



ALAMO
COLLEGES

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

NEWS RELEASE

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PAC accredited Landscape and Horticultural Science program competes in national event

Students from Alamo Colleges-Palo Alto College's Landscape and Horticultural Science program will participate in a highly competitive annual event hosted by the Professional Landscape Network (PLANET) on March 20-23 at Colorado State University. Student Career Days – "The National Collegiate Landscape Competition" – is the largest national competition and career recruitment event for college students studying horticulture and landscaping.

Student Career Days is a three-day event where students have the chance to participate in over 25 events that are directly related to the skills necessary for a career in the green industry, such as 3D exterior landscape design, annual & perennial identification, irrigation assembly, plant problem diagnosis, and more. The event also offers a Career Fair to give students the opportunity to meet prospective employers in the industry and discuss employment opportunities.

"The students who participate in the PLANET Student Career Days competition are given more exposure to the national scope of the industry," said Kirk Williams, Lead Instructor for Palo Alto College's Landscape and Horticultural Science program. "It's important for our students to understand PLANET's role in our industry because their accreditation requires us to monitor our students' progress and ensure they graduate with certain competencies needed in the workforce."

In 2013, Palo Alto College entered against large universities such as Penn State, Auburn University, North Carolina State, and the University of Illinois. PAC placed 29th out of the 63 colleges that participated in last year's event, and finished ahead of Iowa State, Oklahoma State, Oregon State.

The Palo Alto College Landscape and Horticulture Science program has been granted full accreditation from PLANET for meeting the provisions of a model curriculum. It is the only landscape program in the state of Texas that is PLANET accredited and is now one of 17 accredited two-year programs in the country.

As the largest national trade association of lawn care and landscape professionals, PLANET is the only nationally recognized endorsement offered to colleges and universities with landscape and horticulture programs. The organization is committed to the highest standards in industry education, best practices, and business professionalism.

Palo Alto College, one of the Alamo Colleges, 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. at I-410 South and Texas Hwy. 16 or online at alamo.edu/pac.

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