



A L A M O  
C O L L E G E S

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

## NEWS RELEASE

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# U.S. Senate confirms Palo Alto College President for National Security Education Board

The President of Palo Alto College, a former ambassador and another college president were confirmed shortly before Memorial Day by the U.S. Senate to four-year terms on the National Security Education Board (NSEB).

They were nominated by President Barack Obama in February.

Dr. Ana Margarita “Cha” Guzmán was confirmed to serve on the 13-member panel that will develop criteria for scholarships and grants for students who express an interest in national security issues or pursuing a career in a national security position. They will recommend to the Secretary of Defense which countries and academic disciplines need to be emphasized, including foreign languages and cultures that need to be taught in United States educational institutions. The first meeting is June 22.

“I am very honored to be asked to serve on this commission by President Obama and subsequently be confirmed by the Senate of the United States,” Guzmán said. “This Commission will be making key decisions in the training of personnel in the national security areas.”

Other new appointees are Dr. Christopher Howard, President of Hampton-Sydney College, and former U.S. Ambassador Michael Guest of the Council for Global Equality. The NSEB is chaired by the Secretary of Defense, who has delegated responsibility to the Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness. Other members are the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities; six individuals appointed by the President who are “experts in the fields of international, language, area, and counterproliferation studies education,” and representatives of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretaries of Education, State and Commerce.

The Board’s website is [www.nsep.gov/about/administration/#nseb](http://www.nsep.gov/about/administration/#nseb).

Guzmán became the first woman president of Palo Alto College in 2001. A native of Cuba, she has been in educational administration for more than 30 years and is a leading voice for Hispanic Americans in education. Guzman served as a Senior Advisor to Education Secretary Richard Riley during the last year of the Clinton administration.

Guzmán also served as the chair of President Clinton's White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans from 1993 to 2000 and was responsible for the development of *Our Nation on the Fault Line: Hispanic American Education*.

She began her career as a public school teacher, has served as an Associate Vice Chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, and as Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Administration and Community Relations at Austin Community College. She also has been President of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education.

Guzmán holds an Ed.D. in Education from the University of Houston, an M.A. in Sociology from Texas Southern University in Houston, and a B.S. in Education from Stout State University in Wisconsin.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio. It awards associate degrees and short-term certificates and offers non-credit continuing education classes. The campus is located at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy. 16 or online at [alamo.edu/pac](http://alamo.edu/pac).

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