

# THE COLLEGIAN

SERVING THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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## College fires NE president

**Source: Appeals to board, EEOC have been filed**

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Kenya Ayers-Palmore said she was fired from her job as former NE Campus president and is fighting back.

"I am in the process of addressing the actions taken to remove me from leadership and cannot say more at this time," Ayers-Palmore said in a statement to The Collegian.

A source familiar with the situation explained the former president's termination Oct. 27 did not follow due process. Ayers-Palmore filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, received Nov. 4 and filed an appeal with the board of trustees Nov. 9, the source said.

"She will defend her right, she will engage legal counsel because she has to have it for the formal appeal that the [college] offers," the source said. "And then for any litigation, she will exhaust all of her administrative remedies."

Reginald Gates, vice chancellor of communications and external affairs, said the college cannot comment on personnel matters.

In June, Ayers-Palmore was evaluated and received a positive rating, the source said. In the termination letter served to her, however, the source said it detailed Ayers-Palmore's failure to follow the chancellor's orders, though this was not mentioned in the evaluation.

At the time of her dismissal, Ayers-Palmore did not have a contract with the



File photo/The Collegian

Kenya Ayers-Palmore talks to a faculty member during the Welcome Week event on NE Campus in August. Ayers-Palmore was fired as NE president Oct. 27.

“

**My mission as an educator is to build the next generation of leaders who lead authentically and guide our organization to greater peace, wisdom and justice.”**

- Kenya Ayers-Palmore

college, even though she repeatedly asked for one, according to the source. This was used against her in the termination letter.

"She kept asking for it and was told and assured she would get one," the source said. "There was no reason why she would think she wouldn't get one, but she never got one."

In Ayers-Palmore's statement, she explains that she hoped to lead NE Campus to success for not just the employees, but

students as well.

"I looked forward to doing so much longer to grow our beloved NE Campus in alignment with the greater College goals," she said. "Unfortunately, that work has now been cut short."

Ayers-Palmore started as president in July 2019. Prior to TCC, she was the vice president and chair of the board for Northwest Educational Council for Student

Success in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

NE Campus employees were notified at 11:33 a.m. Oct. 30 through an email from Chancellor Elva LeBlanc that Ayers-Palmore was no longer serving as president.

Jan Clayton, who had been NW vice president of student affairs, was named interim president.

Students did not receive notification of her leave, however, and some found out that same day attending the Student Empowerment Forum with the President event at 12:30 p.m. They were confused to find she was not there.

The announcement email explained that the search for the NE Campus president is to happen immediately. Listings for the position were put out on The Chronicle of Higher Education and TCC's job listing website Nov. 3.

"I am confident that with your support and that of all the faculty and staff, we will continue to move forward in service to our students and community," LeBlanc said in the email.

Ayers-Palmore said that she was honored to serve the college despite her abrupt exit and encouraged the campus community to persevere.

"I will learn and grow from this experience," she said in the statement. "My mission as an educator is to build the next generation of leaders who lead authentically and guide our organization to greater peace, wisdom and justice. I trust that you will pick up the mantle from here."

**ONLINE**

Read Ayers-Palmore's full letter to The Collegian at: [collegian.tccd.edu](http://collegian.tccd.edu)

DISTRICT

## Former VP appeals retaliation lawsuit

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TCC's former vice president for development plans to appeal her lawsuits against the college that led to the departure of former Chancellor Eugene Giovannini in 2022.

Kristin Bennett asked the court Oct. 16 to dismiss her Title VII retaliation claim, according to the case document. The court agreed Nov. 1.

Nine other claims by Bennett were previously dismissed by the court. Nothing has been filed since, but she has several more weeks to file.

The appeal, once filed, will be heard by the federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, according to TCC's general counsel Carol Bracken.

The Title VII retaliation claim was the final claim, and Bracken said TCC was well-prepared and ready for the trial Oct. 31.

However, a few days before, Bennett's attorney, Frank Hill, filed a motion to dismiss the last remaining claim, and Judge Jane Boyle granted his request.

The dismissal was made "with prejudice," meaning Bennett will not be able to appeal that claim in the future.

