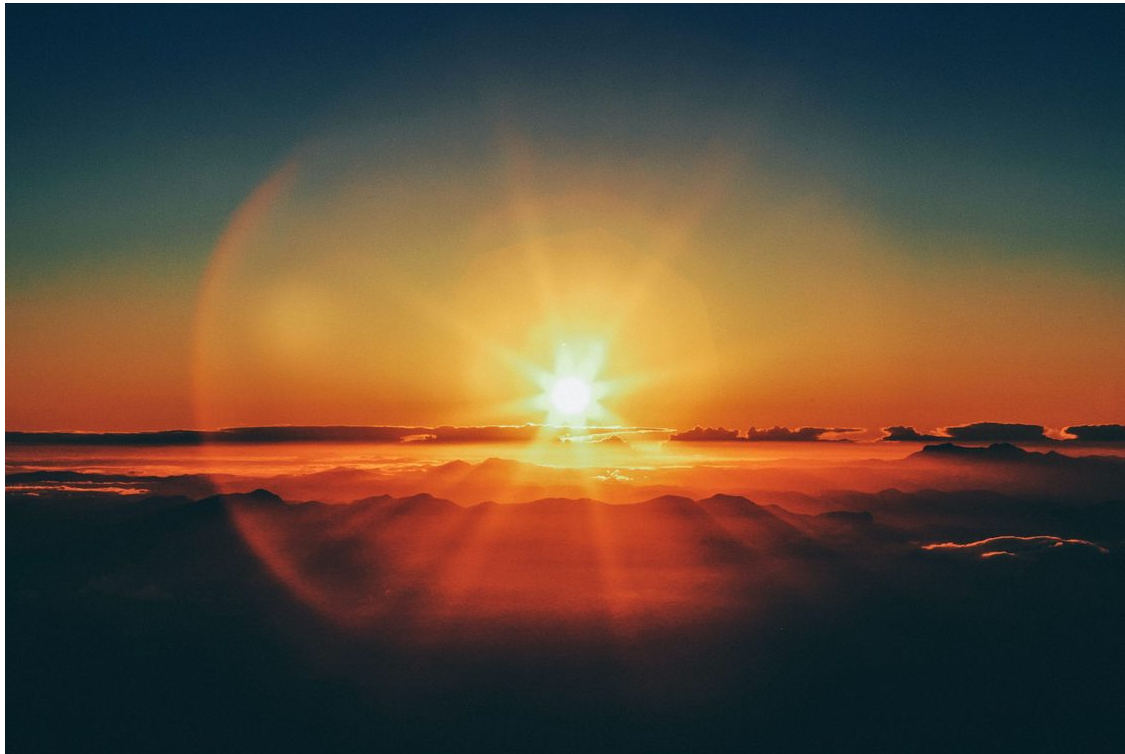


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Feliz Summer! We are updating the monthly newsletter template; we're trying new formats. Please send us a note and let us know what you think.



This Month

Juneteenth

The annual Juneteenth celebration took place this month. It became a federal holiday in 2021 and its origins are worth noting since Catch the Next (CTN) collaborates with multiple partners throughout the state. In fact, Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth a state holiday (1980). Galveston, Texas was the Texas-based city where union troops informed slaves they were now free due to the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Also known as Emancipation Day, it is commemorated through parades, educational community events, picnics, historical town and city activities, etc.

SCOTUS Ruling Impacting Higher Education Space

The Supreme Court issued an unprecedented overturn of over 40 years of established legal precedence in undoing the use of affirmative action admission policies (the court ruled against Harvard and the University of North Carolina). The use of race-based policies was intended to create a diverse student body in top-tier colleges and expand higher education opportunities to students of historically underrepresented or disadvantaged communities.

[College Board](#) has created this 'next steps' landing page to help transition institutions with their admission policies. They also have race-neutral strategies to prepare leadership teams and key resources for all stakeholder in the higher education space.

