

March Volume 12, No. 7

SPRING 2024 SEMINAR

Catch The Next's Ascender Fall Seminar convened on March 21-22, 2024 in McAllen, Texas at South Texas College. CTN brought together an array of esteemed attendees, including educators, advisors, counselors, and CTN Leadership Fellows from diverse regions across the state. The event served as a platform for in-depth deliberations on the progress and challenges inherent to the program, fostering the exchange of invaluable pedagogical insights. With a primary emphasis on team building, the seminar effectively addressed the unique requirements of different academic disciplines through a series of interactive breakout sessions. Notably, the program's agenda remained highly responsive to the specific needs of the current cohort, ensuring a tailored and enriching experience for all participants.



On Thursday, March 21 in the morning Dr. Daniel Rodriguez, Palo Alto College Professor provided participants with an on CTN's work, program updates, and future projects. Dr. Anna B. Alaniz, CTN Director of Professional Development had participants discuss culturally relevant readings that they could use in the classroom and shared and gave participants the opportunity to ask questions on the parking lot. After this session, Dr. Yolanda Reyna, Palo Alto College Professor presented on Toxic Positivity where participants understood the context of toxic positivity in higher education. Participants also explored the impact that toxic positivity has and how to avoid creating a toxic positive environment in participants' spaces. Participants then had a break and continue their informative sessions by listening to "Culturally Relevant Authors in the Ascender Familia: Juan Tejeda, Juan Ochoa, David Rice, Emmy Perez, and Nati del Paso." Each author introduced themselves, their work, and the process for publication. Authors provided additional materials for possible inclusion in course syllabi, this session was led by Debra McBeath, CTN Director of Engagement. In continuation, David Rice, Author and Austin Community College Ascender Faculty had his session on "Flash Fiction" which allowed to faculty to be introduced to a different approach on engagement in the Language of Arts. Participants as well learned how to use deconstruction with flash fiction as a method of teaching students how to analyze and discover information about characters, motivations, and outcomes in the story. David Rice Method After lunch, sessions continued with Rosa Gutierrez, South Texas College, Lazaro Costilla, South Texas College with a session titled "Ascender Math Club Panel: Girls Discovering Math as a Pathway to STEM Careers." Participants learned about the Girls in Math club participants and the effects the club has had on them. Participants also learned to the sponsors of the Girls in Math club, the inception of the club, and the logistics of the creation of the club. Nati del Paso, Author & Content Expert session followed named "From Overwhelm to Thriving: Supercharging Educational Advising with Toltec Wisdom and the Four Agreements." This workshop was aimed to integrate the profound teachings of Don Miguel Ruiz's "The Four Agreements" into our educational practice, offering a transformative approach to student advising. Apply ancient Toltec wisdom to enhance our advising skills from overwhelm to thriving. After a day of informative sessions, the participants received discipline team time where they were able to discuss current issues in their field and share resources and tips.

The day ended with participants writing reflections and an ofrenda which were shared and discussed the following day. The celebrations continued at the reception where a cohort of CTN Ascender participants graduated after participating in a sequel of three semester session seminars.



Graduate pictures alongside, Dr. Anna Alaniz and Dr. Daniel Rodriguez



Spring 2024 Keynote Speaker Francisco Guajardo

Reception Keynote Speaker sharing with the Ascender Familia



Dr. Ricardo Solis, President at South Texas College made a special visit during the reception

STC President shared some words with the Ascender Familia



On Friday, March 22 day two of the Spring 2024 Seminar Dr. Anna Alaniz and Debra McBeath shared a presentation titled "Exploring Student Obstacles: A Jigsaw Approach" were participants read and discussed from a variety of texts on the journey, pitfalls, and joys of being a student and how to support those students in the Ascender Framework. Participants continue with an informative session by Dr. Jon Herrin, Leadership Fellow and Dr. Esmeralda Macias South Texas College Professor on "English: General Session" which allowed participants to explore strategies to incorporate student home communities into classroom assignments and activities. Debra McBeath added "Student Development: Spirit Crusher" to the session allowing participants to explore strategies to incorporate or in an advising session to help students deal with spirit crushers and validate their spirit lifters in their lives. Nati Del Paso had a presentation titled "Women of Fire &

Snow" which provided a sample of readings and lesson plans on women on the border. During this concurrent session Rosa Gutierrez presented on "Elevated Math Education: Integrating Ascender Methodology," this presentation allowed a broad audience (faculty, advisors, and administrators) to explore and learn CTN's math model and strategies. The presenter also addressed the aspects of researched implementation practices that are within an instructor's purview. Participants after lunch were provided with, "Campus Team Time: Planning for the Year Ahead: Trouble Shooting, Lessons Learned, and New Approaches." This time allowed the campus teams to reflect on what can be improved for implementing the program in 2024-2025. The sessions continue with "Catch the Next Coming Together as a *Familia:* Unpacking Campus Team Time Discussion," allowing participants to look for findings of campus team time discussions and brainstorm on the strategies that are most likely to yield positive student outcomes. Dr. Anna Alaniz, ended the day with "Farewell Speech/ Ofrenda End of Professional Dev. Sequence, but not the Journey of Learning and Discovery Leadership Fellows: Date and Applications," allowing participants to return to the parking lot and discuss next steps and further resources.



Thank you for joining us, for the CTN Spring 2024 Seminar!

CTN Mentors

Cone.

to our new CTN Peer Mentor



Boyun Kim received her bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations and a master's degree in Political Science from Yonsei University, Korea. After moving to the US, she received another master's degree in Political Science with Political Theory, Comparative Politics, and Political Methodology emphasis from UC Irvine, California.

