



Oct. 31, 2018

Colleagues:

I'd like to take a moment to congratulate each and every one of you on the successful completion of our site visit from the Aspen Institute team of experts as part of our journey to 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 10 community colleges in the nation.

Over the last two months, I've been fortunate to see to the incredible work you all have accomplished that has brought us to this point. Receiving the Texas Award for Performance Excellence, being a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award finalist, and now a finalist for the Aspen Prize is evidence of the dedication each of you have to the work we do each day in creating hope and changing lives.

The feedback received during our site visit is imperative on our journey to performance excellence. I want to thank the [collaborative team](#) that has made this successful visit possible, including the Aspen site visit preparation committee:

- Connie Acovio
- Jerry Arellano
- Natalie Barajas
- Jessica Barnes
- Gilberto Becerra
- Katherine Beaumont Doss

- Nick Blakeney
- Destiny Castañeda
- Leticia De La Rosa
- George Guajardo
- Caroline Haring
- Leroy Ibarra
- Ryan Ibarra
- Monica Ayala Jimenez
- Dr. Beatriz Joseph
- Patrick Lee
- Arianna Lay
- Julie McDevitt
- Jennifer Mejia
- Tina Mesa
- Erica Meza
- Sergio Rivera
- Elizabeth Tanner
- Stephanie Vasquez
- Michael Ximenez
- Dolores Zapata-Caballero

Although we won't be notified about the results of our Aspen site visit until April 2019, I'd like to invite everyone to a **Thank You breakfast tomorrow (Thursday, Nov. 1), from 8-10 a.m. in the Legacy Room** so we can continue to celebrate all of our achievements together.

Palo Alto College's achievement would not have been possible without your commitment to the journey, the support of our entire community, and the collaboration in keeping students first. To each one of you, I offer my sincere gratitude for making Palo Alto College one of the best community colleges in the nation.

In service and PAC proud,

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



