



NEWS RELEASE

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Edgewood ISD and Palo Alto College partner to launch new early college high schools at Kennedy HS and Memorial HS

Edgewood Independent School District and Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College have partnered to launch two new early college high school (ECHS) partnerships at John F. Kennedy High School and Memorial High School. Incoming freshman students will be the first in the Edgewood district to be able to earn college credits as soon as their freshman year in high school. The official announcement will take place during a press conference at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Edgewood District Conference Center, located at 1930 Herbert Lane.

Dr. Emilio Castro, Superintendent of Edgewood ISD commented on the partnership, “Pathways to success in today’s world must have an Early College High School option. Our students’ opportunity to graduate high school with college credit supports their ability to reach their highest potential in an ever-changing world”.

Using an enhanced dual-credit model, students enrolled at an ECHS will have an opportunity to earn an associate’s degree or up to 60 hours of college credits toward a bachelor’s degree, while also earning their high school diploma, beginning as early as their freshman year of high school.

“Providing educational access to the community is part of the core values and tradition at Palo Alto College,” said Dr. Mike Flores, president of the College. “Along with our partners at Edgewood ISD, we have yet again created an environment where students, often the first in their families to go to college, can earn a significant number of college credits by the time they graduate from high school.”

The two Edgewood ECHS partnerships will add to Palo Alto College’s five current ECHS partnerships, four of which will graduate their first group of senior high school students in May 2018. With the Edgewood ISD partnership, the Alamo Colleges District now has total of 16 ECHS partners throughout its service area. More than 660 students have earned an associate degree through one of the Alamo Colleges District’s Early College High Schools since 2013.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence. With nearly 9,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees, 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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