

Texas A&M University-San Antonio | One University Way | San Antonio, TX 78224

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, June 19, 2012

## Texas A&M University-San Antonio and Toyota Texas announce scholarship collaboration with Palo Alto College and area schools

SAN ANTONIO — At a special ceremony held earlier today on the Texas A&M-San Antonio Main Campus, Texas A&M-San Antonio and Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc. (TMMTX) announced a new scholarship to support the study of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The first recipient of this prestigious scholarship, Katie Drzymala of East Central High School in the East Central Independent School District, was presented with a check for \$25,000 based on her intentions to become a math teacher and her outstanding application.



Katie Drzymala, graduate of East Central High School, is presented with a scholarship by David Crouch of Toyota Motor Manufacturing.

Katie will enroll in Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, in the Fall 2012 semester and commit to attending A&M-San Antonio to complete her teaching degree in a STEM area. The scholarship will pay for tuition, fees and books for four years of college.

David Crouch, vice president of administration at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, presented the scholarship and a certificate to Katie.

"We are excited about this education initiative as we partner with Palo Alto College and Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Placing more STEM teachers in our local independent school districts is critical to the continued growth and sustainment of the required workforce of tomorrow," said Crouch. "We have great faith in Katie and her future."

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---continued from page 1---

Crouch was joined at today's ceremony by Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio, Dr. Ana M. "Cha" Guzman, president of Palo Alto College, and Taffi Hertz, director of Curriculum and Instruction at East Central ISD.

"This scholarship is a model of partnership and collaboration that demonstrates an understanding of the value of investing in our children and our STEM programs for the benefit of entire communities," said Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. "Toyota, Palo Alto College, and Texas A&M-San Antonio are here to help Katie pay it forward for the South Side and all of San Antonio."

Toyota plans to make the scholarship an annual award that will be open to students at high schools in the following school districts: East Central, Harlandale, Somerset, Southside, Southwest, and South San Antonio.

This critical scholarship offers a double benefit to several area school districts in that students who will attend PAC and commit to obtain a teaching degree in a STEM field at TAMU-SA will be eligible to apply, and students will also commit to applying to a teaching position in the school district that they graduated from, ideally returning to their former middle or high school. Katie says she plans to return to East Central High School to teach math.



Making STEM studies a reality in South San Antonio: (left to right) Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, president of Texas A&M-San Antonio; Katie Drzymala, scholarship recipient; Dr. Ana M. 'Cha' Guzman, president of Palo Alto College; David Crouch, vice president of administration at Toyota Texas Motor Manufacturing. (Photo credits: Texas A&M University-San Antonio)