



**community**  
magazine  
winter 2022

[tulsacc.edu](http://tulsacc.edu)



# contents



Community Magazine  
is a publication of  
Tulsa Community College

Tulsa Community College  
909 S. Boston Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74119

Leigh B. Goodson, PhD.  
President & CEO

#### TCC Board of Regents

Caron Lawhorn, Chair  
James H. Beavers, Vice Chair  
P. Mitchell Adwon, Secretary  
Samuel Combs III, Member  
Paul H. Cornell, Member  
Jennifer Jezek, Member  
Wesley G. Mitchell, Member



- 4 Keeping College in Check
- 6 Meet Scott Seaton
- 8 First Chair
- 10 Renaissance Man
- 12 TCC Alumni – Tenille Brown
- 14 Start Them Early
- 16 Regent Jennifer Jezek
- 18 The Y@TCC
- 20 Vision Dinner 2022
- 26 Student Success Centers
- 30 TCC At A Glance

**Notice of Non-Discrimination:** Tulsa Community College is committed to establishing an environment for its students and employees that fosters inclusion, values equity and diversity, embraces and respects the dignity of people, and provides equal educational and employment opportunity. In compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations the College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or any other basis protected by applicable discrimination law in its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid and educational programs, activities, or services. The Civil Rights Compliance Administrator, 3727 E. Apache Room AB218, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Phone 918-595- 8487; email: CCnondiscrimination@tulsacc.edu has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies. The Title IX Coordinator, 909 S. Boston Ave, Room 505, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Phone 918-595-7842; email: TCCTitleIX@tulsacc.edu has been designated to handle inquiries regarding sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, pregnancy, domestic violence, and stalking.

This publication, printed by XXXXXX, is issued by Tulsa Community College as authorized by Title 70 O.S. 4413. XXX copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of XXXXX. This publication is issued by Tulsa Community College authorized by Title 70 O.S. 4413 and is located at the following website(s): TulsaCC.edu/CommunityMagazine.



## from the president

Leigh B. Goodson

Community is Our Middle Name.

It is a core belief and value of the college, true literally and philosophically. “We build community, inside and out, through collaboration, service, sustainability, and social and financial responsibility.”

As an institute of higher education, the primary way we build and strengthen our community is by educating our population. Education is still the surest way to enhance an individual’s – and by extension, their family’s, and the community’s – economic potential.

Because we serve more Oklahomans than any other college in the state, it is our responsibility to educate our students better, faster, and as affordably as possible.

We do this in many ways.

#### We keep the cost of a credit hour low.

We offer Tulsa Achieves, which provides free tuition and fees to Tulsa County high school graduates. We are able to do so because of local appropriations built into the College’s charter. City leaders and College founders knew back in 1970 the value the positive reciprocal relationship would bring Tulsa.

#### We graduate more of our students.

In the past decade, our initiatives have more than doubled our three-year graduation rates. We focus on resources and retention and on processes that place our students in the best position to succeed. And they are.

#### We graduate them faster.

The number of credits students are taking before they earn a credential is decreasing. Better advising, case management, and intentional work with our transfer partners is paying off. Fewer classes mean less time spent in school, reducing the potential for accumulated debt and shortening the time it takes to enter the workforce.

We also partner with community high schools to provide extensive dual-credit opportunities, which means our area high school students can graduate high school with a head start on their college career. For instance, our EDGE program – Earn a Degree, Graduate Early – allows high school students to graduate from high school with an associate degree. It’s a head start that saves students, and parents, money.

Some of these initiatives do not always help our bottom line. Graduating students quicker, with fewer classes and less cost to families, may mean less money coming in. But the payoff is greater than enrollment numbers. Getting students down the path quicker, which benefits students, parents, and employers, is of better service to our Community.

As always, thank you for all you do, and for being part of our community.

# Keeping College

Top Chess Player in Oklahoma is a TCC Freshman



**R**yan Amburgy is enjoying quite the freshman experience. He takes three classes on campus, three days a week and then he spends an average of 20 hours per week working on what he hopes will be his career: Chess.

“When I play chess, I’m testing my brain,” says Ryan. “I like the complicated nature of chess. I’ve been playing since I was six—it

just came naturally to me, and I think it’s my gift. I am dedicated to becoming as good a chess player as I can be.”

Ryan is well on his way, too; a member of the Jenks High School Class of 2022, he is the #1 chess player in Oklahoma and ranks in the Top 20 in his age group in the United States. Ryan’s love of the strategy, numbers, and calculations involved in being a chess champion has led him to focus on studying Accounting at TCC.

“Accounting feels like the right major for me,” says Ryan. “I like how accounting relates to numbers, calculating the best way to do something—it’s like chess.”

Ryan is taking three classes this fall: Introduction to Business, Composition I, and College Success. “College Success is a great class at TCC,” says Ryan. “It’s teaching me what I need to know about college and how to be successful, including study strategies, which is helping me form better study habits.”

Ryan says TCC isn’t different from what he expected, but he is being challenged.

“TCC definitely asks for more than high school and my teachers are somewhat less lenient,” says Ryan. “It’s a good thing, because I’m getting into the real world now, and in the real world, you definitely have to do things on time, or you get fired!

“I wanted to start off more slowly at TCC so I could focus on a few things in addition to school, like chess, and learning to take care of myself, so when I go away to another school in two years, I’ll be ready. I live with my parents now and want to be prepared for the big change that comes when I go out on my own.”

For high school students considering what comes after college, Ryan says three things stand out at TCC. “First, you don’t

have to live on campus. Second, TCC is a good place to start before potentially going somewhere like OU or OSU; and third, everyone I’ve met has been super helpful.”

As he makes his way through his first semester of college and the challenges that come with aiming for constant improvement at chess, Ryan may be getting more competition. Over the last two years, a Netflix limited series called “The Queen’s Gambit” drew 62 million viewers. Ryan believes the show brought chess to a new audience.

“It was a very good show, pretty accurate in some ways,” says Ryan. “It was good for people who don’t play chess and made people more interested in it. During the time we all spent at home because of COVID, chess was something people could easily learn online, and they did.”

