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PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

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Ozuna Children's Library Summer Program receives gift to fund next program

The Urban Progress Corp., a non-profit organization which oversees the Las Palmas Gardens Apartments, presented \$10,000 to the Children's Library Summer Program at Palo Alto College on Nov. 10. The funds will supply instructors and materials for the next program.

George Ozuna Jr., an engineer and namesake of the Ozuna Library where the program is housed, and Palo Alto College President Ana M. Guzmán accepted the check from Valdemar Perez, a director of the Urban Progress Corp., during a ceremony at the Library. The amount will fully fund the next summer program designed to introduce 100 third and fourth-graders to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Children attend morning or afternoon sessions for three weeks free of charge. They learn about different topics each summer through hands-on activities and field trips. Topics during the last 11 years have included oceanography, computers, biology, aviation, chemistry, and engineering.

Perez said Urban Progress received approval for a substantial tax credit for the property, rebuilt it from the ground up, and had funds for reinvestment in community services, such as the children's summer program.

"We want to designate this donation to the Children's Library Summer program, and we are hoping this will reinstate the program after the library is renovated and become part of the college's program thereafter," Perez said.

Ozuna called the project a "labor of love" for him and his wife as he recognized former colleagues in the audience. "This is a way to spread the word to our youth that they need to be versed in science and math," he said. Urban Progress also plans to begin a scholarship program for the Edgewood area, where the apartments are located, he said.

The innovative library program won an Honor Award from the Bexar Library Association in 2008 and was shared as an example of community involvement at the Texas Library Association Conference in 2007.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio with 9,000 students. 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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