



NEWSLETTER

June
Volume 12, No. 10

10th Annual Transfer Motivational Conference



The Ascender Program's 10th Anniversary Transfer Motivational Conference, "Building a Constellation of STARS," was held on June 6-8, 2024, at the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). This year's conference aimed to empower and support transfer students on their educational journeys.

Why is the Transfer Motivational Conference Held?

The conference addressed the critical need to support transfer students in Texas. Transfer students often face unique challenges, such as navigating the admissions process, adjusting to a new academic environment, and balancing academic pursuits with personal lives. The Transfer Motivational Conference provides a platform for transfer students to connect with advisors, admissions officers, and other transfer students, gain valuable insights into the transfer process, and develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed at four-year universities.

Data on Transfers in Texas

According to <http://www.txhighereddata.org/almanac>, a significant number of students in Texas pursue transfer degrees. Understanding the specific challenges faced by transfer students is crucial to improving their success rates. The Transfer Motivational Conference serves as a valuable resource for transfer students in Texas, offering guidance and support throughout their academic journeys.



Day one of the Transfer Motivational Conference kicked off with a dynamic schedule aimed at empowering transfer students with essential information and insights. The morning commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Stacy Ybarra, Director of Student Engagement at Catch The Next, setting an inclusive and encouraging tone for the day ahead. Attendees then immersed themselves in a session dedicated to navigating the admissions process, expertly led by Dr. Miguel V. Wasielewski, Vice Provost of Admissions at UT Austin. Dr. Wasielewski provided invaluable guidance on preparing competitive applications, understanding admission criteria, and maximizing opportunities for academic success at the university level. His expertise and interactive approach resonated with participants, equipping them with practical knowledge and strategies to navigate the complexities of transferring to prestigious institutions. The engaging sessions on Day 1 set a strong foundation for the conference, ensuring that transfer students left empowered and informed as they pursue their educational aspirations.

The day continued with informative sessions on various topics relevant to transfer students, including financial literacy, transfer student resources at UT Austin, career planning, and slam poetry preparation. A highlight of the day was a keynote address by Dr. Luis Ponjuan, Associate Professor at TAMU Education & Human Development, who focused on the importance of transfer student success. In the afternoon, attendees participated in a team-building activity and a workshop on financial literacy. The day concluded with a career workshop led by ACC Career Services and a slam poetry prep session led by CTN Board Member Mike Guinn.



During day one of the Transfer Motivational Conference, Catch The Next held its highly anticipated Annual Board Meeting, a significant event that marks a pivotal moment in the organization's ongoing commitment to educational advancement and community empowerment. During this gathering, the board took the opportunity to introduce its newly elected board members, a group of distinguished individuals renowned for their expertise and dedication to the mission of Catch The Next. The new members bring a wealth of experience and fresh

perspectives that are expected to invigorate the organization's strategic initiatives and community outreach programs. Following the introductions, the board extended invitations to the new members to join various existing committees, recognizing the invaluable contributions they can offer. These committees, each focused on key areas such as curriculum development, student support services, community partnerships, and advocacy, play a crucial role in shaping the direction and impact of Catch The Next's programs. By integrating the new board members into these committees, the organization aims to leverage their unique skills and insights, fostering a collaborative environment where innovative ideas can flourish. The Annual Board Meeting, therefore, not only celebrated the addition of new talent but also reinforced the collective commitment to driving forward the mission of empowering underserved students to succeed in higher education and beyond.



Day two of the Transfer Motivational Conference continued with a highly anticipated panel of alumni, who shared their inspiring stories with the students. This panel featured graduates who had successfully navigated the challenges of higher education and were now thriving in their respective careers. Each alum brought a unique perspective, recounting personal experiences that ranged from overcoming financial hardships to balancing academic responsibilities with family obligations. Their stories highlighted the transformative power of perseverance, the importance of seeking support, and the impact that programs like Catch The Next had on their academic journeys. The panelists emphasized the significance of staying focused, setting clear goals, and remaining resilient in the face of adversity. Their narratives were not only motivational but also provided practical advice and strategies that the current students could apply in their own lives. The alumni panel served as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved with determination and support, leaving the students feeling inspired and empowered to pursue their educational and career aspirations with renewed vigor.



