

NEWSLETTER

August Volume 13, No. 1



We are excited to share that the final draft of our latest newsletter is now ready for review. This edition highlights the remarkable achievements, upcoming events, and critical updates most relevant to our academic community.

Your insights have played a crucial role in shaping the content, and we eagerly anticipate your feedback to ensure it aligns with our collective goals. Please take a moment to review the newsletter, and let us know if you have any additional suggestions or revisions. Thank you for your ongoing dedication and contributions. As we finalize this edition, we hope it will serve as a valuable resource for our faculty, administrators, and academic community.

To all of our students, welcome back! We wish you a successful and inspiring fall semester. Let's make this term a time of growth, learning, and achievement.

Welcome Northwest Vista College

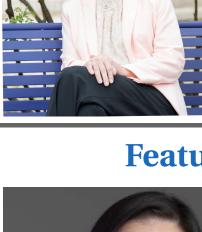


Catch the Next is thrilled to partner with Northwest Vista College starting in

the fall of 2025. Northwest Vista College contributes to the success of its students and the overall mission of the college. We look forward to continuing our work together and fostering an environment where students can achieve their full potential. Northwest Vista College is located in the vibrant city of San Antonio, Texas,

nestled within the rolling hills of the Northwest side. As part of the Alamo Colleges District, it offers a welcoming and diverse environment for students from all walks of life. The college is known for its scenic campus, featuring modern architecture, green spaces, and a serene lake that provides a peaceful backdrop for academic pursuits. The student body reflects San Antonio's rich cultural diversity. There is a large Hispanic population, as well as African American, Asian, and Caucasian

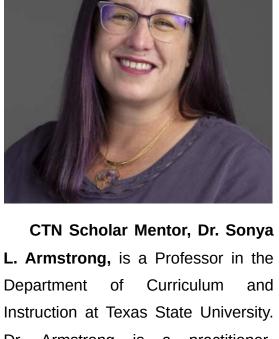
students. This blend of cultures creates a dynamic and inclusive community where different perspectives are celebrated and students can thrive in a supportive academic environment. Welcome Dr. Amy Bosley, President of Northwest Vista College



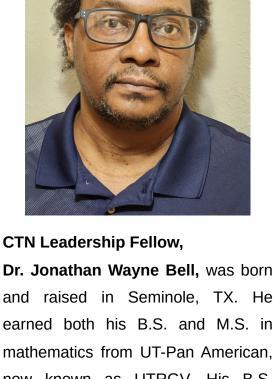
Northwest Vista College, a dynamic and thriving community with over 19,000 students

Dr. Bosley serves as the president of

and 900 dedicated employees who are deeply committed to teaching and learning. Features of the Month



Dr. Armstrong is a practitionerresearcher, with foci situated at the intersections of literacy and postsecondary teaching and learning. Her scholarly endeavors are guided by over twenty-five years of designing and teaching developmental reading, integrated reading and writing, composition, and learning strategies courses in community colleges and universities. Her research focuses on improving postsecondary literacy and learning pedagogy and practice to more effectively facilitate students' college literacy transitions, thereby increasing access and potential for within success for all higher education.



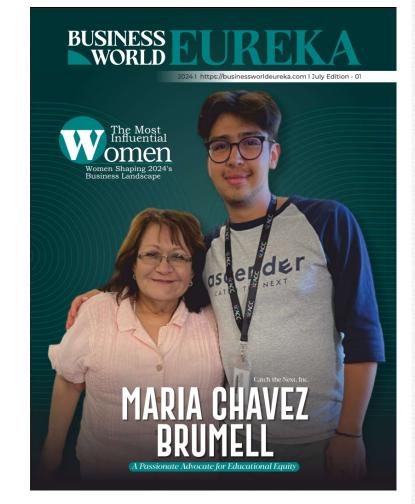
now known as UTRGV. His B.S. thesis focused on the applications of theory to geometry topology. He went on to complete 42 credit hours toward a Ph.D. in commutative algebra at UT-Arlington. With over 15 years of experience as a math instructor at South Texas College (STC), Jonathan has been an active member of the college community, serving on various departmental and campus-wide committees. He played a key role in bringing Wolfram Mathematica to STC and has been involved in Catch the Next (CTN) for over six years. His presentation will focus on culturally relevant applications of linear equations (Math 0100) and systems of linear equations (Math 1414 coreq) at South West Texas College.

