“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.” – Henry David Thoreau

Don’t just get involved. Fight for your seat at the table. Better yet, fight for a seat at the head of the table.” – B. Obama

Over 30 CTN Students Graduate

Achieving goals is powerful and affects our success in life. When we dare to dream about what we truly desire and set goals in that direction, a powerful shift happens. Life is now lived with greater direction and purpose. And once those goals are achieved, confidence builds, and not only do we feel a sense of accomplishment, but we want to succeed even more. Author Dr. Wayne Dyer says that to manifest what we desire, we should “continuously contemplate yourself as being surrounded by the conditions you wish to produce.” Imagine what life will look like once the goal is realized. Imagine the joy and satisfaction you will feel. (https://www.virtuesforlife.com/)

This May CTN graduates felt that joy and satisfaction of achieving their goals and building their confidence to live the “life they have imagined” and to “take a seat at the table.”

We want to congratulate all CTN graduates. We admire their perseverance and resiliency. We believe in them and want them to know that their Ascender familia will always be there for them. We hope they will join the CTN Alumni Association, so we can continue to share in their successes.

Over 30 CTN students graduated from CTN colleges across the state. STC Mid-Valley had nine graduates: Jose Perea, Roxanne Walle, Alejandro Alvarez, Nestor Alvarado, Gabriel Farias, Jariell Barrientos, Richard Bustos, Alexis Reyes, and Amanda Reyna. STC Starr campus also had nine graduates: San Juana DeLa Cruz, Ricardo Garcia, Adolfo Pecina, Eulogio Torres, Stephanie Falcon, Marissa Loera, Jesus Villarreal, Gilberto Garza, and Perla Vazquez. Pecan campus graduates included Salvador Lopez, Jasmin Guzman, Jaramiah Rosales, and Marcus Asencion. PAC had four graduates: Ashley Dovalina, Angelica Myers, Brandon Garcia, and Miguel DeLa Fuente and ACC also had one student graduating, Christovar Jaramillo. (For more graduate photos, see page 4.)
ACC Celebrates End of First Year for Students

ACC celebrated the culmination of the first year of college for Ascender students on May 7th. The students received a stole that can be worn once they graduate to represent their participation in the Catch the Next Program. Leslie Montoya, Univision personality, was the keynote speaker who encouraged students to continue with their education and to believe in themselves. The ceremony concluded with a live mariachi performance and a Mexican inspired dinner.

San Antonio College Hosts Family Night

San Antonio College hosted family night for students and family on May 1st to visit the campus and meet faculty, staff, administrators and get to know the resources offered at SAC. The Ascender Learning Community faculty and staff joined in and invited family to attend this evening dinner event. A small gathering of both Math and
English Ascender students attended with family and met Dr. Robert Vela, President of San Antonio College. The English Cohort, instructed by Juanita Luna-Lawhn, shared the story essays they created in class. Faculty and staff were delighted to meet with family members and share a meal together. This event was sponsored by SAC Outreach and Recruitment and allowed all attendees to see what it means to be #SACProud.

PAC Hosts End-of-Year Celebration

PAC hosted their End of Year Celebration with food, fun, and an exciting guest speaker in the first week of May. Sebastian Huerta, former CTN student and club president, spoke to the students about his journey through the program to become a graduate of the San Antonio Police Academy. In addition, eight outstanding students were chosen by the faculty to receive $50 bookstore vouchers to use for the upcoming semester.
More Photos Celebrating CTN Graduates

STC Pecan campus graduates

STC faculty and Dean Bischoff

PAC graduates

STC Mid-Valley campus graduates

Adolfo Pecina
Marissa Loera
Fernando Guerra
San Juanita De La Cruz
STC Starr Campus Ascender Students Graduate from SLA

The STC Starr campus Pre-Ascender and Ascender Cohort students graduated from Student Leadership Academy on May 6th at Pecan Campus. In order for students to graduate as Student Leaders they are required to attend five Leadership workshops and perform twenty hours of community service. Dr. Anna B. Alaniz and Alex Resendez have partnered to incorporate the Student Leadership Academy (SLA) within the context of the Learning Frameworks Class. Because of the partnership between Student Activities and Ascender, the program graduated almost all the students in both cohorts.

