



Jan. 15, 2019

## Colleagues:

As we prepare for another wonderful semester, I'd like to thank you all for coming together during convocation to support our students in their academic and personal goals.

My resolution this year is to make every effort for Palo Alto College to connect with our community. Caring about one another is what makes for a strong bond that will help propel Palo Alto College to even greater heights. Through various planned outreach efforts, students and their families will share in the experiences of our institution, as well as cherish the importance and value of pursuing a college degree.

This coming semester, Palo Alto College has much to celebrate, including:

- The announcement of a special gift from the City of San Antonio and Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio to help support the continued development of a Dental Hygiene program at Palo Alto College
- The opening of the Palo Alto College Community Garden, which will serve as a space for community collaboration focused on healthy food access, entrepreneurship, and on-campus service learning
- Our annual Black History Month and Women's History Month, where we celebrate the achievements, contributions, and innovations of African Americans and women in our nation's history
- The inaugural Palo Alto College Easter Egg Hunt to be held on campus in

early to mid-April

- Introduction of a Spotlight Series and continuation of our Celebrate & Share PAC Excellence breakfasts, which highlight achievements and innovative programs from our amazing faculty and staff
- PACfest 2019, our annual official Fiesta ® San Antonio event, on Thursday, April 25, with live music, traditional Fiesta food, the 6th annual Fiesta Grilldown, and a festive fireworks show to end the night
- Celebrating our students' outstanding achievements at Palo Alto College's 32nd Commencement Ceremony on Monday, May 20, at Freeman Coliseum

On April 2, 2019, Palo Alto College will learn the results of our Aspen site visit as part of our journey to the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. From over 1,000 community colleges nationwide, Palo Alto College has been able to achieve something many might not have thought possible when we opened in 1985 – being one of the top 10 community colleges in the nation. Regardless of the results, Palo Alto College's achievement would not have been possible without your commitment to the journey, the support of our entire community, and the collaboration in making Palo Alto College one of the best community colleges in the nation.

I want to be sure Palo Alto College remains a place of innovation and collaboration so we can continue to provide students with the best possible experience during their time with us. I look forward to working with each one of you as we come together with our continued commitment to keeping our students first.

In service and PAC proud,

Robert Garza, Ph.D.

President of Palo Alto College



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT  
Palo Alto College