Maria Chavez Brumell Recognized as **Business World** Eureka's One of the 100 Most

Influential

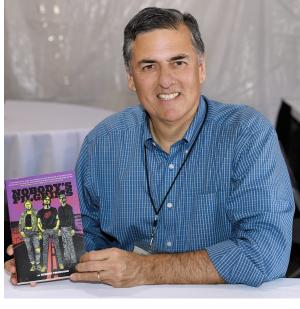
Women in **Business**

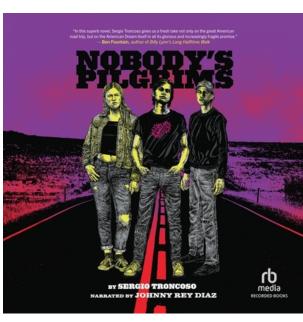
Read More



Congratulations to Sergio Troncoso Inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame

Scholar Mentor, Sergio **Troncoso** is the author of eight books, most recently **Nobody's** Pilgrims, which won the Gold Medal for Best Novel- Adventure or Drama in English from the International Latino Book Awards. He also wrote A Peculiar Kind of Immigrant's Son, which Luis Alberto Urrea hailed as "a world-class collection" and Junot Díaz called "a masterwork." Troncoso edited Nepantla Familias: An Anthology of Mexican American Literature on Families in between Worlds, which received a starred review from Kirkus Reviews. A Fulbright scholar, Troncoso is past president of the Texas Institute of Letters. He has been teaching at the Yale Writers' Workshop since 2013. His work has appeared in the Pleiades, Yale Review, New Letters, Other Voices, Houston Chronicle,



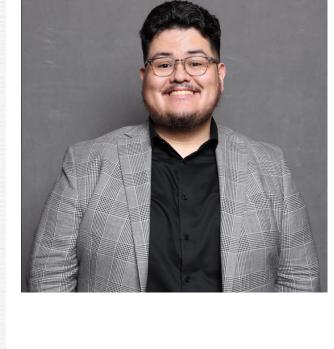


Welcome Alejandro E. Medina

Texas Highways, Michigan

Monthly.

Quarterly Review, and Texas



Aleiandro E. Medina as our new coordinator of communication and marketing; he is a recent graduate of St. Mary's University with a degree in Digital Marketing and a minor in Visual Communications. His strong analytical skills and expertise in digital marketing will be invaluable as we continue to enhance our strategies and reach our goals. Alejandro brings a fresh perspective and creative approach, making him a great asset to our team. Please join us in welcoming Alejandro. **Catch Up with ASCENDER News**

We are thrilled to introduce

2024 Fall Transformative Teaching Institute Webinar

Hosted by Dr. Yvette M. Regalado



transformative experience, delving into cutting-edge strategies for creating culturally sustaining and flexible classrooms across math, STEM, learning frameworks, English, and Integrated Reading and Writing (InRW) courses. Participants immersed themselves in interactive sessions that explored the latest trends, addressed challenges, and shared innovative approaches to enhance classroom dynamics. The event provided invaluable opportunities to connect with fellow educators, exchange ideas, and gain practical tools designed to make a meaningful impact on students. With vibrant discussions and insightful presentations, the webinar refreshed teaching mindsets and empowered educators to implement new strategies effectively. We're thrilled with the enthusiastic response and the commitment to transforming educational practices for tremendous student success. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this event a huge achievement! **August Webinar** Hosted by Dr. Yvette

M. Regalado "Enacting Carino and Embedding

Community College Curriculum,"

Restorative Literacies in the

hosted by Dr. Yvette M. Regalado, was a tremendous success! Educators and administrators gathered to explore impactful strategies for re-engaging college students by integrating restorative literacies into their curricula.



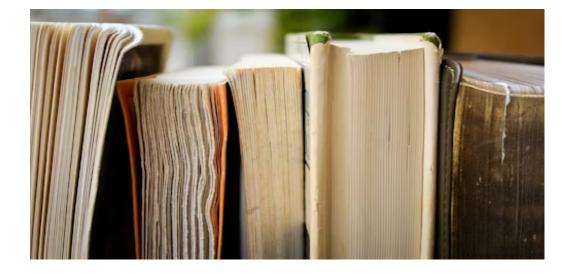
Attendees participated in dynamic sessions that emphasized creating supportive and inclusive learning environments. The event showcased innovative methods for embedding restorative practices that promote healing, understanding, and academic growth. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, participants gained practical insights and tools to enhance their teaching approaches and strengthen student connections. The enthusiastic participation

and collaborative spirit made this event a powerful experience, reinforcing the commitment to

nurturing educational spaces where all students can thrive. Thank you to everyone who

contributed to the success of this inspiring and transformative event!