On the final day of the Transfer Motivational Conference, an event dedicated to inspiring and equipping students for successful transitions, Catch The Next had the distinct pleasure of announcing the recipients of two significant scholarships: the Laura I. Rendon Scholarship and the CTN Staff Scholarship. The Laura I. Rendon Scholarship, honoring the legacy of Dr. Laura I. Rendon, a trailblazer in educational equity, awarded two deserving students

\$200 each, totaling \$400. These scholarships recognize individuals who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and a commitment to community involvement. In addition, the CTN Staff Scholarship, reflecting the collective dedication of Catch The Next's staff to student success, awarded three students \$100 each, totaling \$300. These scholarships aim to support students who have shown remarkable resilience and determination in their pursuit of higher education. The announcement was met with enthusiastic applause and heartfelt congratulations from conference attendees, highlighting the importance of such financial support in empowering students to overcome obstacles and achieve their academic goals. By selecting these students for these scholarships, Catch The Next not only provided crucial financial assistance but also reinforced the message that their hard work and dedication are recognized and valued.

[**View Event Photos Here**](#)

Features of the Month

Congratulations

*to our new
Board Members with
Catch The Next*



Dr. Joan J. Jaimes - Director of Teaching and Learning / Ascender

Dr. Joan J. Jaimes was born and raised in Brownsville, located in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. She is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants, a former migrant farmworker, and the first in her family to earn a college degree. Dr. Jaimes holds an associate degree from Marshalltown Community College in Iowa, a bachelor's in Human Services, a master's in Public Administration, and a Ph.D. in Educational Administration with a focus in Community College Leadership from Iowa State University. With a background in banking and higher education, she has held roles in outreach to traditionally marginalized groups and college financial aid. Dr. Jaimes is experienced in bridging business and industry with P-a6 education and the community. After serving as an Awareness and Outreach Specialist for Federal Student Aid in Washington DC, she returned to Texas in 2018. Currently, she serves as the Director of Teaching and Learning at San Antonio College and is an adjunct professor in the Student Development Department.



Dr. Jeffrey Mayo is the Director for First-Year Experience at The University of Texas at Austin, where he leads initiatives to support the transition and academic success of first year and transfer students. With over a decade of experience in higher education, Jeff is deeply committed to creating programs that foster a sense of belonging and empowerment among students. His work involves building comprehensive support systems and implementing strategies to enhance student engagement and retention. Jeff holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Higher Education/Higher Education Administration from The University of Texas at Austin, where he conducted research on topics such as online education, college access, enrollment management, and higher education governance. His dedication to student development and success is evident in his leadership roles and contributions to the field of higher education.



Dr. Rosa Maria Rodriguez-Alvarez - Regional Dean, Mental Health Counseling: South Region Campuses

Dr. Rosa Rodriguez-Alvarez serves as the Regional Dean of Mental Health Counseling at Austin Community College (ACC) for the South Region District Mental Health Counseling team. She is a License Professional Counselor - Supervisor (LPC-S) with 22 years' inpatient/outpatient experience as a bilingual mental health counselor/supervisor. She leads and supervises mental health counselors at the three South Region district campuses (Riverside, South Austin and Hays).

Dr. Rodriguez-Alvarez leads the programming, implementation, and oversight of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Program (DAAPP) for the ACC student population. Since joining ACC in 2002, she has held the roles of counselor/professor, the first Assistant Dean of Student Services at the Riverside Campus, and Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the South Austin Campus. Dr. Rodriguez-Alvarez currently serves on ACC's Advisory Board for the Student in Recovery Program; a program that supports students in recovery by assisting in building connections with one another and fostering engagements with recovery and wellness-related services and activities, in order to help achieve both sustained recovery and academic success.



