

NEWS RELEASE

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National publication highlights Palo Alto College for creative strategies to help students finish school

As part of an emphasis on providing resources for students to complete their degrees, the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) has recognized Palo Alto College (PAC) for developing some teaching methods designed to reduce unplanned pregnancies.

The college is highlighted in a national report that summarizes AACC's three-year collaboration with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

"We are emphasizing to our students that it is important for them to complete their education, so we are interested in targeted initiatives that make that happen," said PAC President Dr. Mike Flores. "This grant allowed us to address the issue of unplanned pregnancy – which can delay their education."

The report, *Make It Personal: How Pregnancy Planning and Prevention Help Students Complete College*, explains how six selected colleges from across the nation, including Palo Alto, used grant funds to redesign academic courses to incorporate pregnancy planning and prevention into their teaching.

At PAC, students of Communications Professor Dr. Denise Richter explored websites and online resources, then wrote sample press releases promoting the resources. The best press release was sent to local high school newspapers for distribution. Dr. Yolanda Reyna, Professor of Counseling, included content in her student development course by incorporating personal stories and cultural values to help students understand the impact of unplanned pregnancy on their college education.

The report encourages other colleges to find creative and low-cost solutions to help students learn more about preventing pregnancy so they can complete their educational goals.

The publication, including links to free online lessons and course templates, is available online at www.aacc.nche.edu/mipcc.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees. With more than 9,000 students, the College also offers short-term certificates and non-credit continuing education classes. The campus is located on the Southside 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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