Hill explained that the main charge among the nine remaining claims is that Bennett had the right to a due process hearing, but it was refused.

"It's been a phenomenal thing that the district has always resisted giving constitutional due process over these years, and I

do not know what the root of that mindset is," he said

Hill has not just represented Bennett, but many former TCC employees as well. He said they all relate in a major way.

"Most of the cases centered around the refusal to give due process," he said.

He believes there are various reasons why the former employees he has represented are fighting for due process.

He says it seems like a mindset TCC has to move for quick termination.

“

**It's been a phenomenal thing that the district has always resisted giving constitutional due process over these years, and I do not know what the root of that mindset is.**

**Frank Hill**

Attorney for former Vice President Kristin Bennett

”

"In the Tarrant County College District, there has been a long mindset that the employment human relations concept is that it's us against them," he said. "It's the administration against faculty and against employees. And if there's the slightest evidence that the faculty person did something wrong, the Tarrant County College mentality is, 'Let's jump on it.'"

SOUTHEAST

## 'Dead Man's Cell Phone' production dials up story of missed connections

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SE theater department sees dead people. They play them too.

The play "Dead Man's Cell Phone" will open from Nov. 15-17. It centers on Jean, played by SE student Isara Al-Hilo, dealing with the aftermath of discovering a dead man next to her.

"A man dies. But his phone continues to ring," Director Drew Hampton said. "Does that keep him alive? And what zany realities might it create for those that truly are living?"

The play had several pull-factors for Hampton that led him to select it.

"It checks a lot of boxes for us: cast-able with our students, appropriately challenging and timely themes to name a few," Hampton said. "It's also a pleasantly quirky show I've had on my 'want to direct' list for a while."

In their past productions, certain plays would demand actors to take several parts.

Having a larger cast for "Dead Man's Cellphone" eliminates the struggle of switching between roles, but SE student Haleigh Ferguson acknowledged there are still struggles.

"[Al-Hilo] has a lot of dialogue with different people," Ferguson said. "I know that can be difficult knowing how to talk to different characters."

Hampton looks forward to the audience seeing the visuals of the show.

"More than most shows I've directed, this is a fairly busy and



Alex Hoben/The Collegian

SE students Haleigh Ferguson and Isara Al-Hilo act on stage during rehearsals for "Dead Man's Cell Phone." The play opens Nov. 15.

creative technical production," Hampton said. "With all the spectacle we have in store, this may be one of the most visually memorable productions our department has created."

SE student Angelica Valdez stepped out of her comfort zone to play Hermia, the dead man's widow.

"Compared to the other characters, she's very loud. She's very prideful. She cares a lot about herself," she said. "I'm a very shy person. I'm not whisper-loud but I'm very low-toned so this character was kind of hard for me."

"Dead Man's Cell Phone" is the first play Valdez acted in. She

was in two of Hampton's classes and he says has enjoyed watching her growth as an actor.

"She's always been talented and focused, and it's been lovely to see her confidence begin to catch up," Hampton said.

It was difficult for Al-Hilo to sum up the theme of the play in just one word. However, she hopes the audience can witness how each character moves through grief.

"There's a lot of themes," Al-Hilo said. "Grief in a way. It kind of takes the story of how each character goes through it, and Jean trying to make the best of all - trying to help them all with their own way of grieving."

**'Real Stories'**

How homelessness affects college students

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Teachers dissatisfied with having to work multiple jobs

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Horror game turned movie does not deliver on the horror

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**'Priscilla' movie is personal**

Relatable yet unique movie explores self-discovery

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**Students deserve to know**

Why does TCC keep information from student employees?

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DISTRICT

# ‘Real Stories’ shared on homelessness

## Roundtable talk shares sad realities

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Imagine being without comfort. Being without safety. Being without water.

These are all things the first event of the “Real Stories” series concerning college homelessness and basic needs insecurity addressed Nov. 9 in a collaboration between Connect’s faculty and CoAct, a nonprofit organization focused on the solutions for modern challenges.

Jesse Herrera, executive director of CoAct, said that the pandemic has limited their access to current data. However, according to a 2018 Trellis Research Student Financial Wellness Survey for TCC, 32% of students showed signs of very low food insecurity and 52% of students

showed signs of housing insecurity.

