



April 2, 2019

Colleagues:

I'd like to take a moment to congratulate each and every one of you on being named a Rising Star for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. From over 1,000 community colleges nationwide, Palo Alto College has been able to achieve something many might not have thought possible when we opened in 1985 – being one of the top one percent of community colleges in the nation.

Over the last seven months, I've been fortunate to witness the incredible work each of you has accomplished that has brought us to this point. Palo Alto College's journey to excellence began years ago and has been recognized with some incredible achievements, like the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence and being a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. These acknowledgements are more than just awards; they are proof of the dedication to the work you do each day in creating hope and opportunity for our students and our community.

Representing the Alamo Colleges District and community colleges across the nation at this level is an honor for each one of us at Palo Alto College. Whether students are the first in their family to attend college or looking to improve upon their educational attainment, Palo Alto College has always believed that education should be accessible to everyone. And by keeping our students first, we will continue to be a place where our community and students can achieve their dreams and aspirations for a better life.

I am thankful each and every day that I am part of the Palo Alto College family. To each one of you, I offer my gratitude for making Palo Alto College one of the best community colleges in the nation, and I am sincerely thankful for all that you do for our students and community.

In service and PAC proud,

Robert Garza, Ph.D.
President of Palo Alto College



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
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