in the Oklahoma Panhandle, her parents exposed her and her siblings to various forms of music. Even before becoming Development Coordinator, she had attended many Signature Symphony at TCC concerts and events.

“I have such a passion for music and for music education that the opportunity to secure support to further our mission is a dream job for me,” she said.

Kenney has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising and a Master of Science Degree in Design, Housing and Merchandising. Both degrees are from Oklahoma State University.

She has previously worked in recruitment, admissions and enrollment services areas at Seward County Community College in Liberal, Kan., and Oklahoma State University. She said that development is similar to her previous work in that relationship-building is key.

“I have been intrigued by development work for a number of years because, like admissions work, relationship building is such a big part of the job. I was excited when an opportunity in the Foundation became available. I took a leap and switched careers, and I am loving every minute.”

Kenney said her goal as Development Coordinator is to increase the support and funding for the Signature Symphony at TCC so the Artistic Director, musicians and staff can share high-quality music and music education with the Tulsa community. She is also working to increase support for the College by helping with the Believe in TCC campaign.

She is married to Bill Ivy, an Associate Vice President at Pittsburg State in Kansas. Kenney has one daughter, Katherine, a freshman at Bishop Kelley High School. She has volunteered at the Linnaeus Gardens and with Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. She currently serves as co-chair of her church’s Care Team. In her spare time, she is an avid gardener and reader, and when the opportunity presents itself, she enjoys exploring foreign counties.

“TCC is such a wonderful asset to Tulsa, and I am truly fortunate to be able to share our message and garner support for the College.”
The Tulsa Community College Foundation launched a new campaign this year to invite faculty, staff, alumni and community members to continue the good work of the Foundation by supporting its philanthropic objectives. The Believe in TCC fundraising campaign launched in the fall of 2012 and has already raised more than $46,000 to support various innovative programs throughout the College. The employee giving portion of the Believe in TCC campaign, launched in the spring of 2013, has raised more than $35,000 to support TCC initiatives for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

“A personal gift from faculty and staff is a signal to the community and those who support TCC through the Foundation that those who do the most important work of the College have confidence in the Foundation and its programs,” said Calvin Moore, Director of Development for the Foundation. “At the same time, it helps grow resources to benefit more students, faculty and staff. A payroll deduction form makes it simple and convenient for employees to give to the Believe campaign.”

Community colleges are playing an increasingly important role in the state and nation’s economic well-being, and Tulsa Community College is leading the way. TCC offers 228 different associate degree and certificate majors and 136 of those are offered at least 50 percent online. The College has over 34,000 unduplicated annual enrollments in online and distance learning classes and has granted more than 58,500 degrees to nearly 48,000 people in the Tulsa area since 1970.

To help TCC support academic, scholarship and student development programs, the TCC Foundation cultivates private tax deductible gifts. No matter how small, every gift helps the foundation to expand the margin of excellence at TCC. Please show your support today, by visiting tulsacc.edu/believe.
Tulsa Community College has partnered with Tulsa Community Foundation to expand giving options for TCC’s Foundation Donors. Through this partnership, TCC’s Foundation can now offer expert advice to anyone interested in participating in planned giving.

Why participate in a planning giving program? Through the various options, you can help advance TCC while receiving tax savings and other benefits. There are multiple ways to take advantage of planning giving:

- **Wills**
- **Revocable Living Trust**
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TCC’s Foundation staff members are always available to discuss the best way to honor one’s charitable goals and support TCC’s Foundation.

Visit tccfoundation@tulsacc.edu or call 918-595-7846.
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