



CATCH THE NEXT



NEWSLETTER

January
Volume 12, No. 5

Welcome Back from CTN



Welcome back to the Ascender family! We hope this message finds you well and ready to embark on a new chapter in your academic journey during the Spring 2024 semester.

As you step into the classrooms, labs, and virtual spaces, we want you to know that your presence enriches our community. Each one of you brings a unique perspective, passion, and potential that collectively contribute to the vibrant tapestry of Ascender University. May this semester be filled with moments of inspiration, curiosity, and growth. We encourage you to approach your studies with an open mind and a thirst for knowledge. Remember that education is not just about the destination but the transformative journey that unfolds as you navigate through various subjects and challenges.

We believe in your ability to overcome obstacles, learn from experiences, and achieve your educational goals. The Ascender community is here to support you every step of the way, providing resources, guidance, and a nurturing environment for your personal and academic development. Take this opportunity to connect with your peers, engage in meaningful conversations, and explore the vast array of opportunities available to you. Ascender is not just a place of learning; it's a community that thrives on collaboration, diversity, and shared aspirations.

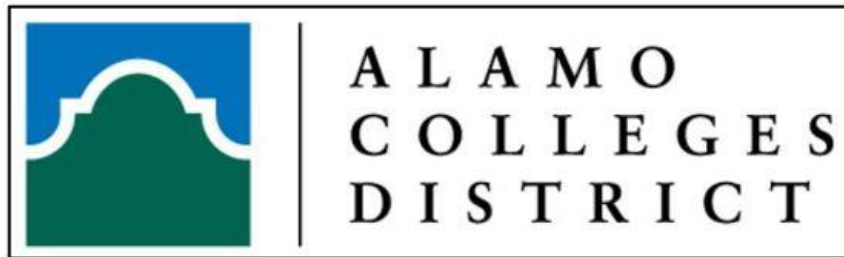
As you face the challenges of the semester, remember that growth often occurs outside your comfort zone. Embrace new ideas, challenge yourself to think critically, and be resilient in the face of adversity. Your journey at Ascender is not only about academic achievements but also about building character and discovering your true potential.

In the spirit of community and shared success, we wish you a Spring 2024 semester filled with accomplishments, joy, and the satisfaction of conquering your educational goals. Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we are excited to witness the positive impact you will make during your time at Ascender.

Welcome back, Ascender students! May this semester be a fulfilling and transformative experience for each of you.

**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

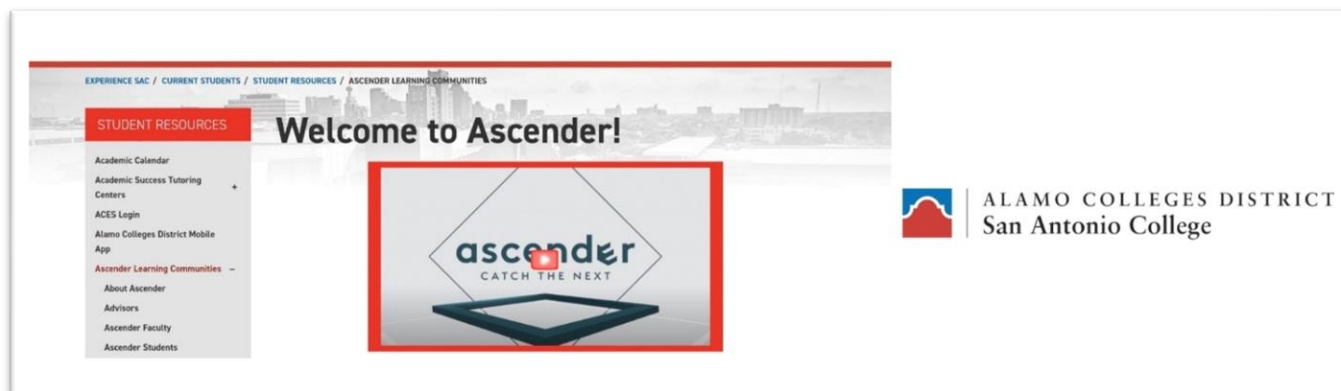
Austin Community College is a nationally recognized college serving Central Texas as the primary gateway to higher education and technical training opportunities. Their mission is to provide open-door access to an affordable college education for students who want to earn a degree, learn a marketable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