In addition to college and its demands, Ryan spends much of his week working on chess—more if he’s getting ready for a tournament. Ryan’s dad taught him how to play, but Ryan says he’s “significantly stronger than Dad now, and Mom doesn’t play.” When he’s not playing, Ryan is studying the game, looking at new openings to try, determining what weaknesses he has, and trying to fix those weaknesses.

After his two years at TCC, Ryan plans to finish a bachelor’s degree. No matter where he goes, he’d like to find a great chess program.

“My goal is to just keep getting better at chess until I feel I can’t improve,” says Ryan. “That has not happened, and I feel like it won’t any time soon!”

# in Check

Signature Symphony  
at TCC's New  
Artistic Director:

# MEET SCOTT SEATON

Scott Seaton, the new Artistic Director and Conductor of the Signature Symphony at TCC, loves a quote from world-renowned cellist Pablo Casals when Casals was asked why he kept practicing in his 80s.

"I think I'm making progress. I think I see some improvement."

– Pablo Casals

Scott believes it's crucial to always be curious about your specialty, regardless of what profession you're in.

"I'm always hungry to be a better person, citizen, and musician," he says. "Whether this involves going to lectures or hearing a rehearsal of a colleague, I love the process of discovery and finding new ways to think about the world around me."

TCC announced Scott as the Signature Symphony's third Artistic Director and Conductor on May 23 after an exhaustive, three-year national search interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and narrowed from 80 applicants.

Since May, Scott has been doing double duty.

"I still hold my Music Directorship of the North State Symphony in Northern California, a position that I have held for the past eight years," says Scott. "I love being able to maximize my creative potential to connect with diverse communities through the language of music."

Scott has lived in California the last eight years after living in numerous places; he names Nashville, Tenn. as where he's from, graduating from Mt. Juliet High School and Vanderbilt University before earning his Master of Music from the New England Conservatory and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Université de Montréal. Since his international debut in 2007 with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Scott has conducted orchestras in North America, South America, and Europe.

Despite his impressive experience, Scott says music wasn't always something that came naturally to him, and he didn't always have a consistent passion for it.

"I began playing the saxophone in fifth grade because my parents encouraged me to explore the band program to see how I would like playing an instrument," he says. "I chose saxophone because I was

passionate about cartoons and, well, my favorite cartoon featured a saxophone. Who doesn't love the Pink Panther theme, right?!"

In sixth grade, the lack of a music program in the family's new city drove Scott outside to the creek, with a dog and a BB gun. His first year of junior high, Scott's parents worked a deal with him.

"I had a choice between band and physical education (PE), and wholeheartedly wanted to enroll in the latter," says Scott. "My parents made a deal with me: take band for another year, and if I didn't like it, I could switch to PE the following year. So I did. What I didn't anticipate was loving having an edge over the other beginning music students because I had already played for a year, and the teacher always singled me out to be the example for every new musical lesson. This fueled me. I continued to play saxophone and never left the music program after that."

Fast-forward to today, where Scott has Tulsa as a new place to explore and love.

"I have always wanted to be an artistic and cultural leader in a city like Tulsa and have the opportunity to have a vast creative palette at my disposal," he says. "There are infinite ways the Signature Symphony could make an impact in Tulsa and so many ways to connect with the community. I look forward to exploring all these various ways and affirming that orchestras have enormous potential to be a conduit for the world around us and to be an expressive vehicle for the whole community."

"My vision for this ensemble is to dig deep into the fabric of Tulsa and to be a catalyst for creative output in the region. Orchestras are long perceived to be stuffy, white-hair entities and I desire to show just how accessible the 21st-century orchestra can be. The Signature Symphony not only provides world-class musical experiences but is devoted to nurturing future generations of musicians and music lovers. The most successful orchestras nowadays realize they need to be igniters of that creative spark."



# First Chair Society

First Chair is a special circle of donors who generously give a minimum of \$1,000 to Signature Symphony annually to spread the vision of making professional orchestral music accessible to all. This group of donors receive special benefits, such as priority seating at concerts, receptions with the Artistic Director and premier parking at concert. Contribute at one of the levels to the right and be a part of this special group of supporters of Signature Symphony at TCC.

*Membership as of 10/15/22*

## **Maestro** \_\_\_\_\_

Shelby Beil  
Dean and Vesta VanTrease

## **Concertmaster** \_\_\_\_\_

Kelly and Phil Fonkalsrud  
Terence Golla  
Jim and Julie Higgins  
Geordie and Kristine Robinson  
Dawne and Robert Stafford

## **First Chair Plus** \_\_\_\_\_

Tim Caldwell  
Kevin and Susan Gross  
Susan and Jim Harris  
Ron and Susie Looney  
Philip and Leslie Maltby  
Helen Monahan  
Jane and Henry Primeaux  
Andrew and Hannah Ralston  
Richard and Alicia Ranne  
Hannah and Joe Robson  
David and Rachel Wagner

## **First Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

Loren Arnoff  
Terry Bevins  
Eric and Jan Bohne  
Montie and Betty Box  
Jim and Marilyn Brill  
Scott and Kim Burnett  
Steve and Ruthie Duenner  
Leigh and Mark Goodson  
Jim and Ginelle Gordon  
Janet and Norman Hyne  
Katie and David Johnson  
Tim and Carol Lyons  
Carol Messer  
Joe and Carol McGraw  
Kay Miller  
Anna Milligan  
David Morse  
Tom and Jennifer Palmer  
Eleanor and Larry Payne  
Millard and Susanne Pickering  
Michael Pierce  
Delia Pierson  
Bill and Donna Ramsey

Kari and Matt Shults  
Jeffrey and Robin Smith  
Greg Stone  
Lee and Carol Swarhout  
Steve and Nancy Wells  
Jacqueline Wilson  
Roy and Rebekah Wood

# Renaissance MAN

Brian Cross: Professor, Author, Illustrator, Painter



I love opening people up to new things that they'd not thought about.

**TCC** Biology professor Brian Cross brings an impressive science background to his classroom; armed with master's degrees from the University of Utah in Environmental Science and Oklahoma State University in Biology, Brian has been teaching at TCC for 13 years. In addition to teaching both of those subjects plus Zoology at TCC, Brian exercises the creative side of his brain by writing and illustrating children's books.