Kim spent her graduate school years as a teaching assistant at UC Irvine, emphasizing student-centered learning in her teaching, using various technology to bring students contributions into classroom design, and got engaged in educational development as a Writing Workshop Leader for the School of Social Sciences and a Pedagogical Fellow and Educational Development Scholar with Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation. For the POD Network, she was named a Donald H. Wulff Diversity Fellow for 2023. She is starting out as an Instructional Design Consultant at Indiana University Indianapolis, helping faculty create a more engaging, student-centered classrooms.



Ashley Chowdhury is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Texas. She is currently employed as a Mental Health Counselor with Austin Community College at the Riverside campus location. Ashley received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. She went on to obtain her Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Dallas Theological Seminary.

With over 10 years in the mental health field, Ashley has served a variety of populations including working in community mental health with individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness. Ashley has also served as an EAP Counselor with the City of Houston and other non-profit organizations.

Ashley's professional interests include mood disorders, anxiety, relationship stressors, selfesteem issues, and managing life transitions. Ashley particularly enjoys working with students around family of origin concerns, developing a healthy self-concept, and navigating adulthood.

Tured

CTN Peer Mentor



Fernando Esteban Flores is a native son of Tejas, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, published three books of poetry: Ragged Borders, Red Accordion Blues, & BloodSongs available through Hijo del Sol Publishing, published in multiple journals, reviews, newspapers, and online sites, selected in 2018-19 by the Department of Arts & Culture of the City of San Antonio, with support from Gemini Ink for his poem Song for America V (Yo Soy San Antonio) as one of 30 poems/poets to commemorate the City's Tricentennial anniversary, and recently named poetry editor of the Catch the Next Journal of Pedagogy & Creativity. Fernando received an ELLA award and an Arts & Letters award from the San Antonio Public Library System and Friends of the San Antonio Library for his outstanding contributions to the artistic and literary community of San Antonio. He is also the founder of an eclectic group of poets, Voces Cósmicas, who promote literacy, poetry, and art.

Poetry arrived at an early age as a succession of images & sounds. Before speech, before language. The world for me was a sensual collage, a montage of imagery. As a child I discovered a deck of Tarot cards belonging to my mother or my abuela. I was mesmerized by the pictures & invented my own stories with sound effects as I imagined them. Subconsciously, I pictured scenarios for each of the characters that caught my attention. The tower, the devil, the lovers piqued my curiosity. To this day, my love affair with the written word, art, & music has never diminished.

One poem that stands among so many is *Mother to Son* by Langston Hughes. I came upon that poem in a weekly student magazine in junior high. The struggle of a mother's life parallels that of my own mother & grandmother. It has stayed with me all these years. Poetry helps us understand the world & the people around us. Poetry is an exploration of the known &

Poetry helps us understand the world & the people around us. Poetry is an exploration of the known & unknown. It helps us frame our thoughts, feelings, ideas & provides us with a vehicle for our voice. It is a bridge for our humanity. Words can build up or tear down.

It makes a difference. Poetry is power.

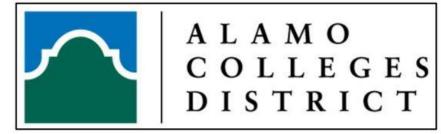
Fernando Esteban Flores, Poetry Editor CTN journal of Pedagogy & Creativity

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PEER MENTOR ?

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: <u>https://catchthenext.networkforgood.com/even</u> <u>ts/47544-ascender-catching-dreams-tenth-</u> <u>anniversary-reception</u>

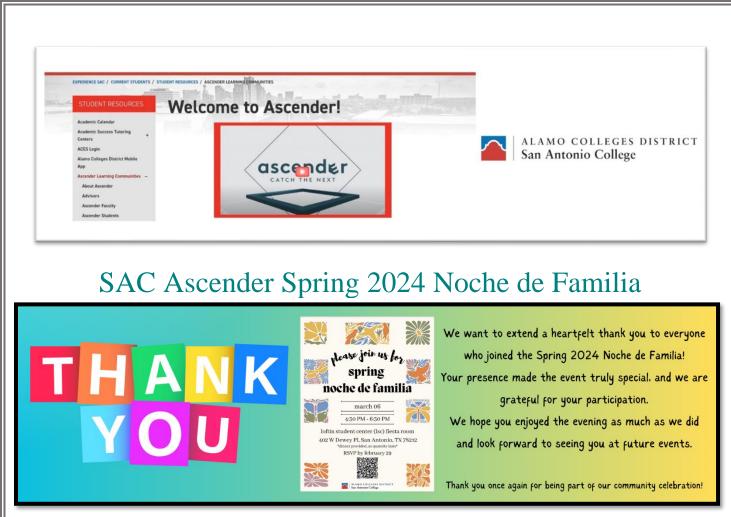


The STC Starr County Campus Girls Math Club extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed thus far! Everyone's generosity and support has truly made a difference, and the Girls Discovery Math Club couldn't be more grateful for everyone's dedication to the cause.

As the club approaches the final week of the donation drive, they want to remind everyone that there's still time to make a difference. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, helps the club continue on their mission of promoting and empowerment through mathematics and providing to a good cause.

So, let's keep the momentum going, Jags! Whether it's any animal supplies, food, or snack donations, everyone's contributions make a meaningful impact on the lives of animals in the community. Together, a difference can be made to inspire others.