Richard Miller, Connect associate professor of art and one of the organizers of the event said one of TCC’s deans introduced him to CoAct. He then noticed that many faculty members are aware of isolated incidents of college homelessness and basic needs insecurity but not the gravity of it.

“You’re familiar with a story here and a story there but you never really made the connection that these are isolated things, that it’s more widespread than we ever thought,” he said.

Miller said he also met with students affected and hearing their stories motivated him to do a presentation, art exhibition and panel discussion with CoAct. As a result of their efforts, they received a \$300,000 Basic Needs Insecurity Grant that aimed to raise awareness and attention to the issue.

As the project coordinator, Ashley Munoz said the basis of the project is to draw awareness to college and youth homelessness and empower people in their positions to be able to create that change, even if it’s the smallest thing through an art gallery.



Ariel DeSantiago/The Collegian

Connect coordinator of student development Darcy Brignac speaks during the “Real Stories” event about the responsibilities faculty have towards their students even outside of the classroom.

She said that the difference between being homeless and having basic needs insecurity is that homelessness is being without a home and not necessarily a house. She said there is often a uniform view

on homelessness and basic needs insecurity, though both can intersect, a homeless student’s experiences are unique, she said.

“When we talk about homelessness, who do you picture?” She

said, “A lot of times you see someone standing on the side of the road, you see the tents, you can spot them all over town.”

Read more about this story online at [collegian.tccd.edu](http://collegian.tccd.edu)

DISTRICT

# Teaching a generation, paycheck to paycheck

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Complications surrounding professor pay raises have put certain professors’ financial stability at risk.

TCC professors have spoken out about how the lacking pay has affected their livelihoods, like Becca Goodwin, NE assistant professor of English.

“The issues surrounding teacher pay are complicated at best,” Goodwin said.

She believes teachers and other first responders on a government budget should receive a higher sal-

ary and that said salary should be balanced.

“As a humanities professor, my pay is often less than other disciplines,” she said. “I do not agree with disproportionate discipline pay like this at the university and college level. Fortunately, TCC pays its faculty based on education and years of experience — wonderful attribute of working here.”

The financial reality of teachers often involves working multiple side jobs to be able to make ends meet, Goodwin said. This reality is one Taryn Seidler, CN adjunct English professor, is currently living.

“I work two jobs,” Seidler said. “My day job is as a high

school teacher in a school district - this is incredibly demanding. Teachers in school districts already claim to be overworked and underpaid. On top of that job, I teach part time here at TCC. I work every minute of every day to pay the bills, and it is exhausting, to say the least.”

According to EdSource and a nonpartisan organization known as Teacher Salary Project, a 2021 nationwide survey of over 1,000 classroom teachers found that “82% of respondents [teachers] said they either currently or previously had taken on multiple jobs to make ends meet” and 53% of that said, “they were currently working multiple

jobs, including 17% who held jobs unrelated to teaching.”

Goodwin said there was a time when she worked multiple part-time jobs while staying home with her children for multiple years.

“For our family, the decision came to this—do I work a FT teaching job and all that income goes towards childcare, or do I only teach part-time and work as a mom?” she said.


When asked about what type of changes should be made in the future to ensure better financial treatment of teachers both state and nationwide, Goodwin said there are some changes that must be made.

“We will not see any change

towards teaching across the nation until we do two things,” she said. “The first [change] is to completely reevaluate and restructure the current education system, and the second is to understand the incredibly challenging job that is teaching. Our students deserve better, and our teachers certainly deserve more respect.”


Seidler agreed, not from the perspective of her TCC position, but her high school teaching career, hoping for more enticing changes across the board.

“A pay raise and a day off each week to grade and prepare would entice me to stay,” she said.



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# PAVING THE WAY FOR TRANSGENDER AWARENESS

Looking at the past to honor the future, remembering those lost



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Transgender Day of Remembrance, observed Nov. 20, is a day to commemorate the lives of transgender individuals who have been killed due to transphobia. It was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith following the murder of Black transgender woman Rita Hester. The day is observed by reading the names of those who were killed the previous year. TDOR falls the day after Transgender Awareness Week, which runs from Nov. 13-19.