Patricia Ann Medina - Grant Officer at Illinois Wesleyan University/ Grant Consultant

Patricia Ann Medina is a San Antonio native. She is a proud alumna of Burbank High School, San Antonio College (AAS in Mental Health), Our Lady of the Lake University (BAS in Mental Health Science and MA in Human Sciences with a concentration in Education and Psychology). She is currently ABD at Touro University Worldwide Doctor of Psychology (PsyD.) in Organizational Psychology. Patricia's illustrious career in Higher Education spans 30 years. She has honed her skills in student success strategies, program development, grant project management, grant writing, and directing federal grants. Her journey began as a temporary library assistant at San Antonio College, where her passion for lifelong learning was sparked by the Library Director. This passion and advocacy for student equity propelled her to direct two TRIO SSS projects and three Title V DHSI grant projects, transforming her into a federal grants Department of Education expert. Her career then took a significant turn as she became a consultant and grant writer for McAllister and Quinn Consulting in Washington, D.C., and, most recently, a grant officer at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL. When asked why she continues to work in higher education, Patricia said, "I have always been an advocate and a champion for those who need to overcome obstacles. Lift those who come after you; we need a hand up, not a handout. We need barriers to be broken by future generations, and the only way to do this is through providing as many opportunities as possible."



Dr. Ali Esmaeili - Dean for Math, Science, Information Technology, and Bachelor Programs

Dr. Ali Esmaeili currently serves as the Dean of Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, and Bachelor's Degree Programs for South Texas College and has 33 years of experience in higher education. He has served as a Mathematics Instructor, Department Chair for Mathematics, Division Director, Campus Administrator, Professional Development Coordinator, and Associate Dean for Bachelor's Degree Programs. Dr. Esmaeili was instrumental in the development, implementation, and evaluation of many programs including four unique Bachelor's Degree programs at South Texas College. Under his leadership Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and Accelerating Developmental Education programs have been developed and implemented at South Texas College. He serves as a Board Member for the Community College Baccalaureate Association (CCBA), member of College of Engineering Advisory Committee, member of Competency-Based Education Network, member of Texas Affordable Baccalaureate Team (TAB), and former member of the Rio Grande Valley Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Dr. Esmaeili begun his teaching career teaching Mathematics at Roma High School from 1988 to 1990. Dr. Ali Esmaeili has earned a Doctorate in Education, Master of Science, Master of Education, and a Bachelor of Science Degree (all) from Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas. During his tenure at South Texas College, Dr. Esmaeili has developed his division into a strategic embodiment of South Texas College's Mission and Vision.



Dr. Chuang Shao - Department Chair - Mathematics | School of Engineering, Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences

Dr. Chuang Shao, currently serving as a Department Chair of Mathematics at Dallas College, brings over two decades of experience in teaching and academic leadership. Committed to innovative pedagogy and fostering student success and well-being, she excels in building high-performing teams, fostering collaboration, and driving strategic initiatives. Dr. Shao has a robust background in curriculum development, community building, and supporting both students and faculty. Passionate about applying psychological principles to enhance learning outcomes, she continually explores methods to improve educational practices. Drawn to initiatives like the ASCENDER Program and Transformative Teaching, she aims to empower others and support the evolving goals of education.

Welcome,

to our new
CTN Peer Mentor



Emily KyungJin Suh earned her PhD in Education Studies with a concentration in Language, Literacy, and Culture from the University of Nebraska. Suh is an Associate Professor of Developmental Education and Coordinator of English, Language Arts, Reading (and integrated reading and writing program) at Texas State University.

Her research seeks to support practitioners and amplify language and literacy practices that promote equity and justice for marginalized populations through examinations of various educational contexts including postsecondary literacy learning, STEM family engagement, and two-year English teaching and professional development. Her work has been recognized with awards from the American Association of Applied Linguistics, the International Society for Language Studies, the Literacy Research Association, and the National Association for Developmental Education. She currently serves as the Lead Researcher in an Ascendium grant-funded collaboration between West Ed, Student-Ready Strategies, and the Texas Success Center.

Suh is Chair of the Equity, Access and Inclusion Network for the National Organization for Student Success and serves on the editorial review board for several journals including *Journal of Adult and Adolescent Literacy*, *Journal of Developmental Education*, and *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*.

Selected Citations

Suh, E. K. (2022). Teaching Reading as Raciolinguistic Justice:(Re) Centering Reading Strategies for Antiracist Reading. *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, 50(2), 116-131.

