FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 11, 2020 CONTACT: KAY HENDRICKS COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATION (210) 707-6789/KRISTI WYATT (409) 679-9786

ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT ANNOUNCES COLLEGE CLOSURES, CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

At the Alamo Colleges District, there is no higher priority than the health and safety of our Alamo Colleges community. We know that college completion and success requires students, faculty and staff to have the safest learning and teaching environment we can provide. With that in mind, and out of an abundance of caution, the Alamo Colleges District has made some temporary changes to the way we provide instruction and operate in light of the growing concerns related to the coronavirus.

The Alamo Colleges District leadership has been following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and San Antonio Metro Health to ensure we are minimizing the risk of exposure on our campuses. However, as the situation with COVID-19 develops and more cases are identified across the country we have expanded our precautionary measures to the following social distancing measures:

Students

Spring break will be extended one week for students. All classes are cancelled March 16-20 as faculty and staff prepare to transition to working, teaching and learning remotely. Alamo Colleges District campuses and buildings are closed to students the week of March 16-20 with the exception of college libraries and computer labs. Classes will resume on March 23 through remote teaching and learning.

Students should not to return to campuses for classes and will be instructed on how to continue classes and receive support remotely.

All study abroad programs for summer are cancelled. We will continue to evaluate future programs as the situation evolves.

Employees

Alamo Colleges District employees will be working modified schedules the week of March 16-20. Business travel outside of San Antonio continues to be limited to essential

travel, which is travel required by law or in relation to the health and safety of the Alamo Colleges District community.

Additional Precautions

Alamo Colleges District is cancelling, postponing or transitioning large meetings, events and gatherings online through April 15. Additionally, all sporting events and extracurricular activities are postponed through April 15.

Colleges and universities across the country, and here in San Antonio, are taking similar precautions and making adjustments to operations and instructions to stop or slow the spread of COVIC-19 in communities.

These changes are not based on any confirmed cases of coronavirus in San Antonio and or at the Alamo Colleges. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Antonio, Bexar County or the Alamo Colleges community, so the risk remains low. However, the virus has spread rapidly across the country, and it is a matter of time before it is confirmed in the San Antonio area. The precautionary measures are a safeguard to slow or stop the spread of coronavirus before we see cases in our Alamo Colleges District community. The extended spring break also allows faculty and staff the time to prepare for a transition to remote learning.

These changes will be in place for a minimum of two weeks. Alamo Colleges District will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustment as needed based on the risk level in San Antonio.

"I want to thank all of our employees for their cooperation and flexibility during this difficult time, as we adjust to new circumstances to ensure the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students and community, said Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores. "I'd also like to ensure our students that we will do everything in our power to assist with their continued success," he added.

At the Alamo Colleges District, high quality education and affordable costs provide exceptional value to students and alumni who are major contributors to the economy and culture of our community. For more information, go to <u>https://www.alamo.edu</u>