

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## Palo Alto College to honor Outstanding Former Student

Palo Alto College graduate Patricia Galán-Cisneros will be honored as the first Outstanding Former Student during Palo Alto College's Commencement Ceremony at 7 p.m. on May 16 at Freeman Coliseum.

Mrs. Cisneros was selected from nominations solicited by the College and based on professional achievement, community service, and support of education.

Mrs. Cisneros earned her Associate of Arts in 1995 and her Bachelor's degree in Social Work in 1997. She earned two Master's degrees – an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry in 2004 from Oblate School of Theology and a master's in social work at Our Lady of the Lake University in 2006.

Mrs. Cisneros was an active member of the Catholic Campus Ministry at PAC and credits the organization's advisor, Julie Kern Gobel, as her role model. She has continued her passion for serving others by working with at-risk youth, senior citizens, adolescent offenders, and homeless citizens at a variety of organizations, including Parent Child Incorporated and SAMM Ministries.

She currently is Community Liaison for VITAS Innovative Hospice Care. She also is an adjunct faculty for the School of Social Work at OLLU. In 2012, she was awarded the Las Estrellas de Tejas Award from Hispanic Women's Network of Texas.

She is married to James Cisneros and they are parents of a 3-year-old son.

Approximately 450 of the college's graduates are expected to participate in the ceremony where they will receive Associate degrees and Certificates of Completion. In addition, students in the Gateway to College program who have completed their high school requirements will be recognized. Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, now serves more than 9,000 students.

Palo Alto College is a fully accredited community college located on the Southside of San Antonio, and awards associate degrees, short-term certificates and offers non-credit continuing education classes. The campus is located at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. or online at alamo.edu/pac.