Brian has published two books starring what could be described as a character played by their family dog: King Froderick of Basschundia and King Froderick at War. Storytelling is something he gravitated toward during childhood.

"My desire to tell stories comes from living in other peoples' creative worlds," Brian says. "As a kid, I was the nerd with his nose in a book all the time—Tolkien, Asimov, other fantasy books. A large part of the world I lived in was the imaginary realm created by those authors."

Brian's road to TCC began with his father, Michael Cross. An English teacher and poet, Michael taught Composition, Literature, and Poetry at TCC for 39 years, and edited the literary journal for several years before retiring in 2010. Though Brian never took a class from his dad, in the early

2000s, he enrolled in Creative Writing, and credits TCC's Carol Johnson with being a great instructor who helped him learn how to tell short stories.

"My writing ramped up when I was in graduate school in the '90s," says Brian. "I was focused too much on science; I dropped out of grad school and really started writing, though I didn't think of myself as having talent with respect to art—it just wasn't part of my personality—but I did have attention to detail and powers of observation that helped me focus on the artist part of my creativity."

And then came illustrations. Brian painted murals in his kids' rooms and around the rest of the house. When he ran out of walls, he started painting canvases, focusing on Tolkien's Middle earth and biology scenes.

"Writing and art were completely separate for quite a long time," says Brian. "They were on separate but parallel tracks, but then I started working on drawing and painting pictures for a book I'm trying to publish now called Tales of the Ogrguard. That led to King Froderick's adventures."

Brian loves teaching at TCC and thrives in an intellectual, academic environment with a healthy exchange of ideas and thinking about big things.

"I love opening people up to new things that they'd not thought about," says Brian. "Often, we deal with people who have heard a little bit or know a little bit; we can melt it down and put it into context for them. I like being in an academic environment rather than in one focused on sales and marketing or timesheets."

Breaks between semesters give Brian the opportunity for a reset and time to devote to these creative projects. "I am able to paint and write in a more focused way, and think about what comes next," he says. "The gaps between semesters make me a better teacher, because I can more fully engage with students and bring my whole self to the classroom after recharging my batteries with time for writing and art."

While Brian ponders King Froderick's next adventure, he has plenty to do with his classes at TCC, the line of illustrated greeting cards he offers on Etsy, his paintings, and maybe even writing an adult novel someday.

"When I start thinking about starting a new book, it sometimes takes over everything else and requires a lot of energy. I want the time to do it well."



# Set Up For Success

**TCC Graduate Parlays Commitment to Hard Work During School to Executive Position at Legacy Tulsa Business**

**TCC** TCC alumnus Tenille Brown, General Manager for The Bama Companies, Inc., lives the company's mission every day. Her commitment to giving something her full effort comes naturally and is part of what brought her to TCC in the '90s.

"If we can take care of our team members, and they take care of our customers, and we produce a safe, quality product every day, then we're doing the right thing," says Tenille.

After graduating from Bishop Kelley High School, Tenille enrolled at the University of Oklahoma to pursue an undergraduate business degree. During a school break, she looked at the curriculum TCC offered, and saw that many of the classes met the same requirements as general education classes at OU and were transferrable.

"Freshman- and sophomore-level classes in English, Algebra, History, Psychology, and Sociology—all the core curriculum advanced degrees require—were available at TCC," Tenille says. "I started taking classes at TCC in the summer, at intercession over Christmas, and during Spring Break."

Tenille used the classes available at TCC as part of her foundation, which freed up her time, focus, and energy at OU.

"When I got to higher-level junior and senior classes, because I'd finished those entry-level courses early, I was able to really focus on what I was taking for my higher-level degree," says Tenille.

After OU, Tenille continued her education at the University of Tulsa, earning her Master's of Business Administration (MBA) while working for The Bama Companies. A Bama team member since 1999, Tenille worked her way through the ranks all over the world, serving as a People Systems supervisor through project management, business development and more, to her present position.

"I would credit much of the success I've had in my professional career at Bama to the behavior and discipline I used to work harder and do more during summers and breaks," says Tenille. "I've always had a strong work ethic, and I think that work ethic applies to how I lead at Bama every day. It helps me take care of our team members and take care of our customers, making sure we're doing the right thing. I think the discipline and flexibility TCC offered set me up for quite a bit of success."

As a General Manager at Bama Companies, Tenille says she does "a bit of everything."

"At Bama, our mission statement is people helping people be successful with caring and accountability, and my role is to make sure all our departments are aligned and have resources to do what we need to do—take care of our people and take care of our customers."

---

**I think the discipline and flexibility TCC offered set me up for quite a bit of success.**

---

No small task, either. The company has three manufacturing facilities and a frozen warehouse to keep running smoothly. Tenille's responsibilities include aligning the supply chain, aligning culinary and research and development, the business development department, working with operations and engineering and people systems to make sure we have the resources for programs, and making sure the company is recruiting and retaining the right people.

"TCC is a great option to complete core requirements for an advanced degree," says Tenille. "Whether you start your post-high school studies at TCC or you supplement with their classes while at an advanced-degree college, it's a great option. It can be daunting to think about a four-year degree, and going to TCC allows one to take little bites. TCC sets you up for success."



# Set Up For Success

**TCC Graduate Parlays Commitment to Hard Work During School to Executive Position at Legacy Tulsa Business**

**TCC** TCC alumnus Tenille Brown, General Manager for The Bama Companies, Inc., lives the company's mission every day. Her commitment to giving something her full effort comes naturally and is part of what brought her to TCC in the '90s.

"If we can take care of our team members, and they take care of our customers, and we produce a safe, quality product every day, then we're doing the right thing," says Tenille.

After graduating from Bishop Kelley High School, Tenille enrolled at the University of Oklahoma to pursue an undergraduate business degree. During a school break, she looked at the curriculum TCC offered, and saw that many of the classes met the same requirements as general education classes at OU and were transferrable.

"Freshman- and sophomore-level classes in English, Algebra, History, Psychology, and Sociology—all the core curriculum advanced degrees require—were available at TCC," Tenille says. "I started taking classes at TCC in the summer, at intercession over Christmas, and during Spring Break."