PAC Ascender Students Travel to Los Angeles

By: Dakota Rodriguez, CTN Intern



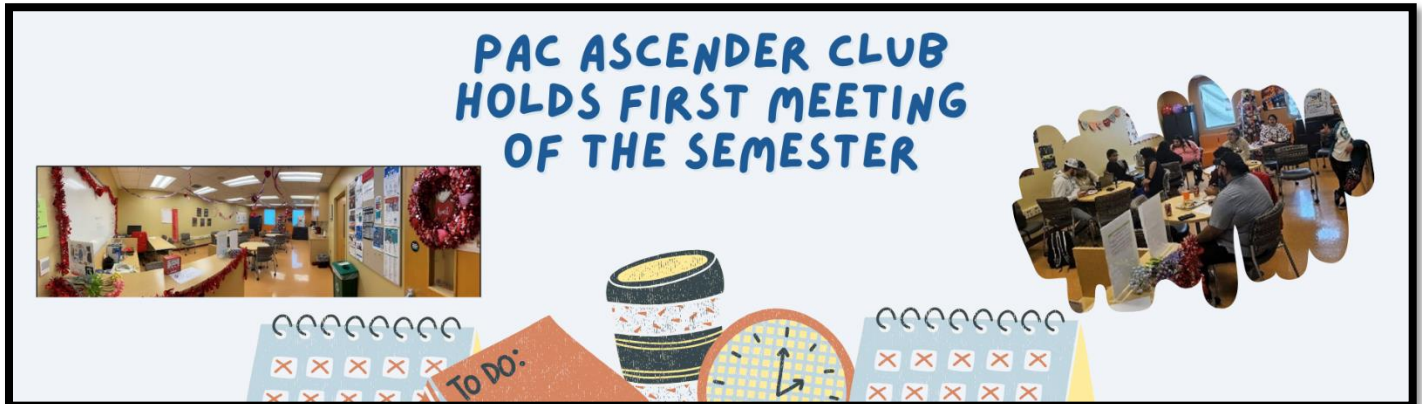
PAC Ascender club members, President Logan Martinez, members Kayla Muzquiz, and Melanie Trujillo, were able to participate in PAC's alternative winter break.

They visited Los Angeles, California. While they were there, they went to the UCLA campus where they visited the Assistant Dean and talked about what it would be like to transfer to a university. They took a tour of the campus as well. They also visited different tourist attractions and spent some time volunteering at a local community garden. They harvested vegetables and gave out boxes to the community. They talked to the master gardener about his mission to teach people about growing their own food and the importance of knowing where your food comes from.

"It was a lot of fun! The experience was like no other and definitely worth it," said Ascender student, Kayla Muzquiz. Logan Martinez said his favorite part of the trip was taking a tour of Warner Brother Studios. "It gave us a behind the scenes look at major pop culture moments." Melanie Trujillo stated, "We had a wonderful time and I would love to do it again."

PAC Ascender Club Holds First Meeting of the Semester

By: Dakota Rodriguez, CTN Intern



The PAC Ascender club had their first meeting of the semester. President Logan Martinez went over the agenda. He talked about the next few possible events such as a Spurs game, club rush and fundraisers such as a Valentine's fundraiser. Logan said that some of his goals were to make sure everyone has time and feels included.

The Ascender club meeting room was also decorated for Valentine's Day. Officer Joannette told everyone "Great meeting, and thank you for all who made the time to come to discuss the organization's topics, decorate, and hang out with us! Luv spending time with ya'll!"