PAC Selects Ashley Dovalina for Induction into NSLS

Catch the Next former PAC club president, Ashley Dovalina, was inducted into the National Association for Leadership and Success which is the nation's largest leadership honor society. Students are selected by their college for membership based on either academic standing or leadership potential. Candidacy is a nationally recognized achievement of honorable distinction. With 658 chapters, the NSLS currently has 1,031,665 members nationwide. Membership is for life, providing access to benefits including scholarships and awards.

(at left) Dovalina receives her induction notice from Dr. Rodriguez and President Garza.

CTN Hosts Ascender Foundational Summit

by Alfredo Torres

Catch the Next’s Ascender Foundational Summit took place May 20-24 at the University of Texas at Austin. The five-day summit focused on a variety of topics and goals that included: cultural capital in the classroom, crafting curriculum, and creating a more engaged cohort. This year’s summit began with a welcome and introduction from CTN CEO Dr. Maria Martha Chavez and Director of Professional Development, Esmeralda Macias. Following the introduction, Dr. Maria Martha Chavez, introduced the program’s mission to help the participants learn about CTN’s work and preview the training sequence for the week. Dr. Chavez, Esmeralda and Debra McBeath, CTN Director of Communications, then led a group discussion entitled, “Intentions and Expectations: Setting Norms for Learning,” in which participants defined their learning expectations and contributed to a discussion of norms for the week. After a short break, Dr. Chavez, Esmeralda, and CTN South Texas College Fellow, Anna Alaniz
engaged participants in a writing practice titled “Validating Identity through Writing Practice.” Here, participants experienced ways in which the process of writing could be used to guide discussion, form a community and build literacy skills.

After lunch, Debra and Anna continued the presentation by engaging the participants in a writing practice called, “Leveraging Cultural Capital: An Asset-Based Approach,” where they reflected on their cultural strengths. Next, Jon Herrin CTN Co-Director of Research and Evaluation, initiated an activity called, “Student Engagement by the Numbers: A Look at Effective Practice,” where participants looked at the findings of a study which pinpointed what strategies were most likely to yield positive student outcomes. Following a short break, CTN Fellows, Ariel Flores, from Austin Community College, and Anna Alaniz of South Texas College, gave a presentation on “Intentional Recruitment: Building a Strong Cohort” which focused on the fundamentals of recruiting students into the program and understanding the importance of this for the success of the program overall. Next, they assembled a small group activity called, “How to Build your Cohort: A Planning Session” where participants brainstormed methods for recruitment on their campuses. Participants ended the day with a reflection of the day.

The second day of the summit focused on crafting more engaging curriculum. The day started with Esmeralda having the participants engage in a group activity in which they explored their personal histories and shared them with the assigned learning communities in a presentation entitled, “Our Reading Histories: Learning Communities.” Next, Dr. Lydia CdeBaca, CTN Director, TLFSS, and Dr. Rafael Castillo, CTN Fellow and Palo Alto College professor, presented, “Defining ‘Culturally Relevant’: Inspiring and Engaging Students through Literature” to help participants understand how students benefit from a reading and writing curriculum that reflects their social, historical, and cultural background as well as the importance of integrating culturally relevant literature to the program. After a short break, Frank Savina of the UT-Dana Center presented an activity called, “Making Math Relevant,” where participants explored ways to make mathematics engaging and relevant to STEM and non-STEM majors.

After lunch, Anna Alaniz presented a writing practice, entitled, “To Break Tradition? Family Influences on Career and Major Choice.” Here, participants engaged in a personal development lesson exploring the role culture and
family expectation has on career choice. Subsequently, Esmeralda led a discussion called, “Engagement by Design: Making Every Lesson Count,” where participants discussed the foundations of lesson planning with an eye on engagement and retention. Later, Esmeralda had participants share a lesson from their discipline in an activity called, “Lesson Workshop and Share.” Following a short break, Anna and Esmeralda continued with the theme of incorporating family into the program through “Bringing the Community to Campus: Organizing a Family Night.” This presentation emphasized the importance of including family into the program and will discuss how to organize a “Noche de Familia.” Finally, participants reflected on the day in their journals.

