



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Natalie Barajas, Public Information Officer  
[nbarajas3@alamo.edu](mailto:nbarajas3@alamo.edu); 210.486.3882

April 5, 2018

### **Palo Alto College receives prestigious National Science Foundation grant to support Logistics program and industry demand**

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College has been awarded a \$225,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education program to enhance education for high-technology fields. This is the second NSF award Palo Alto College has received in the 2017-2018 academic year and is part of a larger effort towards improving access to STEM-related programs.

Over the grant's three-year award period, Palo Alto College will create an educational pipeline for Logistics and Supply Chain Management from high school to Palo Alto College to transfer institutions by establishing a dual credit programs with three high schools – Southside High School in Southside ISD, Southwest Legacy High School in Southwest ISD, and Veterans Memorial High School in Judson ISD - where students will be able to earn an Associate of Applied Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management and transfer to Texas A&M University San Antonio to complete a bachelor's degree.

Additionally, enhanced program curriculum will incorporate robotics and other emerging supply chain technologies through four hands-on emerging technology course modules, a Discover Logistics training module for secondary school educators, and creating and hosting an annual logistics case competition for partner high schools.

"We are honored to be awarded this grant to be able to strengthen our connections with high schools and ramp up our program to meet the current industry demand for logisticians," said Ronnie Brannon, assistant professor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Palo Alto College. "These resources will allow us to make a significant imprint on the local community on the importance of logistics and supply chain management and usher in the next wave of great logisticians to Palo Alto College."

The NSF grant will support approximately 1,200 high school students with on-campus programming, while the dual credit program and course modules will aim to serve an estimated 150 high school students and 100 college students.

The success of this grant award is an outcome of working collaboratively with Science Foundation Arizona through the KickStarter Process (under the National Science Foundation through Grant No. HRD-1450661), which is a technical assistance program that prepares and positions community college HSIs to compete successfully for federal funds with focus on student recruitment and retention in STEM fields.

With an emphasis on two-year colleges, the NSF's Advanced Technological Education program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our nation's economy by supporting curriculum development, professional development of college faculty and secondary school teachers, career pathways, and other activities. As a federal agency with an annual budget of \$7.5 billion, the National Science Foundation is the funding source for approximately 24 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence and a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College is located on the south side of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at [alamo.edu/pac](http://alamo.edu/pac).

-PAC-