The club, once again thanks everyone for their unwavering support!



Spring 2024 Noche de Familia Submitted by Tyshee Sonnier, Certified Enrollment Coach

The Ascender Student Spring Noche de Familia took place on Wednesday, March 6th in the fiesta room of the Loftin Student Center. This event served as an opportunity for students and their families to gather with faculty and instructors to come together as a community. The event began with a catered dinner of teriyaki chicken bowls. Then, students had the opportunity to converse with and hear from the faculty members who teach for the Ascender learning community. After students were invited to participate in the games and activities such as pin the tail on the bunny rabbit, carrot ring toss, and finding easter eggs hidden around the event space. Students and faculty also had the opportunity to compete to guess how many jellybeans were in the mason jars provided to win them. The math department got really into the numbers to figure out the count for that one! Overall, students and faculty members had a great turnout for the event and enjoyed the bonding experience.





Vice President for Academic Success Cassandra Rincones discussing the success of Ascender at San Antonio College





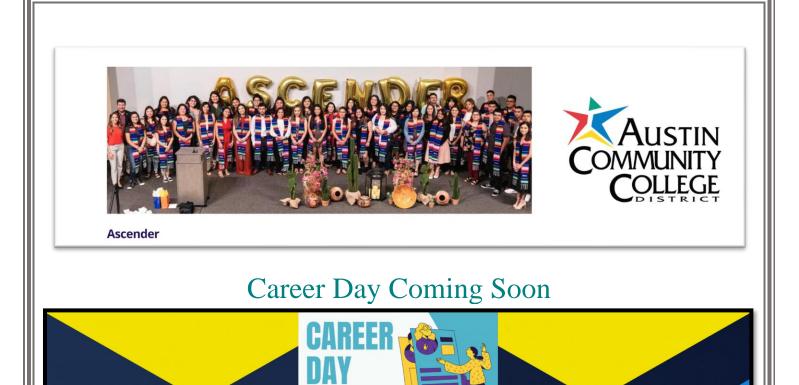
Dean for Academic Success-Academic Services Clare lannelli watching the presenters

In Search for a Math Professor



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.



Join the Ascender Program for an insightful session with an ACC Career Services representative! Learn invaluable tips on job applications and navigating the hiring process.

MARCH 22ND | SAC ROOM #1319

HYS ROOM #1319

HLC #TRHTC Register Here: bit.ly/AscenderCareer24

ascender

APRIL 5TH

APRIL 12TH

Perfect for those eyeing a seamless transition to a 4-year university. Business casual attire is highly encouraged.

Mandatory for ALL ASCENDER Students and Mentor.

Secure your spot now! Register Here: <u>bit.ly/AscenderCareer24</u>

Register Today



Mark your calendars for April 2nd, as an exciting event awaits you! Dallas College will be hosting a vibrant "Greet and Meet" session in collaboration with the Girls Discovering Math Club. This event promises to be a remarkable opportunity for students to delve into the world of mathematics, share experiences, and foster a supportive learning environment.

Imagine stepping into a dynamic space buzzing with enthusiasm, where students from all walks of life gather to celebrate their passion for mathematics. As you walk through the doors, you'll be greeted by the warm smiles of fellow students eager to embark on a mathematical journey together.

Throughout the event, attendees will have the chance to engage in enriching discussions, sharing both the challenges and triumphs they've encountered in their math courses. From navigating complex equations to unraveling the mysteries of mathematics, every hurdle conquered becomes a stepping stone towards greater understanding.

But that's not all! The Girls Discovering Math Club members will be on hand to offer invaluable support and guidance. Have a burning math question that's been keeping you up at night? Fear not! Expert assistance will be readily available, ensuring that no mathematical problem remains unsolved.

This event is for every student eager to expand their knowledge and foster a sense of community within Dallas College. Whether you're a seasoned mathematician or someone who's just dipping their toes into the world of numbers, there's something for everyone at this gathering.

So, why miss out on such an enriching opportunity? Join the Ascender's Program on April 2nd and be part of a vibrant community united by a shared passion for mathematics. Together, everyone can celebrate the beauty of numbers, the thrill of problem-solving, and the power of collaboration.



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 <u>maria.chavez@catchthenext.org</u>

Visit <u>https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1217887</u> to make an online donation

Ascender News



Exciting Announcement Alert!

Join on April 8th at 5 PM EDT at the American Association of Community Colleges as we celebrate our ASCENDER partnership!

Meet the Leaders: President Robert Garza - Palo Alto College Dr. Ruth Reinhart - Vice Chancellor at Austin Community College Dr. Greg Morris - Vice Provost at Dallas College

Save the Date: Time: 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM EDT location: M101/M102-KICC Session Code: 6110

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn about our partnership's impact on student and faculty advancement. See you there!

April 5-9 / Louisville, KY

Are you READY?



Congratulations to Alejandra Polcik for being selected to participate in the 2024 AAWCC LEADERS Institute hosted by Austin Community College. This prestigious opportunity recognizes Alejandra's exceptional leadership qualities and her dedication to professional development within the community college sector.

Alejandra's selection is a testament to her outstanding achievements and contributions to her field. As she embarks on this transformative journey, we have no doubt that she will make the most of this invaluable experience to further hone her leadership skills and broaden her knowledge base.

The AAWCC LEADERS Institute is renowned for providing participants with unparalleled networking opportunities, insightful workshops, and mentorship from seasoned leaders in higher education. Alejandra's involvement in this program will undoubtedly empower her to effect positive change within her institution and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Alejandra on this well-deserved accomplishment. We have every confidence that she will represent herself, her institution, and the community college community with distinction throughout her participation in the 2024 AAWCC LEADERS Institute. Here's to a rewarding and enriching experience ahead!