<https://doi.org/10.58680/tetyc202232296>

Suh, E. K. (2022). Miles to go before we sleep: A content analysis of representations of equity in the dev ed'r discourse community. *Journal of College Reading and Learning* 52(4), 236-263.

Suh, E. K., Williams, J. L., & *Owens, S. (2021). *Raciolinguistic justice in college literacy and learning: A call for reflexive praxis* [White Paper]. College Reading and Learning Association. https://www.crla.net/images/whitepaper/CRLA_2021_Whit

Suh, E. K. (2020). Engagement from the periphery: Reconceptualizing adult English language learners' resistance in developmental literacy. *Literacy Research-Theory, Method, and Practice*, 69(1), 154-173. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2381336920937276>

Join Us!

BECOME A CTN PEER MENTOR

[INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PEER MENTOR ?](#)

Featured

ASCENDER Student of the Month



Palo Alto College

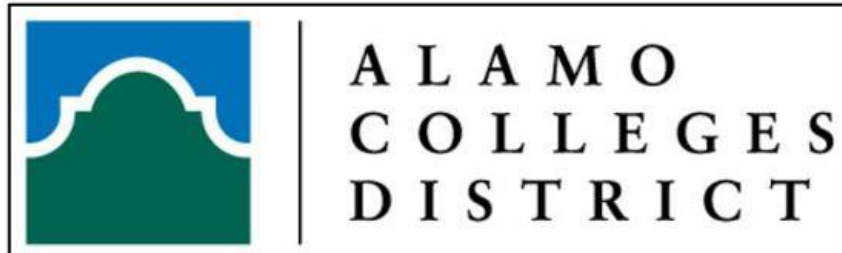
Domenique Robledo, ASCENDER Student

Major: Business

Palo Alto College held their Spring 2024 commencement ceremony at the Alamodome on Wednesday, May 21st. Domenique Robledo, Catch the Next student and former President of Ascender club represented the student body and gave the commencement speech at the ceremony. Domenique is currently president of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and graduates with an Associates of Arts in Business and is transferring to St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. Domenique Robledo received the St. Mary's University Transfer Trustee Scholarship in the amount of \$18,000. The Transfer Trustee scholarship is for students that transfer to St. Mary's University with a GPA of 3.8 and higher. She also received the St. Mary's Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship for members that transfer with 30+ credit hours with an annual award of \$5000.

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>



CATCH THE NEXT

Thinking About Your 2024 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

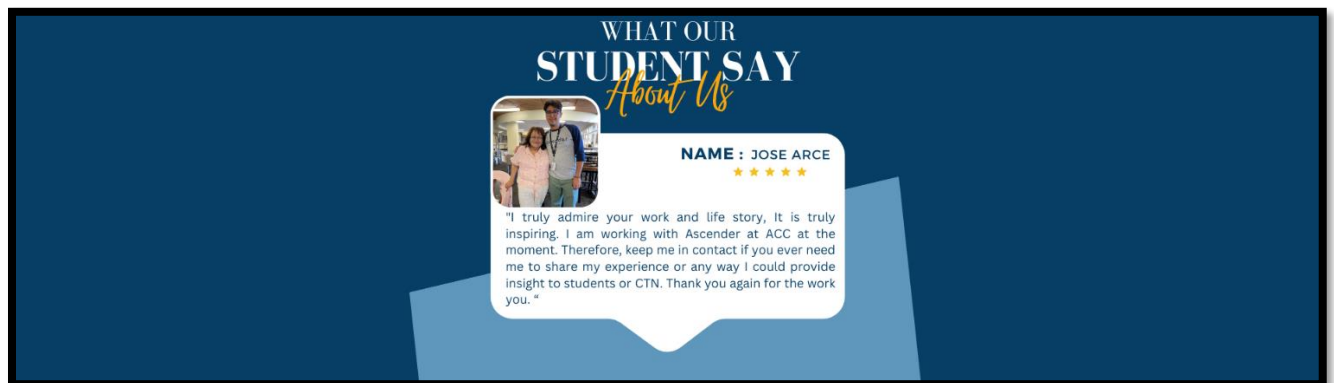
Visit <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1217887>
to make an online donation