Tenille used the classes available at TCC as part of her foundation, which freed up her time, focus, and energy at OU.

"When I got to higher-level junior and senior classes, because I'd finished those entry-level courses early, I was able to really focus on what I was taking for my higher-level degree," says Tenille.

After OU, Tenille continued her education at the University of Tulsa, earning her Master's of Business Administration (MBA) while working for The Bama Companies. A Bama team member since 1999, Tenille worked her way through the ranks all over the world, serving as a People Systems supervisor through project management, business development and more, to her present position.

"I would credit much of the success I've had in my professional career at Bama to the behavior and discipline I used to work harder and do more during summers and breaks," says Tenille. "I've always had a strong work ethic, and I think that work ethic applies to how I lead at Bama every day. It helps me take care of our team members and take care of our customers, making sure we're doing the right thing. I think the discipline and flexibility TCC offered set me up for quite a bit of success."

As a General Manager at Bama Companies, Tenille says she does "a bit of everything."

"At Bama, our mission statement is people helping people be successful with caring and accountability, and my role is to make sure all our departments are aligned and have resources to do what we need to do—take care of our people and take care of our customers."

---

**I think the discipline and flexibility TCC offered set me up for quite a bit of success.**

---

No small task, either. The company has three manufacturing facilities and a frozen warehouse to keep running smoothly. Tenille's responsibilities include aligning the supply chain, aligning culinary and research and development, the business development department, working with operations and engineering and people systems to make sure we have the resources for programs, and making sure the company is recruiting and retaining the right people.

"TCC is a great option to complete core requirements for an advanced degree," says Tenille. "Whether you start your post-high school studies at TCC or you supplement with their classes while at an advanced-degree college, it's a great option. It can be daunting to think about a four-year degree, and going to TCC allows one to take little bites. TCC sets you up for success."



# Paint the Zoo *BLUE*

— 2022 —

On August 20, 2022, TCC hosted Paint the Zoo Blue, a welcome back event to kick off the academic year for TCC students, staff and faculty and their families.



# TCC's Newest Regent Has Longtime Ties to the College

**TCC'S** newest member of its Board of Regents has firsthand knowledge of the College; she's a TCC graduate.

Jennifer Jezek is a second-generation Tulsa Community College graduate; her dad, Steve York, used the G.I. Bill to pursue two associate degrees from then Tulsa Junior College. Jennifer decided to try TCC at his urging.

"I wanted to go to OU right after high school," Jennifer says. "But I was not a traditionally good student, and my dad said I needed to prove to him I would be successful if I went on to University. I went to Booker T. Washington High School, but didn't do well—I was a bad student. I finished at Memorial High School and agreed to give TCC a try.

"Only the forced hand of my dad made me go to college. But I'm so glad I did. For the first time in an education setting, I felt like I had some say in what I was studying and in felt like I was really learning. It was pretty transformative for me; I didn't love all my classes but did love the autonomy of having choices."

Jennifer is open about her high school struggles when talking to students today. "There is never a time when you can't make a change in your life," Jennifer said. "You can always turn the corner; you can always change your life. I stick to that mantra."

Enrolling at TCC, Jennifer wasn't sure what specifically she wanted to study, so she started in general business. Her parents owned the company she owns today—York Electronic Systems, Inc.—and following her dad's lead with a business degree seemed like a good beginning.

"I loved economics and was lucky to have a great economics professor at TCC," said Jennifer. "He was funny and engaging and I learned a lot—when you're engaged with a professor, you want to learn more. And I did."

After TCC, Jennifer finished her bachelor's degree at UCAT (now OSU-Tulsa). She worked full-time at York Electronic Systems and went to school at night. Jennifer worked in every department at York: reception, accounting, marketing, in the warehouse—if someone called in sick, she often learned their job that day.

"Learning how to do those jobs aligned with what I was learning in the classroom," Jennifer says. "I made some strong connections between the classroom and the work, and that made my educational experience so much more enriching. And when I graduated, I had a full resume, and was able to get a job that required experience rather than an entry-level job."

Jennifer experienced great success at three companies outside of York before returning to the family business in 2002. Together, Jennifer and her parents came up with a five-year succession plan ("It only took 10 years to implement, as I got married and had a child during that time!") that allowed her to buy shares of the company over a period of time.

Jennifer called her dad a good mentor. "The best part of working with my dad was that he let me fail," she said. "He let me try things, take risks, and fail, rather than follow the instincts many parents do—to have their child avoid consequences. It was hard, but he did it."

Jennifer applies leadership principles from business to her everyday life. She serves on several nonprofit boards and helps fulfill her purpose by working with local Chambers of Commerce and other business groups.

Jennifer is encouraged by TCC's well-thought-out strategic plan and excellent staff.

"The College is able to take steps to make education more accessible for all students and continue to align programs with the workforce," she says. "Our group is working with them on the big picture, making lots of microdecisions now that affect the long term. I'm impressed with their leadership, and Dr. Goodson in particular is well-prepared, enthusiastic, and energetic. They're a top-notch team of people."

"The idea I'm in a position to give back to TCC is really important to me," says Jennifer. "My life changed direction when I enrolled at TCC back in the '90s. I don't think I would be talking about this today if I hadn't made that decision and gone down that road."

“THERE IS NEVER A TIME WHEN YOU CAN'T MAKE A CHANGE IN YOUR LIFE.”



# NEW Y @ TCC PROGRAM PROVIDES FREE ACCESS TO HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

**S**trengthening community is the cause of the YMCA of Greater Tulsa, and as of August 23, 2022, the potential strength of Tulsa Community College students got a big boost from the Y through the opening of brand-new fitness facilities at all four TCC campuses.

“Over the past few years, the YMCA of Greater Tulsa and Tulsa Community College have collaborated on several projects that serve the Tulsa area,” says Nellie Windsor, Vice President of Brand Strategy for YMCA of Greater Tulsa. “During the peak of the pandemic, the YMCA was invited, along with others in the community, to create proposals that outlined opportunities to partner with TCC to meet student and community needs. This led to The Y @ TCC being a hub for student and community success.”