Congratulations, Dr. Francisco Solis has assumed the role of Interim Vice President for Academic Success at San Antonio College. With over 23 years of dedicated service to SAC, Dr. Solis brings a wealth of experience in both teaching and leadership to his new position. Previously serving as Interim President, he has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the institution's success.

Read Full Article Here



The Alamo Colleges District Board of Trustees, Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores, and Palo Alto College President Dr. Robert Garza presided over a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Natatorium, Wellness & Multigenerational Center on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. The event was held at the PAC Natatorium/Gymnasium, marked a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance facilities and promote community wellness within the district.

Read Full Article Here



In loving memory of John Siceloff, founder of Catch the Next, who departed from us on March 6, 2015, after bravely battling cancer. Though he may have left this world, his spirit persists, intertwined with the lives he touched through the enduring impact of the CTN program—a testament to his remarkable legacy. John's ethos encapsulated the belief that the pursuit of a better world transcends personal gain; it is a collective endeavor for all humanity to coexist harmoniously. This guiding principle illuminated his path throughout life.

Following his tenure as a war correspondent and bureau chief in El Salvador and Nicaragua, John embarked on a distinguished career as a news producer, contributing to acclaimed programs like ABC News, 20/20, Primetime Live, and Dateline NBC. His journey led him to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), where he founded JumpStart Productions, creator of the esteemed Now with Bill Moyers. In 2008, he co-authored the inspiring volume "Your America: Democracy's Local Heroes," spotlighting ordinary citizens effecting change in their communities. In 2009, fueled by his vision and personal investment, Catch the Next, Inc. was born, dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for Latinos and other marginalized students.

Birgit Siceloff, his devoted spouse, attests to his unwavering dedication to global betterment. She witnessed firsthand his passion for nurturing Catch the Next alongside his trusted colleague, Maria Martha. His enthusiasm for CTN's mission, particularly evident during his visits home from Texas, underscores the profound significance of this chapter in his illustrious career. Through Birgit's eyes, we glimpse the profound impact of CTN's Ascender program, a testament to John's philosophy of empowerment through storytelling.

The collective efforts of the CTN familia have elevated the program to national acclaim, with Ascender students boasting higher rates of educational attainment and reduced financial burden. The program's expansion to 23 campuses across Texas, coupled with the training of nearly 400 educators, underscores its transformative reach.

Andrew Siceloff, John's son, pays tribute to his father's unwavering commitment to justice and equality, instilled in him from his upbringing at Penn Center, a bastion of African American education and civil rights activism. Andrew expresses gratitude to all who sustain John's legacy through their involvement with Catch the Next.

As we reflect on John's enduring influence, we echo Pericles' timeless wisdom: "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." John's legacy, woven into the

fabric of Catch the Next, continues to bridge the opportunity divide for underserved students and catalyze positive change across communities, states, and nations.



As Women's History Month dawns upon us, Catch The Next proudly joins the global community in honoring the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. In this month of celebration and reflection, we are reminded of the vital role women have played in shaping our world, overcoming barriers, and paving the way for future generations.

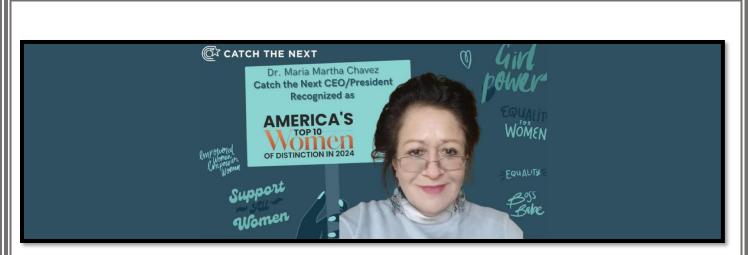
At Catch The Next, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and empowering environment where all individuals, regardless of gender, have the opportunity to thrive and succeed. In line with this mission, we are thrilled to highlight the initiatives of our Girls Discovering Math Club, a program designed to inspire and empower young women to explore the exciting world of mathematics.

The Girls Discovering Math Club is more than just a club; it is a supportive community where girls can come together to discover their passion for math in a fun and engaging way. Through hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and mentorship opportunities, participants are encouraged to unleash their creativity, build confidence, and develop critical thinking skills.

This Women's History Month, we celebrate the incredible achievements of women in mathematics and science, from historical figures like Ada Lovelace and Emmy Noether to modern-day trailblazers breaking barriers and pushing boundaries. Through programs like the Girls Discovering Math Club, we aim to inspire the next generation of female mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and innovators to dream big and reach for the stars.

As we reflect on the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead, let us continue to champion gender equality, celebrate diversity, and empower women and girls everywhere to pursue their passions and fulfill their potential. Together, we can create a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to advancing the cause of women's empowerment. Together, we can make a difference.



It is with great pride and admiration that we announce Dr. Maria Martha Chavez as one of this year's Women of Distinction for 2024. As we reflect on her remarkable achievements, we are thrilled to share the recognition bestowed upon her by Success Pitchers, one of the foremost business magazines known for celebrating visionary entrepreneurs worldwide.

Dr. Chavez has been selected for her exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in the business landscape. Her dedication and innovative spirit have not only propelled her own ventures to new heights but have also inspired countless others in the industry.

