



CATCH THE NEXT

NEWSLETTER

December
Volume 12, No. 4

Happy Holidays from CTN



[Click on Gift Above to View Holiday Message](#)

As the year gracefully draws to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on the beauty that each individual has brought into our life. The holiday season, with its enchanting spirit, offers a perfect moment to express our heartfelt wishes to you.

In the gentle embrace of winter, may your hearts be warmed by the love that surrounds you. May the holidays bring you moments of pure joy, shared laughter, and the comfort of cherished connections.

Like the delicate snowflakes that adorn the landscape, may peace gently settle upon your souls, creating a serene backdrop for the memories you create and the reflections you indulge in.

As we navigate the festivities, may the spirit of gratitude guide us, prompting us to appreciate the simple joys, the lessons learned, and the growth that has marked our journey this year.

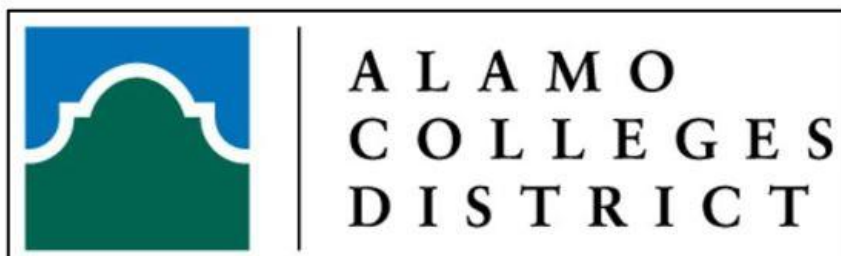
In the symphony of diverse celebrations, may we find unity in the shared thread of humanity that binds us together. Let the differences in traditions be a source of richness, understanding, and a celebration of the tapestry of our collective stories.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with the warmth of love, the sparkle of shared moments, and the promise of a new year brimming with possibilities. May your days be merry, your spirits bright, and your hearts be filled with the magic of the season.

Thank you for being a part of our Catch The Next Familia. Here's to joy, peace, and the spirit of togetherness this holiday season!

**Thank you to all the
CTN *Lead the Change* Sponsors
who make it possible for students to transform their lives.**

With your generous donations during our gala totaling \$8,225, CTN will be able to provide paid internships to our Ascender students.



Gold Sponsor

Alamo Colleges District (ACD) is the largest provider of higher education in South Texas. Its five independent colleges (including Palo Alto College and San Antonio College which offer the CTN Ascender program) provide two-year degrees that focus on preparing students to transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions and workforce development programs that help build new careers and meet the needs of business; ten education and training centers that offer a wide range of education and training for the community and military; and three district support operations centers.



Silver Sponsor

Special thanks to Dr. Ruth Reinhart, ACC Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Support Services, who sponsored the gala

Austin Community College is a nationally recognized college serving Central Texas as the primary gateway to higher education and technical training opportunities. Their mission is to provide open-door access to an affordable college education for students who want to earn a degree, learn a marketable skill, or advance their careers.

Individual Donors

- Norma Cantu
- Rogelio Saenz
- Linda Hagedorn
- Nora Comstock
- Elida Bonet
- Samantha Ackers
- Yon Hui Bell
- Jonathan Bell
- Anna Alaniz
- Yvette Regalado
- Maria Chavez

Donations are still being accepted and are welcomed here: <https://catchthenext.networkforgood.com/events/47544-ascender-catching-dreams-tenth-anniversary-reception>

College News

ascender
CATCH THE NEXT



STC Ascender Students Share Holiday Family Traditions

By: Aly Ceballos, CTN Intern



With the holidays just around the corner, STC Starr campus Ascender students shared some of their holiday traditions.



Ross Guerra, a second-year Ascender member, said “A holiday tradition that my family and I always do is spend the holidays at my ranch. We also decorate the Christmas tree every year as a family. This year the theme for our Christmas tree was Mickey Mouse, the cowboy version. We chose this theme because of my little niece. Another thing we love to do is to open Christmas presents at midnight; we just can’t wait to see what we got each other.”



Gina Saenz, a second-year Ascender member

Gina Saenz, another second-semester student, also shared her family holiday traditions. “My family celebrates Christmas on the 24th of December. We all get together for dinner, and we watch movies all night until midnight. Once 12 hits, we all go to the Christmas tree and open our gifts. We all sit together in the living room and have fun opening the gifts.”



Ximena G. Garza, a second-year Ascender member

Ximena G. Garza, who is also a two-year Ascender student, shared what she does during the holidays. “On Christmas Eve all our family gets together to celebrate. My mom, aunts, and grandma make some delicious dinners like tamales and menudo. The men in the family make carne asada and cabrito. To pass some time, we play some games until it is midnight and time to give everyone a hug and open gifts. We play the white elephant gift exchange. We recently added new games for our holiday parties. We call them balloon popping and the unwrapping game. For the balloon popping, we tie two balloons on each of the player's feet and the one that gets them popped loses. For the unwrapping game, we put lots of goodies in a big saran wrapping paper ball and you can get all the prizes that fall out until the other person gets a pair on the dice. You must wear big mittens so it can be harder. We always have so much fun playing games and spending time together.”



