



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

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

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Link to the publication: See Page 25:

[http://advocacy.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/CKC%202011%20Catalog_Effective_Practices%20\(Web%20Ready\).pdf](http://advocacy.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/CKC%202011%20Catalog_Effective_Practices%20(Web%20Ready).pdf)

September 7, 2011

Palo Alto College's Center for Academic Transitions Featured in National College Board Publication

The Center for Academic Transitions (CAT) at Palo Alto College was recently recognized by the College Board's CollegeKeys Compact™ program for best practices in student graduation, alumni, transfer and career opportunities for students.

The Center at Palo Alto was featured in the national College Board publication, *The CollegeKeys Compact™, 2011 Catalog of Effective Practices: Programs and practices that expand options for students from low-income backgrounds.*

In addition, Dr. Robert Garza, Palo Alto Dean of Student Affairs, was also selected to serve on a CollegeKeys™ Review Committee to formulate new initiatives that will increase student success and develop a national resource center for best practices in higher education.

The CAT is located conveniently for students near the Student Center Cafeteria and provides services specifically designed to keep students progressing toward their educational goals. It houses offices for scholarships, transfer services, graduation information, job search and placement, career services, and alumni and friends.

"This national recognition by the College Board is a testament to the efforts of faculty and staff in ensuring that students have a clear plan to graduate and/or transfer. Center staff members have worked tirelessly to guarantee that students have the resources they need to move onto the next stage of their lives," stated Dr. Mike Flores, Palo Alto College Vice President of Student Affairs.

Rosie Castro, Director of the Center for Academic Transitions, added, "Our mission at the CAT is to provide advising and student support and to insure opportunities for each PAC student to accomplish his or her academic and career goals. The center was conceived and built by our president, Dr. Ana "Cha" Guzman, as a comprehensive approach to guiding students toward a smooth and successful transition in to their chosen career field and their transfer to a four-year university. It is this unified

approach that has students, faculty and staff moving toward increased graduation, job placement and transfer rates. We appreciate the College Board's recognition of our efforts."

The CollegeKeys Compact™ program is a national call to action to school districts, colleges and universities, state education agencies, and nonprofit organizations to identify, share and expand programs and practices that address the needs and challenges of low-income students and help them get ready for, get into and get through college. The 2011 Catalog of Effective Practices, showcases programs that were submitted for consideration in the College Board's 2011 Innovation Awards program. This catalog serves as a useful resource for educators and policymakers alike by showcasing the excellent work that is being done around the nation to help more deserving students from low-income backgrounds.

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education and developed the SAT college entrance exam. Today, the membership association is made up of more than 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio with a record 9,100 students enrolled in Fall 2011. 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.

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