Coming September 5th: Humanities and Pedagogy: Freud and Jung By Rafael Castillo



CTN Fellow and Director of Publications Dr. Rafael Castillo, a professor of English and humanities at **Palo Alto College**, had a recent article, "The Future of the Liberal Arts and the Humanities," published in the June 2024 issue of Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine, the official journal of the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE). Rafael Castillo and Alfredo Torres, Jr.'s collaborative article, "Humanities

and Pedagogy: Freud and Jung," is scheduled for publication on September 5, 2024, in NISOD's Innovative Abstracts published by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), an online journal published by the University of Texas at Austin. Castillo and Torres, Jr. are both NISOD Teaching Excellent recipients and have team-taught the 1302 Humanities course at Palo Alto College. Professor Torres, Jr. also teaches Humanities at Alamo Colleges and Austin Community Colleges. Alfredo Torres, Jr., and Rafael Castillo, PhD, delivered a "Pedagogy and the

Humanities" workshop at the October 13, 2023, Conference in Austin, sponsored by the National Community College Humanities Association (CCHA). The presentation focused on Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung and using film as a basis for critical analysis. (the NISOD article is based on that presentation). In addition, Alfredo Torres had a fiction piece published in the 2022 issue of CCH Humanities Review titled "The Sacrifice." Professor Torres, a CTN executive copy editor, is currently doing research for Oxford University Press.

Catch the Next, Professional Mentoring Network

CTN Upcoming Events

Monthly Webinar



designed to support the holistic development of educators. We strive to assist both individuals and institutions by sharing best practices and current research on topics of interest to our faculty and administrators within our community of practice and beyond. **Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat:**

The Teaching and Learning for Student Success Webinar series is

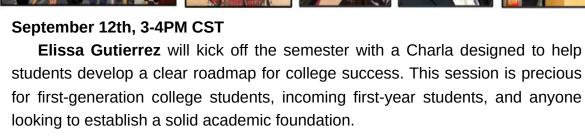
Cultivating a Validating Classroom Environment



organized by Catch the Next (CTN) to promote a sense of belonging among

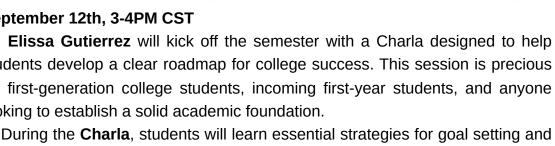
Ascender Cohort Members and to address any problems of practice they may

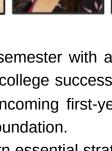
face. These virtual office hours are designed to support Ascender Cohort Members, both present and past. AC&C is an online means to address real-time questions and concerns related to program logistics, curriculum, course materials, and any other issues stakeholders may have regarding implementing the program on their campus. The sessions offer one-to-one/group interactions between Ascender Cohort Members and the CTN team, particularly those involved in the professional development component of the program. Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal **Student Talks: Charting Your Course Webinar**

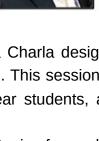


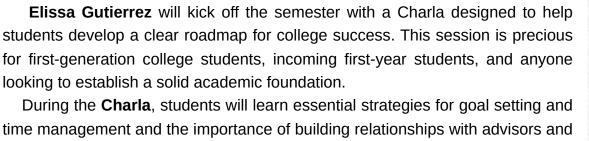
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professors. Elissa will also provide insights on utilizing campus resources to enhance the college experience effectively. By the end of the session, students will walk away with a personalized plan outlining their goals and strategies for