Students| Staff | Faculty *In the News*



Congrats to all our amazing TMC participants



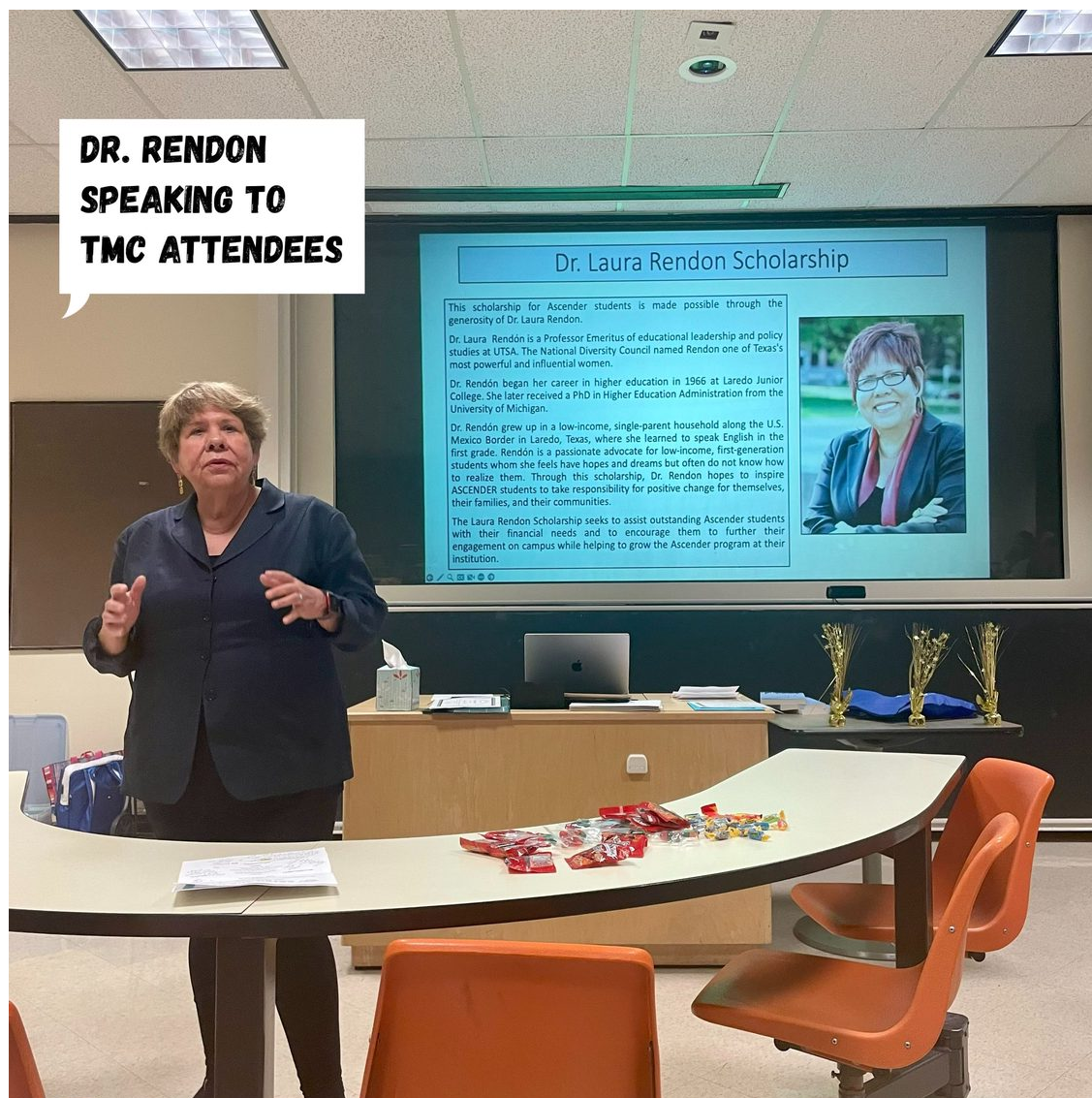
Transfer Motivational Conference(TMC)

The annual Transfer Motivational Conference was held at the University of Texas at Austin College of Education where over three college campuses and 65+ students joined to learn about the transfer experience. TMC is an annual event introducing community college students to university life experiences and to motivate them to transfer to a four-year university. The event is designed to expose students to a traditional, 4-year university on-campus experience, to include an on-campus dormitory stay. Thank you to our gracious hosts: the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin; the Department of Educational leadership and Policy at UT Austin, and the LEAD initiative, the Longhorns for Equity, Access and Diversity.