ASCENDER News



The Spring 2024 commencement ceremony at Palo Alto College, held at the Alamodome on Wednesday, May 21st, marked a pivotal moment for students as they celebrated the culmination of their academic journey and embarked on new adventures. The choice of venue at the Alamodome reflects the grandeur and significance of the occasion, providing a spacious and dignified setting to honor the achievements of the graduating class. As the capstone event of the academic year, commencement serves as a momentous occasion not only for the graduating students but also for their families, friends, faculty, and the broader community. It's a time to recognize and applaud the hard work, dedication, and perseverance that have propelled these students to this milestone. For many, it represents the fulfillment of long-held dreams and the beginning of promising careers or further academic pursuits.

The presence of Logan Martinez, the Alamo Colleges Student Trustee, alongside other esteemed board members, adds a layer of significance to the ceremony. Their participation underscores the institution's commitment to supporting its students and ensuring their success beyond the classroom. As representatives of the college community, they embody the values of leadership, service, and excellence that Palo Alto College strives to instill in its graduates. For Logan Martinez, serving as a trustee at such a momentous event is not just a duty but a privilege. It offers an opportunity to connect directly with students and witness firsthand the impact of their educational journey. As they cross the stage to receive their diplomas, Martinez and other board members share in the joy and pride of the graduates, knowing that their contributions have helped pave the way for these students' success.



Jose Arce's *testimonio* powerfully illustrates the transformative impact of the ASCENDER program on his life and educational journey. The ASCENDER program, which focuses on fostering academic and personal growth

among underserved students, offered Arce a network of mentors, peers, and educators who genuinely cared about his success. This support system not only helped him navigate the complexities of college life but also inspired him to set higher goals for himself. Arce's involvement in ASCENDER allowed him to develop critical skills, such as effective study habits and leadership qualities, which have been instrumental in his academic achievements. His *testimonio* highlights how the program's culturally relevant curriculum and community-building activities enriched his educational experience, making it more relatable and meaningful.



The 2023-2024 PAC Ascender End of the Year Celebration was set to be a remarkable event, at AR's Entertainment Center. This celebration highlighted the significant accomplishments, expanded outreach initiatives, key partnerships, and successful fundraising efforts. They honored exceptional contributions with awards. The event was to conclude the semester and enjoy time together.

CTN News



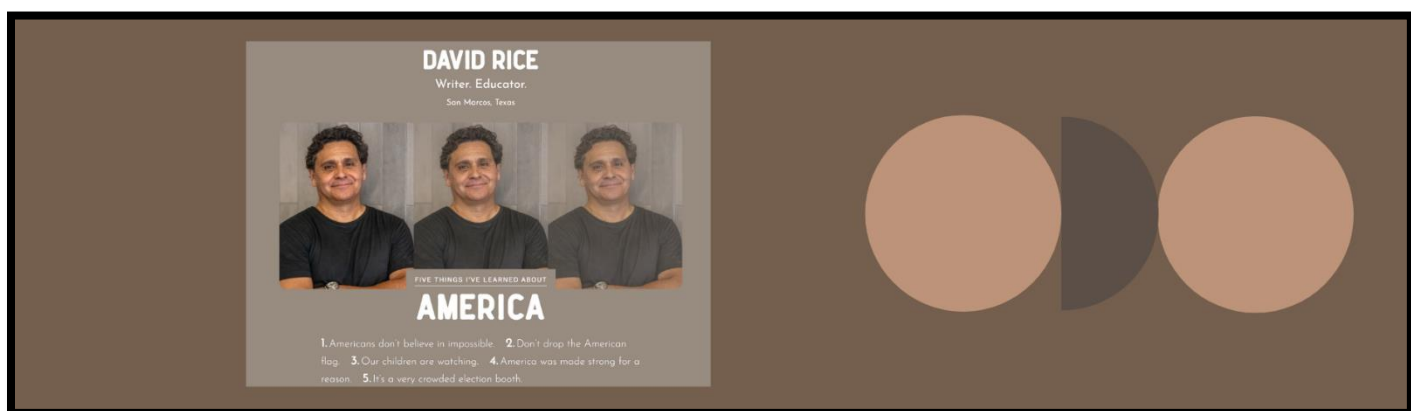
Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks the historic day in 1865 when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were finally informed of their freedom, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. This day has evolved into a powerful symbol of African American resilience, culture, and the ongoing struggle for equality. In this context, Catch The Next, an initiative dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for underserved communities, plays a vital role in furthering the spirit of Juneteenth. By providing mentorship, resources, and support to students from marginalized backgrounds, Catch The Next empowers individuals to overcome educational barriers and achieve their full potential. The program's commitment to social justice and equity resonates deeply with the principles of Juneteenth, as both celebrate the progress made and acknowledge the work still needed to achieve true equality. Through its innovative programs and community engagement, Catch The Next not only honors the legacy of Juneteenth but also actively contributes to the creation of a more just and inclusive society.