Day three focused on creating an active and engaged cohort. The first presentation was, “Jigsaw: The Student Experience,” by Jon and Esmeralda, where participants engaged in an active reading activity that encourages discussion of the college experience from multiple perspectives. After a break, the next presentation was, “A Pedagogic Vision for the Future: Validation Theory and Sentipensante,” by Dr. Laura Rendon, Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Participants learned about the theoretical basis for our model and how practicing these core concepts can create meaningful experiences for both teachers and students. Former CTN students also presented during the summit. In the segment, “Si Se Puede: Alumni Speak Out,” Cloe Llanos, Michelle de Leon Hernandez, Christina Medina, Yolanda Tierra-Blanca, and Diana Gorostieta-Martinez and others gave testimony to their experiences with the program and answered participants’ questions.

After lunch, the summit organized into several breakout sessions. The first session, “Fostering Classroom Engagement through Active Reading,” hosted by Esmeralda, participants engaged in an R.S.P.C. reading activity that helps students engage critically with course content. Frank Savina focused on a math session. Stacy Ybarra, CTN Director of Student Engagement, and Ariel Flores, Austin Community College Advisor, hosted “Best practices for Advising and Counseling.” Here advisors and counselors discussed the best practices for supporting students outside the classroom. Debra continued the presentations with “Making Thinking Visible.” During this presentation, participants were introduced to three activities to help students learn how to learn. After a short intermission, Anna engaged participants in a writing activity called, “Mentorship and Engagement,” where they reflected on the role formal and informal mentors have had on their lives in anticipation of tomorrow’s sessions. Finally, participants finished the day reflecting on what they learned, and the day was adjourned.
Day four concentrated on widening the community. The first presentation, “Mentee Training: Preparing Students for the Mentor Relationship,” was hosted by Alejandra Polcik, coordinator at Austin Community College. The goal involved participants experiencing a mentee training exercise and discussing the best ways to prepare students for this component. Alejandra Polcik, then introduced “Mentorship in the Ascender Model,” providing an overview of the mentoring component and how it is organized and coordinated at one community college. She continued with a “Mentor-Mentee Panel” discussion, where participants heard from mentor-mentee pairs from the program about their experiences. After a short intermission, Debra McBeath, Anna Alaniz, and Esmeralda gave a discussion on “Approaches to Student Engagement,” where participants explored different ways to integrate the student club and foster a sense of community among new and existing students.

After lunch, Frank, Anna, Stacy, Esmeralda, and Dr. Maria Martha Chavez organized a group activity called, “Curriculum Design by Discipline,” where participants engaged in backwards design activity to begin to think about ways of incorporating the elements of the model into their current practice. Next, Esmeralda led a discussion entitled, “Place-based Writing.” Here, contributors engaged in a place-based writing activity with their small groups. Following a short break, participants learned how to revise their writings in preparation for a narrative share the next day in “Narrative Share: Feedback as Validation” by Esmeralda. Again, participants reflected on their day.
Groups discussing curriculum and fist-bumps for a great presentation! Gifts for family addition Reflection of the day

Following the sessions was the Foundational Summer Summit Reception from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the George I. Sanchez Building – Al Kiva Room at UT. As guests arrived and filled their plates from the buffet, they were entertained by the flamenco guitar music of David Cordoba. Guests were treated to a special reading performance by Esmeralda Macias. Dr. Armenta from ACC was the keynote speaker for the night. The evening ended with the awarding of stoles and certificates to this year’s cohort.

David Cordoba Esmeralda and Lydia Dr. Chavez Dr. Armenta Enjoying the hors d'oeuvres

The highlight of the seminar-cohort 2020 receives their certificates and stoles
The fifth and final day emphasized envisioning the year ahead. CTN Staff presented the available resources within their division in “Where to Find What You Need: Materials and Follow Up.” Dr. Maria Martha Chavez and Jon Herrin gave a presentation on “Research and Evaluation,” where participants learned how data was collected and how student success was measured for the program. Next, Debra and Esmeralda led a discussion, “Putting it Together: Return to the Parking Lot/Norms,” where participants discussed elements for important teamwork, identify on and off campus stakeholders, and draft a plan of “next steps” for their return. Finally, after a short break, participants shared their final writing pieces and understood the power of the writing process.

Stacy shares info. Jon talks about data and people listen. Groups draft plan of “next steps” for their return to campus.

The group listens as Dr Chavez explains why we share. Casey Lechuga reads about being a dad. Helen shares.