"The room looks awesome. Thank you for everyone that helped and big shoutout to Joannette Casias for all the work she put in to making things happen!!!!" stated Logan Martinez. He added that he wants the Ascender club to feel like one big family.


SAC FAFSA Night

By: Marissa Pollok, Grant Program Coordinator




On January 24, 2024, the San Antonio College Ascender Program hosted a FAFSA Night in conjunction with Trellis Company. The information session was to provide students with an overview of the new FAFSA and to provide them a walkthrough and assistance with applying for the FAFSA. SAC had 7 faculty/staff and 15 students attend with 13 of the students completing and submitting their FAFSA that night! Some people to highlight are Marissa Pollok for planning and organizing the event, and Dr. Joan Jaimes and Cynthia Escatel for their support in the event a success, and Richard Sapp from Trellis company for providing a wonderful presentation!

In Search for a Math Professor



The illustration depicts a vibrant STEM classroom. On the left, a woman sits at a desk with a laptop, and a man works on a yellow robot. In the center, a man in a white lab coat holds a drone controller, and a blue drone is shown in flight. On the right, a woman in a yellow shirt celebrates with her arms raised. A chalkboard in the background displays a clock showing 10:40, a lightbulb icon, and the equation $x=y+10\%$. A potted plant is on the far left, and a box of tools is on the far right.


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



SAVE the Date



ACC is thrilled to extend a cordial invitation to the Ascender Familia for the upcoming 9th Annual "Celebración," the Ascender Catch the Next closing ceremony event. This gathering is set to commemorate the exceptional achievements of ACC Ascender students as they complete their first year of college. The futuristic ceremony is scheduled to take place at **Austin PBS on Thursday, May 2nd, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.**

In anticipation of an inspiring evening, they are honored to announce Celia Israel, the former representative of the 50th district in the Texas House of Representatives, as their keynote speaker. A distinguished figure in our community, Celia Israel will provide valuable insights and share her educational experiences, offering a glimpse into the future of our students.

Adding to the excitement, students will be adorned with their Ascender Graduation stoles during the ceremony, while our esteemed professors and staff will be recognized for their contributions. The atmosphere will be nothing short of festive, accompanied by light refreshments and uplifting music.



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



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



As National Mentoring Month unfolds, Catch The Next is reflecting on the immeasurable impact that our mentors have had on our colleges and the profound role each one plays in shaping the core of our educational model. Through this message, CTN extends the deepest appreciation for our mentors' unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions to the Teaching and Learning for Student Success Peer Mentoring Program.

The essence of the CTN mentoring program lies in creating a vibrant community of learning, coaching, and mentorship, all aimed at nurturing the complete professional—ultimately enhancing individual and institutional performance. CTN mentors' commitment has been the cornerstone of this endeavor, and we want to express our gratitude for the role they play in making it a resounding success.

This robust community of learning thrives on the active involvement of a sustained network of scholars, authors, and community leaders—individuals like our mentors—who serve as pillars of support for the instructional and professional development of our faculty in the classroom and our staff sustaining CTN's programs across the state.

The impact extends far beyond the confines of traditional mentorship. Mentors generously devote their time and expertise to lead training sessions, enrich the classrooms with their insights, actively participate in and guide student internships, and provide invaluable coaching to our faculty and staff as they strive to realize their personal and professional goals.

CTN mentors' commitment to excellence has not only elevated the educational experience within our institutions but has also had a profound and lasting influence on the broader community. Their dedication to mentorship serves as an inspiration, setting a high standard for all to follow.

As we celebrate National Mentoring Month, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to each one of our CTN mentors. Their selfless contributions have made a lasting impact on the lives of those they have mentored, and we are truly privileged to have each one of our mentors as integral members of our mentoring community.

Thank you for being the guiding lights that illuminate the path to success for our faculty, staff, and students. Your mentorship is a beacon of inspiration, and we look forward to continuing this journey of learning and growth together.



