

Honors Program presents awards including Comby Prize

The Tulsa Community College Honors Program recognized its spring 2022 award winners and graduating Honors Scholars Thursday evening, April 14, at the annual Blue-Carpet TCC Foundation Honors Awards Ceremony. The event, presented by the Honors Program and sponsored by the TCC Foundation, took place at the McKeon Center for Creativity on the college's Metro Campus.

The highest award, the \$1,000 Henry B. Comby III Prize, went to Alyssa Cazier. The award takes its name from the late sociology professor Dr. Hank Comby, who taught TCC's first honors class and continued teaching honors for the rest of his life. It goes to the most outstanding graduating Honors Scholar of the year. Cazier is a graduate of Broken Arrow High School, a sociology major with a 3.9 GPA at TCC, and owner of her own business, Metric Hair Studio.

According to Honors Prof. Gay Phillips, "Alyssa has been a dedicated student, absorbing as much knowledge and understanding of course materials as possible while at TCC. Her academic prowess will serve her well as she moves to a four-year university, and her genuine concern for others will prove a strong asset in her future work. The faculty, staff, and fellow students at TCC are privileged to be a part of her journey."

According to Honors Prof. Shaun Peevsasser, "Alyssa's journey in higher education is a reflection of how TCC can provide academic guidance and opportunity for anyone in the community. Her success as a local business owner prior to enrolling at TCC is a reflection of her personal drive, determination, and motivation. Her ability to absorb academic concepts, apply them to real-life situations, and truly reflect on challenging topics quickly set her apart from other students in her courses. Outside the classroom, she has also contributed to the growth of Sociology at TCC. Alyssa's keen insight as a TCC student has not gone unnoticed - she is currently participating on



Award winners Jess Pavlik, Adrienne Huntley, Christopher Hrnair, Tyme Hopkins, Robi Jenkins

Sociology's full-time faculty search committee."

Continued on next page

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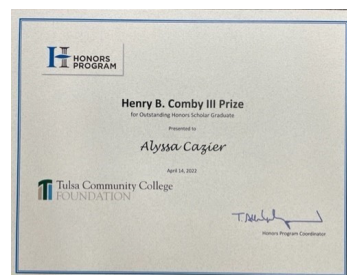


Prof. Allen Culpepper presents O'Neal Award to Jess Pavlik



Prof. Culpepper presents Kontogianes Award to Christopher Hrcir

**See more photos on
Page 8!**



**The Comby Prize went to
Alyssa Cazier**

Kontogianes Award, O'Neal Award, Foundation Awards presented

Continued from previous page

The \$750 Kontogianes Honors Award is named for the late Dr. John Kontogianes, who was TCC's chief academic officer for many years, and is given each year to the Honors Scholar who best exemplifies the qualities of its namesake: intelligence, integrity, love of learning, service, and concern for others. This year's recipient is Christopher Hrcir, a human services/pre-social work major with a home-school background and a 4.0 at TCC. He is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has service experience with the Wesley Foundation and TU and the Salvation Army Center of Hope.

According to Prof. Sharolyn Wallace, "He is a dedicated student who is willing to help in any area. He has a 'can-do' attitude. Recently, he was asked to participate in a trial run of a new program for a community health agency. The vice-president said his input and thoughtfulness in providing feedback for this initiative was invaluable."

The \$350 O'Neal Service Award, named for current TCC English professor and former Honors Program coordinator Susan O'Neal, recognizes significant service to the Honors Program during the last year. This year's recipient, Jess Pavlik, is a 2002 graduate of Jenks High School and a biology major with a 3.7 GPA at TCC and an active honors scholar who has volunteered for many Honors Program tasks and serves as a student member of the Honors Advisory Panel, which also includes faculty, staff members, and administrators.

According to Honors Prof. Neil Enis, "Jess is a true scholar with a passion and talent for scientific research. In Honors Microbiology, she worked to successfully isolate and identify antibiotic-producing bacteria from the soil on Southeast Campus as a part of Tiny Earth, an international undergraduate research organization. She voluntarily conducted independent research that led to her first poster presentation at Oklahoma Research Day.

"Finally, to top off an already wildly successful academic year, we just recently learned that she was selected for a highly coveted summer research internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA. This will be a life-changing experience for her, and I am incredibly excited to watch her flourish as she contributes her talent to astrobiology research that is literally out-of-this world."

