



A L A M O
C O L L E G E S

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ginger Hall Carnes, Director of Public Relations
vcarnes@alamo.edu, 210.486.3884 (o); 210.573.3922 (cell)

September 23, 2011

Palo Alto College awarded five-year, \$4.1 million STEM grant

Palo Alto College has been awarded a STEM grant that is designed to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, specifically at institutions serving Hispanic and other low-income students.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Education is for \$864,549 for the first year and is anticipated to be renewed four times. The announcement was made by U.S. Rep. Francisco Canseco's Office.

Palo Alto's grant will concentrate on faculty development, increasing the academic and transfer success of Hispanic and low-income students, and the expansion of a seven-acre Science Exploration Lab Center that was created with a current STEM grant.

"This grant will ease Palo Alto's funding cuts and will continue to help us provide services to our students," said Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzmán. Sixty-seven percent of Palo Alto's students are Hispanic, and 80 percent of the students who take classes on campus are on financial aid.

Titled the CAARE Project – Coaching, Active-learning, Advising, Research & Endowment – the grant will include an endowment to increase funding for student scholarships.

One activity will be an Intrusive Academic and Career Advising/Planning Program (IACAPI) that will encourage students to pursue STEM job pathways. Staff will track student progress, retention and completion and will coach students at risk of failing or dropping out of STEM courses.

Another will create a Problem-Based Learning Clearinghouse that will focus on professional development, instructional innovation and assessment of student learning outcomes for STEM courses using problem-based learning pedagogy.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio with a record 9,100 students enrolled in Fall 2011. It awards associate degrees and short-term certificates and offers non-credit continuing education classes. The campus is located at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy. 16 or online at alamo.edu/pac.

-PAC-