STC Starr Campus Ascender Students Take English Finals

By: Aly Ceballos, CTN Intern

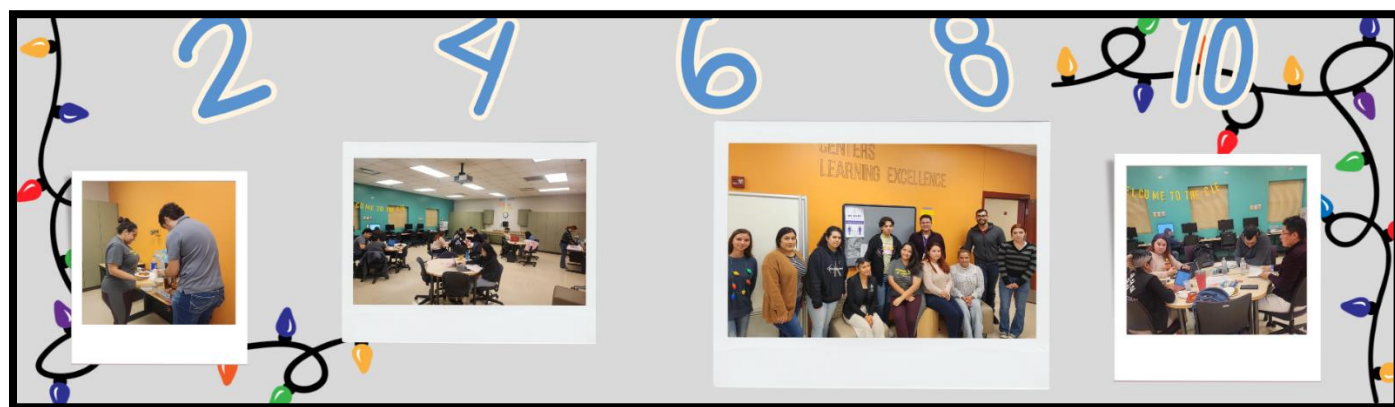


The week of December 11- 15 was the week of finals at the STC Starr County Campus, and the Ascender classes took their English final with Dr. Anna Alaniz. The final had two options: option one was doing a thank you letter to Dr. Alaniz or anyone in the classroom, and option two was to do a PowerPoint explaining one of the papers done during the semester. They had to come to class and present what they had chosen.

Dr. Alaniz had these words for her students. “The end of the semester final exam ofrendas are always bittersweet; the greatest feeling is to see my students take a step forward in accomplishing their goals, but it’s also sad to see them move on -especially my Ascender English 1302 because most of them have been my students for three semesters. I leave every semester satisfied knowing my students will be the future leaders of our community. I want all my students to leave my courses inspired, motivated, and accomplished knowing that all their dreams are attainable. Si Se Puede, Todo se Puede si le Hechas Ganas (Everything is possible if you have Grit).”

STC STARR County Campus – Girls Discovering Math

By: Rosa E. Gutierrez, STC - Mathematics Instructor



On December 6, the Girls Discovering Math Club, in collaboration with the STC Centers for Learning Excellence, hosted Study Date Event. All students were invited to have some pizza and study for finals. Saul Garza,

Coordinator for the Starr County Center for Learning Excellence, allowed the club to host at the CLE and had the opportunity to study for finals with the math and English tutors.

Girls Discovering Math Updates

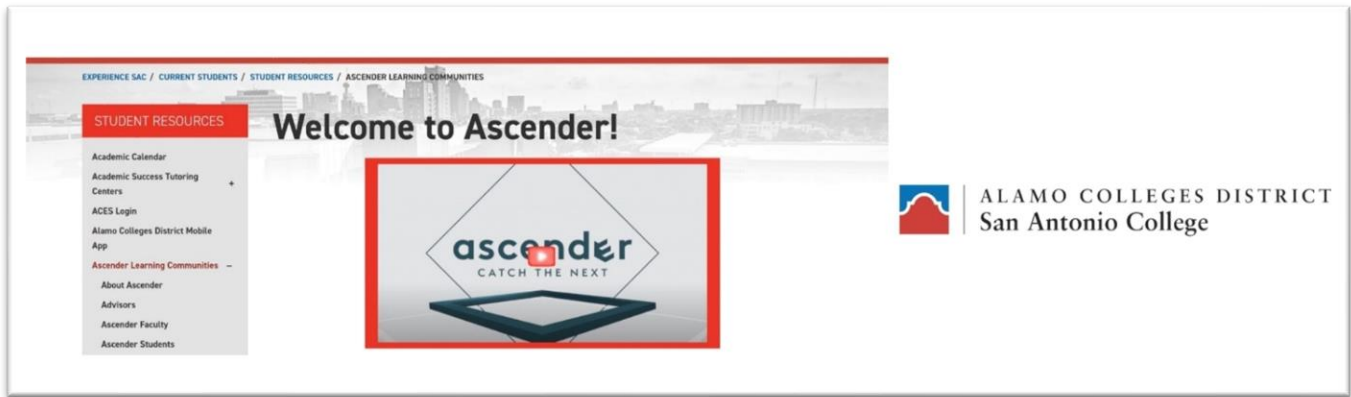
By: Rosa E. Gutierrez, STC - Mathematics Instructor



Vice President is Desiree Castillo; she attended every club event and has made contributions to the club.

Lazaro Garcia is our new advisor for the club. Lazaro started as an SI Leader and recently got a full-time position at STC at the Centers for Learning Excellence. He has worked with Mrs. Gutierrez helping students for several years and has played a great part in the club's success. With Lazaro's recent promotion to full time staff, he was promoted to official club advisor.

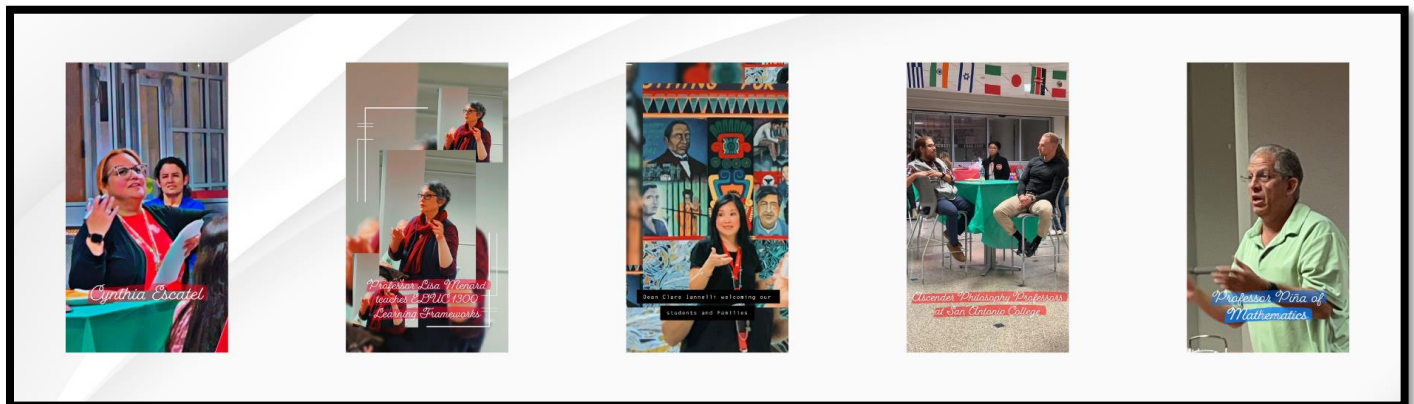
Mrs. Gutierrez, feels very grateful for all the support to grow the club and very hopeful that next semester will be even better than this one.