- 1906**  
Magnus Hirschfeld performs first gender affirming surgery
- 1931**  
Dora Richster first trans woman to receive gender affirming care
- 1969**  
Stone wall civilian riot against police
- 1972**  
Sweden legalizes gender affirming care, but sterilization was necessary
- 1980**  
Gender dysphoria becomes an official diagnosis
- 1992**  
Althea Garrison elected the first trans state legislator
- 2000**  
First public appearance of Trans Flag at pride parade
- 2009**  
International Trans Day of Visibility
- 2013**  
First discrimination law passes for schools in California
- 2020**  
Megan Youngren is the first openly Trans Olympic trials athlete

Sylvia Rivera was a transgender rights activist who fought against the exclusion of transgender people, especially transgender people of color. Rivera was born in New York City in 1951. In 1963, Rivera met Marsha P. Johnson. The two were actively involved in the Stonewall Inn uprising on June 28, 1969.

Information gathered from National Women's History Museum

MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Five Nights at Freddy's' misses the mark

## Freddy's cinematic debut was mediocre at best, as was his pizzeria

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Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria sells more than pizza, apparently, they sell mediocre fright too.

"Five Nights at Freddy's", inspired by the game released in 2014, follows the lore of William Afton, the owner of Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria.

The premise of it is that he used his family friendly environment to lure five children to their murder. Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria had five animatronics, Freddy, Foxy, Bonnie and Chica who were the stars of each night's fun, performing and dancing to songs for the childrens' entertainment.

He later stuffs the childrens' bodies into the animatronics to avoid the authorities, not knowing the children's souls would possess said animatronics. They aren't harmless though; they try to kill anyone that comes into the abandoned pizzeria to avenge their own deaths.

This includes Mike Schmidt (Josh Hutcherson), the new security guard and his sister Abby whom he drags along because he struggles to find childcare for her as his mom passed away and his dad was out of the picture.

In comes Vanessa, a local police officer who warns him about the pizzeria and finds out that it's because the animatronics he thought weren't working are actually alive and well.

They intend to take Abby's spirit and stuff her body into an animatronic because she was kind to them. I mean who knew ghosts needed companionship too.

The story itself was enough to drag me into the depths of the TikTok FNAF edit hole that I'm still not out of. Please don't be like me and search for origin stories on any platform. That's all you will see for days.

I'm not complaining though, the movie brought the animatronics and the game it's based on to life. Though Schmidt's character story wasn't something I expected, I appreciated it because it added depth to the movie.

It was simple to follow and engaging.

Scary, yes but not scary enough for me to be frightened of watching this in an empty theater.

Though there were definitely times I was frightened by the sight of two glowing eyes staring at me, I didn't exit the theater terrified thinking about it.

Don't get me wrong, the designers of the animatronics, Jim Henson's Creature Shop, really put their creative minds to work and it shows. They looked exactly what I imagined a possessed animatronic would look like, engaging and almost life-like.

It was released near Halloween, that was the perfect opportunity to make me terrified of being in a theater all alone, instead I was just trying to understand why all of the TikTok editors were going berserk over Josh Hutcherson. I'm sorry but I just don't get it, I guess I'm just not that girl.

The casting of Josh Hutcherson was odd, to say the least. It's not that I think actors can't act in whatever genre they choose, it's that since "The Hunger Games" series I haven't seen much of his work.

Mike and Peeta have the same personality traits, especially with how they treated their loved ones. They both had to do things they didn't want to do but did them with no complaint. In a way his previous role prepared him for this one, and he executed it pretty well.

I felt the love Mike had for Abby just like I felt the love Peeta had for Katniss. In a way, I think him being Peeta prepared him into being Mike.

This may be harsh, but it was mediocre and a disappointment. I wanted more jump scares but got mildly frightened at best. It was marketed as a horror film, and I expected it to be as such.

Still, if you're looking for a "scary" film to open for your younger siblings to watch because they think they're grown, then definitely stream this film. But if you want to actually be scared, play the game.

There the actual five nights seem like an eternity and your bladder might just combust because of how many jump scares there are.