This year’s summit was sponsored by the Greater Texas Foundation, the Meadows Foundation, the Raul Tijerina Jr. Foundation, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Bank of America, and the University of Texas at Austin, College of Education, Educational Leadership and Policy Program.

Save the Dates for Transfer Motivational Student Conference, June 6-8

The 5th annual Transfer Motivational Conference “Becoming a Superhero” will be held Thursday June 6th through Saturday June 8th at the University of Texas in Austin. The conference is a major component in CTN’s mission to encourage students to transfer to a university to complete a Bachelors or Advanced degree. Students get to see what university life is like by staying and dining on campus in the Jester Hall dormitory. Students will also learn about financial aid, how credits transfer, career planning, and majors of study. A creative writing workshop with award winning poet and social worker, Mike Guinn is on the agenda for Friday afternoon with a Student Showcase Friday evening. The keynote speaker is Victor Saenz, Department Chair for the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at UT.
Save the Date: Thursday, June 18th at 3:00pm (CST) for the June Teaching and Learning for Student Success Monthly Webinar to Feature Rafael Castillo and Lydia CdeBaca

Designed for new practitioners in the Catch the Next Ascender Framework, this session will continue the conversation on culturally relevant pedagogy begun in our Foundational Ascender Summer Summit. Drs. Rafael Castillo and Lydia CdeBaca will offer suggestions for materials, lessons, and assignments across a variety of disciplines that promote a culturally relevant curriculum. We would love to hear from you, too! What ideas do you have for contextualizing your curriculum or building community with your students?

Remember that if you have not registered for the webinar series for the new academic year, you can still do so by following the link below, entering your email information, and following the instructions in the corresponding email: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7336155268859228929

Stay tuned to Facebook and Twitter for more updates and information for a smooth webinar experience. If you have any questions, please contact Lydia CdeBaca lydia.cdebaca@catchthenext.org

May Webinar Features Need for Writing Skills in Research

Writings skills are especially important in qualitative research because "rich description characterizes the end product" of a study. Not only that, but writing is often involved throughout the research process, including design, data collection, and data analysis. By the end of May’s presentation by Dr. Dora Elias McAllister titled “The Importance of Writing Skills for Qualitative Research,” participants were aware of the writing skills needed for qualitative research and how they can help students become good qualitative research writers.

For this and all past monthly webinar installments, check out our Teaching and Learning for Student Success Monthly Webinar playlist on the Catch the Next YouTube Channel

CTN Instructors Receive NISOD Excellence Awards

CTN instructors Anna Alaniz and Elizondro Munoz from South Texas College were honored at NISOD’s annual conference on May 26th as Excellence Awards recipients. Selection criteria for the award are left to the discretion of each institution. Recipients can be nominated by students or peers, by department Deans, or by academic leadership committee.
Anna Alaniz and Saul Garza Present at NISOD Conference

Dr. Anna B. Alaniz and Saul Garza presented at NISOD’s International Conference on Teaching and Learning Excellence. The title of their presentation was “Strategies That Foster Validation and Make Learners Feel a Sense of Belonging.” This presentation encompassed a variety of activities that foster validation and a sense of belonging in the classroom through interactive cooperative group activities. About sixty practitioners attended the presentation, which proved to be a great success.

CTN Salutes Veterans

CTN Copy Editor, A. Torres, Honors Latinos on Anniversary of D-Day

CTN Salutes our CTN veterans, the children, and grandchildren of veterans who served to make the United States a land of opportunity for all Americans. Veterans, like Dr. Hector Garcia and Gus Garcia, led the movement in the late 1940's in Texas and California to provide access to education for Mexican American students by taking cases to the courts to integrate schools and allow Mexicans not to be overlooked because of their ethnicity or surname. Alfredo Torres, CTN copy editor, provides a good historical tidbit honoring Latinos as part of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. Follow the link below to read his article published in the San Antonio Express News titled “The once-forgotten greatest generation.”

ACC’s Fraire Accepts Position of Associate Provost at UTEP

CTN congratulates Dr. Virginia Fraire, ACC’s Vice President of Student Affairs, who has accepted the position of associate provost at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Fraire has supported the CTN program at ACC and joined us at Celebracion de Excelencia in Washington DC in the fall of 2018.