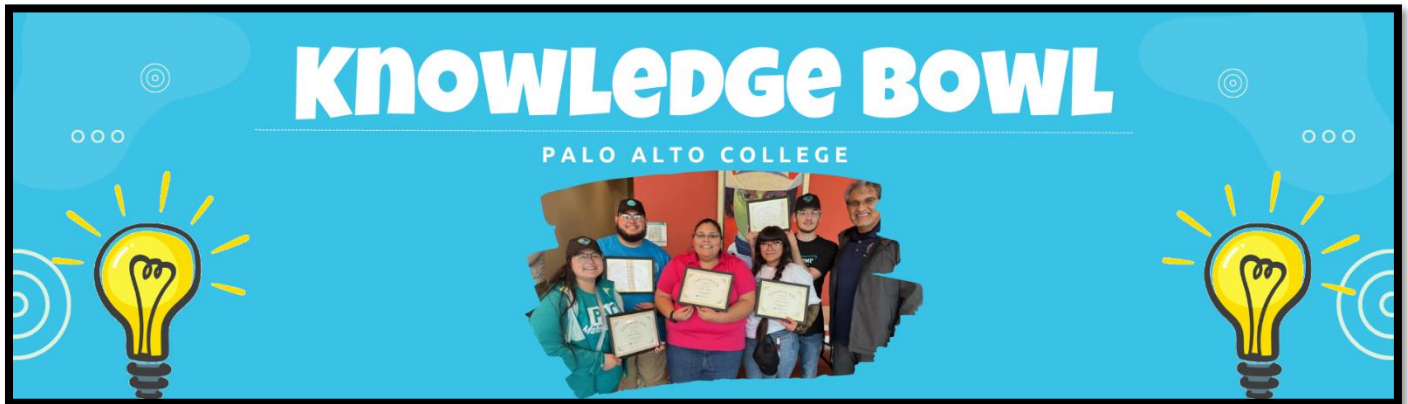
SAC Ascender Noche de Familia



San Antonio College's Ascender Noche de Familia event held on December 6 was a resounding success, bringing together students, families, and the community in a celebration of academic achievements and cultural richness. The event showcased the collective efforts of the Ascender program in fostering a supportive and inclusive educational environment. Attendees were treated to a night filled with cultural performances, presentations, and inspiring guest speakers. The Noche de Familia event not only highlighted the academic accomplishments of Ascender students but also emphasized the importance of family and community support in their educational journey. It served as a platform for meaningful connections, creating a sense of unity and pride within the Ascender community. The event on December 6 truly encapsulated the spirit of collaboration, celebration, and empowerment that defines the Ascender program at San Antonio College.



PAC Knowledge Bowl



Palo Alto College's participation in the Knowledge Bowl is a testament to the institution's commitment to academic excellence and intellectual engagement. The Knowledge Bowl provides a platform for students to showcase their depth of knowledge, critical thinking skills, and teamwork. Palo Alto College's enthusiastic involvement underscores the importance placed on fostering a culture of continuous learning and collaborative problem-solving. By encouraging students to participate in such challenging and intellectually stimulating competitions, the college not only nurtures their academic prowess but also cultivates a sense of camaraderie and shared achievement within the student body. This dedication to holistic education reinforces Palo Alto College's standing as an institution that values both individual intellectual growth and the collective pursuit of knowledge.

PAC Networking with FBI Agents/Professional Staff



The PAC 2023 CTN Cohort experienced an enriching and insightful session as they explored into networking opportunities and discussions about internships and jobs with FBI agents and professional staff. The event provided a unique platform for students to engage directly with seasoned professionals, gaining valuable insights into the intricate workings of the FBI and the diverse career paths available within the organization. From sharing their personal experiences to offering guidance on career development, the FBI agents and professional staff fostered an environment of mentorship and learning. This occasion not only opened doors for potential internships and job opportunities but also served as a catalyst for building meaningful connections between the PAC 2023 CTN Cohort and the esteemed professionals from the FBI. It was an invaluable experience that not only broadened horizons but also empowered students to envision and pursue promising careers in their chosen field.

PAC Ascender Students Participate in Winter Wonderland

By: Dakota Rodriguez, CTN Intern



Palo Alto College hosted their annual winter wonderland on November 30th. This event showcased lights and holiday activities. Ascender students volunteered their time and participated in this event by selling hot chocolate and conchas (sweet bread). The Ascender club president Logan Martinez commented, “Thank you everyone who came out and gave their time at winter wonderland! It was awesome to see the table packed with so many engaged students, and it gives me so much pride in being y’all’s President! Also, a BIG shout out to Ronald Perez for being the best advisor PAC has to offer. We wouldn’t be able to do anything without the support he gives this program and club/organization.”


PAC Learning with the San Antonio Food Bank




In the dynamic and enriching landscape of our 2023 PAC CTN Cohort, participants immersed themselves in an experiential journey focused on nutrition and culinary skills, collaborating with the San Antonio Food Bank. Throughout the program, individuals gained theoretical insights into the science of nutrition while actively honing their practical cooking abilities. The emphasis on hands-on learning allowed participants to translate newfound knowledge into tangible culinary prowess. As they navigated the realms of healthy eating, food sustainability, and culinary creativity, the cohort not only acquired skills but also became ambassadors of wholesome living. The collaborative partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank added a community-centric dimension, fostering a sense of social responsibility and awareness about the significance of nutritious food in promoting well-being.