Dr. Stacy Ybarra, Director of Student Engagement at Catch The Next, a prominent figure in social media and student engagement, was celebrated during the 2024 Palo Alto College Commencement as the Outstanding Former Student of the year. Her impactful work with Catch The Next, an initiative aimed at empowering students through mentorship and community support, has garnered widespread recognition. Dr. Ybarra's dedication to enhancing student success and fostering meaningful connections through innovative use of social media has set a benchmark in educational circles. Her commitment to student empowerment and community engagement was rightfully honored, reflecting her significant contributions to the educational landscape and her alma mater, Palo Alto College.

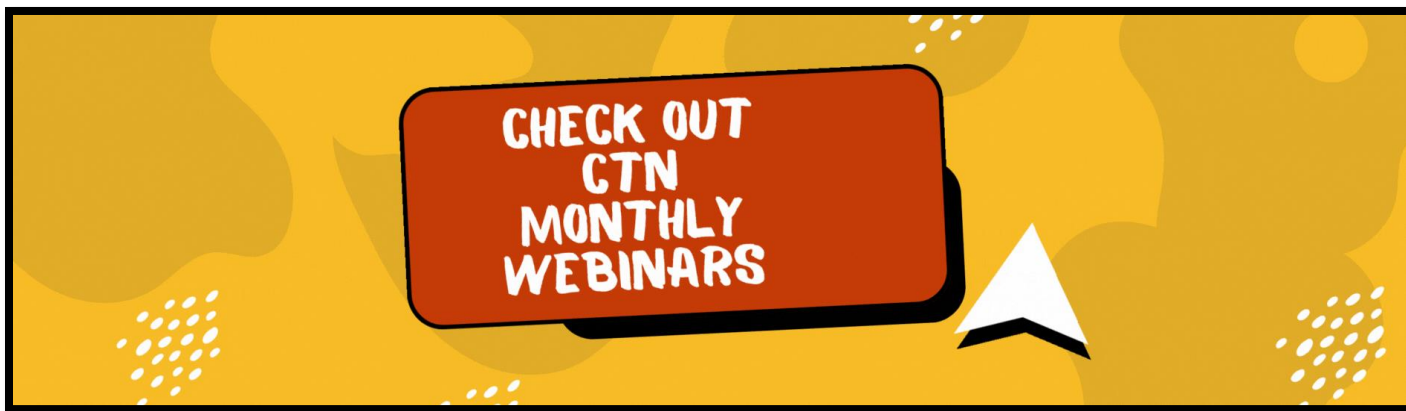


Congratulations to David Rice, Ascender Faculty from Austin Community College, for his exceptional presentation on May 31, 2024, at the ACC Rio Grande Campus during the CLS Vertical Alignment Content Exchange. David's insightful contribution provided a valuable platform for ACC CLS faculty and high school ELA faculty to connect, network, and exchange best practices. His dedication to fostering collaboration and sharing expertise is truly commendable and has undoubtedly made a significant impact on enhancing educational practices within our community.



For an insightful and compelling read, check out David Rice's published story on My Five Things, titled "Five Things I've Learned About America." In this piece, Rice delves into the unique aspects of American culture and society that he cherishes most. His narrative is a blend of personal anecdotes and broader reflections, capturing the essence of what makes America special to him. From the diversity and innovation to the natural beauty and spirit of community, Rice's story offers a heartfelt and nuanced perspective on the country's strengths. Don't miss this engaging read to see America through David Rice's appreciative and thoughtful lens.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



CTN past webinars 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 erin.doran@catchthenext.org. We are booking the speakers from June 2024 through the next academic year.

