



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | Sept. 14

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## **Palo Alto College celebrates cultures of south Texas during Latinx Heritage Month**

Alamo Colleges District-Palo Alto College will celebrate its 2021 Latinx Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 to honor the indigenous heritages of South Texas. The month will include a series of free virtual events, including panel discussions, author readings, artist visits, and more.

A kickoff celebration will take place Wednesday, Sept. 15, with keynote speaker Cherríe Moraga, an internationally recognized poet, essayist, and playwright. She has penned several collections, including *A Xicana Codex of Changing Consciousness*, *Loving in The War Years*, and *Waiting in the Wings: Portrait of a Queer Motherhood*.

Lalo Alcaráz, an award-winning visual/media artist and television/film writer, will host a second keynote address on Tuesday, Sept. 21. Alcaráz served as a Cultural Consultant on the Oscar-winning Day of the Dead-themed animated global hit Pixar movie *Coco*. He has a forthcoming graphic history novel, *UNIDOS*, about the historic civil rights group UnidosUS, formerly National Council of La Raza.

All of Palo Alto College's 2021 Latinx Heritage Month virtual events are free and open to the public. The events are sponsored by several Palo Alto College programs, including the Center for Mexican American Studies, Office of Student Life, Working Writers Series, PAC STEM Center, and the Student Activities Fee. Additional events include:

- Sept. 16: Panel/Plática: The Role of Hispanic Serving Institutions within the Context of the Anti-Critical Race Theory Movement
- Sept. 28: National Voter Registration Day – Panel/Plática: Latinas in Public Service
- Sept. 29: Panel/Plática: Latinas in STEM
- Oct. 6: Artist Talk/Plática and Workshop with Lisette Chavez
- Oct. 7: National Poetry Day – Artist Talk/Plática: Lupe Mendez, 2022 Texas Poet Laureate
- Oct. 11: Indigenous Peoples' Day – Film Panel/Plática: Truly Texas Mexican: Honoring Native American Histories through Food

For a complete list of events, including times and registration links, visit [alamo.edu/pac/heritage-month](https://alamo.edu/pac/heritage-month).

### **About Palo Alto College**

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,

a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and a Rising Star winner of the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College 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](http://alamo.edu/pac).

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