In this shared and inspiring environment, the 2023 PAC CTN Cohort wasn't just a group of learners; it was a community dedicated to cultivating a deeper understanding of nutrition and a passion for the culinary arts.

In Search for a Math Professor



The illustration depicts a vibrant STEM classroom. On the left, a student sits at a desk with a laptop, with a digital clock showing 10:40 and a chalkboard in the background displaying a lightbulb icon and the equation $x=y+10\%$. In the center, a student works on a yellow robot. To the right, a student in a white lab coat holds a drone, and another student celebrates with arms raised. A table with various tools and a potted plant are also visible.


ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT
San Antonio College

**In search for a MATH Professor,
who would like to start a
Girls Discovering Math Club as a
pathway to the STEM program.**



Ascender



ACC 2023 Posada

By: Gustavo Deveze Castellanos, ACC, Ascender Student Employee



The Ascender familia at Austin Community College came together for Posada, an end-of-semester event on Thursday, November 30, 2023. This Posada wasn't merely a farewell; it was a tribute to everyone's perseverance and hard work. Indulge in tamales and Abuelita hot chocolate while playing Networking Bingo and taking part in a White Elephant Gift Exchange. These holiday activities were designed to bring the Ascenders closer together. There were several very exciting announcements made about the Spring 2024 semester at the occasion. Attendance at the group celebration reached more than 100 students. We could end the semester on a positive note and look forward to the adventures that lie ahead in the next chapter. Everyone had a great time remembering all of those amazing times!

ACC 2023 College Tour

By: Gustavo Deveze Castellanos, ACC, Ascender Student Employee



The recent collaboration between the ACC Transfer Office offered a compelling exploration of Texas State University and Concordia University on Friday, December 1, 2023. Participants gained invaluable insight into student life at these schools as they toured their campuses, learning about transfer opportunities and the admissions process in the process. The trip's planners hope that Ascender students have gained valuable insight into college life at Concordia and Texas State through the experience and that it has enhanced their academic journey.

ACC 2023 Somos el Futuro

By: Gustavo Deveze Castellanos, ACC, Ascender Student Employee



On Saturday, December 2, 2023, the Ascender team actively participated in an engaging exposition of student organizations held at St. Andrew's Episcopal School by the Con Mi Madre organization. Eager to connect with attendees, the team not only presented the organization but also took the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations, sharing insights into the unique identity and objectives of Ascenders. By articulating the mission and goals, the team aimed to foster awareness and interest among the expo participants, envisioning a future where more individuals would be drawn towards the vibrant and impactful community that Ascenders represents. This proactive engagement at the expo served as a platform to not only introduce Ascenders but also to build bridges, create connections, and pave the way for a more inclusive and dynamic future for our organization.

ACC – Special Recognition for Ascender Student Xiomara



ACC's Ascender's Program wanted to congratulate Xiomara from the Highland campus for achieving a remarkable milestone as an Ascender student! She broke the record by attending the learning lab more than 20 times within a month. Thanks to the support of Feliz Barajas and Dena Garcia from the learning lab, we were able to recognize her during her EDUC 1300 class. A special shout-out to Elisha, a fellow Ascender student who supported this new initiative and is actively advocating for others.

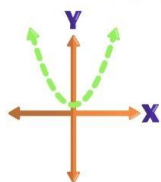


Dallas College – Girls Discovering Math

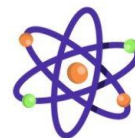
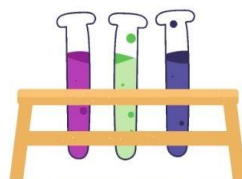
By Dr. Maria Martha Chavez, CTN CEO

DALLAS COLLEGE - NORTH CAMPUS

GIRLS IN MATH



$$x = \sqrt{a}$$



Leader: Teresita Ramirez-Rosas

Ms. Ramirez will serve as a leader of the Catch the Next- Ascender Girls In Math Initiative at Dallas College North Campus, being sponsored by Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation. She will provide leadership to other Dallas College campuses, and will collaborate with other Ascender faculty across the state wanting to engage their students in a statewide Girls Math Movement. She will work with campus advisors, as well as student intern(s) and tutor(s) that will help promote the skill development necessary for students to fulfill their educational requirements and to consider Mathematics as the entryway to careers in STEM.



CATCH THE NEXT

Thinking About Your 2023 Tax Deductible Gift

Consider giving to Catch the Next so we can continue to fulfill our mission of empowering faculty, staff, and institutions to increase the educational attainment of Latinos and other underserved communities in order to close higher education equity and opportunity gaps.

Send donations to

Catch the Next
18756 Stone Oak Pkwy, Ste. 200
San Antonio, TX 78258

To sign up as a monthly donor,
Call 203-508-3129 or email maria.chavez@catchthenext.org
Visit <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1217887>
to make an online donation

Ascender Instructor News



[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Dr. Rogelio Saenz has been diligently immersed in the creation of a second edition of a compelling book, a project that has demanded considerable time and dedication. This endeavor is a testament to his commitment to advancing knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of critical subjects. In conjunction with his book project, Rogelio Saenz recently contributed an insightful op-ed to the San Antonio Express-News, published early December. This

op-ed is a noteworthy addition to the newspaper's series on the South Texas Triangle, shedding light on important issues and providing a platform for discourse within the community. Saenz's multifaceted work reflects a dedication to intellectual exploration and a commitment to elevating conversations that matter.



1
MARCH

Start 12 - 4 PM
Austin Community College

There will be two sessions running at the same time in hyflex-equipped rooms so faculty can join in person, online and streaming, or later as a recording.

Congratulations!
David Rice from
Austin Community College
for being selected to present!

[REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE](#)

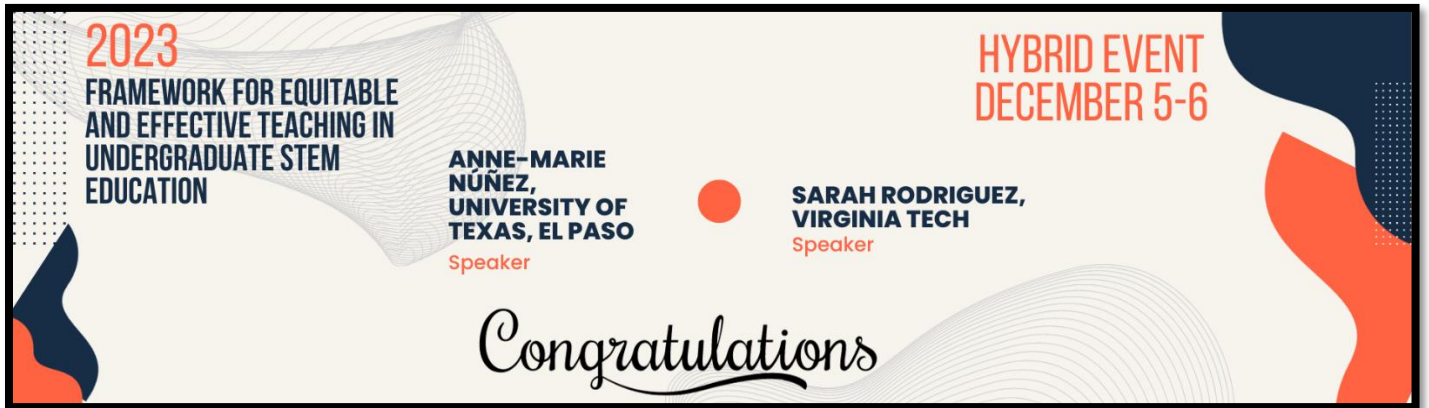
Congratulations to David Rice from Austin Community College on the exciting achievement of having his proposal selected for the Composition and Literary Studies Curriculum Conference of Austin Community College in 2024! David's innovative use of flash fiction with Ascender students and dual credit students this past semester showcases a commitment to engaging and dynamic teaching methods. His proposal's selection is a testament to his dedication to advancing the field of composition and literary studies, and we look forward to the insights and creativity he will bring to the conference. This recognition reflects not only David's expertise but also his impact on students, making education an inspiring journey for all.

CTN News



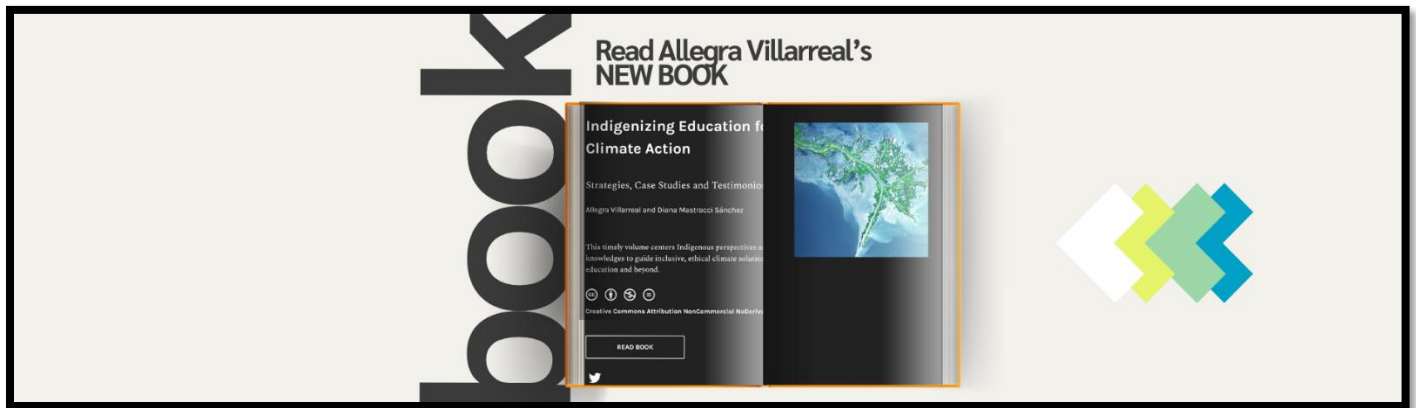
Congratulations to the remarkable December 2023 graduates! Your journey has been one of dedication, resilience, and countless hours of hard work, and it marked a significant milestone in your academic and personal growth. As you step into this new chapter, armed with knowledge, experience, and a passion for learning, we celebrate not just your achievements but also the incredible individuals you've become. Your tenacity and commitment have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on our academic community. May the future hold boundless

opportunities, and may your success continue to unfold in ways that exceed your wildest dreams. Cheers to your accomplishments and the promising paths that lie ahead!



[SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE DRAFT](#)

Celebrate with us the discussion on the recently unveiled public comment draft from the Committee on Equitable and Effective Teaching in Undergraduate STEM Education. This pivotal moment invites us to congratulate and acknowledge the contributions of two outstanding individuals from Catch the Next who were speakers during this event. Their valuable insights and expertise played a role in shaping the principles of teaching outlined in the draft. We encourage you to actively participate and share your thoughts on the draft, as your input will be instrumental in refining these principles and influencing positive changes in policy and practice. Join us in this collaborative effort to advance equitable and effective teaching in STEM education. Your dedication is commendable, and we look forward to the impactful outcomes that will undoubtedly result from your engagement.