We are thrilled to extend heartfelt congratulations to Scholar Mentor, Sergio Troncoso for the well-deserved Honorable Mention awarded by the Philosophical Society of Texas for his outstanding work, "NOBODY'S PILGRIMS." This recognition is a testament to Sergio's exceptional talent, dedication, and the impact of his literary contributions.

Being acknowledged by the Philosophical Society of Texas is no small feat, and Sergio's achievement is a reflection of the depth and significance of his work. We would also like to express appreciation to the society for recognizing and celebrating excellence in fiction. It is a pleasure to see writers like Sergio Troncoso being honored alongside other distinguished authors, such as Stephen Harrigan and Katie Gutierrez. This acknowledgment not only elevates Sergio's work but also contributes to the broader literary landscape.

Sergio's accomplishments are a source of pride for our community, and we are honored to have him as a Scholar Mentor. His passion for literature and dedication to his craft inspire not only his mentees but everyone fortunate enough to encounter his work.

Once again, congratulations to Sergio, on this well-deserved Honorable Mention! May his literary journey continue to flourish, and may his words continue to resonate with readers far and wide.

New to CTN

Welcome,

to our new
CTN Scholar Mentor



Nati del Paso is an author, counselor, and faculty in Race, Indigenous Nations, and Gender Studies (RING) at Portland Community College. Before PCC, she was a counselor in the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity at the University of Washington in Seattle for seven years. Her legal name is Maria Anastasia Sefchick del Paso. Still, she chose her nickname, Nati, and her mother's last name, del Paso, as a pen name to honor her Mexican, indigenous, and maternal influences and roots.

Nati was raised in Mexico City by a Mexican mother and an American father and moved to Reno, NV, in 2001. There, she studied creative writing, managed the community college's writing program and annual writers' conference, and wrote for *Ahora* bilingual newspaper.

Nati has a B.A. in Communication and Philosophy from Universidad Iberoamericana, CDMX, and a Master's in Counseling from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a Liberation, Indigenous, Community, and Ecopsychology student at Pacifica Graduate Institute and of shamanism with Carlos de Leon.

Del Paso is from a long line of storytellers. When not teaching or writing, she presents indigenous myths and the wisdom in their archetypes in schools and libraries. She weaves psychology and magic realism into suspenseful tales surrounding the immigrant experience, women, environmental, race, and cultural identity issues.

Del Paso published *Women of Fire and Snow*, a collection of contemporary stories of women straddling the Mexican-American border while finding their place and voice in Spanish and English. Cultural identity, gender violence, forced migration, sacrifice, love, and resiliency give birth to suspenseful tales in which stark realism is tempered by the supernatural and mystical. The Kirkus Review said, "*Powerful, engaging tales that make vivid use of magical realism.*"

Del Paso is working on her third novel and developing her bilingual website *Curarse en Salud* into a YouTube channel for Mexican women living in the US.

Del Paso's professional life has centered on improving access, retention, and opportunities for BIPOC, especially Chicax students. She has worked at three community colleges and two universities teaching psychology, teacher education, multicultural education, and ethnic studies. Her work with the Chicax community includes teaching for the College Access

Latino Indigenous summer bridge, ALITAS mentorship (professional Latinas mentoring middle school Latina girls), serving on the board of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Reno, NV, DACA renewal workshops and fundraising, Citizenship workshops, Know your rights workshops, and developing and teaching wellbeing in a social justice context for students of color at University of Washington.

Nati lives in Portland, Oregon, with her husband, Vito de la Cruz, and their three dogs, Canela, Luna, and Yoali. During the summers, she does research in Mexico on gender violence, community psychology, and indigenous healing practices.