Historically, there have been win-win relationships between YMCAs and educational institutions; opening Y @ TCC facilities will support TCC campuses themselves with additional opportunities for students to recreate and socialize together, and the new locations allow the Y to expand its reach in communities where there was no presence previously.

“We recently installed all new equipment in each of the Y @ TCC Health and Wellness Centers,” says Nellie. “The benefits also include group fitness classes from open to close seven days a week, free health assessments with a certified personal trainer, indoor walking tracks, and open court basketball and pickleball.”

The Y @ TCC facilities are available for all TCC faculty, staff, and students to use at no cost, and the community-at-large can use the new locations with a fee added to their membership.

“Even more exciting, for a small monthly charge, TCC faculty, staff, and students can upgrade to the All-Access Pass,” says Nellie. “This pass grants the holder access to all 14 YMCA Tulsa metro locations as well as Nationwide Membership with the Y.” (For a listing of all facilities in the Tulsa metro area, visit [ymcatulsa.org/locations](https://ymcatulsa.org/locations).)

“This is a huge opportunity for our families,” says Dr. Leigh Goodson, president and CEO of TCC. “When everyone in the family is working, going to school, or both, it can be challenging to find time to be together. Any TCC faculty or staff member or student’s family can be added to the membership at a significantly reduced rate. The family stays active and gets that family time together as well. This is a wonderful benefit to offer our TCC families and the Tulsa community.”

Nellie says one unexpected benefit to the budding partnership between The Y and TCC has been discovering all the ways the organizations can partner to accomplish common goals in serving the community.

“We are working to spread the word to all faculty, staff, and students about this free benefit,” says Nellie. “We also welcome community members into these beautiful facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and programs available to help everyone reach health and wellness goals.”

The partnership is just getting started.

“A dedicated team of staff and volunteers from both TCC and the Y are evaluating ways this partnership can grow,” says Nellie. “We know the sky’s the limit when two foundational Tulsa organizations come together to serve the community.”



We look forward to seeing you  
**Thursday, September 7, 2023**



Join us for one of the most entertaining fundraising events of the year!

Signature Symphony  
 AT TCC

*Overture*

MAKE MUSIC WITH US

**APRIL 13, 2023**

**Reception 6 p.m. • Dinner and Program 7 p.m. • RIVER SPIRIT CASINO**

Funds raised help Signature Symphony provide music education engagement, community enrichment opportunities, and premier concerts to the greater Tulsa area.



To learn more or become a sponsor, scan the QR code.



**VISION**  
 DINNER  
 UNLOCKING THE FUTURE

**Vision Dinner 2022:  
 A Resounding Success**

Because of our generous donors, the Tulsa Community College Foundation Vision Dinner 2022 was a success! More than \$460,000 was raised, which includes \$50,000 given and pledged to the Vision Scholarship fund during the event!

Funds raised from Vision Dinner help to unlock the future for TCC students by providing scholarships, leadership development opportunities, engagement and mentoring with academic scholars and leaders, and technology and equipment necessary to prepare for today's workforce.

**Keidron Dotson**, AVP of Student Success and Equity at TCC, served as emcee of the program.

Three Vision Dinner 2022 honorees were recognized for their support of higher education and service to the community – former TCC student and founder of Black Tech Street **Tyrance Billingsley, II** (Tyrance could not attend the event so his father Tyrance Billingsley accepted on his son's behalf); Director of Tulsa Grant-making for the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies and TCC Foundation Board Trustee **Alana Hughes**; and Founder of Tri-Angle Development and former TCC Regent for 36 years **Ron Looney**.

Thank you, again, to everyone who supported this remarkable celebration and the TCC Foundation!



# VISION

DINNER  
UNLOCKING THE FUTURE



# VISION

## DINNER

### UNLOCKING THE FUTURE

The TCC Foundation's annual Vision Dinner is our largest fundraiser where we celebrate community leaders who value education and raise funds to support students through scholarships, internships, textbook vouchers, technology, performing arts, cultural and service-learning projects, and so much more.

## Meet Our 2022 Honorees

### **Tyrance Billingsley II**

Former TCC student and founder of Black Tech Street

### **Alana Hughes**

Director of Tulsa grantmaking for the Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies and TCC Foundation Board Trustee

### **Ron Looney**

Founder of Tri-Angle Development and Former TCC Regent for over 36 years

## Vision Dinner Sponsors 2022

### **Visionary - \$50,000**

Evelyn R. Nienhuis

### **Pathway Leaders - \$25,000**

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies · George Kaiser Family Foundation  
Sanford & Irene Burnstein Foundation

### **Dream Makers - \$15,000**

Cherokee Nation Businesses · ONEOK · Saint Francis Health System · TTCU Cares Foundation

### **Tulsa Achievers - \$10,000**

AAON, Inc. · The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation · Chickasaw Nation  
Caron and Shawn Lawhorn · ONE Gas · Ruth Nelson · Williams Co.

### **Groundbreakers - \$5,000**

The Bama Companies · Bank of Oklahoma · Barnett Family Foundation · Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma  
Cox Communications · Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma · GH2 Architects, LLC · Hillcrest HealthCare System  
The Mervin Bovaird Foundation · MidAmerica Industrial Park · OSU Tulsa/OSU Foundation · The Oxley Foundation  
Jody Parker/Anchor Stone Company · Price Family Properties · QuikTrip · Regent Bank  
River Spirit Casino Resort · Schnake Turnbo Frank · Dean Kathy Taylor and Bill Lobeck

### **Innovators - \$3,000**

2U/edX · Melinda and Mitch Adwon · Helmerich & Payne · The Honorable Terry Kern and Mrs. Jeanette Kern  
Key Construction · Ron and Susie Looney · OU Foundation/OU · Pierce Norton · Security Bank  
TCC Faculty Association · TCC President's Cabinet · Tulsa Regional Chamber

