The following is an overview of highlights pertaining to the Academic Affairs Division:

- **Nov. 10**  
  Mexican Consulate & Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas at South Texas College

- **Nov. 12**  
  Courtroom Testimony Seminar

- **Nov. 13**  
  3rd PMT STEM Workshop

- **Nov. 14**  
  National Distance Learning Week at South Texas College

- **Nov. 15**  
  Amistades Concert Series 2014

- **Nov. 20**  
  Fall 2014 Lecture Series

- **Nov. 22**  
  Rio Grande Valley Latino Regional Summit

- **Nov. 25**  
  Starr County’s Got Talent 6

- **Nov. 26**  
  Guest Speaker-Leo Lopez III Motivational/Inspirational Talks
On **Monday, November 10, 2014**, South Texas College (STC), The Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas (UAT), the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), and McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) met at the Mexican Counsel in McAllen, Tx.

Representatives from each college convened to discuss future partnerships between the three colleges.

The institutions future partnerships may include joint academic, information exchange, expert, instructional materials, and other items deemed necessary to reinforce one respective capabilities schools around other projects, cultural exchanges.
On **November 12, 2014**, The Division of Business & Technology, Police Academy, Fire Science and Paralegal hosted a **Courtroom Testimony Seminar** at the Technology Campus auditorium. Ricardo Rodriguez, Hidalgo County District Attorney-Elect was the guest speaker for this event. He informed police officers and cadets on how to prepare for trial. His advice to cadets:

- Always tell the truth
- Check body language
- Don’t get upset during the trail
- Study your reports
- Be professional
- Dress for the event

Approximately **60 guests** as well as Police officers from Alamo, Pharr, South Texas College, and Sheriff’s Department attended the seminar.
On **November 13th, 2014**, the *Precision Manufacturing Technology* program hosted their **3rd STEM Workshop event**. Participants of the event included:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Directors
- Counselors and Instructors from Donna ISD
- Weslaco ISD
- Rio Grande City ISD
- PSJA ISD
- Progresso ISD

Participants fabricated a desk name plate out of aluminum material using Milling Machines, Auto CAD software and the CNC Milling machine with the support of STC certified instructors and Lab assistants.

The event is geared towards STEM counselors and teachers to *expose them into the Precision Manufacturing Technology program and experience hands on what students learn, and to assist in the advising of future students.*

It was a successful event, all the participants learned and enjoyed the fabrication process, and they provided very positive feedback and will recommend this event to others.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 AM – 8:30 AM</td>
<td>Welcome and PMT overview</td>
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<td>8:30 AM – 8:45 AM</td>
<td>Introductions: Roles and Responsibilities</td>
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<td>8:45 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Project Approach and Directions</td>
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<td>9:00 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Lab Work (Hands-On) Process and Steps</td>
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<td>11:15 AM – 11:45 AM</td>
<td>CNC Demonstration (Mill and Lathe)</td>
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<td>11:45 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Questions/Dismissal</td>
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November 10 – 14th, 2014, is National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) and South Texas College Distance Education Department has planned various exciting activities for both students and faculty.

The purpose of National Distance Learning Week is to generate greater awareness and appreciation for Distance Learning, including K-12, Higher Education, Corporate and Military.

The Distance Education Department we will host events such as:

- Webinars
- Course showcases
- Daily trivia
- Open House

Additional information can be found in the distance education website: [http://vc.southtexascollege.edu/national-distance-learning-week/](http://vc.southtexascollege.edu/national-distance-learning-week/)
On November 15, 2014, Ballet Folklórico South Texas College shared the stage with El Ballet Folklórico del Nuevo Santander del Instituto Tecnológico de Reynosa.

This marked the second time that Ballet Folklórico South Texas College shared the stage with another Ballet from an institution of higher education, but the first one from Mexico.

The purpose of the Amistades Concert Series is to showcase the local talent of performers from neighboring institutions of higher education. This was an excellent way in which students were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the fine arts, in particular folkloric dance.