Maria Nati S. del Paso

"The pursuit of full humanity cannot be carried out in isolation
or individualism, but only in fellowship and solidarity"

Paulo Freire



Juan Tejada retired in 2016 as a professor of Mexican-American Studies and Music at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas. He is a writer, musician, educator, ex-Jefe Segundo of Xinachtli (the first traditional Mexica-Azteca Conchero dance group in Texas), arts administrator, and activist. From 1980 to 1998 he was the Xicano Music Program Director at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center where, among his many duties, he founded and directed the annual Tejano Conjunto Festival en San Antonio. He is the button accordionist for the Conjunto Aztlan, and he and his wife, Anisa Onofre, are the publishers of Aztlan Libre Press, a small, independent publishing company based in Yanawana that is dedicated to the publishing, promotion, and free expression of Indigenous/Xicanx literature and art.



Armando Tejada, Ph.D. is married with four children, a grandson, and is a lifelong resident of the south side of San Antonio. He has been a Full-time Lecturer in Curriculum & Instruction, Education and Special Education at Texas A&M University San Antonio for 13 years. He has also worked closely with students to study and prepare for their state teaching certification exams. Armando attended Palo Alto College, UTSA, and the Higher Education Program at the University of the Incarnate Word.

After graduating from Central Catholic Marianist High School, Armando joined the United States Marine Corps. Upon returning and entering college, he worked with a state-funded non-profit social-service organization providing guidance to students and their families in five (5) local south side school districts for 9 years. Armando worked as a Paralegal for a large law firm here in San Antonio while attending college. He also taught special education in the Harlandale and Southside school districts for ten (10) years, specializing in working with students with exceptionalities that included various disabilities like Learning Disabilities, Autism, and Emotional Behavioral Disorder. His research interests are in Assessment, Special Education, Adult Education, Leadership and Social Justice.

CTN Upcoming Events

Connect & Chat (AC&C) Fostering Belonging in CTN ASCENDER

Wednesday, February 7th

3 pm CST



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Ascender Connect & Chat (AC&C) is a monthly virtual event series organized by Catch the Next (CTN) to promote a sense of belonging among Ascender Cohort Members and to address any problems of practice they may face. These virtual office hours are designed to support Ascender Cohort Members, both present and past. AC&C is an online means to address real-time questions and concerns related to program logistics, curriculum, course materials, and any other issues stakeholders may have regarding implementing the program on their campus. The sessions offer one-to-one/group interactions between Ascender Cohort Members and the CTN team, particularly those involved in the professional development component of the program.

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ASCENDER Learning Circle

Wednesday February 14th, 2024

3 pm CST

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Join a cohort of equity-minded educators for a virtual discussion on the ASCENDER Framework for Student, Faculty, and Institutional Advancement.

You are an educator who cares, so you know how hard it is to give every student what they need to succeed. Students need to be challenged academically, validated for who they are, and prepared for meaningful careers in the future. That is why Catch the Next, Inc. A data-driven, not-for-profit organization has partnered with colleges to increase students' educational attainment.

Good teaching shouldn't live in silos. ASCENDER's success is rooted in a multi-college cultural wealth cohort model providing professional development for faculty and staff with the option to grant graduate credit from the University of Texas at Austin, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy.

We are a community of educators committed to academic rigor, culturally responsive pedagogy, and authentic care for all students. We believe students thrive when their teachers and advisors do, too.

ASCENDER is recruiting for the 2024-25 academic year. To learn more, join us for a conversation.



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Catch the Next's Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar is a dynamic and enriching platform that brings together seasoned professionals and eager mentees from diverse fields. This monthly event serves as a beacon for career development, fostering a collaborative environment where knowledge and insights are exchanged freely. The webinars feature expert speakers who share their invaluable experiences, providing mentorship and guidance to the audience. Participants gain access to a wealth of expertise, industry trends, and practical advice that propels their professional journeys forward. The emphasis on networking and interactive discussions distinguishes Catch the Next's webinars, creating a supportive community where individuals can forge meaningful connections and gain inspiration for their career trajectories. Whether you are a seasoned professional seeking to share your wisdom or an aspiring mentee eager to learn, the Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar is an indispensable resource for navigating the intricacies of the professional landscape.