### **Founders - \$1,500**

Alison Anthony and Mark Wilson · American Bank · Montie and Betty Box · Betheny L. Reid Consulting  
Jim Cameron · Michelle Cash · Sam and Rita Combs · First Oklahoma Bank · Flintco, LLC · Dr. Leigh and Mr. Mark Goodson  
Sarah E. Hansel · Susan and Jim Harris · Alana Hughes · ImageNet Consulting · Sharon King Davis · Langdon Publishing  
Rob and Mary Martinovich · Joseph and Nancy McDonald · Stacey and Tom McKeon · The Meshri Family  
Milo's Tea Company · Wes and Yolanda Mitchell · Nabholz Construction · Rick and Susan Neal · Osage Casino Hotel  
Dr. Eleanor Payne and Mr. Larry Payne · Rogers State University · Stinnett & Associates · Dr. Dean and Vesta VanTrece

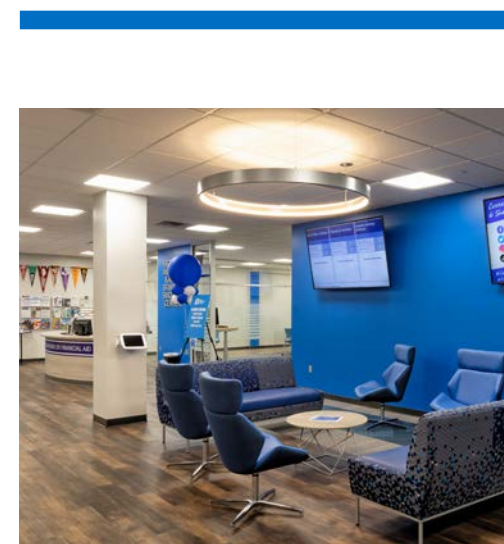
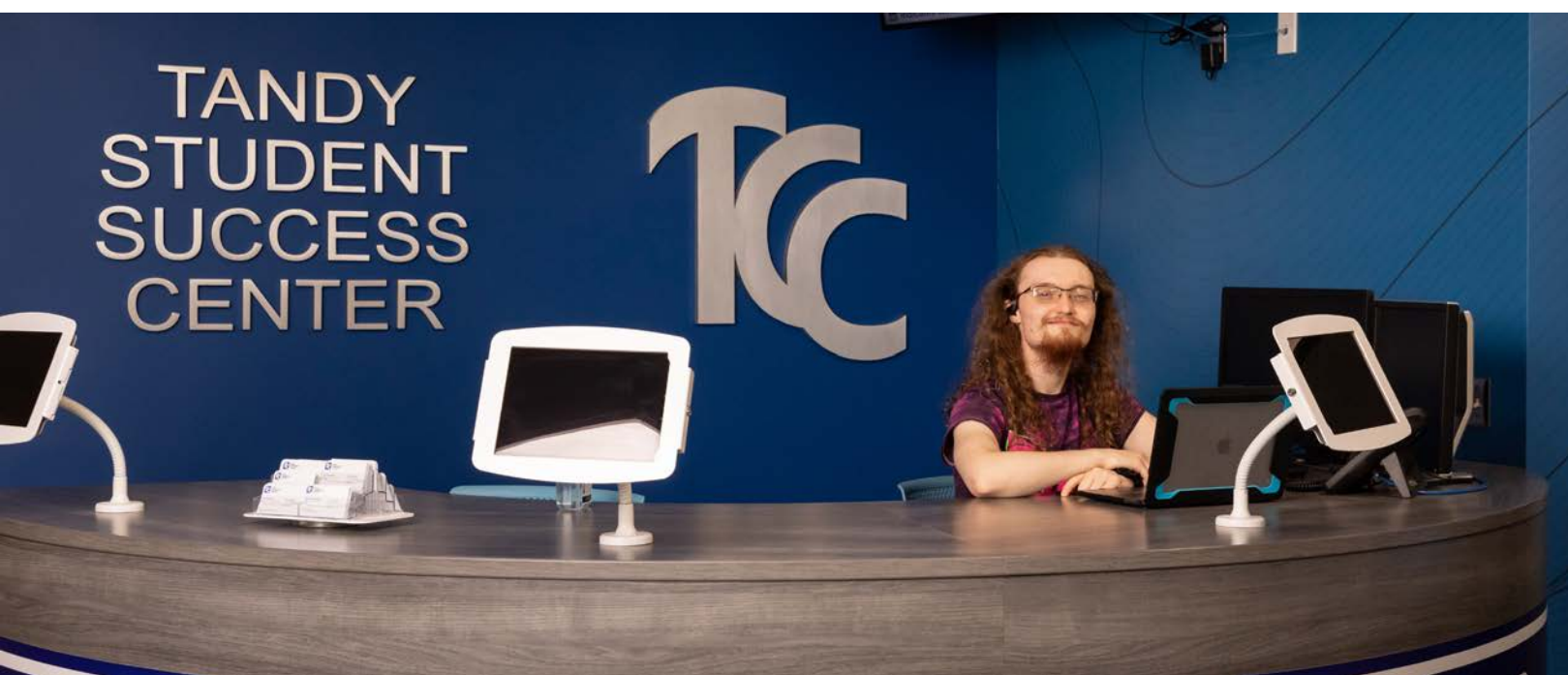
### **Vision Dinner 2022 Committee**

Molly Jarvis, Chair · Bree Browder · Laura Creekmur · Curtis Dinan · Jim Langdon  
Karl Neumaier · Rhonda Spurlock · David Stewart · Michael Willis



# Celebrating Completion

## Final Two Student Success Centers Open



What's better than one? Two, of course! Especially when it comes to finishing a project that improves the student experience.

Earlier this year TCC completed and opened our final two Student Success Centers. To celebrate everyone's effort and thank our generous donors, the College held two celebrations.

In July, a dedication was held for the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Student Success Center at the TCC Metro Campus, made possible by a \$2.1 million gift from the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation. The Center is home to the Governor and Senator Dewey F. Bartlett Academic Advising Center, made possible through support from Tom and Joanie Atkinson.

Then in November, another dedication was held for the Herman and Kate Kaiser Student Success Center at the Northeast Campus, funded by a gift from Ruth Nelson and the Herman G. Kaiser Foundation.

Both facilities revolutionize the student experience – both in-person and virtually – and represent TCC's effort to remove barriers for students leading to higher graduation rates.

"In developing the Student Success Centers, we recognized the need to help individuals navigate the college experience through increased student services in a way that is not confusing or intimidating," says Dr. Leigh Goodson, TCC president & CEO. "An added benefit of these Centers is our ability to deliver what students expect, which are services accessible virtually and in-person."

