

NEWS RELEASE

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San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo contributes \$40,000 in scholarships for Agriculture students at Palo Alto College

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College received \$40,000 in scholarship funding from the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. (San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo) for students pursuing a degree in Agriculture from Palo Alto College, to be awarded beginning in the Fall 2017 term.

"We are honored to be an educational partner with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and be a recipient of scholarship dollars that directly support our Agriculture students for a growing sector of our economy," said Dr. Mike Flores, president of Palo Alto College. "We know financial barriers often prevent our students from completing their education and earning a degree, so we will continue to pursue opportunities to help support their academic journey."

Previously enrolled Palo Alto College Agriculture students will be eligible for scholarships funding one academic year (total of \$2,000), and first-time students will be eligible for two-year scholarships (total of \$4,000). To be eligible to apply, students must be a high school graduate within the last year, be pursuing a degree in Agriculture, and be enrolled full time (12+ hours). Additional details and criteria are available online at alamo.edu/pac/scholarships.

"The Agriculture program has made it a priority over the last few years to build a strong partnership with the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo to provide valuable experiences for our students," said Ty Chumbley, lead instructor for Agriculture at Palo Alto College. "By combining forces, our students have received valuable hands-on learning opportunities with leaders in the industry, and we look forward to building more opportunities for our students to be successful in their education."

The San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo takes place Feb. 9-26, 2017. It has received the PRCA Large Indoor Rodeo of the Year award for 12 consecutive years. Established in 1949, it has grown to be one of the largest and most prestigious single events in the city with over 2 million visitors entering the grounds in 2016. The success of the organization is attributed to over 6,000 volunteers who give countless hours to the organization. With community, donor and volunteer support, the organization has committed over \$171.4 million to the youth of Texas through scholarships, grants, endowments, auctions, a calf scramble and show premiums. The first scholarship donation to the Alamo Colleges District was in 1991. For more information, visit www.sarodeo.com.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence. With nearly 9,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees, short-term certificates and non-credit continuing education classes. The campus is located on the Southside of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at <u>alamo.edu/pac</u>.

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