Five Honors Scholars received Foundation Honors Awards of \$250 each for outstanding academic performance during the current academic year. This year's recipients were Austin Floyd (political science major, 4.0, Mannford HS 2020), Tyme Hopkins (electrical engineering major, Jenks HS 2019), Adrienne Huntley (business administration major, 4.0, Union HS 2021), Robi Jenkins (pre-nursing, nursing, and Japanese, Chelsea HS 2018), and Sarah Saleh (chemistry major, 4.0, Peace Academy 2020).

All the award winners were nominated by Honors faculty, and all awards were funded by the TCC Foundation.



Adrienne Huntley receives her Foundation Honors Award from Honors Prof. Knox Brown



Honors Scholar Graduates Christopher Hrcir, Jess Pavlik, Christopher Johnson, Elizabeth Gonzales, Daniel Bomer, Joey Gomez, McKailey Holt, Tyme Hopkins, and Antonia Pearl

Honors Scholar Graduates receive medallions at awards ceremony

The Blue-Carpet Awards event also recognized spring and summer Honors Scholar Graduates—those students who are completing all the requirements to graduate from TCC, plus all the requirements for completing the Honors Program successfully. These Scholars are completing 21 hours of Honors classes, or 18 Honors hours plus a designated “high-impact” course, while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or higher; in fact, many of this year’s graduates have a 4.0. Honors Scholar Graduates receive an Honors medallion in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments, not only for this year, but for their TCC career.

Spring/summer 2022 Honors Scholar Graduates are

Daniel Bomer, Mechanical Engineering (Broken Arrow HS 2019)

Ian Buckley, Computer Information Systems (Town & Country School 2019)

Alyssa Cazier, Sociology (Broken Arrow HS 2008)

Austin Floyd, Political Science (Mannford HS 2022)

Joey Gomez, Biology (Owasso HS 2020)

Elizabeth Gonzalez, Pre-Health Science and Mathematics

(Union HS 2020)

McKailey Holt, Biology (Owasso HS 2020)

Christopher Hrcir, Human Services – Social Work (homeschool 2020)

Tyme Hopkins, Electrical Engineering (Jenks HS 2019)

Samuel Hügli, Business Administration (HS in Switzerland)

Christopher Johnson, Liberal Arts (homeschool, 2020)

Makayla Knoche, Pre-Health Sciences (Skiatook HS 2020)

Jess Pavlik, Biology (Jenks HS 2002)

Antonia Pearl, Mechanical Engineering (Okay HS 2018)

Melissa Ramirez, Liberal Arts (Union HS 2020)

Sarah Saleh, Chemistry (Peace Academy 2020)

Edwin Sanchez, Mechanical Engineering (Union HS 2020)

Anna Wilson, Liberal Arts



www.tulsacc.edu/honors



Honors Scholar Graduates Christopher Hrcir, Jess Pavlik, Christopher Johnson, Elizabeth Gonzales, Daniel Bomer, Joey Gomez, McKailey Holt, Tyme Hopkins, and Antonia Pearl relate their post-TCC plans



Graduating Scholars McKailey Holt and Joey Gomez looking stylish and doing Owasso proud



Prof. Culpepper calls on graduating Scholars to tell their plans; in the audience: Adrienne Huntley, Prof. Mike McWilliams, Scholar Aviel Spurgeon and guest



Graduating Scholar Tyme Hopkins accepts his Foundation Honors Award from Prof. Culpepper



Honors medallions go to all Honors Scholar Graduates, including award winners Sarah Saleh, Austin Floyd, and Alyssa Cazier, who were unable to attend the ceremony.

Thanks to Profs. Melissa Masse, Amanda Bailey, and Knox Brown for assisting with the presentations. Thanks to Prof. Bailey and Dean Cindy Shanks for helping with photos.



TCC Honors Scholar alumnus Dylan Bruton, TCC Honors student Josiah Parks, Wichita State University honors student (and poster winner) Kaitlyn Hemberger, and TCC Honors Prof. Heather Wilburn chat before the opening-night dinner at the Great Plains Conference.

