

# ALACRITY

Alacrity (ah LACK rah tee) Cheerful willingness to overcome obstacles



Northeast Texas  
Community College

## Stephani Calderon wins a Jack Kent Cooke



**Stephani Calderon, with Vice President for Instruction, Dr. Ron Clinton, above, became the 2nd student in the history of NTCC to receive one of the most prestigious scholarships in the Western Hemisphere, the Jack Kent Cooke (JKC). This award allows Calderon to spend up to \$30,000 a year for up to**

three years at the university of her choice.

Cooke was a Canadian-born media-and-sports entrepreneur who left 800 million dollars to his foundation in 2000. Calderon was a most memorable Presidential Scholar (PS). A winsome leader, she effected superlative group attainments on the Honors Counsel, Enactus, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government. She also was a McGraw Hill poster winner in scholarship. Her work on "Sovereign Default" won not only rave reviews in Boston at the National Collegiate Honors Council, but First Place in the 2013 Contest (p. 3). Her refulgent, good-natured zeal has inspired patrons, students, professors, and administrators.

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### Honors Highlights

- ❖ College's Second JKC Winner in History
- ❖ Friends provide remarkable support
- ❖ Twin Victories for NTCC Honors on the state level.
- ❖ All-Important I.S.D.
- ❖ Presidential Scholar Stephani Calderon wins yet again.

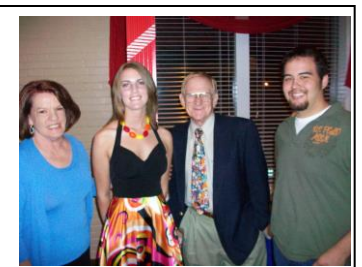
## Archers and IBM Imbue NTCC Honors with an Exceptional Tradition

Our fragile aspirations receive strength from collegial support, and no one has done more to imbue the social dimension of Honors (H) at NTCC than Dr. Jim and Paula Archer.

In May, another large gift from Dr. Jim and Paula Archer, matched by IBM, the great Tech-consulting corporation, inspired the future of Honors here

We like to say that NTCC Honors offers ambitious students of Northeast

Texas a package that not even Harvard would give them: negligible costs, academic coaching, amenities, and a ready-made team of fellow scholars. The Archers have made the "team feeling" a possibility with their generous support for fall and spring honors trips, the annual roundups hosted at their lovely Lone Star Cattle Company Ranch, and other extras thanks to their contributions to the social fund.



Dr. Jim and Paula Archer with PS Emily Parker and PS Jacob Brantley



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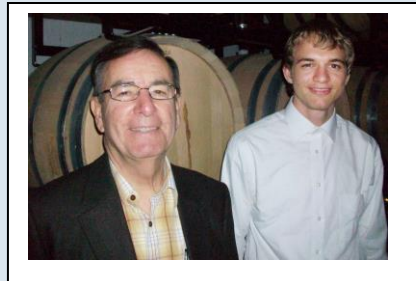
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## Friends of NTCC Honors



We continue to thank **Art and Jane Scharlach** above with VP Clinton, and Jacob Brantley. No website or newsletter works quite like a good meal, and the Scharlachs have given NTCC Honors a special outreach to prospective students.



**Dr. Charles and Sue Lynn Florio** have provided yet another gift to NTCC Honors. Dr. Florio is shown above at our Thank-You Dinner with PS Ricky Huitema. Again too, **Dr. Mary Herron** has provided NTCC Honors with a gift in the name of her mother Elizabeth Chitsey. Part of this will fund a new award. She is shown below with PS Noah Griffin. We also thank **Karen and Jim Harmon**, and **Professor Chuck Hamilton** for recent, helpful, and inspiring contributions to NTCC Honors.



## Two First-Place, State of Texas Caldwell Awards

**Noah Griffin** won First Place and \$400 in the State of Texas Caldwell Competition for the best essay in Texas history by a freshman or sophomore in 2013. His essay was the first to ever highlight the rhetorical brilliance of Morris Sheppard, the father of prohibition. Sheppard was born in Morris County.

**PS Matthew Jordan**, right, with S. Trickey, and VP Jon McCullough, initiated NTCC's \$600, first-ever group Caldwell Award. Members of the Texas State Historical Association were very impressed with NTCC's indefatigable work proposing a Caddo museum.



## Honors Alumni: Where are they now?



(Left) After interning at Johns Hopkins, **Alex Villalobos** has settled for Medical School at the University of Texas Branch in Galveston. He also hosted a TED event in Arlington. **Clara Ramirez** (right) our 1<sup>st</sup> JKC winner, became our first alumna to become a donor of NTCC Honors. She finished the year as a counselor at John Tyler High School. **Matt O'Neal** (left) just made the medical school at the University of Arkansas. **Damico Hill** just made South College's Physician-Assistant's School in Knoxville, Tennessee.

## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

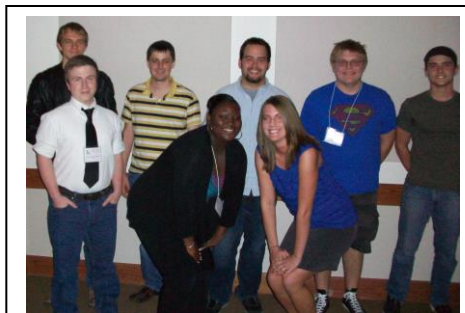
Visit [www.ntcc.edu/honors](http://www.ntcc.edu/honors). Want to help? Contact:

Dr. Andrew Yox at 903-434-8229 or [ayox@ntcc.edu](mailto:ayox@ntcc.edu)

## Spring Happenings



On the spring trip, NTCC Honors established in Jefferson that **Stephani Calderon**, and **Stephen Milburn** (above) were our best dancers. Milburn also is the winner of the first, **Elizabeth Chitsey Honors Spirit Award (\$200)**, for his definitive rise from the rank of Honors to Presidential Scholar. Below, 7 students presented at the Great Plains Honors Council at West Texas A&M in April: R. Huitema, A. Austin, M. Jordan, A. Wells, E. Parker, A. Screws, and N. Griffin.



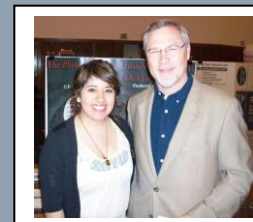
(Top) Mathew Jordan and Samantha Trickey went to the Caddo Nation in Oklahoma with funds from their successful Whatley Grant. NTCC Honors was able to perform additional research on our upcoming film on Wright Patman as well as promote Caddo Research in Austin. The group had dinner with two UT Austin professors, and met 2008 PS Ashley Shew, above.

### The "Third Most Important I.S.D.?"



Above: Noah Griffin, Joy Griffin, and NTCC President, Dr. Brad Johnson

The students from this district have won a Boe Award from the Great Plains Honors Council, a First-Place Caldwell Award from the State of Texas, a Guistwhite and a Coca Cola Gold Award on the national level, not to mention the cash awards they have won in the McGraw Hill Poster Contest, and the Northeast Texas Poetry Contest. Is this a major school district? This is one home-schooled family from Pittsburg, led by parents Dr. Steven, and Joy Griffin!



### 2013 McGraw-Hill Poster Contest

We thank Amy Errthum, McGraw Hill, and Friends of NTCC Honors for their support of the poster contests. Above, 2013 Student Winner, (**\$575**) PS **Stephani Calderon**, with President Johnson. For more details: [www.ntcc.edu/honors](http://www.ntcc.edu/honors).

**Ricky Huitema**  
2nd Place  
\$300



**Alisha Richardson**  
3rd Place  
\$200



**Noah Griffin**  
4<sup>th</sup> Place  
\$100



## Fort Worth Memories



In Fort Worth in March, we learned again the value of the multifaceted help we receive from donors, administrators, parents, and professors. Though Lee College Honors and the U. of Houston won \$600 and \$700 in prizes, the big winner was NTCC Honors with \$1,000. NTCC won its 1st group prize & placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Noah Griffin's 1st-Place essay was a 2nd-time win for us (p.2). Google:<Caldwell TSHA Awards 2013>!

## Academic Excellence



PS **Noah Griffin**, compiled an exemplary "People and Prokaryotes" project in the spring Freshman Seminar, while among the students of the Sophomore Seminar, PS **Whitney McIntosh** received top honors for her work on the Illuminati: Other top, 4.0 seminar scholars: Emily Parker, Stephen Milburn, and Alisha Richardson.

## A Message from the Honors Director



*Andrew Yox,  
Honors Director*

I so appreciate those who have generously and successfully helped to recruit Honors Students—Art and Jane Scharlach, NTCC Trustee John Bryan, Dr. Mary Hearron, Dr. Melissa Weinbrenner, Chuck Hamilton and others. Empathy, knowledge, and personal contact are becoming more important as recruitment is becoming more complex.



*Paula Wilhite,  
Honors  
Professor*

Another winsome ambassador in this task has been Dr. Paula Wilhite, who was recently chosen by the American Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges for a Teaching Excellence Award. There are only four such awards given every two years by the AMA in the entire nation! Dr. Wilhite has selflessly served as the overall Math/Science advisor for Honors since 2007, also teaching H. Statistics. She has done much to inspire and initiate NTCC's pre-engineering program.

## Honors Committee:

David Rangel,  
Joy Cooper,  
Robert Fenton,  
Jacob Brantley



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*NTCC is an Affirmative Action,  
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