The Student Success Center model helps TCC meet students where they are by removing obstacles. This is especially critical noting TCC's student population of nearly one in three first-generation college students and roughly 45% from underserved or underrepresented communities.

With a clearly identified starting point and check-in area, students are greeted by staff instead of rows of counters and offices for multiple departments and lines to stand in.

"With support offered in an intentional and convenient way, students can start college with the end in mind. Meaning, from their very first encounter at TCC, they have a goal – whether that's to get a work-ready certificate, to earn an associate degree and go into the workforce or continue to a four-year university," says Caron Lawhorn, TCC Board of Regents chair.

"TCC is fortunate to have such wonderful community support and the success of the \$20 million Clearing the Pathway: The Campaign for Completion is an investment to produce work-ready college graduates – both who go directly to the workforce or transfer to complete a bachelor's degree," says Kari Shults, Vice President for Advancement and President of the TCC Foundation.

The Hardesty Student Success Center at West Campus opened last year, while the Student Success and Career Center at the Southeast Campus opened in 2019 with the help of the Vision Tulsa package approved by voters.



The Tulsa Community College Foundation provides support to Tulsa Community College and its mission by developing key relationships and financial resources.

## 2022 TCC Foundation Board

### Executive Committee

**CHAIR:** Jackie Price Johannsen, President, Price Family Properties

**VICE CHAIR:** Jesse Guardiola, President, Guardiola Outreach Development, LLC

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Dr. Eleanor Payne, Retired Educator

**PAST CHAIR:** Tim Lyons, President & CEO, TTCU Federal Credit Union

### Trustees

Leeland Alexander, OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center, retired

Scott Asbjornson, Investor

Billie T. Barnett, Civic leader

Konnie Boulter, Program Director, The Oxley Foundation

Jeff Brooks, Chief Information Officer, Muscogee Creek Nation Casinos – River Spirit

Teresa Meinders Burkett, Partner, Conner & Winters, LLP

Lisette Coston, Executive Director of Support Services, Saint Francis Health System

Laura Creekmur, President, The Williams Companies Foundation. Vice President, Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility, The Williams Companies

Sharon King Davis, Partner, King Investments

Curtis Dinan, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, ONE Gas

Jim Dunn, Chairman, Mill Creek Lumber & Supply Company

J. Ed Fariss, Retired

Kevin Gross, President & CEO, Hillcrest HealthCare System

Sarah Hansel, Attorney/Director, Hall Estill Attorneys at Law

Susan E. Harris, Tulsa Regional Chamber, retired

M. Ted Haynes, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma, retired

Kirk Hays, President & CEO, Arvest Bank

John Hewitt, President & CEO, Matrix Service Company

Alana Hughes, Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, retired

Molly Jarvis, Senior Vice President, Marketing Communications and Cultural Tourism, Cherokee Nation Businesses

David Kollmann, President, Central Region, Flintco LLC

Sean Kouplen, Chairman and CEO, Regent Bank

Phil Lakin, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Tulsa Community Foundation

Jim Langdon, Publisher, Langdon Publishing Company

William Lissau, Oklahoma Market President, Bank of America

Robert Martinovich, Executive Vice President and CAO, ONEOK

Susan B. Neal, Executive Director, Gilcrease Museum and the Helmerich Center for American Research. Vice President for Public Affairs, The University of Tulsa

Karl Neumaier, Community Volunteer

Roger Ramseyer, Vice President & Tulsa Market Leader, Cox Communications

Lou Reynolds, Senior Partner, Eller & Detrich

John Rupe, Jr, CEO, Rupe Helmer Group

E. Paul Samuels, Senior VP, Wealth Management, Morgan Stanley

M. Susan Savage, CEO, Morton Comprehensive Health Services, Inc.

David Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer, MidAmerica Industrial Park

Melinda Stinnett, Managing Director, Stinnett & Associates, LLC

David Stratton, Executive Vice President, Tulsa Commercial Banking, Bank of Oklahoma

Steve Turnbo, Chairman Emeritus, Schnake Turnbo Frank

### Foundation Board Intern

Bree Browder, Web Developer, UI/UX Designer

### Staff

Leigh B. Goodson, Ph.D, President & CEO, TCC

Kari Shults, VP of Advancement and President of the TCC Foundation

Mark McMullen, CFO

Mackenzie Wilfong, General Counsel

Megan Korn, Chief Development Officer

Aaron Wilson, Development Officer

Bethany Weaver, Foundation Controller

Ali Abdul, Foundation Accountant

Jill Deutscher, Database Administrator

Mallory Duncan, Coordinator

Sally Osburn, Foundation Board Liaison, part time

## 2022 President's Society

President's Society members contribute a minimum of \$1,000 to the TCC Foundation annually. President's Society contributions provide the College with resources needed to take advantage of unique and often unforeseen opportunities and quickly address critical needs that may otherwise go unanswered.

Join TCC's President's Society online at [tccfoundation.org](http://tccfoundation.org) or call the TCC Foundation office at (918) 595-7977 for assistance. With your membership, you will be invited to attend special events throughout the year, connecting with President Leigh Goodson and learning how your support impacts programming for TCC students.

### Membership Levels

#### PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL:

Individuals and businesses \$10,000+

#### EXECUTIVE LEVEL:

Individuals and businesses \$5,000–\$9,999

#### PLATINUM LEVEL:

Individuals and businesses \$2,500–\$4,999

#### GOLD LEVEL:

Individual donors \$1,000–\$2,499

### 2022 President's Society Members as of 10/1/22

Thank you to our current President's Society members for their support of TCC students and academic programs! Your contributions help put students on pathways to success.

#### Presidential Level

Jim and Susannah Adelson

Ruth Nelson

#### Executive Level

Bank of America

Hilti Inc.