Bruton, Parks, Wilburn, and Culpepper represent TCC at Great Plains

Recent Honors Scholar alumnus Dylan Bruton (December 2021 graduate), Honors student Josiah Parks, Honors Prof. Heather Wilburn (Philosophy), and Honors Coordinator Prof. Allen Culpepper represented the TCC Honors Program at the 2022 conference of the Great Plains Honors Council, the regional honors organization of which we are a part. This year's conference took place March 18-20 in Wichita, and was co-hosted by Wichita State University and Hutchinson

Community College. Parks presented a well received paper, "Existentialism as a Human Necessity: A look at the film *Groundhog Day*," and the whole TCC crew attended poster presentations, the opening dinner on Friday, paper presentations and excursions on Saturday, and the awards dinner on Saturday night. Bruton and Parks were also members of the team that took second place in the annual GPHC trivia competition.



Dylan Bruton (TCC), Weltron Bitange (Dallas College), Josiah Parks (TCC), two other members of the trivia team that Bruton and Parks were on, and Prof. Heather Wilburn (TCC) enjoy conversation over dinner on Saturday evening.

A brief quotation from Josiah's presentation on *Groundhog Day*

"On the surface level, towards the end of the film [*Groundhog Day*], Phil starts reading, helping people, ice sculpting, playing piano, things that people would deem 'worth the time.' But in broader terms, Phil is both exploiting the infinite time he is given, therefore controlling the day instead of the day controlling him, but also choosing to take action even when the universe itself shows nothing but hostility and absurdity. " –Josiah Parks



Josiah giving his presentation on existentialism in "Groundhog Day."



Dylan and Josiah showing off their martial-arts moves beneath the Keeper of the Plains statue in Wichita's Veterans Park.



Allen making new friends on the Sedgwick County Zoo excursion



2022
Great
Plains
logo for
confer-
ence in
Wichita



Dylan talking with a poster presenter on Friday evening

TCC Honors Program...
...a great path to transfer!



HONORS PROGRAM AT TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



- » Take an Honors class (anyone can)
- » Accumulate Honors hours to get an Honors Certificate
- » Become an Honors Scholar for the full Honors experience



The Honors Program has a new promotional poster with a QR code that can be scanned for more information about Honors. The poster, suggested by Admin. Asst. Sahar Enis and designed by Michael Cortez in TCC Marketing, has been placed in Advising areas on the four TCC campuses, and we hope to have it placed in Libraries as well.

Tourists vs. travelers in higher education

T. Allen Culpepper, Honors Program coordinator

Imagine that you're taking a trip and you come to a mountain. At the foot of the mountain there's a tour guide with a striped umbrella urging you to hurry and board the bus that will take you through a tunnel to the other side of the mountain. The tourists will follow instructions and take the bus ride—it's fast, it's easy, the driver knows the route well. The downside, though, is that they won't experience the mountain, only the bus and the tunnel. The real travelers, though, will resist and make their own way: They'll climb the mountain or engineer a better tunnel or build a flying machine to take them over the mountain for the thrilling view.

Recent trends in higher education convey to students—whether intentionally or not-- the message that education is something they should get through as quickly and efficiently possible, that they should take the bus through the tunnel and not be distracted by the sights along the way. In Honors, though, we see things a bit differently. We encourage intellectual travel, not merely intellectual tourism. We want students to forge their own paths and see all the sights.

We all want to reach our destination, and we all get tired sometimes and settle for the bus, and that's OK once in a while, but I urge you never to let it become your default. Don't be the tourist who took the trip but missed the journey. Experience the mountain, not just the bus ride through the tunnel!



Honors Scholars Tyme Hopkins, Seth Cottman, and Avi Spurgeon staff the Honors Program table at BluePrint 2022.

Three Honors professors retiring

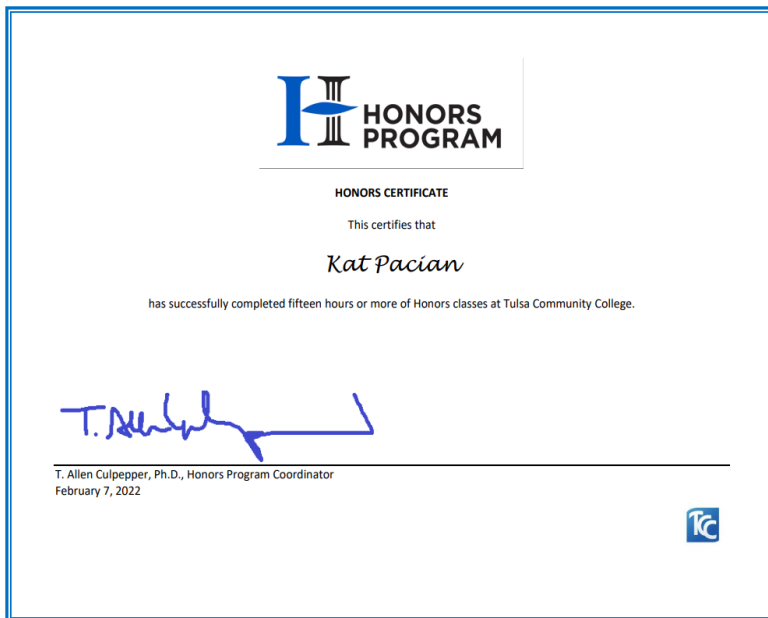
Honors faculty members Gay Phillips (Sociology), Pam Kannady (English), and Rob Katz (Music and Humanities) are retiring this year.