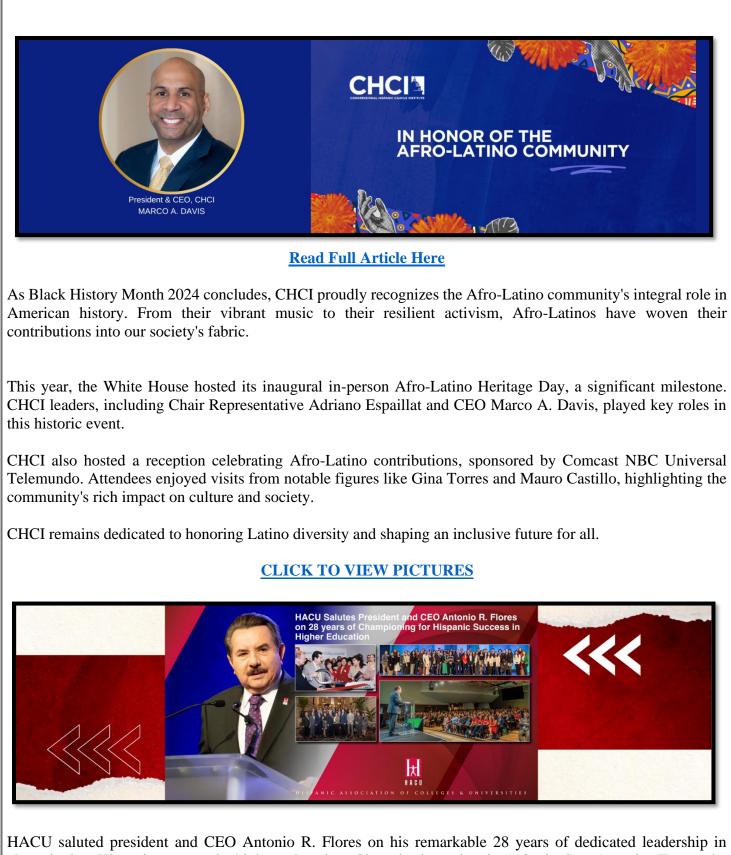
Success Pitchers, renowned for its insightful coverage of entrepreneurial journeys, has recognized Dr. Chavez's significant contributions by featuring her among America's Top 10 Women of Distinction in 2024. Through their platform, her story will inspire and motivate aspiring entrepreneurs and leaders across the globe.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Chavez on this well-deserved honor. Her inclusion in this prestigious list is a testament to her outstanding achievements and the positive impact she continues to make in the business community.

Please see link to the magazine feature and logo highlighting Dr. Chavez's remarkable journey. We encourage you to share this news to help us amplify her story and celebrate her success.

Thank you for your support in honoring Dr. Maria Martha Chavez and recognizing her as a trailblazer in the business world.

Read Full Article Here



championing Hispanic success in higher education. Since its inception in 1986 in San Antonio, Texas, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) has flourished from 18 charter members to over 500 member institutions, all committed to the vital mission of advancing Hispanic achievement in higher education.

Throughout his tenure, which commenced on February 26, 1996, Flores tirelessly worked to develop and promote policies and legislation aimed at supporting Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Hispanic students nationwide. Under his guidance, HACU witnessed unprecedented growth and influence in advocating for the Hispanic community within higher education.

Read Full Article Here



Site Visit at South Texas College - Starr Campus Submitted by Dr. Teresita Ramirez-Rosas, Mathematics Faculty at Dallas College - North Lake Campus

Dr. Teresita Ramirez-Rosas became a Leadership Fellow in April 2023. She made her first site visit on March 20, 2024, to South Texas College – Starr Campus alongside Debra McBeath, Director of Engagement at Catch the Next. They visited Professor Rosa Gutierrez's College Algebra Course and had a meeting with the Ascender Team, Campus administrator, and students. She also had the opportunity to attend the Spring Seminar for Ascender. After attending this seminar, she is starting a collaboration with Professor David Rice from Austin Community College.

Dr. Ramirez is starting a Girls Discovering Math Club at Dallas College – North Lake campus. She will have the first Meet & Greet meeting on April 2^{nd} , 2024. While making the site visit, she also had the opportunity to meet with her club mentor, Professor Rosa Gutierrez, and with Professor Maria Garcia to discuss new ideas for the club, and its mission. The Girls Discovering Math Club is being sponsored by Catch the Next, Ascender, and Communities Foundation of Texas.



There will be *no webinar in March* since we have Spring Break and the CTN Spring Seminar. We will pick back on **April 18 from 3-4pm CST** with **Dr. Stacy Ybarra** discussing artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom.

The past webinars (including January and February's) are all available on CTN's YouTube Channel. There is a playlist of videos for the 2023-2024 Professional Development Webinar speakers.

If you are interested or have suggestions for webinar speakers (or would like to present on a topic), please email Dr. Erin Doran at <u>erin.doran@catchthenext.org</u>. We are booking the speakers from June 2024 through the next academic year.

Past Webinar's Videos



MARCH 31

Cesar Chavez Day is a U.S. federal commemorative holiday, proclaimed by President Barack Obama in 2014.

"Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore. Cesar Chavez Address to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Nov. 9, 1984" — *Cesar Chavez*

As we commemorate Cesar Chavez Day, Catch The Next extends its heartfelt regards to all individuals who champion social justice, equality, and education. Today, we honor the legacy of Cesar Chavez, a remarkable leader whose tireless advocacy for the rights of farmworkers continues to inspire generations around the world.