HACU
HISPANIC
ASSOCIATION
OF COLLEGES &
UNIVERSITIES

Tuesday,
February 20, 2024

11:30 am CST

tinyurl.com/HACUFebWebinar

**HACU WEBINAR
PARTNERSHIPS TO
CHAMPION STUDENT
SUCCESS**



REGISTER TODAY

To ensure economic opportunity, colleges must increase the number of students who graduate with post-secondary credentials. Catch the Next's Campaign for College Completion and Economic Development through its ASCENDER program has created partnerships with HSIs to provide a holistic approach to student, faculty, and institutional engagement. It is a program created to engage faculty and staff in culturally responsive professional development while working with a cohort of underserved students at their home campuses to ensure academic success.



 **CATCH THE NEXT**
TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING INSTITUTE SM

February 23, 2024 - 9:00am to 3:00pm

REGISTER TODAY

Join us on February 23, 2024, for the "Transformative Teaching Track Institute," is a dynamic virtual professional development event from 9 am to 3 pm. This engaging day, led by Dr. Maria Martha Chavez, Yvette Regalado, and Allegra Villarreal, focuses on innovative co-requisite course design and culturally and linguistically sustainable (CLSP) approaches.

Dive into interactive sessions exploring current trends, challenges, and strategies in education, including collaborative problem-solving, culturally responsive teaching, disciplinary literacies, and purpose-driven education. This comprehensive program promises to broaden your teaching perspectives and equip you with practical tools and a network of supportive peers, all from the comfort of your own space. Take advantage of this opportunity to transform your teaching and impact your students more effectively!



CATCH THE NEXT

Advising from a Social Justice Perspective

March 1, 9-12 CST



[REGISTER TODAY](#)

Join us on March 1st for a transformative virtual event for Community College advisors, hosted via Zoom from 9 am to 12 pm CST. This session, suitable for seasoned and new advisors, will feature engaging workshops, focused content on culturally responsive coaching, and a featured presentation on "How to Advise from a Social Justice Perspective" by a distinguished guest speaker, Nati del Paso. Designed to enrich advising skills and broaden understanding of socially conscious educational practices, this event is an invaluable opportunity for professional growth and community building.

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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: Cambria Hotel McAllen
701 Security Way Rd,
McAllen, TX 78501

Amenities:

- On-Site Restaurant
- Free Airport Shuttle to McAllen International Airport
- Shuttle for Local Routes

[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
1/25/2024	Software Engineer Intern	Build Your Future Deadline: February 15
1/25/2024	Data Science Intern	NASA Internship
1/25/2024	Marketing Intern UNICEF	UNICEF
1/25/2024	Microsoft Intern	Students & Graduates

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
1/25/2024	Resource	Open Pedagogy Faculty Development Resource

1/25/2024	Resource	AI Tools for the classroom
1/25/2024	Resource	Feminist Pedagogy Faculty Development Resource
1/25/2024	Resource	OER Resources

Helpful Information

- **FAFSA Resources**
- **FSA ID New Details**
- **Quick Start Guide for Financial Aid Application Changes**
- **Texas OnCourse Monthly Professional Learning Series**
- **FREE MyTXCareer App: Now Available for Download in the App Store and on Google Play**
- 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**
- 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
- VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: Prompt, Play, Learn: An Interactive Generative AI Workshop **Deadline:** February 2, 2024 **Register Here**
- 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**
- 2024 AAHHE Annual Conference **Regular Registration Deadline:** February 28, 2024 **Apply 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](#)
- HACU - Enlace Mid-Level Leadership Program **Deadline:** May 3, 2024 [Apply Here](#)
- 2024 NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence at Austin, TX on May 25-28, 2024 [Register Here](#)

NOW OPEN
THE
2024-25 FAFSA & TASFA FORM

- The 24-25 FAFSA Form is available for short periods of time while the site is being monitored for site performance and the form is being updated to provide students with a better experience.
- The 24-25 Online TASFA is not currently available. To ensure students maximize state financial aid funding, it is encouraged that students complete the paper TASFA in the meantime.