Her career at ACC spans nearly two decades, and she has served in numerous roles from recruiter to financial aid supervisor to adjunct professor, and dean. Dr. Fraire was raised in El Paso and is an ACC alumna. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work and a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Texas at Austin. Her most recent degree is an ACC Associate of Arts in Social Work through reverse transfer.

PAC’s Beatriz Joseph To Become President of Mountain View College

PAC Vice President of College Services, Dr. Beatriz Joseph has been named incoming president of Mountain View College, part of the Dallas County Community College District.

For over 10 years, Dr. Joseph has been a key leader at Palo Alto College and has lead nearly 80 colleagues in Budgeting and Resource Allocation, Institutional Research and Effectiveness, Information Technology, Resource Development and Grants, Planning and Performance Initiatives, Auxiliary Enterprises, Scholarships and Alumni, Campus Recreation, Contract Management, Purchasing, Human Resources, Emergency Management, and Facilities.

Dr. Joseph has also represented Palo Alto College, the Alamo Colleges District, and San Antonio as one of only four community college leaders in Texas to be awarded the 2018 Aspen Presidential Fellowship. She was selected through a rigorous process that considered her abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements in student success and access.

RGV FOCUS Receives Grant from Greater Texas Foundation

RGV FOCUS will align local systems to better support the transition of students from public education to higher education to the workforce with a $1,250,000 grant from Greater Texas Foundation to Communities Foundation of Texas/Educate Texas. RGV FOCUS is a collective impact organization that coordinates the region’s school districts, higher education institutions, philanthropic entities, workforce and community leaders as they work together to achieve systems change that can benefit the region’s 90% Hispanic and 86% economically disadvantaged student population. Grant funds will ensure the organization has the capacity required to continue monitoring students’ progress along the cradle-to-career educational pathway and aligning strategies and resources that ensure students are postsecondary ready, attain a postsecondary credential, and ultimately pursue a meaningful career in the RGV and beyond.

CTN Offers Several Avenues for Student and Faculty Voices and Writing

Innovative Instruction
This blog is a place for faculty and program practitioners to share best practices for course design, student engagement, authentic assessments, and resources related to classroom and curriculum.

Have an idea you want to share? Contact Allegra at: allegra.villarreal@austincc.edu
Students Speak Out
This is a space for Ascender students to share their experiences, achievements, opinions and creative work through blogging. CTN seeks to highlight the great work our students are doing and invites all to submit their pieces to allegra.villarreal@austincc.edu

Journal of Ideas and Pedagogy
The Catch the Next Journal of Ideas and Pedagogy aims to fill a gap in scholarly publications by giving a voice to faculty, researchers, and administrators who cross disciplines yet maintain a core pedagogical focus on the underserved in higher education, who come from diverse backgrounds but include Latinas/os, Native Americans, African Americans, and working-class and first-generation college students. The journal, therefore, is designed to empower scholars, practitioners, and students by providing them an accessible, alternative source to express their ideas and scholarly work. For questions or submissions, contact Lydia.Cdebaca@catchthenext.org

CTN Wins SXSW Contest
CTN was selected as a winner in the Small Business SXSW Contest by sharing what Small Business means to on LinkedIn. The SXSW LinkedIn Studio provided an opportunity to network, meet celebrity Mindy Kaling, utilize resources like free business photo headshots and hear business speakers. Winners of this event obtained a rooftop pass which allowed them to network and learn more about small businesses in the world.

Opportunities Available! Participants Wanted!

Students

White House Initiative’s Internship Application Available
The White House Initiative’s (WHI) Year-round Internship Program provides current undergraduate and graduate students with an opportunity to learn about Latino-focused education policy, communications, and outreach at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Throughout the course of their internships, students will have the opportunity to attend meetings, briefings and other special events on the Hill, at the White House and in other federal agencies. Group tours and other social outings also are organized and include locations such as the Library of Congress, White House, U.S. Capitol, and the Smithsonian Institution museums.

Dept of Ed Announces Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad
Did you know that there is a Department of Education grant that provides overseas training, research, and curriculum development experiences for U.S. teachers, faculty, and students?
The International and Foreign Language Education (IFLE) office at the U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the opening of the competition for the fiscal year 2019 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program. The GPA Program provides grants to institutions and private, nonprofit educational entities that organize programs for K–12 teachers, college students, and faculty to engage in short-term or long-term overseas projects focused on training, research, and curriculum development in modern foreign languages and area studies. GPA short-term projects include seminars, curriculum development, and group research or study. GPA long-term projects support advanced intensive overseas programs that focus on languages, the humanities, or social sciences. IFLE expects to make 25 new awards totaling $2.7 million under the FY 2019 GPA competition. The application is now available at www.grants.gov.