Dr. Laura Rendon Scholarship

Dr. Rendon, pictured below, attended the TMC and also has decided to create an annual scholarship in her name with CTN. The Laura Rendon Scholarship seeks to assist outstanding Ascender students with their financial needs and to encourage them to further their engagement on campus while helping to grow the Ascender program at their institution. For more information, please contact Maria.chavez@catchthenext.org

or Debra.mcbeath@catchthenext.org . Also, we will highlight more about the scholarship in next month's newsletter so stay tuned.



Board Meets

The CTN board met for its inaugural meeting in early June to coincide with the Transfer Motivational Conference held in Austin, Texas. The meeting welcoming new board members was held at the University of Texas at Austin George Sanchez College of Education with a welcome by Dr. Victor Saenz, Acting Associate Dean, Equity and Inclusive Excellence with the College of Education Department of Educational Leadership and Policy. The new board includes Dr. Greg Morris, Dr. Catherine Olivares, Dr. Chris Nelson, Dr. Darrial Reynolds, Dr. Yolanda Reyna, Dr. Elena Foulis, Dr. Linda Hagedorn, and Dr. Emmy Perez as well as CTN Alumni Sophia Farias, Farah Guerrero, and Armando Sanchez. They join the following, existing board members: Veronica Cavazos, Stephanie Alvarez, Cindy Yarely Marroquin-Garza, Esmeralda Macias, Amaury Nora, Jennifer Rice, Catherine J.K. Sandoval, and Jesus Mauricio Morales. Your commitment and work for our students has contributed to CTN's mission and efforts to help change lives through education.

During the meeting a group of students and alumni, as well as scholar mentors presented. The scholar mentors, a benefit of the CTN program, were Dr. Victor Saens, Dr. Laura Rendon, and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Assistant Commissioner Tina Jackson.

Leadership Fellows, Class of 2023

CTN welcomes a new cohort for the 2023 Leadership Fellows program. The group represent CTN's diverse partners throughout the state of Texas. They join an existing group totaling 50+ fellows that provides a development track for practitioners across the campuses CTN serves to help them understand the underpinnings associated with the values of leadership to impact the future of higher education. Please join us in welcoming from Dallas College, John Rose, Chuang Shao, Dr. Teresita Ramirez-Rosas, Patrick Vasquez, Michael Arredondo, & Melinda Andrews; from San Antonio College, Elissa Gutierrez; from South Texas College, Maria Garcia; and from Texas State University, Yvette Regalado.

LINKS

What We're Reading

[88th Texas Legislature | Can a 2nd session address Critical Issues?](#)

[Federal Benefits | College students and SNAP](#)

[College & Investment | Higher Education and Public Opinion](#)

MENTORS

Peer Mentors

Congratulations to CTN's Peer Mentor, who is also the Poetry editor for The Journal of Ideas and Pedagogy, Mr. Fernando Esteban for his recent San Antonio Express News publication of 'Building Community Through Poetry'. Check out his work [here](#) .

Vamos! to the Website

I hope you found this newsletter helpful. If you have suggestions for future content and/or want to learn more about our work, please contact me, Sandra Gonzalez-Lamb @ sandra.gonzalezlamb@catchthenext.org :)

Support Us!

Our Partner Colleges

South Texas College, Rio Grande Valley

Mid Valley Campus, Weslaco

Pecan Campus, McAllen

Starr Campus, Rio Grande City

Alamo Colleges

San Antonio

Palo Alto College

San Antonio College

Austin Community College, Austin

Highland Campus

Riverside Campus

Hays Campus

South Campus

Northridge Campus

Round Rock Campus

Eastview Campus

Dallas College, Dallas

Richland Campus, Richardson

Brookhaven Campus, Farmers Branch

Cedar Valley Campus, Lancaster

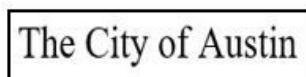
El Centro Campus, Downtown Dallas

Eastfield Campus, Mesquite

North Lake Campus, Irving

Mountain View Campus, Oak Cliff

Catch the Next Program Partners; Current and Former Sponsors



Austin



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