Cesar Chavez's commitment to nonviolent activism and his unwavering dedication to uplifting marginalized communities serve as a guiding light for our organization. At Catch The Next, we believe in empowering individuals through education, fostering a culture of inclusivity, and advocating for equitable opportunities for all.

On this day, we reflect on the progress made in the fight for social justice, while also acknowledging the work that still lies ahead. Through education and collective action, we can continue to break down barriers, challenge systemic injustices, and build a more equitable society for future generations.

As we honor Cesar Chavez's memory, let us recommit ourselves to the values he stood for: dignity, respect, and solidarity. Together, we can create a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Join us in celebrating Cesar Chavez Day as we pay tribute to a visionary leader whose legacy continues to inspire us all.



In January 2024, the Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA) unveiled findings from its comprehensive national inventory of Community College Bachelor's (CCB) degree programs, an update from data collected in November 2021. This inventory meticulously documents the presence of community college bachelor's degree programs across states, institutions, and fields of study, employing the 2- and 6-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes sourced from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

The database encompasses public community colleges categorized under the Basic Carnegie Classification as baccalaureate/associates dominant or mixed baccalaureate/associates institutions. Furthermore, it incorporates CCB-degree programs not yet captured by IPEDS but corroborated through thorough examination of state agency reports and institutional disclosures garnered from websites and interviews.

Read Full Article Here



Leadership Fellows Program

Join the CTN Leadership Fellows Program, a tailored learning journey designed to immerse participants in the ethos, policies, and decision-making processes of our organization. This program is crafted to harness CTN's potential as a catalyst for change, empowering individuals across campuses to effectively implement CTN's Transformative Education Framework on a local and national scale.

Program Objectives:

- 1. Foster a developmental pathway for practitioners across campuses to grasp the fundamental principles of leadership, directly influencing the future landscape of higher education.
- 2. Equip future leaders with the skills and knowledge to tackle real-world challenges within higher education, addressing the capacity-building needs of both the program and the educational institutions we serve.
- 3. Cultivate leaders who embody values of respect, community, professional growth, and responsible stewardship, while actively promoting a culture of leadership and achievement through collaboration and inclusivity.

Application Process for CTN Leadership Fellows:

To apply, kindly fill out the application form provided below and upload the necessary documents.

Application Deadline: April 2, 2024

Notification of Acceptance: April 10, 2024

Leadership Fellows Training Session: Date: Friday, April 19, 2024 Time: 9 am to 2 pm (including a lunch break)

Don't miss this opportunity to join a community of mindful leaders dedicated to driving positive change in higher education. We look forward to receiving your application.

For any inquiries, please reach out to <u>Debra.Mcbeath@catchthenext.org</u>.

SUBMIT APPLICATION HERE



CTN UPCOMING EVENTS

C CATCH THE NEXT CONNECT AND CHAT

OVERVIEW

Ascender Connect and Chat 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 provide support to Ascender Cohort Members, both present and past. Ascender Connect and Chat is an online means to address real-time questions and concerns related to program logistics, curriculum, course materials, and any other issues that stakeholders may have regarding the implementation of the program on their campus. The sessions offer one-toone/group interactions between Ascender Cohort Members and the CTN team, particularly those involved in the professional development component of the program



REGISTER TODAY



Please join us for two upcoming events showcasing our commitment to community outreach:

National Poetry Month Celebration

Date: April 6, 2024 Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM Location: Bazan Library (2200 W Commerce)

Support Build A Purpose

Date: April 13, 2024 Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM Location: The Cherrity Bar (302 Montana St)

Build A Purpose is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing peer mentoring and support to at-risk youth, helping them pursue higher education. Your presence at both events is highly encouraged as we continue our efforts to positively impact our community. We look forward to seeing you there!



UPCOMING STUDENT CHARLAS

April 4, 2024: Importance of Networking and Mentoring

This presentation delves into the transformative impact of networking and mentoring within the context of community college. Recognizing the unique challenges and opportunities that community college students face.

REGISTER TODAY: April 4

May 2, 2024: Transfer 101

Geared towards navigating the process of transferring, this presentation aims to provide valuable insights and guidance for students. Whether moving between institutions or programs, Transfer 101 seeks to facilitate a smoother transition for students.

REGISTER TODAY: May 2



The team eagerly anticipates receiving your submissions. Gratitude is extended for your unwavering commitment to student success and valuable contributions to the ASCENDER program. We eagerly await the opportunity to review your application and commemorate your accomplishments as the Student, Faculty, or Staff Member of the Month!

SUBMIT HERE

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 Student Opportunities

| Date | Activity | Activity Description |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 3/25/2024 | Internship | Texas Internship Challenge |
| 3/25/2024 | Scholarship | NAACP Scholarships |
| 3/25/2024 | FBI Internship | FBI 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 <u>statistical brief</u> 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 <u>resources webpage</u> 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 <u>StudentAid.gov</u> 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

<u>Wonders & Worries</u> 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 <u>5 Texas locations</u> and virtually in the Greater Austin, Greater San Antonio, and Greater Houston areas. They also operate a national <u>helpline: 844-WE-WONDER (1-844-939-6633)</u> 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 <u>professionals</u> and <u>parents</u> 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 Staff Opportunities