The Honors Program is presenting them with certificates of commendation for their dedications to Honors education over the years.

We congratulate them on their retirement, and wish them the best at whatever they take on next!



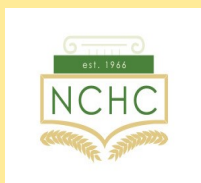
Honors Scholars Hector Baños Ramos, Justin Moua, and Adrienne Huntley (recipient of a Foundation Honors Award) with Honors Political Science Prof. Knox Brown.



Honors Scholar Kat Pacian received the Honors Certificate this semester



Alyssa Cazier shows off her Honors medallion and Comby Prize certificate



Did you know?

The TCC Honors Program is an active member of the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Great Plains Honors Council.

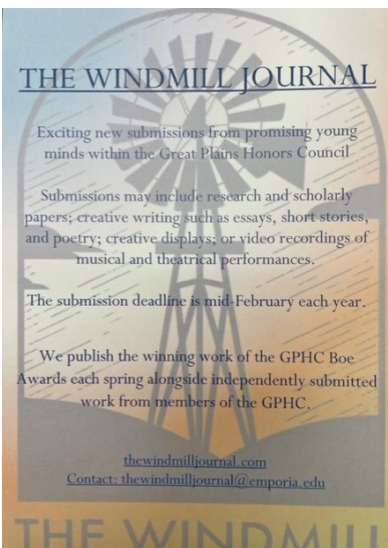




Town Hall with Dr. Gates

Among those attending the Tulsa Town Hall lecture by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and the associated luncheon at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center were Honors Scholar Sunny Wachsmuth (far left), Honors faculty including Pros. Kristen Marangoni (next to Wachsmuth), Profs. Ureka Williams, Pam Kannady, and Susan O'Neal (near the center), and Honors Advisory Panel member and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Prof. Dewayne Dickens.

"The Tulsa Town Hall lecture by Henry Louis Gates was very inspirational, funny, and informative. I enjoyed hearing about his life story and how his path led him to help so many discover their ancestry. During the student forum he informed us that he started at a Community College, which was great to hear from a world-renowned Harvard Scholar like Henry Louis Gates."—Sunny Wachsmuth



THE WINDMILL JOURNAL

Exciting new submissions from promising young minds within the Great Plains Honors Council

Submissions may include research and scholarly papers; creative writing such as essays, short stories, and poetry; creative displays; or video recordings of musical and theatrical performances.

The submission deadline is mid-February each year.

We publish the winning work of the GPHC Boe Awards each spring alongside independently submitted work from members of the GPHC.

thewindmilljournal.com
Contact: thewindmilljournal@emporia.edu

TCC Honors Scholars are invited to submit scholarly and creative work to GPHC's new student journal, *The Windmill*

In conversation: Prof. Boutot on Russia/Ukraine

The Honors Conversations series continued this semester with Prof. Mike Boutot from Political Science as the guest. Prof. Boutot shared his perspectives on the current hostilities and talked with Honors students about their thoughts and questions. The conversation group met at The Perk (Starbucks) at Metro Campus April 11.

Prof. Boutot, who teaches Political Science classes at TCC, has a BA in Political Science (minor in Russian Language), MA in Russian History, and JD in Law from TU. He studied in Zelenograd, Russia, at the Moscow Institute of Electronic Technology, where he earned a certificate in Russian Language and Culture, and in Moscow, where he completed a certificate in Russian Law.

The Honors Conversations series aims to provide informal small-group discussions in which Scholars have a chance to talk with a guest about a particular topic and/or meet a TCC person they might not otherwise have the opportunity to talk with.