Photo courtesy of Universal Studios

Based on a series of video games, the first of which came out in 2014, FNAF has upwards of five different horror games including "Sister Location" among others.

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MOVIE REVIEW

# Priscilla's side of the story, discovering self

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The drama "Priscilla" shares the story of the iconic couple's, Elvis Presley and Priscilla Presley, relationship through the perspective of Priscilla. The film has a young, romantic feel to it, while also capturing all of the moments Priscilla had to evolve into a mature woman while still a girl, and all of the discomfort that came with it.

Before watching the movie I was unaware of the age gap between the two, as well as how old Priscilla was when she met Elvis. Crunching on popcorn in the theater, I was taken aback when I realized their romance had started when she was 14 and he was 24.

The characters bearing witness to their relationship seemed to engage in light gossip about how young she looked, but beyond the commentary, her age doesn't seem to cause any major roadblocks in the progression of their relationship. Aside from still being in high school and needing to graduate, her age is overlooked.

When their relationship was in its infancy, Priscilla's mother frustratingly expresses confusion for why Elvis can't just pursue a partner his own age. Similar to her mother's perspective, viewers can see the way the growing relationship is consuming Priscilla's energy and negatively impacting her. This experience worsens for Priscilla when Elvis leaves Germany to tend to his military duties and further his music career.

While time is going by, Priscilla is stuck longing for Elvis. A couple of years go by before she hears from him. After hoping for contact, he offers her what she's been waiting for. He invites her to his home in Memphis, Tennessee to come spend time with him.

Watching the scenes of her timidly navigating their experiences together was saddening to watch. She looked so young and out of place in a lot of the settings she was in. Priscilla seemed interested in trying to present herself as older than she was.

I appreciated the inclusion of that aspect of her transition from her school-girl home life to her dating someone famous, who's always in the public eye. It's relatable to depict a young girl trying to fit in to the societal expectations she's supposed to adopt,



Photo courtesy of A24

Released Oct. 27, "Priscilla" was played by Cailee Spaeny, Elvis, by Jacob Elordi.

but the film does this while also providing the unique experience of going through this aspect of girlhood while dating someone who has access to all kinds of resources and is sought after by tons of women.

Not too long after her trip, she's living with Elvis. Her parents are conflicted with allowing her to do this and her father comes down to Memphis to give her his goodbye hug. She's still in high school at the time.

If it isn't clear early on in the movie, Elvis inevitably becomes her life. She's not allowed to invite anyone from school over to the house, and she doesn't know anyone or have any friends she can spend time with.

Of course Elvis is a busy man, so in a lot of scenes during the early stages of her living in his home, she's sitting on different couches, trying to study, painting her nails, or playing with the dog Elvis gifted her. While this part of the film is slow-paced, it's necessary in order to convey Priscilla's loneliness...

Read more on [collegian.tccd.edu](http://collegian.tccd.edu)



EDITORIAL

# Students deserve to be in administrative loop

Student employees are being treated like students. And students are being treated like they don't matter at TCC.

Chancellor Elva LeBlanc sent an email Oct. 30 to notify NE faculty, staff and administrators that Kenya Ayers-Palmore would no longer be president of NE Campus.

TCC employs students under several departments from counseling to The Collegian. These departments often depend on the work of student employees to function.

