



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Natalie Barajas, Public Information Officer
nbarajas3@alamo.edu; 210.486.3882

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Author and screenwriter Attica Locke to visit Palo Alto College during Black History Month 2018

Alamo Colleges District—Palo Alto College will host American author and screenwriter Attica Locke for a book reading and signing on Wednesday, Feb. 21, as part of the College's annual Black History Month celebrations. Locke will share excerpts from her latest novel, *Blue Bird, Blue Bird*, a novel about the collision of race and justice in America during a special presentation in the Palo Alto College Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m.

Locke, who lives in Los Angeles, is a Houston-native with Texas roots extending several generations and says she gets most of her storytelling from her life in East Texas. She has authored four books since 2009—*Black Water Rising*, *The Cutting Season*, *Pleasantville*, and *Blue Bird, Blue Bird*, which Locke has said is one of the most personal things she has ever written.

Aside from writing novels, Locke has also helped write and produce for the FOX drama *Empire*. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work, including the 2016 Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction for *Pleasantville*, Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence for *The Cutting Season*, and serves on the board of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

Black History Month events at Palo Alto College will highlight the achievements of African Americans throughout the U.S. **All Black History Month events at Palo Alto College are free and open to the public.** Other featured events include:

- **Feb. 7:** Film screening of “The Way of All Flesh,” highlighting the life of Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman who unknowingly made crucial contributions to science.
- **Feb. 15:** Lunch & Learn with American poet Roger Reeves
- **Feb. 2-26:** Courtesy exhibit in Ozuna Library titled “The Road to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement”. Exhibit surveys the civil rights movement from the emergence of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1955 through the 1990s.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence and a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The campus is located on the south side 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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