TCC/OSU (Stillwater) Honors transfer agreement updated

An updated transfer agreement between the TCC Honors Program and the OSU Honors College is now in place. The final signature was added on April 27, and the agreement is now official. The TCC Honors Program and OSU Honors College have had an agreement for many years, but some recent changes to the requirements for both programs necessitated an updated agreement. We are also working toward a similar agreement with OSU-Tulsa, which has recently launched its own honors program.

Honors anatomy students help out at Animal Welfare

Prof. Amanda Bailey's Honors anatomy class went to help out at Tulsa Animal Welfare on April 26 and May 3.

Students used their knowledge of anatomy (and a little physiology) to safely recover over 25 animals who were spayed and neutered. This not only helps mitigate the animal overpopulation crisis in Tulsa, but it also gets individual animals adoptable!



Honors anatomy students Emma Carruthers, Charlie Green, and Sydney Palmer at City of Tulsa Animal Welfare.



TCC students Emma Carruthers, Zar Soe, Charlie Green, and Sydney Palmer from Prof. Amanda Bailey's Honors anatomy class assist pups with recovery after spaying/neutering.



Newman Fellowship winner

Honors Scholar Mar Shevchenko was selected for the 2022-23 Newman Civic Fellowship, which recognizes students who stand out for their commitment to creating positive change in communities locally and around the world. They volunteer with the Terence Crutcher Foundation.



**Honors represented
in *Tulsa Review's*
2022 issue**

Honors Scholar Chidera Nwachukwu's visual-art piece "Lady with a White Scarf" was chosen for publication in the 2022 issue of *Tulsa Review*, TCC's journal of the literary and creative arts.

Honors Coordinator Allen Culpepper's poem "The Cat Considers Her Poetic Companion" was also selected.

Honors Scholars Andrea Gipson and Hannah Moua were on the journal's staff, and Honors Prof. Josh Parish was the advisor.

The journal is viewable online at tulsaccreview.com.

Thanks to Railey Field and Chris Johnson for representing Honors at the Southeast Campus New Student Orientation in April!



Honors Coordinator Allen Culpepper braved an unexpected snow-storm to represent Honors at the Hispanic Student Summit at Southeast Campus.



**Honors Program
Tulsa Community
College
Metro Campus
Room 523C
honors@tulsacc.edu**





“ My Honors instructors required much more of their students - not by increasing the workload, but by encouraging independent learning. ”

“ I have been given the priceless opportunity to meet other students who are as dedicated and determined about learning as I am. ”

“ The Honors program has really helped to develop me - not only into the student I strive to be, but the kind of individual I want to be in life. ”

The Honors Program Experience

When you are admitted to the Tulsa Community College Honors Program, you become part of a learning community that offers unique opportunities for highly motivated students. Smaller classes, travel opportunities, hands-on-learning activities, and in-depth teaching by Honors faculty take your college experience to a higher level.

Requirements

To become an Honors Scholar, you will need to complete an application, submit an essay, provide a recommendation from an educator, and meet two of the following criteria. You need to meet at least two criteria from Category 1 or at least one criterion from Category 1 plus at least one criterion from Category 2.

Category 1:

- Composite ACT score of 25 or higher;
- Combined SAT score of 1200 or higher;
- Unweighted 3.5 GPA from an accredited high school;
- Top 10% ranking in high school graduating class;
- 90+ percentile ranking on the GED;
- 3.5 or higher GPA on a minimum of 12 earned semester hours at TCC or another regionally accredited college or university;
- Completion of two TCC Honors credit courses with grades of A or B;
- Comparable academic results from an international secondary school.

If you are not a current TCC student, we will need a transcript sent from your school.

Category 2:

- Membership in high school honor society (National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, or another state honor society);
- Documented demonstration of special abilities, awards, and/or academic or creative achievements or other significant accomplishments.

How to Apply

To apply online, visit the TCC Honors Program's website at tulacc.edu/honors



“ Los instructores de Honores requerían mucho más de sus estudiantes, no aumentando la carga de trabajo, sino fomentando el aprendizaje independiente. ”

“ Se me ha dado la oportunidad invaluable de conocer a otros estudiantes que son tan dedicados y decididos a aprender como yo. ”

“ El Programa de Honores realmente ha ayudado con mi desarrollo, no solo al crear al estudiante que yo me esfuerzo en ser, sino también al tipo de persona que yo quisiera ser en la vida. ”

La experiencia con el programa de Honores

Cuando tú eres aceptado en el programa de Honores de Tulsa Community College, te vuelves parte de una comunidad de aprendizaje que ofrece oportunidades únicas para estudiantes altamente motivados. Las clases son más pequeñas, hay oportunidades para viajar, actividades de aprendizaje práctico, e instrucción más profunda por los profesores de Honores quienes llevarán tu experiencia académica a un nivel superior.