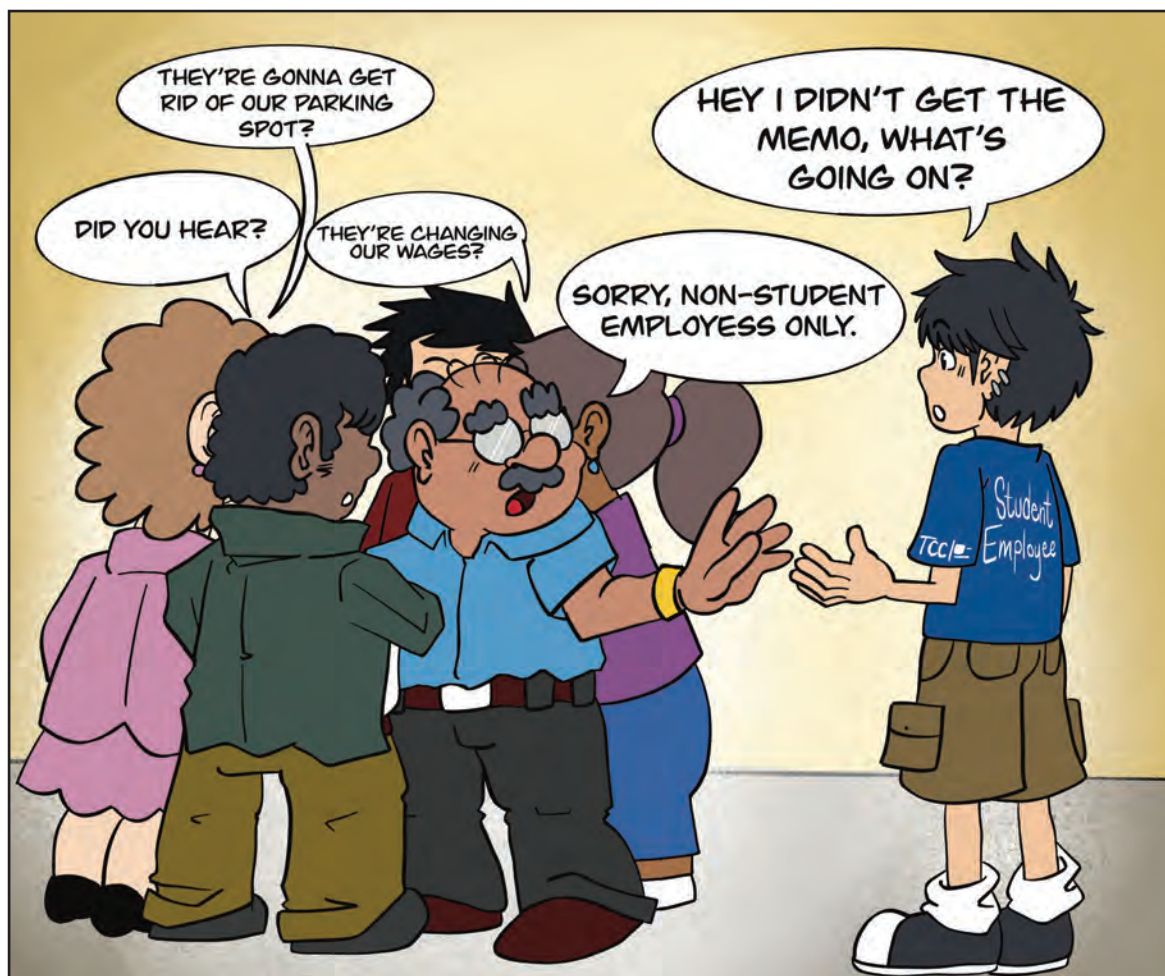
Yet, NE student employees were not sent Chancellor LeBlanc's Oct. 30 email. Do student employees not deserve the same information as faculty and staff? According to the administration, they don't.

When The Collegian reached out to Vice Chancellor Reginald Gates about who receives information regarding campus affairs, he responded that they "target the communication to the employees who need to receive the information."

The Collegian reports on news happening at TCC. If we are not the employees who "need to receive" breaking news on our campus, who is?

In response to student employees not being included on the Oct. 30 email, Gates said that "we'll make certain that Northeast Campus supervisors share the information with their student employees."

But that is the problem. This



Tj Favela / The Collegian

administrative game of telephone is already how news is relayed to student employees. And shocker, it isn't efficient.

While we reap the benefits of fair wages and the free food from Career Services, we aren't being

communicated properly to about integral information on our campus – on the student or employee level.

Most students can attest that the Transfer Center goes above and beyond to reaching out to students. Even if you have never stepped foot

into a Transfer Center, your inbox is probably full of alerts of university visits or college tours. Yet the only time students are notified about newsworthy events by TCC itself is when there is a closure or a lockdown. The communication between

TCC and the student body operates at the bare minimum. While we can be grateful that we all receive a call when inevitably another building malfunctions at NW, this should not be the only type of information we receive.