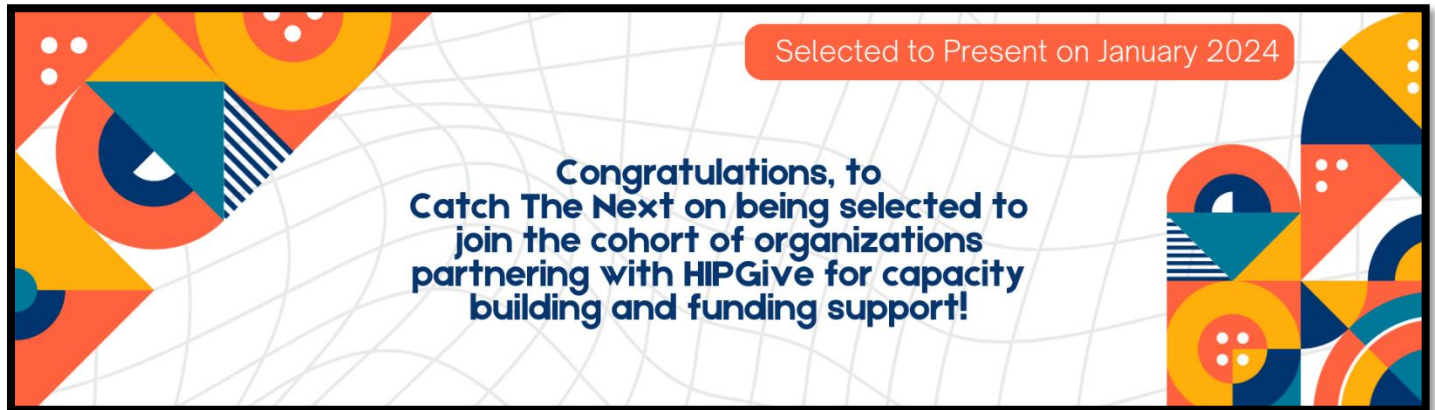
[READ ALLEGRA'S BOOK](#)

New Anthology Amplifies Indigenous Voices for Climate Solutions

By: Allegra Villarreal, Peer Mentor and Consultant for CTN, Former Director of Professional Development, and STC, and ACC Teacher
A groundbreaking, Open Commons anthology, *Indigenizing Education for Climate Action*, provides Indigenous-centered strategies for tackling the climate crisis through education and advocacy. The book is the result of collaborative efforts by the members of the GEO-Indigenous Alliance, Space4Innovation, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, the Namunyak Community Conservation, and Educreative Consulting. The collection features chapters from over 30 contributors representing Indigenous communities on six continents, including Dr. Autumn Asher Blackdeer, Dan Hawk, and Dr. Kathleen Butler.

Allegra Villarreal co-edited the anthology with Diana Mastracci Sánchez, both of whom were featured in CTN's November 2022 professional development webinar. Their work has also been highlighted at in-person and virtual events over the past two months, including NISOD's Fall '23 Conference, the Geo-Indigenous Alliance Global Water Summit, and was the focus of a plenary session at this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai. Villarreal's chapter, Testimonios as Storytelling for Climate Action, provides educators with strategies to facilitate the creation of student narratives, emphasizing the importance of dialogue, empathy, and critical consciousness, ultimately advancing a socially just approach to climate change education across disciplines.

You can access the book [here](#), and read more from Allegra in her [weekly newsletter](#).



On December 15, 2023 Catch the Next was selected to join the esteemed cohort of organizations partnering with HIPGive for capacity building and funding support! This significant recognition is a testament to the exceptional initiatives undertaken by CTN in promoting postsecondary success. HIPGive's acknowledgment is based on the dedication and effectiveness that CTN brings to the forefront of educational advocacy. CTN is excited about the collaborative opportunity that lies ahead, aiming to enhance and amplify the already remarkable endeavors dedicated to advancing the academic success. This partnership signifies a shared commitment to empowering communities through education, and CTN eagerly anticipates the positive impact that will result from this collective effort. Congratulations on this recognition, and here's to a future filled with transformative collaborations!

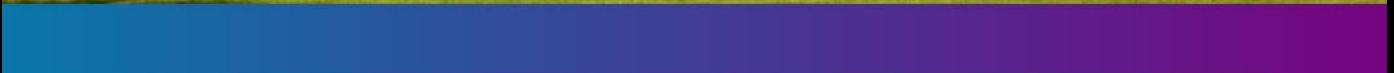
Spring 2024 Seminar NOW



SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE
PECAN CAMPUS

Spring Seminar 2024

Bringing together scholar mentors, educators, advisors, counselors, and trainers from across the state to discuss progress and challenges in the program and share classroom best practice.



This Event Will Be Held On:



March
21-22, 2024



Time
8:00 AM-
6:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

Hotel Details



Hotel
Hotel: Cambria Hotel McAllen
701 South Ware Rd.
McAllen, TX 78501

- Amenities:
- On-Site Restaurant
 - Free Airport Shuttle to McAllen International Airport
 - Shuttle for 5-mile radius



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

The ASCENDER Spring Seminar brings together scholar mentors, educators, advisors, counselors, and trainers from across the state to discuss progress and challenges in the program and share classroom best practices. The third and final seminar for cohort 2024, the series focuses on components of the ASCENDER Framework for Student and Faculty Advancement. The seminar will focus on the retention of students for the upcoming fall term

and the recruitment of new first-year students for the next academic year while also addressing the needs of various disciplines through breakout sessions. Additionally, we will be incorporating guidance and adaptations for technology in the delivery/implementation of our Ascender framework.

Student Resources

The following are student professional development opportunities, including scholarships, internships, articles to read and student success opportunities.

If you would like to share an opportunity, please email at stacy.ybarra@catchthenext.org

Thank You,
Stacy Ybarra Evans
Catch The Next

External Student Professional Development Opportunities

<i>Student Opportunities</i>		
Date	Activity	Activity Description
12/27/2023	Internships	Internships
12/27/2023	Internships	NBC Universal Internships
12/27/2023	Scholarships	San Antonio Scholarships
12/27/2023	Scholarships	San Antonio Scholarships

Website Offers Best Scholarships for Latino Students

Scholarships are a great way to pay for college without the obligation to repay funds. Maximizing scholarship potential can be especially useful for Latino students, who on average received less in institutional grants than their white counterparts in 2016, according to a [statistical brief](#) from UnidosUS.