John and Christy Lindsay

Matrix Service Company

The Mervin Bovaird Foundation

John and Stephanie Rupe

#### Platinum Level

Alana Hughes

#### Gold Level

Leeland Alexander

Montie and Betty Box

Pat Bruner

Chandra Carpenter

Joel Carr

Dr. Kristopher and Ranee Copeland

Lisette and Brad Coston

Don Crall

Ramona Curtis

Keidron Dotson

Dr. Peggy Dyer

Ted and Shiela Haynes

Jennifer Jezek/York Electronic Systems

Eileen Kenney and Dr. Bill Ivy

Megan and James Korn

Phil Lakin

Dr. Joseph McDonald and Mrs. Nancy McDonald

Teresa Meinders Burkett

Rick and Susan Neal

Evelyn Nienhuis

Jim and Ronda Norton

Pierce and Debbie Norton

Tony O'Connor

Susanne and Millard Pickering

Julie and Justin Porterfield

David and Cheryl Poth

Roger and Terri Ramseyer

Michael and Cathryn Render

Bernard and Marcy Robinowitz

Kari and Matt Shults

Dr. Angela and Mary Sivadon

David and Cassie Stratton

Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation

Sean Weins

### Lifetime Members

Robin Ballenger

Howard and Billie Barnett

Konnie Boulter

The Honorable Terry Kern and Mrs. Jeanette Kern

Caron and Shawn Lawhorn

Bill and Pat McKamey

Dr. Frank and Mrs. Mary Baker Shaw

Jana Shoulders

State Farm Insurance Company

*Note: Lifetime memberships are no longer available*





**\$61,049,550**

Total Financial Aid awarded to date

Students save between \$22,000 - \$30,000 on the first two years of college compared to other regional schools

**19:1**

Student-teacher ratio

**45%**

Minority students

**26%**

First-generation students

95.1% of students said if they were to start college over again, they would choose TCC again (TCC Student Survey)

**67%**

of graduating students complete TCC debt-free



# At A Glance

38 incarcerated men earned degrees and certificates through TCC's Second Chance Corrections Education program at Dick Conner Correctional Center in Hominy

**\$420,000**

The amount in student scholarships awarded by the Tulsa Community College Foundation in 2022 – the most in the Foundation's history



All-time high for number of degrees or certificates awarded in 2021-2022 – a 25% increase since 2015

 **2,602**

Record number of TCC graduates for 2021-2022

**809,261**

Tulsa Achieves service hours since 2007

**\$3 million**

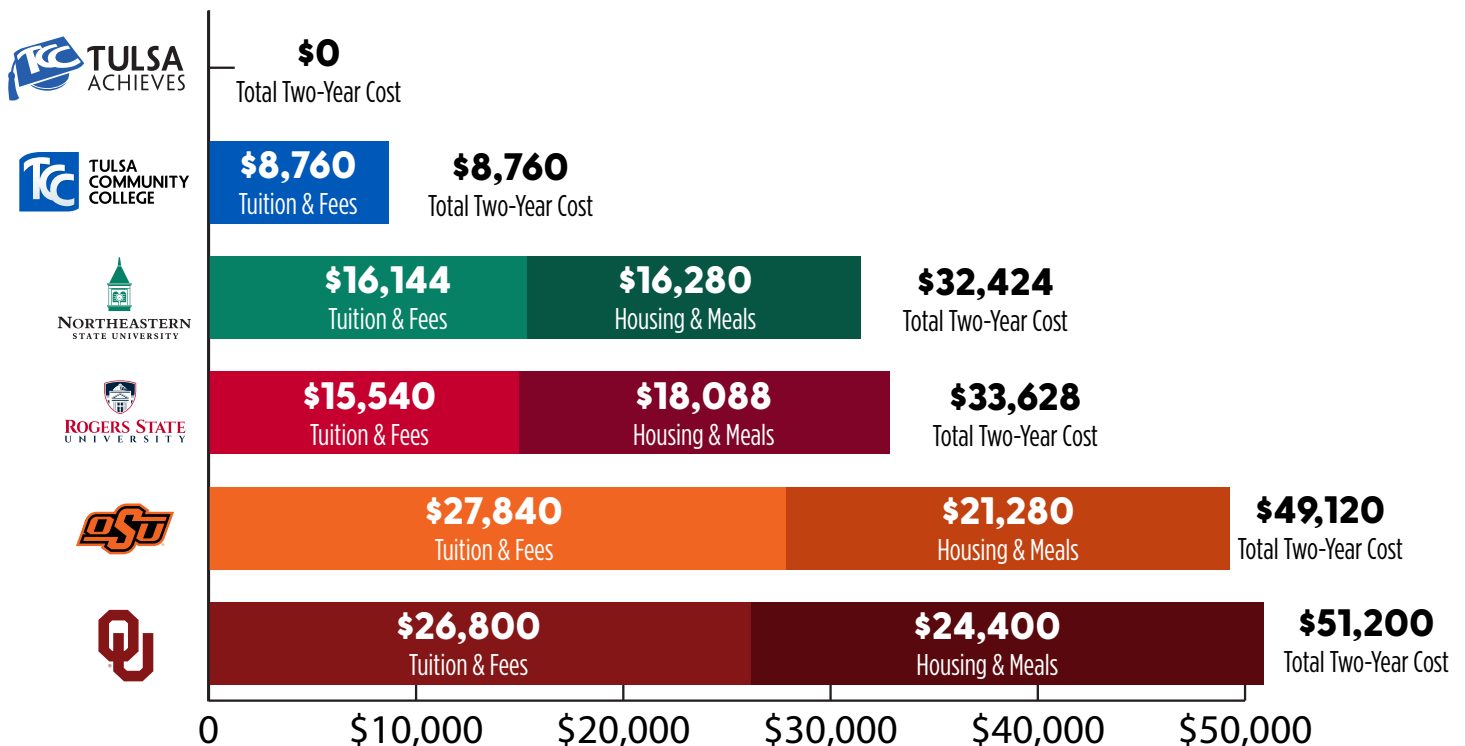
Value of services to the community performed by the TCC Dental Hygiene Clinic since 2009

Serves more Oklahomans than any other college in the state

Only college to be recognized with two national awards by the American Association of Community Colleges in the same year for Student Success and Safety

## COLLEGE COST COMPARISON: FIRST TWO YEARS

INCLUDES TUITION & FEES, HOUSING & MEALS\*



\*Total noted pulled from individual college websites as of 10/4/2022 and reflect two years in college housing.