At community college, student involvement is stressed heavily. Being at a commuter school makes it more difficult for students to get involved. At TCC, administration has made several efforts to encourage students to join clubs or work for the school, and faculty and staff are encouraged to engage with students and attend campus events. Administration asks students to get involved, but they don't involve us.

Though we have six campuses, TCC always stresses the "one college" mindset. But to function as "one college," it requires communication. Not informing the student body when their president leaves does not foster an environment for a united college. For a mission statement that encourages faculty and staff to form positive relationships with students, TCC has not fostered an environment in which students can do so.

Students pay hundreds or thousands of dollars every semester to attend TCC. We don't need an alert anytime something happens. But with an event as big as a president leaving, we need to hear it directly from administration.

VIEWPOINTS

## Us as individuals have the power to make big decisions



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2020 was one of the first times I realized how intense a presidential election could be. I was in high school at this point, and though none of us could vote all of us had an opinion. For those of us who could drive, there were flags on trucks and stickers on bumpers. It was a tense day at school Jan. 7, 2021.

John Green once wrote in a Tweet, "Public education does not exist to benefit parents, or for that matter students. It exists to benefit the social order." I quote this because for young voters, this is vital. It is one thing to be involved in politics, and a whole other to understand it.

That quote makes me think back to the kids with their flags and bumper stickers. How many of them were following in their parent's footsteps and how many found their own path, I have no idea. But it was worrisome to hear a large sum talk about their favorite politicians like characters on a TV show, instead of people who could have the power to revoke or give rights at a whim. And the fights that would ensue could have put the 2020 presidential debates to shame.

They were only kids, after all. The rallies on Chic-fil-a doors and the protests on school grounds were a product of a

generation consumed entirely by social media pressure and finger pointing. Politics were at home with them, at the dining table, on their phone, in their classes.

This is why I am glad that government classes are mandated in secondary and post-secondary education. As American citizens, we are granted the right to vote. If we do not know what to do with that vote, we are lost.

Referencing back to John Green's quote, public education is necessary for a functioning society. Something I have surely said before. Educating people on the brink of voter eligibility doesn't just benefit themselves, it affects the country. It is a group effort. It's important that communities are making an effort for political education.

Having the option to vote is necessary, but if someone decides not to, that is their choice. It is that the decision was made from an educated conclusion. Too many times people have declined to understand who is to become the decision maker for their city, state or country and what laws are going to affect their lives. They simply accept it.

Politics can be overwhelming, so it's okay to not know it all. Understanding a politician's stances on issues and what changes they want to make are a good first step, as well as knowing the branches of government. There are, of course, more things a citizen should know about their government. It is important to build the steppingstones now rather than later, especially for young voters.

This upcoming election, I hope everyone who was so involved in high school will be there at the polls. It is crucial that young voters establish their place in political participation now. There are people out there who are betting on that. It is the future of America that the eligible are deciding for, don't let the chance pass by.

## Miles Morales is more than another Spider-Man duplicate



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Since his debut, Miles Morales has been the source of controversy due to his framing as a successor to Peter Parker.

With the release of software developer Insomniac Games' "Spider-Man 2" for PS5 on Oct. 20, came a legion of fiery Spidey fans and their hot takes. The game has received quite a lot of feedback from critics and players online, some spectacular, some not so much.

The heated debates have raged on for roughly two weeks now. Among those debates is the ever-present question of whether Miles Morales, created by Brian Michael Bendis, should take up the mantle of being the "main" Spider-Man in the game series going forward.

Miles was conceived as a successor to Peter Parker, and that's a solid enough starting point for a strong black superhero, and the Spider-Verse films, as well as Insomniac's Spider-Man games have done an excellent job at building atop that foundation for their interpretations of Miles. However, that's my first major gripe. Conceptually, Miles came from "What if Peter had a successor?" and that's fine, but why is that still all that Miles can be?

What does Miles really have that makes him stand out from Parker? For as much as I enjoy the Spider-Verse films, I've been thinking about how little those films have done to solidify Miles as a good standalone

character. The cast of characters in the movie are a bunch of other Spider heroes whom he must look up to and idolize. Miles' whole identity has remained this whole "I want to prove myself as Spider-Man" shtick in a massive multiverse where seemingly no other Spider hero needs to try so hard to earn the right to call themselves a Spider-Person.