Dept of Ed Hopes to Transform FASFA, Improve Customer Service

The U.S. Department of Education took an important next step in fulfilling the promise of Secretary DeVos to transform the delivery of financial aid for millions of students and their families. Before an audience of more than 5,000 financial aid professionals assembled for the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Training Conference, FSA Chief Operating Officer A. Wayne Johnson announced the Next Generation Financial Services Environment, which will modernize the technology and operational components that support federal student aid programs from application through repayment. Students, parents, and borrowers will begin seeing meaningful improvements in the customer experience in 2018, with significant technology and operational infrastructure changes continuing throughout 2019.

Here are the highlights of the planned improvements:

Fall 2018 — FAFSA.gov will be integrated into StudentAid.gov, making it easier than ever to apply for financial aid directly from FSA’s leading web site; this integration will let FAFSA® applicants switch seamlessly between mobile and web while filling out the application, enabling students and parents to apply for financial aid from anywhere and on a device of their choosing.

TBD — FSA will consolidate all its customer-facing web sites into a single, user-friendly hub to complement the new mobile platform and provide a seamless experience from beginning to end.

To learn more about FSA’s new tool visit our site here.

Private Student Loans Sometimes Cover the Gap

Private student loans can cover the gap between what you need for school and any federal student aid you receive, including grants, loans and work-study pay, as well as how much you can afford to pay toward your school expenses. This guide explains how private student loans work, their advantages and drawbacks, and what you should look for when you’re shopping for private student loans. See the guide at https://loans.usnews.com/student-loans

Form Your Future Offers Free Resources for FAFSA Completion

Form Your Future® is a national campaign from the National College Access Network to increase FAFSA completion by high school seniors, specifically low-income students and students of color. These students are less likely to apply for financial aid, even though they could benefit from it most.
The Form Your Future website includes the following free resources to support college access advisers, teachers, school counselors, and others who assist with FAFSA completion:

- The #FormYourFuture FAFSA Completion Tracker, which displays weekly data about the percentage of high school students who have completed the FAFSA by state, city, school district, and high school.
- A "How to Fill Out the FAFSA" guide addressing the most common challenges for low-income students.
- Short stories about effective FAFSA completion practices and resources from around the country.
- Social media messages for use in outreach to students.
- A listing of key FAFSA completion resources in each state.

For more information, please visit our blog. If you have any questions about FYF, contact Kelly Mae Ross (rosskm@collegeaccess.org), NCAN’s communications manager.

TX Public Higher Education Almanac Highlights Progress Toward 60x30TX Goals

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) launched its ninth annual Texas Public Higher Education Almanac today as part of the agency’s efforts to promote transparency and accountability among Texas public institutions of higher education. The 2019 Almanac provides higher education facts and performance data that allow users to compare Texas public higher education institutions. The data provide a snapshot of Texas’ progress in achieving goals of the state’s higher education plan, 60x30TX. The Almanac draws from data in the agency’s accountability system -- long recognized as a “best practice” national model for higher education performance data. “The 2019 Higher Education Almanac shows where we stand today in meeting the 60x30TX goals,” said Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes. “As the data on developmental education and college readiness starkly demonstrate, Texas has some tough numbers to overcome if the state is to reach our goals. But there is ample justification for optimism. The Texas legislature is considering major reforms for K-12 education that would significantly improve college readiness and encourage more high school graduates to enroll in our public colleges and universities. For all our challenges, Texas is on track to achieve the goals of 60x30TX.” The THECB and the Texas Higher Education Foundation would like to thank all those who dedicated their time, effort and resources to produce this year’s almanac. Investment in both the almanac and the 60x30TX.com website reflects a continued commitment to help ensure data-driven policy discussions and decisions in Texas.