Requisitos

Para solicitar admisión al programa, es necesario escribir un ensayo, enviar una recomendación de un educador y cumplir con dos de los siguientes criterios de la Categoría 1 ó un criterio de la Categoría 1 y un criterio de la Categoría 2.

Categoría 1:

- Puntaje compuesto de ACT de 25 o más;
- Puntaje de SAT de 1200 o más;
- GPA de 3.5 o más de una escuela preparatoria;
- Rango del 10% superior en la generación de graduados de escuela preparatoria;
- Clasificación de percentiles 90+ en el examen GED;
- GPA de 3.5 o más con un mínimo de 12 horas semestrales ganadas en TCC u otra universidad acreditada regionalmente;
- Finalizar dos cursos de Honores con crédito en TCC con calificaciones de A o B;
- Resultados académicos comparables de una escuela de educación media internacional.

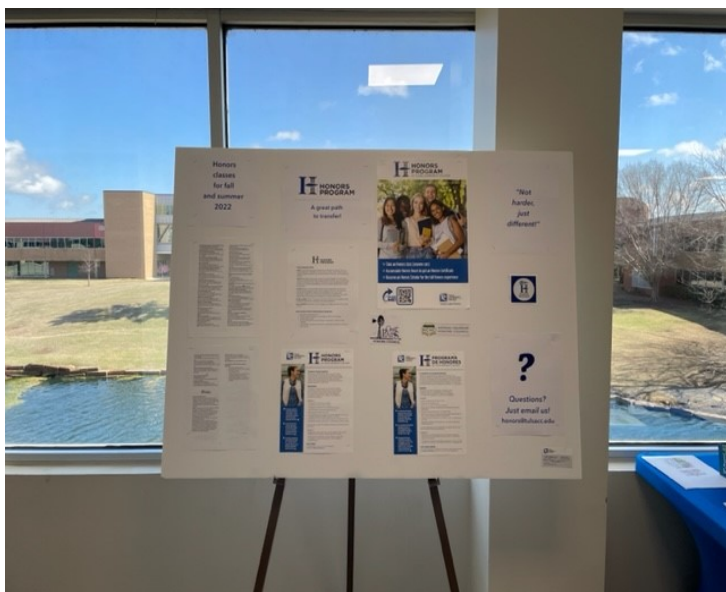
Si no eres estudiante de TCC actualmente, necesitamos que las notas sean enviadas de tu escuela directamente.

Categoría 2:

- Membresía en una sociedad de honor de la escuela preparatoria (National Honor Society, Oklahoma Honor Society, o sociedad de honor de otro estado);
- Evidencia documentada de habilidades especiales, premios y/o logros académicos o creativos u otros logros importantes, accomplishments.

Como solicitar admisión

Para solicitar admisión al programa de Honores, visita nuestro sitio web en: tulacc.edu/honors. Haz clic en "Honors Scholar application."



A new Honors Program poster display has been "on tour" at Southeast Campus, spending a few days in each building.

Improved training for new Honors Faculty coming soon!

Starting in Fall 2022, TCC faculty members wishing to teach in the Honors Program for the first time will have access to new, expedited Honors training using the Percipio application. This training, which takes less than two hours, will replace the more time-intensive training previously offered as a training course on Blackboard.

Faculty panel discusses Honors teaching at Stayconference 2022

Honors faculty members Amanda Bailey (Biology), Tiffany Engel (Humanities), and David Paige (Mathematics) joined Honors Coordinator Allen Culpepper (English) on a panel about Honors teaching—the joys and challenges, along with assignments and activities that have worked well for them in Honors classes—at the 2022 Stayconference event held on April 29 via Zoom.

Thanks to Cindy Shanks, dean of Engaged Learning; Dr. Douglas Price, director of Global Learning; and Lynn Richmond, retired Honors specialist, for proofreading assistance with this issue of the Honors Newsletter.



The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity

TCC Honors Scholars interested in submitting their creative work or undergraduate research to *URCA: The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity* can find more information on the submission process on the journal's website at <https://nchcureca.com/>. The submission deadline for the 2022 issue is **September 1, 2022**.