



NEWS RELEASE

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New STEM Center at Palo Alto College dedicated to programs, services, and academic support for students

Palo Alto College held a ribbon-cutting event on Tuesday, June 12, for its new STEM Center, which has dedicated resources to support students enrolled in STEM programs through funding in part from a \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education HSI STEM and Articulation Program awarded in 2016. The 2,200 square-foot facility will serve as a central location for STEM programs, services, and academic support, including peer mentoring, academic advising, career preparation, scholarship information, transfer information, participate in undergraduate research, and more.

“Palo Alto College has made strategic efforts to promote STEM in our community by providing early educational access, high-caliber programs, and resources to increase students’ experience with STEM programs,” said Dr. Mike Flores, president of Palo Alto College. “With demand for skilled workers in STEM fields rising, it is imperative that we continue to create opportunities for our students to have resources that prepare them to fill the economic need and build a lasting career.”

In addition to study space, the STEM Center will include interactive screens and laptops for check-out; use of STEM materials like textbooks, models, and samples; and flex space for programming opportunities with workshops and guest speakers. The center will also be utilized as a workspace for Palo Alto College’s STEM-focused summer camps, including She Code Connect™, a free, all-girls summer camp to be held in August 2018 in partnership with Youth Code Jam Coding Camps and funded by the Texas Workforce Commission.

The STEM Center at Palo Alto College is funded in part by the SEEDS of Excellence in STEM Project (PR#P031C160167) from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title III, Part F Hispanic-Serving Institutions—Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (HSI STEM) and Articulation Program. With the grant, Palo Alto College will develop and carry out initiatives to expand the College’s capacity to increase the number of Hispanic and/or low-income students pursuing and completing degrees in STEM fields. Of more than 200 applications submitted for the grant nationwide, Palo Alto College was one of only 14 programs were funded in Texas.

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, a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and a top 10 finalist for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. 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.

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