



NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 1, 2017

Palo Alto College receives \$1.3 million Upward Bound grant to support East Central High School *-One of only seven new Upward Bound grants in the state-*

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College has been awarded a five-year, \$1.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education TRIO Upward Bound Math and Science program to help high school students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science. Palo Alto College is one of only seven new Upward Bound program awards – and the only two-year college – funded in Texas this year.

Effective in the 2017-2018 academic year, the Upward Bound program will provide up to 60 East Central High School students each year with math and science-related academic instruction, tutoring, and advising; information on financial aid programs; assistance in completing financial aid applications; financial literacy; and support in applying for college enrollment.

“Since our founding, Palo Alto College has remained dedicated to ensuring everyone in our community has equal opportunities and resources to continue their education and earn a college degree,” said Dr. Mike Flores, president of Palo Alto College. “With only a few new Upward Bound programs awarded this year, we are fortunate to be able to continue to empower and educate our community and support math and science programs in south Bexar County.”

The TRIO Upward Bound Math and Science program is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participating students and encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in math and science, and ultimately careers in the math and science profession.

“This gracious award from the Department of Education supports the district's and community's vision of creating more [STEM] opportunities for our students. We look forward to partnering with Palo Alto in preparing our students for a competitive job market,” said Roland Toscano, superintendent for East Central Independent School District.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations across the country grew by 10.5 percent over a six-year period — and over 99 percent of those occupations require some type of education beyond high school.

“For America to remain a leader on the global stage, we must have enough innovative problem solvers to fill jobs not just in today’s industries, but also in the industries that don’t even exist yet,” said U.S. Rep. Will Hurd. “Ensuring access to educational opportunities enhances our national security, strengthens our economy, and drives technological advancement and innovation across every industry. This Upward Bound grant funding will allow Palo Alto College to further its efforts to provide quality science and math education to cultivate a 21st century workforce that is able to compete in a global market.”

The Upward Bound Math and Science program is one of several high school programs at Palo Alto College that provide early access to higher education. The College has seven early college high school partnerships with area school districts; 26 dual credit partner schools; a \$1.2 million TRIO Talent Search

grant that supports 500 Southwest High School students annually with academic tutoring and advising; and a \$1.5 million TRIO Upward Bound grant that support 77 students annually from Lytle, Jourdanton, Poteet, and Pleasanton High Schools.

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 and a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The campus 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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