



NEWS RELEASE

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Annual scholarship fundraiser raises over \$1,000,000 in committed funds for Palo Alto College students and employees

[Photo Link](#): Courtesy of Palo Alto College

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College held its annual scholarship fundraiser - *¡Una Nueva Celebración!* – on Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the College’s Performing Arts Center, and raised a record \$1 million in committed scholarship dollars for Palo Alto College students and employees.

With a goal of raising \$70,000 for the ninth annual event, generous partners pushed committed cash donations to \$180,000, led by title sponsor The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and presenting sponsor Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc. Additional sponsors included McLemore Building Maintenance; Nelson Interiors; Texas A&M University San Antonio; The University of Texas at San Antonio; Valero; WellMed; Wells Fargo; AARP; Brooks; Follett Higher Education Group; Frost; Port San Antonio; RVK Architects; Silver Eagle Distributors; Ginny Stowitts-Traina, Associate Professor at Palo Alto College for 29 years; University Health Systems; NRP Group; Vara Chevrolet and VIA Metropolitan Transit.

During the scholarship event, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) committed \$815,000 in additional funds to also guarantee:

- Five full-ride scholarships to UTRGV for currently enrolled Palo Alto College students to cover tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and more
- Application fee waivers and GRE/GMAT testing scholarships for faculty and staff looking to pursue an online master’s program at UTRGV
- \$6,000 scholarships for employees enrolling in six credit hours for an online master’s program at UTRGV
- \$3,500 scholarships for employees’ family members enrolling in six credit hours for an online master’s program at UTRGV
- Five Presidential Graduate Research Assistantships in any of the UTRGV’s research-based master’s degree or doctoral programs

“The overwhelming support from our partners is a testament to the greatness they see in the work we do,” said Dr. Robert Garza, president of Palo Alto College. “By investing scholarship dollars for our students, faculty, and staff to continue their education, we will be able to continue to our collective journey to performance excellence, and ultimately change the lives of students in south San Antonio.”

¡Celebración! began in 2010 as an annual scholarship fundraiser to provide financial support for Palo Alto College students to stay enrolled and complete their degrees and certificates; the event raised more than \$150,000 in its first year. Through two matching grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Palo Alto College receives up to \$67,500 in dollar-for-dollar matched funds each fiscal year.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence, a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and a top 10 finalist for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College is located on the south side of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at alamo.edu/pac.

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