People online have been at each other's throats over whether Miles should be called "Spider-Man," and while I would've said yes not too long ago, after sitting on it, I really do believe the next logical step is to push Miles away from the "Spider-Man" name.

There comes a point in our lives where we idolize people. We all have had role models at some point. Miles is like a lot of people in that way. But at some point, we eventually grow into our unique individuals and are stronger for it.

I want to see Black superheroes evolve, and I want to see Miles evolve. Give him his own name, his own city to protect. Give him his own recurring cast of unique characters that aren't hand-me-down versions of Peter Parker's cast (ever notice how Miles' most noteworthy love interest is Gwen Stacy?), and for the love of all things, give the kid his own name.

No one complains about other Spider-heroes' names. Miguel O' Hara is Spider-Man 2099, Gwen Stacy is Ghost Spider, Cindy Moon is Silk, Ben Reilly is Scarlet Spider. But when people suggest Miles should get his own alias, people lose their collective minds.

I can only see him referred to as "Spider-Man (Miles Morales)" so many times before I question how keeping Miles in "I wanna be a Spider-Man too!" territory is beneficial to his character or Black superheroes. Let him grow, Marvel. Let him become his own thing and not just another cog in the Spider-Person machine.

Letter Policy



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Letters to the paper should be 150 words or less, free from libel and poor taste and include the writer's Collegian ID or telephone number (the numbers will not be published). Letters may be brought to The Collegian office (NCAB 1124A, NE

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# A Visual Symphony of the Deaf Experience

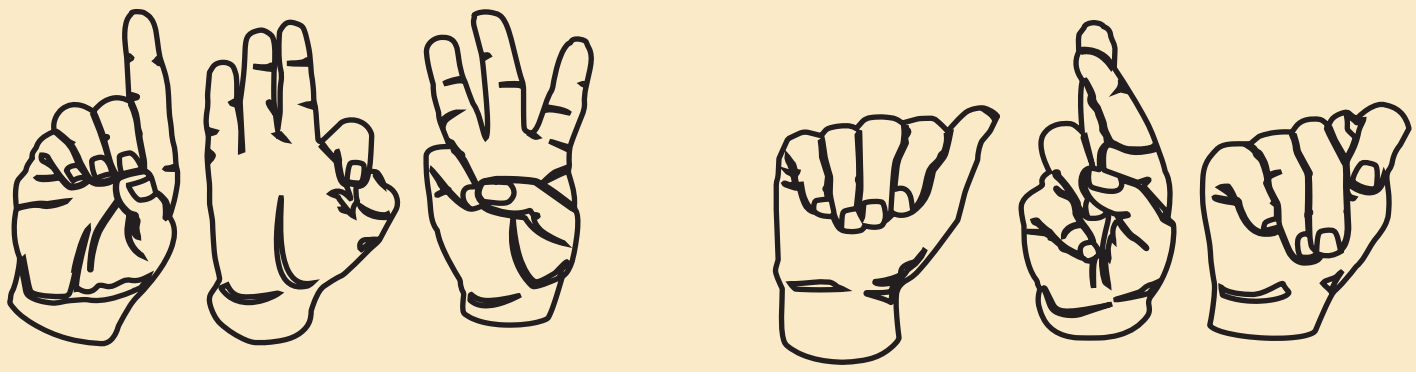


## Recognizing and uplifting the deaf artists of DFW



Photos by Ariel DeSantiago/The Collegian

“Call me Deaf” by Mariam Naba, is a performance art piece that she said helped connected her to words and acceptance.



Written in ASL above are the words “DFW art” of which are featured in “A Visual Symphony of the Deaf Experience”. The exhibit also includes Rebekah Covington, a TCC ASL instructor. This exhibit can be seen at TR’s East Fork Gallery through Nov. 30.



“Darkness Can’t Take My Sight” by Rebekah Covington, acrylic on canvas.



“Mother first, Deaf later,” by Rebekah Covington, acrylic on canvas. This piece depicts Covington’s experience with being the mother of a hearing child and her commitment to show her daughter the whole world.



“Fingerspelling in Color,” by Hannah Mann, acrylic on canvas.