ALAMO COLLEGES

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

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Palo Alto College establishes Center for Mexican American Studies

Alamo Colleges-Palo Alto College will celebrate the opening of its Center for Mexican American Studies on Thursday, March 20. The grand opening event will take place in the College's Central Courtyard from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Scheduled events include an indigenous blessing; special guest appearances from Rosemary Catacalos, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Girl in a Coma's Nina Diaz, and others; and performances from Mariachi Palomino and Bombasta, San Antonio's Barrio Big Band. A full schedule can be viewed here.

"The establishment of the Center for Mexican American Studies will create a larger and more valued cultural awareness at Palo Alto College," said Palo Alto College president Dr. Mike Flores. "The Center will work closely with the Mexican American Studies students and our community to provide quality events and education to nurture this culture and keep it present in San Antonio."

The Center, which will be located in Palo Alto College's Medina Hall, was approved in 2013 to coordinate the Associate of Arts degree in Mexican American Studies and to help plan and implement activities and programs related to Mexican American Studies at Palo Alto College and the surrounding community.

"This grand opening is especially important because of the statewide movement in Texas to integrate Mexican American Studies from Pre-K-12th grade," said Juan Tejeda, faculty advisor for the Center for Mexican American Studies and PAC instructor. "The majority of the school-age children in Texas are Mexican Americans. Studies have shown that there is a direct link between academic success and satisfaction, with a positive self-image and knowledge of one's cultural identity and history."

Palo Alto College's Center for Mexican American Studies is the first in the Alamo Colleges and one of only two at the community college level in Texas.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees. With nearly 9,000 students, the College also offers short-term certificates and workforce continuing education classes. The campus is located on the Southside of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy. 16 and online at alamo.edu/pac.

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