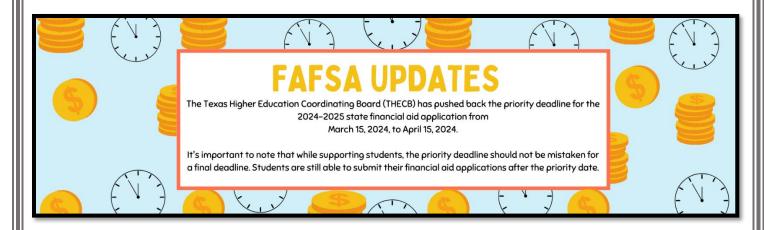
| Date | Activity | Activity Description |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 3/25/2024 | Upcoming Conference | NISOD Conference NISOD's International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence is the definitive gathering of community and technical college educators passionate about teaching and learning. Over the years, NISOD's annual conference has provided faculty, administrators, and staff with the resources, ideas, and solutions that drive excellence in all areas of community and technical college campuses. <u>https://www.nisod.org/face-to- face/conference/</u> |
| 3/25/2024 | Upcoming Conference to Present | Call for Proposals Presenting at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference provides an opportunity to build your professional network and experience lifelong learning with lifelong friends. Presenting a content-rich session individually or as part of a team is a wonderful way to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas. The conference's community-generated program will showcase future directions, best practices, stories of successful collaborations, lessons learned, and solutions to community- wide issues within various program tracks. |

| | | https://events.educause.edu/annual- conference |
|-----------|---|---|
| 3/25/2024 | Upcoming Conference to Submit a Poster Session | Career Conference Call for Proposals: • Career Coaching: Supporting alumni at every age and stage of their professional journey • Data & Analytics: Capturing and leveraging data to drive strategy • Digital First: Using technology to engage alumni at scale • Event Planning: Planning events on- campus, off-campus, hybrid and virtually • Future of Work: Adapting to the changing professional landscape • Meaningful Connections: Helping alumni build deep connections with one another and with students • Partners & External Stakeholders: Building successful partnerships and serving alumni at scale • Strategic Planning & Operations: Growing your ACS program and forming campus collaborations https://careercounselorsne.org/event- 5638964 |

Helpful Resources

- FAFSA Resources
- FSA ID New Details
- Quick Start Guide for Financial Aid Application Changes
- <u>Texas OnCourse Monthly Professional Learning Series</u>
- U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Releases New Resources on Students with Disabilities
- Today the U.S. Department of Education released a new resource <u>a toolkit for the promotion of voter</u> participation for students.
- Article: Transfers and Progress
- Texas Workforce Commission
- IRS Direct File
- My Texas Future Resources to plan career and education
- Texas Direct Transfer Degree Pathways
- ImmSchools Inclusivity Poster
- NCAN FAFSA Tracker
- 2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts
- <u>Texas Public University Guaranteed Tuition Program Directory</u>
- Get Schooled's Scholarship Finder
- Texas OnCourse: TASFA Resource Sheet
- SchoolHouse Connection 24-25 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth
- <u>uAspire FSA ID Recovery Guide</u>
- <u>Colleges with New Enrollment Deadlines Spreadsheet</u>
- FACT SHEET: The U.S. Department of Education Announces New Tools to Tackle Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Related Forms of Discrimination and Bias
- Leading Safe, Inclusive, and Nondiscriminatory Learning Environments During the War in the Middle East: Colleges and Universities <u>Watch now on YouTube</u>
- Seeking Citizenship through a Fellowship Program Apply Here
- <u>Scholarships For DACA Recipients & Undocumented Students</u>
- NISOD's Super Early-Bird Conference Deadline: April 5, 2024 Register Here
- VIRTUAL- TESOL 2024 International Convention & Expo Conference Dates: April 11-12, 2024 Register Here
- NCAN Spring Institute 2024: Pursuing Effective Advising for Every Conference Dates: April 15-19, 2024 <u>Register</u> Here
- 20th Annual ¡Lánzate! / Take Off! Travel Award Program Deadline: April 26, 2024 Submit Here
- La Cosecha 2024 Call for Proposals Deadline: April 26, 2024 Submit Here

- 2024 NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence at Austin, TX on May 25-28, 2024 <u>Register Here</u>
- Systems of Support for Multilingual Learners Conference has two components to choose from: In-Person
 Conference May 29, 30, & 31 Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick OR Video
 Library Conference Access starting on June 3rd for 3 months Register Here
- Cambio de Colores 22nd Annual Conference Conference Dates: June 5–7 Register Here
- WIDA Annual Conference Conference Dates: October 15-18, 2024 <u>Register Here</u>
- La Cosecha Dual Language Conference Conference Dates: November 13-16, 2024 <u>Register Here</u>



2024-2025 ONLINE TASFA IS OPENI

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board announces the launch of the 2024-2025 online Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA). The application can be found by visiting the TASFA landing page, housed on the THECB's main website. For questions, contact Financial Aid Services at 888-311-8881.

TASFA Landing Page

U.S. Department of Education Gusedgov Learn more about the SAVE Plan & how your federal student lo payment could be as low as \$0 a month: StudentAid.gov/save

YOUR FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT COULD BE AS LOW AS \$0/MONTH

with the new SAVE repayment plan.