[Past Webinar Videos](#)

CTN UPCOMING EVENTS



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
6/13/2024	Internship	<u>HACU Internship</u> <u>6/28/2024 - Priority Deadline</u> <u>for Fall 2024</u>
6/13/2024	Scholarship	<u>FARRUKH FOUNDATION</u>
6/13/2024	Scholarship	<u>TACVB (Tourism majors</u> <u>scholarships)</u>

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](https://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.

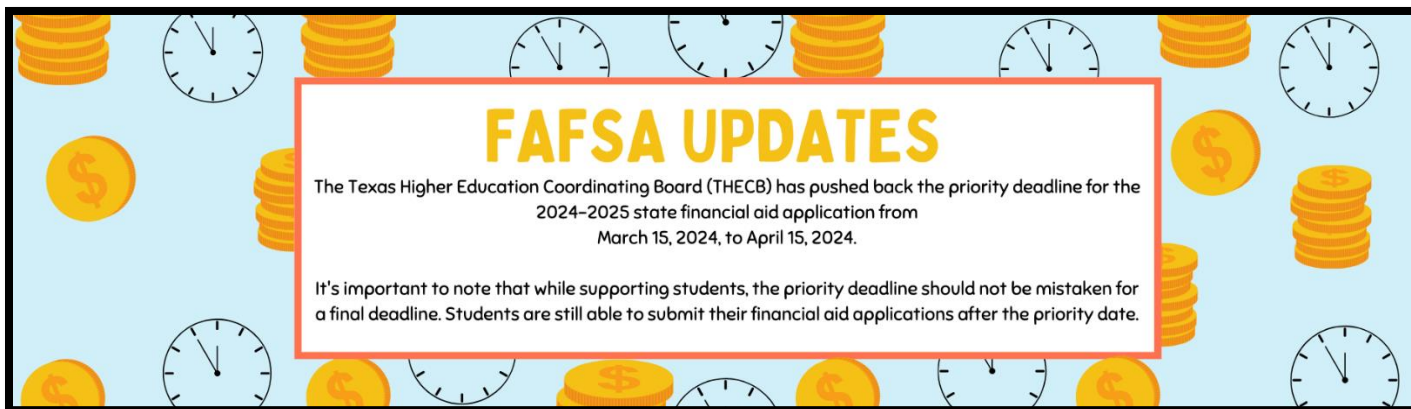
Thank You,
Stacy Ybarra Evans
Catch The Next

External Professional Development Opportunities Staff Opportunities

Date	Activity	Activity Description
6/13/2024	Tools	<u>CCSSE Professional Development Tools for Faculty</u>
6/13/2024	Conference Proposals	Poster Session Submissions OPEN Let Dr. Chavez know if you get accepted <u>Lilly-Austin Proposals</u> <u>(lillyconferences-tx.com)</u>
6/13/2024	FREE AI Faculty Training	<u>Free AI Faculty Development</u>

Helpful Resources

- [FAFSA Resources](#)
- [FSA ID New Details](#)
- [Quick Start Guide for Financial Aid Application Changes](#)
- [Texas OnCourse Monthly Professional Learning Series](#)
- [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 – [a toolkit for the promotion of voter 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](#)
- [Texas Public University Guaranteed Tuition Program Directory](#)
- [Get Schooled's Scholarship Finder](#)
- [Texas OnCourse: TASFA Resource Sheet](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection 24-25 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth](#)
- [uAspire FSA ID Recovery Guide](#)
- [Colleges with New Enrollment Deadlines Spreadsheet](#)
- [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 [Watch now on YouTube](#)
- Seeking Citizenship through a Fellowship Program [Apply Here](#)
- [Scholarships For DACA Recipients & Undocumented Students](#)
- Texas Student Leadership Summit 2024 on August 8 - 9, 2024 at The University of Texas at Austin **Deadline:** July 29, 2024 [Register Here](#)
- Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology - Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (CREST-RISE) Program **Deadline:** August 2, 2024 [Register Here](#)
- 2025 AAHE Awards and Books of the Year Awards **Deadline:** September 6, 2024 [Submit Here](#)
- Macy Faculty Scholars Program **Deadline:** September 15, 2024 [Apply Here](#)
- WIDA Annual Conference - **Conference Dates:** October 15-18, 2024 [Register Here](#)
- La Cosecha Dual Language Conference - **Conference Dates:** November 13-16, 2024 [Register Here](#)