This concert series helped solidify a working relationship with the Ballet Folklórico group at the Instituto Tecnológico de Reynosa, and students gained a positive and rewarding experience to continue their education.
Division: Business and Technology
Department: Computer Aided Drafting and Design
Highlight: Fall 2014 Lecture Series

On November 20, 2014, the Computer Aided Drafting and Design Department hosted the second presentation as part of their Fall 2014 Lecture Series. The lecture began with an introduction and brief background of the three mechanical engineers from Halff Associates, Inc.:

- Hugo Avila
- Brian Burmeister (EIT)
- Robert Tijerina (EIT)

The engineers shared their educational background and briefly discussed how they have used Building Information Modeling (BIM) on several projects, particularly the McAllen Performing Arts Center, which is currently under construction at Palms Crossing in McAllen, Texas.

The lecture led to a demonstration of the model as they walked through the project and discussed the mechanical aspects of the building, including the technologically advanced features that went into the design of this structure.

Guests included about 45 faculty, staff, and students from various STC departments, including CADD, Facilities & Operations, Maintenance, Custodial, IAM Welding, Operations and Management, BAT, and History/Philosophy Departments. The South Texas College community is always invited to attend these lectures. The lectures will continue in the Spring 2015 semester.

Contact Assistant Professor Sara Lozano (smcardoz@southtexascollege.edu, 956.872.6180) or Assistant Professor Margarita Vanguelova (mgvangue@southtexascollege.edu, 956.872.6228) for more information.
On November 22, 2014, The Mid Valley Political Science Club hosted the Rio Grande Valley Latino Regional Summit. The Summit featured members of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus, including Representative Armando Martinez and Senators Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, José Rodriguez and Sylvia Garcia. Other speakers included:

- Dr. Daniel King (PSJA Superintendent)
- Celina Morena (MALDEF)
- Ana De Frates (National Inst. For Latina Reproductive Health)
- Astrid Dominguez (ACLU)
- Rene Lara (AFL-CIO)
- Michael Siefert (Equal Voices Network).

The participants discussed a number of issues of importance in the upcoming 84th legislative session, including education, healthcare, immigration, economic opportunities and civic engagement. Approximately one hundred people were in the audience for this event, including approximately forty STC students.
Academic Affairs Highlight

November 2014

Division: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department: Psychology – Starr County Campus Psychology Club
Highlight: Starr County’s Got Talent 6

On **November 25, 2014**, the **Starr County Campus Psychology Club** hosted **Starr County’s Got Talent 6** from 6-8 pm at STC Starr County Campus Auditorium. The theme of the talent show was “Hollywood.”

- **Over $900 was fundraised** via participation and attendance fees
- **15 performances** (singers, dancers, musicians, models, duets, children to adults)
- **200 people were in attendance** (including several community leaders)
  - Roma ISD Board President Leticia Garza Galvan
  - City of Rio Grande Public Relations Marlene Mendoza

Mr. Alex Sarabia served as Master of Ceremonies and Dr. Arturo Montiel delivered opening remarks. The judges for the event were:

- Grammy-Nominated Composer/Singer **Roy Escobedo**
- La Voz Kids Contestant and Best Mariachi Vocalist in U.S. **Jackelyn Barrera**
- Founding Director of Mariachi Nuevo Santander of Roma ISD **Yamil Yunes**
- Stand-Up Comedian **Sonia Trevino**
- Photographer **Alaa Marzouk**
- Singer **Gabby Tamez**

Several judges had opening performances, whereas RGC Veterans Middle School Mariachi Juvenil de America closed the show. Miss Starr County 2015 Gloria Alejandra Vargas presented judges with certificate of appreciation and also presented 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies to the top winners: All contestants received a certificate of appreciation/recognition for competing.

- Victoria Rosa (1st place/singer)
- Christian Salinas (2nd place/pianist)
- Aylani Toscano (3rd place/dancer)
On **November 26, 2014**, Leo Lopez III, Rio Grande City native and South Texas College alumni (2007, DEMSA) served as guest speaker in several psychology classes at STC Starr County Campus.

Classes Leo Lopez was a guest speaker:

- PSYC 2301 General Psychology
- PSYC 2307 Adolescent Psychology
- PSYC 2314 Life Span Growth & Development

Mr. Lopez is a fourth year medical student and soon-to-be doctor. He delivered motivational/inspirational talks where he elaborated on his medical school and mission experiences, film-making, community service, and his recent **Ted Talk** (TedX) in San Antonio.

He also shared some of his achievements, obstacles and how he overcame those, and offered college advice to the students. At the end, there was a Q&A session where students asked Leo questions. Students provided excellent feedback!