Apply at StudentAid.gov/save

STUDENT UPDATES

🎓 Attention students! 🎓 Exciting updates just in! 💥 🛛

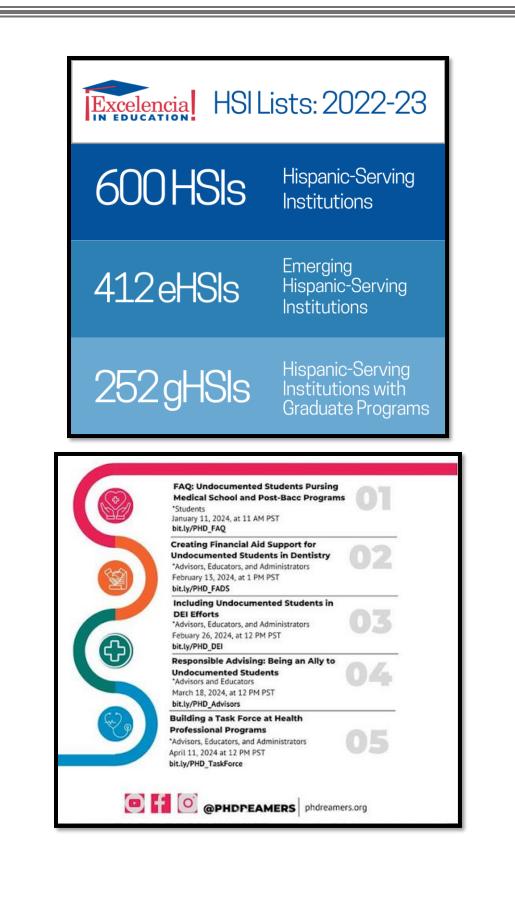
In Explore Texas graduate earnings by degree level with the new TxCAN Dashboard! Get valuable insights into long-term financial outcomes based on different educational pathways and demographics. Check it out now!

A Having trouble with the FAFSA form? Good news! The US Department of Education has fixed issues for individuals without Social Security numbers. Learn more about the updates and get tips for smooth navigation in our latest blog post.

Need help with financial aid? TxCAN is here for you! We've added more sessions to our Virtual Financial Aid Training Schedule to provide extra support. Register now before spots fill up!

Mark your calendars for upcoming webinars covering college advising, financial aid, and more! Gain valuable insights to support your college journey.

5 Don't miss out on scholarship opportunities! Apply now for programs like the College Prep Scholars Program and the Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages LLC Scholarship. Secure your future today!



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: <u>https://catchthenext.wpengine.com/journal-of-pedagogy-and-creativity/</u>. Thank you for your interest.

For the next issue of *The Journal of Ideas and Pedagogy*, we invite submissions from our campus partners who want to share their pedagogical knowledge, lived experiences, and build community. As an organization, Catch the Next has steadfastly believed that our community is a treasure trove of knowledge, innovation, and reflective practice. This journal was created as a space to share best practices, innovative teaching strategies, and ideas for supporting the students we serve. As such, we are interested in pieces that consider the following questions:

- What classroom-level reforms has my college enacted in the last 5 years? How have I responded to them?
- •
- What reforms have changed the delivery format of my classes (e.g., combining or condensing course sequences, reducing the number of course offerings, moving content into labs or online modules)?
- What professional development was I provided or did I participate in to adapt to changing policy?
- What has been successful for me in adapting to change? On the flip side, what has not worked?
- Who are my students and how have their needs changed in the last 5 years? How am I responding to those changes?

Pieces that consider other questions are welcome as well.

When possible, we encourage collaborations in the writing process. Faculty members may consult with their Institutional Research and Effectiveness partners to provide anonymized data to provide some deeper context about the effectiveness of a policy. For faculty who are working with a learning community or paired course setup, we invite both faculty to present their perspectives. We also invite college teams (e.g., departments, college teams involved in implementing the Ascender model, and so forth).

We also welcome doctoral students and scholars who are interested in research on the community college sector and student success initiatives in Texas as they relate to gateway courses (e.g., developmental education, Freshman Composition, Learning Frameworks, and College Algebra). **Mentoring in the Writing Process is Available!** For first-time authors, writing for publication can be a daunting experience. This experience is meant to be positive and developmental. Please know that this issue's editor, Dr. Erin Doran, is committed to working with you to craft a piece that is of publishable quality.

Additional Information

Free Learning Modules Available from Texas OnCourse Academy

The Academy has <u>over 30 learning modules</u> 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.

NSF Offers Funding Opportunities to HSIs

Explore

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



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

Or mail your donation to

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

Catch the Next Program Partners; Current and Former Sponsors



Catch the Next Colleges



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT San Antonio College



ALAMO COLLEGES DISTRICT Palo Alto College









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

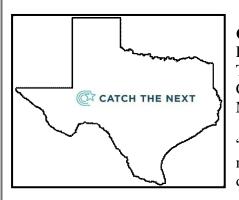
Richland Campus, Richardson Brookhaven Campus, Farmers Branch Cedar Valley Campus, Lancaster El Centro Campus, Downtown Dallas Eastfield Campus, Mesquite North Lake Campus, Irving Mountain View Campus, Oak Cliff

About Our Newsletter

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

Submissions are welcomed. Please send all information to:

Dr. Maria Chavez, Editor in Chief: <u>maria.chavez@catchthenext.org</u> Dr. Cindy Marroquin-Garza Director of Communications and Marketing: <u>cindy.marroquin@catchthenext.org</u>



Contributors: Fernando Esteban Flores, Poetry Editor CTN journal of Pedagogy & Creativity; Tyshee Sonnier, Certified Enrollment Coach; Dr. Teresita Ramirez-Rosas, Mathematics Faculty at Dallas College - North Lake Campus; Dr. Cindy Yarely Marroquin-Garza, CTN Communication and Marketing Director; Dr. Stacy Ybarra Evans, CTN Social Media Director

"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."

Support CTN by donating to our organization, bringing CTN to your campus or joining us for training. For more information, go to <u>https://www.catchthenext.org/</u>