FAFSA UPDATES

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has pushed back the priority deadline for the 2024–2025 state financial aid application from March 15, 2024, to April 15, 2024.

It's important to note that while supporting students, the priority deadline should not be mistaken for a final deadline. Students are still able to submit their financial aid applications after the priority date.



2024–2025 ONLINE TASFA IS OPEN!

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 @StudentAid

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 REPAYMENT PLAN

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



STUDENT UPDATES

 CATCH THE NEXT  

-  **Attention students!**  **Exciting updates just 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!
-  **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.
-  **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!



HSI Lists: 2022-23

600 HSIs	Hispanic-Serving Institutions
412 eHSIs	Emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions
252 gHSIs	Hispanic-Serving Institutions with Graduate Programs

The Leader-in-Residence Program



HACU
H I S P A N I C
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S

Applications are open to undergraduate students from HACU-member institutions across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

Students selected participate in leadership and career development opportunities.

Engage in outreach activities to help spread the word on your campus about HACU advocacy efforts and student programs available.

Receive a conference sponsorship to attend the ¡Adelante! Leadership Institute, the Student Track component of HACU's 38th Annual Conference to be held Nov. 1-3, 2024 at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado.

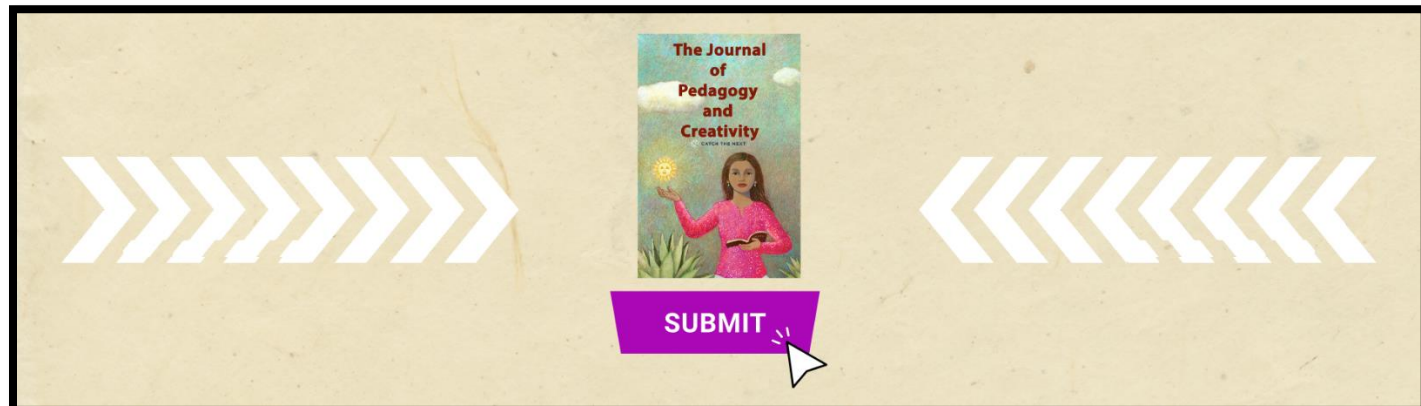
Undergraduate students selected to the Program also receive a sponsorship to attend the HACU ¡Adelante! Leadership Institute. The cost of registration and three conference breakfast and lunches and a Networking Dinner are included. Travel and lodging is also included for non-local students only.



Application Deadline: June 21, 2024, 5:00 PM CT

For eligibility and to apply, visit www.hacu.net/hacu/Leader-in-Residence.asp

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.

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

Explore

NSF Offers Funding Opportunities to HSIs

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

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

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



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

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

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

Or mail your donation to

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

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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

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