There are hundreds of organizations that recognize this financial gap and offer scholarships specifically for Latino college students with the aim of making a college education more accessible and affordable. Here's where you can start your search and apply for a few of the best scholarships for Latino students:

<https://www.bankrate.com/loans/student-loans/scholarships-for-latino-students/>

Resources Available for Students and Families to Complete FAFSA

The White House Hispanic Prosperity Initiative has a [resources webpage](#) to help students and families complete their FAFSA form. The Department's Federal Student Aid (FSA) office is urging students to file the FAFSA form to help defray, and in some cases completely cover, the costs of their postsecondary education. FSA has made it easier than ever for students and families to access resources at StudentAid.gov and via the myStudentAid mobile application using a computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

Organization Offers Resources for Financial Literacy

Annuity.org believes when students learn financial literacy at an early age it helps them to make astute decisions about their personal finances, smart financial behavior leads to financially secure lives. Now, more than ever, is a great time for students to hone in on this skill while they are learning from home. Their site covers things like: Budgeting -Filling out a FAFSA request for college and financially planning for your future and more. Please take a look at our student resource here: www.annuity.org/financial-literacy/stu+dents/

Nonprofit Provides Free Mental Health Support to Children and Teens

[Wonders & Worries](#) is a Texas-based nonprofit that provides free, professional mental health support to children and teens during a parent’s serious, physical illness. Parents dealing with a cancer diagnosis, TBI, stroke, heart condition, neurological condition, or other physical illnesses and traumatic injuries often don’t know how to talk about their diagnosis and its impact on the family.

Wonders & Worries’ free programs ensure children and teens can reach their full potential, despite a parent’s serious illness. They do this by leading children through an evidence-based and copyrighted Six-Session Illness Education and Coping Curriculum led by healthcare professionals.

Services are always free and offered in English and Spanish at [5 Texas locations](#) and virtually in the Greater Austin, Greater San Antonio, and Greater Houston areas. They also operate a national [helpline: 844-WE-WONDER \(1-844-939-6633\)](#) available Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, where parents can receive a free consultation, from one of our child life specialists, on how to talk with and support kids impacted by adult illness. Additionally, they have several resources available for [professionals](#) and [parents](#) on their website.

Professional Opportunities

The following professional development opportunities highlight Ascender grant 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

External Professional Development Opportunities


<i>Staff Opportunities</i>		
Date	Activity	Activity Description
12/27/2023	Conference	2024 NISOD Conference https://www.nisod.org/face-to-face/conference/

12/27/2023	Conferences	Faculty Focus Conferences https://www.facultyfocus.com/conferences/
12/27/2023	Webinar	edWeb Webinars https://home.edweb.net/webinars/
12/27/2023	Webinar	Innovative Educators https://www.innovativeeducators.org/collections/free-training-higher-education-professionals
12/27/2023	Webinar	https://www.teachingchannel.com/k12-hub/webinar/ Webinars
12/27/2023	Webinar	https://www.smekenseducation.com/webinars/ Webinars

Helpful Information

- **FAFSA Resources**
- **FSA ID New Details**
- **Quick Start Guide for Financial Aid Application Changes**
- **Texas OnCourse Monthly Professional Learning Series**
- Leading Safe, Inclusive, and Nondiscriminatory Learning Environments During the War in the Middle East: Colleges and Universities **Watch now on YouTube**
- Seeking Citizenship through a Fellowship Program **Apply Here**
- **Scholarships For DACA Recipients & Undocumented Students**
- White House Fellowship Program: Application Opens November 1 **Deadline:** January 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. ET **Apply Here**
- AAHHE Conference Theme Webinar **Event Date:** January 11, 2024 **Register Here**
- 2024 AAHHE Annual Conference **Early Registration Deadline:** January 18, 2024 **Regular Registration Deadline:** February 28, 2024 **Apply Here**
- 2024 Community Collaboration Challenge Stipend Program Applications **Deadline:** January 19, 2024 **Apply Here**
- Latino Hill Staff Academy **Deadline:** January 24, 2024 **Apply Here**

- WEBINAR: From Now to Next: The Decade-Long Journey of Generative AI in Higher Education on January 25, 2024 **Register Here**
- The Dream.US Scholarship Program: Go to College as an Undocumented Student (with and without DACA or TPS) "**Opportunity Scholarship**" **Deadline:** January 31, 2024 **Apply Here**
- Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is awarding a \$15,000 fellowship for PhD students **Deadline:** February 1, 2024 **Apply Here**
- Financial Aid Q & A - **Event Dates:** February 1 & February 13, 2024
- HACU National Internship Program accepting applications for summer session **Deadline:** February 2, 2024 **Apply Here**
- 2024 – 2025 School Ambassador Fellowship **Deadline:** Monday, February 5, 2024 **Apply Here**
- International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence **Deadline:** February 9, 2024 (*Make-and-Take Workshops, Breakout Sessions, Roundtable Discussions*) **Apply Here**
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: Prompt, Play, Learn: An Interactive Generative AI Workshop **Deadline:** February 2, 2024 **Register Here**
- The Dream.US Scholarship Program: Go to College as an Undocumented Student (with and without DACA or TPS) "**National Scholarship**" **Deadline:** February 29, 2024 **Apply Here**
- Congressional Internship Program **Experience:** Undergraduate Student & Recent Graduate **Application Deadline:** March 1, 2024 **Apply Here**
- Pen America Free Expression Essay Competition **Deadline:** March 8, 2024 **Apply Here**
- NISOD's Student Essay Contest **Deadline:** March 8, 2024 **Apply Here**
- NISOD's Student Graphic Design Contest **Deadline:** March 8, 2024 **Apply Here**
- NISOD Excellence Awards **Deadline:** March 8, 2024 **Apply Here**
- HACU 38th Annual Conference **Deadline:** March 8, 2024 **Apply Here**
- HACU Scholarship Program **Deadline:** March 31, 2024 **Apply Here**
- NISOD's Super Early-Bird Conference Registration **Deadline:** April 5, 2024 **Register Here**
- 2024 NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence at Austin, TX on May 25-28, 2024 **Register Here**



LAUNCH OF THE 2024-25 FAFSA FORM

There are major changes and improvements coming to the 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. This redesigned and streamlined FAFSA form will be available by Dec. 31, 2023.

WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV/H/APPLY-FOR-AID/FAFSA



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FAQ: Undocumented Students Pursuing Medical School and Post-Bacc Programs 01

*Students
January 11, 2024, at 11 AM PST
bit.ly/PHD_FAQ

Creating Financial Aid Support for Undocumented Students in Dentistry 02

*Advisors, Educators, and Administrators
February 13, 2024, at 1 PM PST
bit.ly/PHD_FADS

Including Undocumented Students in DEI Efforts 03


*Advisors, Educators, and Administrators
February 26, 2024, at 12 PM PST
bit.ly/PHD_DEI

Responsible Advising: Being an Ally to Undocumented Students 04

*Advisors and Educators
March 18, 2024, at 12 PM PST
bit.ly/PHD_Advisors

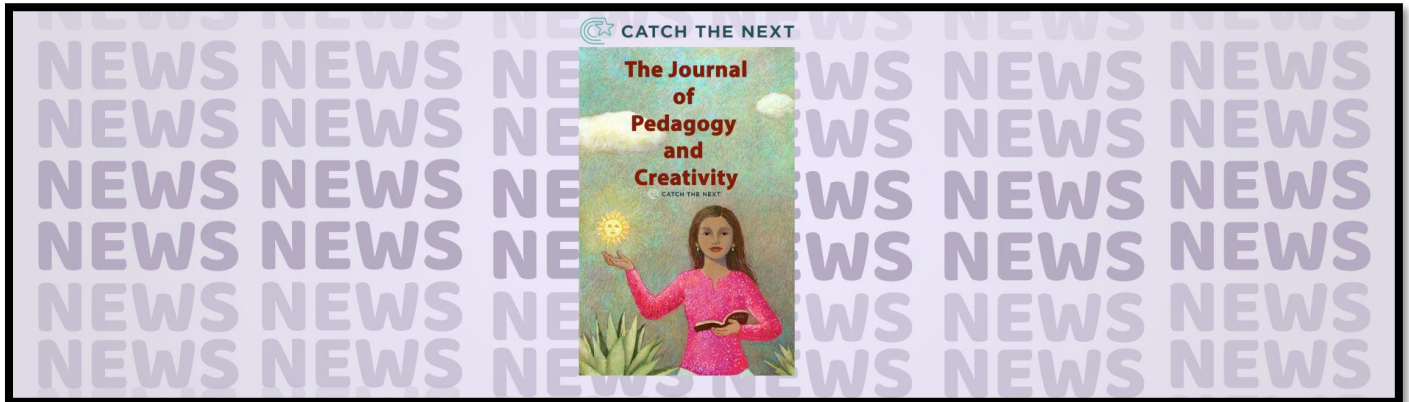
Building a Task Force at Health Professional Programs 05

*Advisors, Educators, and Administrators
April 11, 2024 at 12 PM PST
bit.ly/PHD_TaskForce



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Journal of Pedagogy and Creativity



We are eager to share our latest journal with you. Please click the following link to explore the content and gain valuable insights: <https://catchthenext.wpengine.com/journal-of-pedagogy-and-creativity/>. Thank you for your interest.

Free Learning Modules Available from Texas OnCourse Academy

The Academy has over 30 learning modules on endorsements, graduation plans, career pathways, entrance exams, college applications, military academies, financial aid, and more. All these free modules are available remotely, and you can review them at your own pace. The Academy is also certified to offer continuing professional education (CPE) credit. Counselors and advisers can earn up to 31 CPE credits by completing badges in the Texas OnCourse Academy.

Explore

NSF Offers Funding Opportunities to HSIs

The National Science Foundation is offering funding to HSIs for three projects:

- **Planning or Pilot Projects (PPP) track:** An eligible institution cannot have more than two active PPP awards. A new PPP proposal can be submitted by an institution with two active PPP awards if at least one of the awards has had its final report submitted before the submission deadline for HSI proposals. Institutions with an active HSI Track 1: Building Capacity award under the previous solicitations 18-524 and 19-540 are not eligible to submit PPP proposals or receive a PPP award until the prior HSI award's final report is submitted.

- Implementation and Evaluation Projects (IEP) track: An eligible institution cannot have more than two active IEP awards. A new IEP proposal can be submitted by an institution with two active IEP awards if at least one of the awards has had its final report submitted prior to the HSI proposal submission deadline. A collaborative award counts as an HSI IEP award for all institutions. For institutions with a current Track 1: Building Capacity award under the previous solicitations 18-524 and 19-540, each award is considered an IEP award for the purpose of calculating active awards for this track.
- Institutional Transformation Projects (ITP) track: One submission per institution is allowed. Previous ITP awardees are not eligible to submit a proposal in the ITP track.

For information go to: <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/improving-undergraduate-stem-education-hispanic-serving-institutions-hsi>



Catch the Next, Inc. was founded in 2009 by John Siceloff who sought to identify and scale-up effective models for closing the opportunity gap for Latino students in the United States. His vision is what brought Catch the Next into being, and what continues to motivate us in the valuable work of empowering underrepresented students, in acknowledging that their stories matter and that they can write their future chapters.

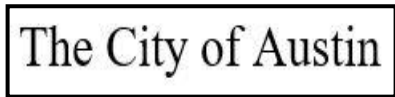
In support of his vision and our mission to empower faculty, staff, and institutions to increase the educational attainment of Latinos and other underserved communities in order to close higher education equity and opportunity gaps, we encourage you to make a commitment of support through a donation.

Donate here: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1217887>

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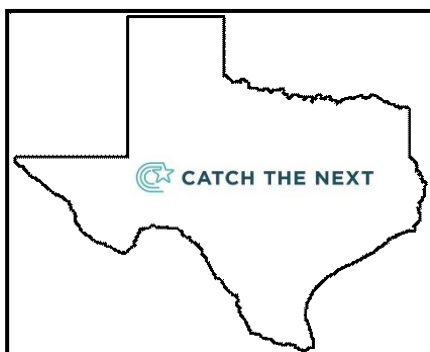
About Our Newsletter

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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.”

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