



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Palo Alto College celebrates graduates at 32nd annual commencement ceremony**

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College will celebrate more than 800 students' academic achievements at the annual Spring Commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 20, at Freeman Coliseum.

Distinguished guests will be recognized during the ceremony, including Rosie Castro, a community champion and retired Palo Alto College employee who will serve as keynote speaker and receive an honorary degree, the 22nd honorary degree approved by the Alamo Colleges District.

Since 2013, Palo Alto College has honored a former student during its annual commencement ceremony for exhibiting professional achievement, community service, and support of education. Palo Alto College will recognize 2019 Outstanding Former Student awards to Rep. Philip Cortez, Texas District 117, and Maria Garcia, vice president for community engagement at CPS Energy.

More than 150 ECHS graduates will cross the stage during the Palo Alto College's annual commencement ceremony to celebrate earning their associate degree before receiving their diploma from their respective high schools (Frank L Madla Early College High School, South San Antonio Early College Academy, Southside Early College High School, S.T.E.M. Early College High School, and Shirleen Zacharias Early College Leadership Academy). Early college high schools allow students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours toward an associate or bachelor degree.

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 Rising Star winner of 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](http://alamo.edu/pac).

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