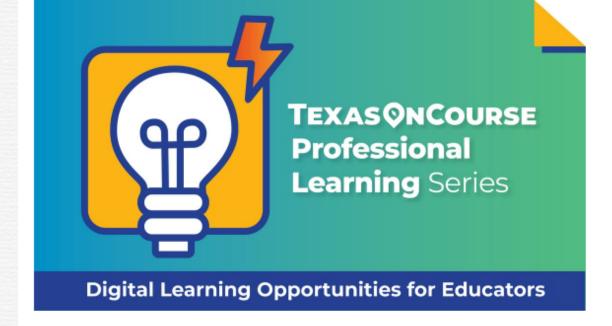


achieving them, setting the stage for a successful and fulfilling academic

October 24 - October 25, 2024 The Ascender Fall Seminar is a vital event that brings together scholar mentors, educators, advisors, counselors, and trainers from across the state. This seminar is an opportunity to discuss the progress and challenges within the program, while also sharing best practices that enhance classroom experiences. With a strong focus on team building, the seminar addresses the diverse needs of various disciplines through engaging breakout sessions. The content is

carefully tailored to be responsive to the needs of the current cohort, ensuring that participants leave with valuable insights and strategies. The event will be held at Alamo College - Palo Alto College in the Ozuna Library's Legacy Room, located at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd., San Antonio, Texas

Register Here



College Readiness **EXAM**ined: A Closer Look at

Assessments

The Texas OnCourse Team is thrilled to present a highly requested webinar focused on the SAT, ACT, and TSIA2. We're committed to equipping you with the essential tools and tips to help your students excel in these critical assessments.

During this session, we'll cover:

- SAT/ACT score guidelines and their relevance to direct admissions
- Updates to the TSIA2 and effective testing strategies
 Overview of the Texas OnCourse Academy SAT and ACT professional
- learning modules

Join us **on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 10 a.m**. (CDT) Thank you for this valuable opportunity to enhance your support for students as they prepare for these important exams.

Register Today

CTN Event Schedule



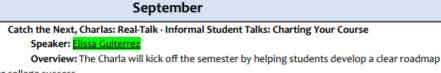
Catch the Next, Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Calendar 2024-25 August

	August
August 15	Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic:
	Speaker:
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar
	September
September 19	Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic:
	Speaker:
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar
	October
October 17	Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic:
	Speaker:
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar
	November
November 21	Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic:
	Speaker:
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar
	December
December 19	Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic:
	Speaker:
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar
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September 5 Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat Topic Cultivation - Validation Classroom Environment

October 3 Time: 3-4 PM CST	Topic: Cultivating a Validating Classroom Environment Overview: This series of monthly sessions allows educators to connect, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program. To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Cultivating a Validating Classroom Environment October Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat Topic: Empowering Students Through Financial Aid & Scholarships Overview: This series of monthly sessions allows educators to connect, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program.
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Empowering Students Through Financial Aid & Scholarships
	November
November 7 Time: 3-4 PM CST	Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat Topic: Ascender Giving: Supporting Each Other's Success Overview: This series of monthly sessions allows educators to connect, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program. To join the Zoom meeting, go to: The Power of Ascender Giving
	December
December 5 Time: 3-4 PM CST	Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat Topic: Crafting Compelling Resumes for Student Success
	Overview: This series of monthly sessions allows educators to connect, share best practices, and gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program. To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Crafting Compelling Resumes for Student Success
	gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program.
January 2 Time: 3-4 PM CST	gain valuable insights on various topics relevant to their success in the program. To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Crafting Compelling Resumes for Student Success



September 12

Time: 3-4 PM CST

Catch the Next, Charla's Calendar 2024-25

	for college success.
	Audience: First-generation college students, incoming freshmen, and any student looking
	to create a strong academic foundation.
	Items Learned:
	 Goal setting and time management strategies.
	 Importance of building relationships with advisors and professors.
	 Utilizing campus resources effectively.
	Deliverable: Students will walk away with a personalized plan outlining their goals and
	strategies for achieving them.
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Charting Your Voice Zoom meeting
	October
October 10	Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Finding Your Voice
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Speaker: <u>Dr. Amber Sarker</u>
	Overview: The Charla will empower students to develop their confidence and
	communication skills in the classroom.
	Audience: Students who are shy or hesitant to participate in class discussions, students
	who want to improve their presentation skills, and anyone looking to feel more comfortable in
	academic settings.
	Items learned:
	 Techniques for overcoming public speaking anxiety.
	 Strategies for effective participation in class discussions.
	 The importance of clear and concise communication.
	Deliverable: Students will have the opportunity to practice their presentation skills in a
	supportive environment.
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Finding Your Voice Zoom meeting
November 14	Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Building Your Network
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Speaker: Queen Samantha Ackers
	Overview: The Charla will highlight the importance of networking and building
	relationships with mentors and peers.
	Audience: Students interested in exploring career options, students looking for guidance
	and support, and anyone who wants to expand their professional network.
	Items Learned:
	 The benefits of mentorship and professional relationships.