Institute on Project-Based Learning Draws on 40 Years of Experience

The Institute on Project-Based Learning will be held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Tuesday, June 18, through Friday, June 21. The Institute on Project-Based Learning draws on over 40 years of experience integrating project-based initiatives into undergraduate education including classroom projects in a wide range of disciplines, projects in the first year, major capstone projects, and community-based projects. Project-based learning offers students real-world opportunities to research issues, think critically, gain new perspectives, solve problems, and develop written and oral communication skills all within the framework of a team environment and guided by engaged and involved faculty.

The institute is designed for faculty and administrators from a wide variety of institutions—including public, private, liberal arts, STEM, community colleges, and research universities—who are interested in learning about project education and advancing plans to integrate learnings into their own undergraduate curricula.
NCAN National Conference to Be Held in September

This year’s conference takes place Sept. 16 -18 in Indianapolis, IN. The major topics of discussion will be:

• Equity and Opportunity
• Postsecondary Access and Readiness
• Student Success in Postsecondary Education
• Policy and Advocacy
• Connecting College and Career Success
• Data Into Practice
• Financial Aid and Literacy
• Management, Leadership, and Organizational Strategy

For a detailed description of each topic, as well as this year’s hot topics, click [here](#). Conference sessions will be presented in two formats: effective practice sessions and world café sessions. Click [here](#) to learn more about these two formats.

New Curriculum Available for Instructors

Everyone Can Create teaches students to develop and communicate ideas through video, photography, music, and drawing. And it gives teachers fun and meaningful ways to bring these skills into any lesson, topic, or assignment. Check it out at [https://www.apple.com/education/everyone-can-create/](https://www.apple.com/education/everyone-can-create/)

U.S. Department of Education Grant Calls for Grant Applications

The U.S. Department of Education issued a call for applications for the following grant program:

• [Open Textbooks Pilot Program](#) supports projects at institutions of higher education (IHEs) that create new open textbooks or expand their use of open textbooks while maintaining or improving instruction and student learning outcomes.
• [Cybersecurity Educational Technology Upgrades for Community Colleges Pilot Program](#) supports projects at IHEs that provide technological upgrades for cybersecurity education programs at community colleges.

U of Wisconsin-Whitewater Fellowship Program Seeks Applications

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Inclusive Excellence Fellowship Program seeks applications from scholars, artists and educators who can contribute significantly to UW-Whitewater’s Inclusive Excellence initiatives. The IE Fellowship Program supports the university’s commitment to fostering greater understanding of individual, societal and group differences at every level of university life. Fellows play a crucial role in intentionally integrating those differences into the core aspects of the institution. The Fellowship Program offers a unique opportunity to work in a university environment that is committed to creating learning environments in which students of all backgrounds can thrive, and one that demands that the ideals of inclusion, equity, diversity
and excellence be pursued as interconnected and interdependent goals. The Fellowship Program is open to all individuals who are academic or creative professionals and who have completed a terminal degree within the last five years or who will have completed a terminal degree by the beginning of fall classes. "All but dissertation" candidates will be considered on a case-by-case basis; for ABD Fellows, degree completion requirements will be outlined at the time offer. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a commitment to their academic field as well as a commitment to the principles of inclusive excellence. For more information go to http://www.uww.edu/diversity/inclusive-excellence-fellowship-program

Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Grant Program Requests Proposals

The College For All Texans Foundation is soliciting proposals from Texas postsecondary institutions to develop and implement new Texas Affordable Baccalaureate (TAB) programs. The TAB is an innovative model and bold solution for many challenges facing higher education. First-generation, underprepared, low-income, and working adult students, all part of higher education’s “new normal,” need non-traditional and affordable postsecondary options. The TAB program is designed to deliver just that. Through a combination of competency-based and traditional courses, online and in-person instruction, and alternative low-cost tuition structures, TAB offers an accessible bachelor’s degree that can save students thousands of dollars and semesters of time. Visit the College For All Texans Foundation web page for more information on how to submit a proposal for funding https://college4texans.org/tab/

