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PALO ALTO COLLEGE

## NEWS RELEASE

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# Nationally Recognized Domestic Violence Survivor Carolyn Thomas to Speak at Palo Alto College

*“Woman Without a Face” once featured  
on The Oprah Show and Larry King Live*

Palo Alto College will present nationally recognized domestic violence survivor Carolyn Thomas and host a Domestic Violence Awareness Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 19, in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Day. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Annex.

A variety of organizations and agencies will provide students and the community with information about domestic violence prevention as well as provide resources to those who are or have been involved in domestic violence. Guest speaker Carolyn Thomas will speak from 11 a.m. to noon in Ozuna Center, Room 126. Both events are free and open to the public.

In December 2003, Carolyn Thomas was shot, execution-style, in the face by her former boyfriend, Terrence Kelly. The shot claimed 80% of her facial features and left her blind in one eye. Before shooting Thomas, Kelly turned the gun on Thomas' mother, Janice Reeves, and took her life. In the 18 months that followed this brutal attack, Thomas underwent 12 surgeries to reconstruct her face. It was during this reconstructive journey that Thomas reclaimed her life and summoned the courage to help put her abuser in prison for life.

Though she barely survived the blast that destroyed her appearance, Thomas believes she was spared to help educate others about the dangers of abusive relationships. “God allowed me to survive for some reason and I just had to learn how to be strong,” states Thomas.

She has told her story on numerous television programs including “The Oprah Show” where she first appeared in May 2005. Thomas was featured again in April 2011 in the 25<sup>th</sup> and final season of “The Oprah Show,” in “The Oprah Show guests we can’t stop talking about.” Thomas has created a non-profit organization, “The Carolyn Thomas Foundation, Voices 4 All,” to help educate and support victims of

abuse. With her voice and through her foundation, Carolyn has dedicated her life to abuse education and political activism.

Once dubbed “The Woman without a Face” by the national media, Thomas stated at the trial of her abuser, “The world now knows me as the woman without a face. I would rather be remembered as the woman who would be a survivor.”

Joining Thomas at this speaking engagement is her guest, Dee Anna Morgan-Alexander, another survivor of domestic violence who also endured a gunshot to the face by her abusive husband. She will also share her story of surviving an abusive marriage. This is Thomas’ only San Antonio appearance during her visit.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio. 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](http://alamo.edu/pac).

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