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

U.S. Department of Education @Education

Learn more about the SAVE Plan & how your federal student loan payment could be as low as \$0 a month! StudentAid.gov/save

#SAVEOnStudentDebt

YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT COULD BE AS LOW AS \$0/MONTH with the new SAVE repayment plan.

Apply at StudentAid.gov/save

SAVE An official campaign from the U.S. Department of Education and non-profit partners.




FAQ: Undocumented Students Pursing 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

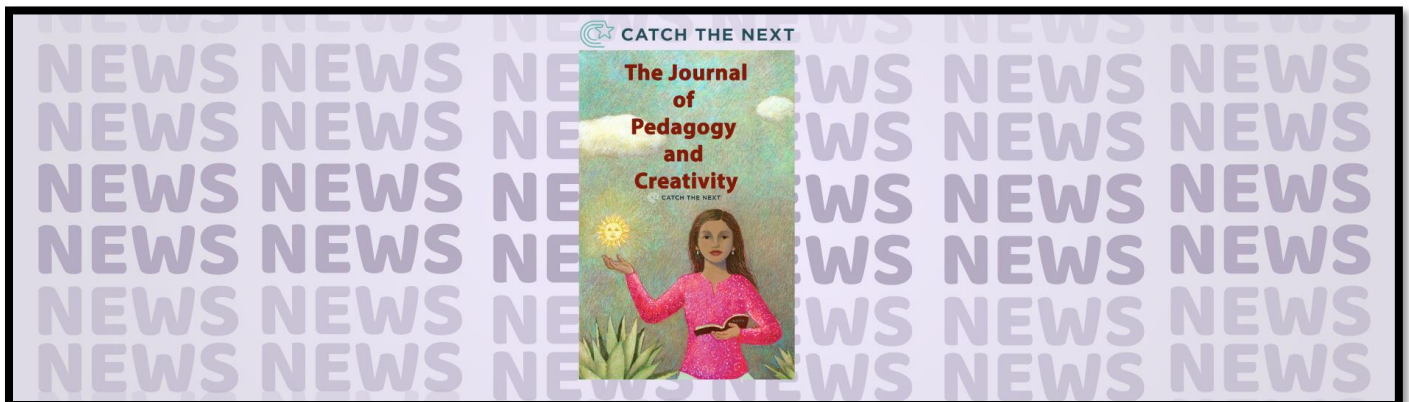
Including Undocumented Students in DEI Efforts 03
 *Advisors, Educators, and Administrators
 February 26, 2024, at 12 PM PST
bit.ly/PHD_DEI

Responsible Advising: Being an Ally to Undocumented Students 04
 *Advisors and Educators
 March 18, 2024, at 12 PM PST
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Building a Task Force at Health Professional Programs 05
 *Advisors, Educators, and Administrators
 April 11, 2024 at 12 PM PST
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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.

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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 Sicheloff 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.

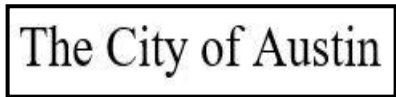
In support of his vision and our mission to empower faculty, staff, and institutions to increase the educational attainment of Latinos and other underserved communities in order to close higher education equity and opportunity gaps, we encourage you to make a commitment of support through a donation.

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

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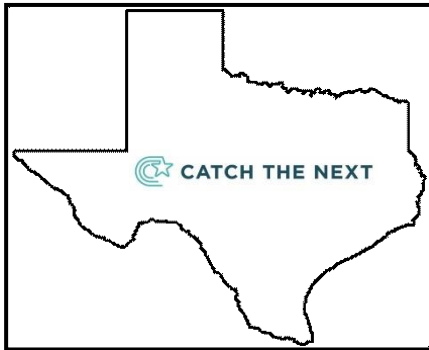
About Our Newsletter

A publication by Catch the Next Inc., for its Ascender Scholars

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