Opportunities for Fully Funded Masters and PhD Scholarships

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<td>5.</td>
<td>Endeavour Scholarships</td>
<td>Masters &amp; PhD</td>
<td>Multiple Universities in Australia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>June of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>OFID Scholarship</td>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>Any accredited University/College around the world</td>
<td>Any Country</td>
<td>Science and development</td>
<td>May of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Australian Development Scholarships</td>
<td>Bachelors &amp; Masters &amp; PhD</td>
<td>Multiple Universities</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>April of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Swedish Scholarship</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td>Swedish Universities</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>Jan-Feb of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>VLIR-UOS Scholarships</td>
<td>Training &amp; Masters</td>
<td>Belgian Flemish university &amp; university college</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Multiple Fields</td>
<td>October of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>NZAID Scholarship</td>
<td>Masters &amp; PhD</td>
<td>Multiple Universities</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Multiple Fields</td>
<td>March of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>DAAD Scholarship</td>
<td>Masters &amp; PhD</td>
<td>German Universities</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>Aug-Oct of every year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Singapore-Industry Scholarship</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>Top Universities of Singapore</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>All Fields</td>
<td>March of every year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following professional development opportunities highlight Ascnder and funding opportunities, conference opportunities, and information for theory, research and practice. I encourage you to forward any information that would provide wonderful opportunities to our team or students by emailing me at stacy.ybarra@catchthenext.org.

Thank You,
Stacy Ybarra Evans
Catch The Next

### Staff Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activity Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>ACC Faculty</td>
<td>ACC faculty: help us actualize ACC’s vision by implementing service-learning in one of your course sections. Apply by 4/26 for our upcoming Service-Learning Summer Institute to become certified and receive a stipend: <a href="https://ow.ly/yqN930otnVm">ow.ly/yqN930otnVm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Submit your application for the Latin American Training Program – a unique opportunity to learn from top faculty at <a href="https://twitter.com/UNAM_MX">@UNAM_MX</a>! LATP Fellows get a stipend to attend #SfN20. View the requirements – then apply by April 17: <a href="https://sfn.org/latp">sfn.org/latp</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td><a href="https://www.getinkluded.com/inkludedacademyinfo">Inkluded Academy</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inkluded Academy is a tuition-free publishing course taught by industry professionals to college graduates from excluded groups. Held over the course of 7 Saturdays this summer, the program will include a rigorous curriculum, invested mentoring, and a commitment to job placement. Inkluded Academy will be a much-needed pipeline between the book business and aspiring professionals from diverse backgrounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Scholarship Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Beginning in 2019, this scholarship program will target women leaders with eight or more years of experience leading people and/or projects. The goal is to equip mid-level leaders with the knowledge and tools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
needed to help them advance into the C-Suite or a more senior/executive role.

Additionally, in 2019, the scholarship committee will give preference to an awardee who has committed themselves and their employment to the public sector, not-for-profit sector or entrepreneur/small business sector.

Applications for the 2019-2020 Spirit of ATHENA Scholarship are OPEN and will be accepted through JUNE 15, 2019.

http://athena-pittsburgh.com/scholarship/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Interested in law school? Apply for Texas Appleseed’s Diversity Legal Scholars program today for a chance to receive a scholarship that covers the full cost of a Kaplan #LSAT prep course. Applications are due May 27. To learn more: <a href="https://www.texasappleseed.org/diversity-legal-scholars">https://www.texasappleseed.org/diversity-legal-scholars</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/14/2019</td>
<td>Opportunity</td>
<td>Applications are now open for our Texas Civic Ambassadors Program - a one-year leadership development and service learning fellowship! College students who are passionate about community engagement and political participation are encouraged to apply. ow.ly/6vlS30nXQBF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Catch the Next Program Partners**

![60x30TX](image)
![Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](image)
![The University of Texas at Austin](image)
![Charles A. Dana Center](image)

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![The University of Texas at Austin](image)
![Division of Diversity and Community Engagement](image)
![The Meadows Foundation](image)
![GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION](image)
Catch the Next Colleges

South Texas College
- Mid Valley Campus, Weslaco
- Pecan Campus, McAllen
- Starr Campus, Rio Grande City

Alamo Colleges, San Antonio
- Palo Alto College
- Northeast Lakeview College
- San Antonio College

Austin Community College, Austin
- Highland Campus
- Riverside Campus
- Hays Campus
- South Campus
- Round Rock Campus
About Our Newsletter

A publication by Catch the Next Inc., for its Dream Catchers. Submissions are welcomed. Please send all information to: Dr. Maria Chavez, Editor in Chief or Debra McBeath, Editor.

Submissions: Debra.McBeath@catchthenext.org
Or: Maria.chavez@catchthenext.org

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“The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Greater Texas Foundation, or any director, officer or employee thereof.”