	and support, and anyone who wants to expand their professional network.
	Items Learned:
	 The benefits of mentorship and professional relationships.
	 Strategies for networking with professors, advisors, and industry professionals.
	Building a strong online presence through LinkedIn and other platforms.
	Deliverable: Students will develop a plan for connecting with potential mentors and
	networking within their chosen field.
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Building Your Network Zoom meeting
	December
December 12	Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: The Power of Perseverance
Time: 3-4 PM CST	Speaker: Dr. Joan Jaimes
	Overview: The closing Charla will focus on the importance of perseverance and staying
	throughout the college journey.
	Audience: Students facing academic setbacks, students feeling overwhelmed, and
	anyone needing a boost of encouragement.
	Items Learned:
	 Strategies for overcoming challenges and setbacks.
	 Techniques for staying motivated and focus on long-term goals.
	 The importance of self-care and maintaining a healthy balance.
	Deliverable: Students will create a personalized plan for staying motivated and focused
	on their academic goals.
	To join the Zoom meeting, go to: The Power of Perseverance Zoom Meeting
	Holpful Docouross
	Helpful Resources

- FAFSA Resources
 FSA ID New Details
- Quick Start Guide for Financial Aid Application Changes
 Texas OnCourse Monthly Professional Learning Series

• <u>U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Releases New Resources on Students</u> with Disabilities

• Today the U.S. Department of Education released a new resource – a toolkit for the promotion of

- voter participation for students.
- Article: <u>Transfers and Progress</u>
- Texas Workforce Commission
- IRS Direct File
- My Texas Future Resources to plan career and education
- Texas Direct <u>Transfer Degree Pathways</u>
- ImmSchools Inclusivity Poster
- NCAN FAFSA Tracker

2024-25 FAFSA Issue Alerts

<u>Texas Public University Guaranteed Tuition Program Directory</u>

Texas OnCourse: TASFA Resource Sheet

Deadline: July 29, 2024 Register Here

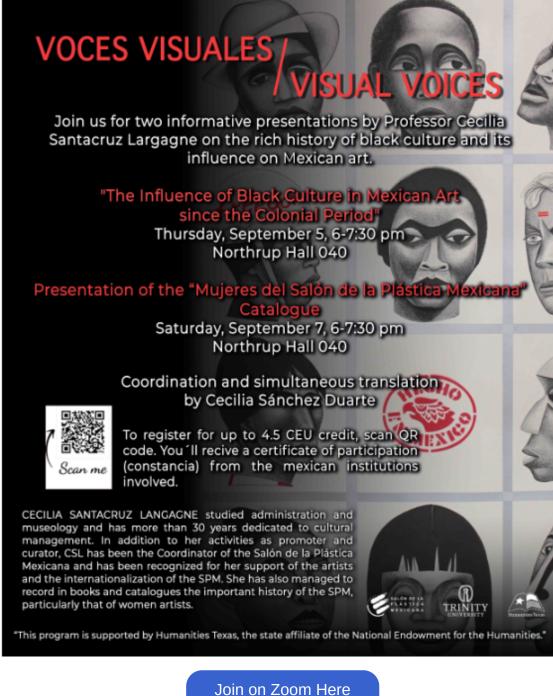
- Get Schooled's Scholarship Finder
- SchoolHouse Connection 24-25 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth uAspire FSA ID Recovery Guide
- Colleges with New Enrollment Deadlines Spreadsheet
- Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Related Forms of Discrimination and Bias · Leading Safe, Inclusive, and Nondiscriminatory Learning Environments During the War in the

FACT SHEET: The U.S. Department of Education Announces New Tools to Tackle

- 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
- · Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Science and Engineering (CREST-RISE) Program Deadline: August 2, 2024 Register Here
- 2025 AAHHE Awards and Books of the Year Awards Deadline: September 6, 2024 <u>Submit Here</u> Macy Faculty Scholars Program Deadline: September 15, 2024 <u>Apply Here</u>
- WIDA Annual Conference Conference Dates: October 15-18, 2024 Register Here
- La Cosecha Dual Language Conference **Conference Dates:** November 13-16, 2024 **Register**
- <u>Here</u>







NISOD's newsletter is your one-stop shop for model programs, best practices, and professional development opportunities. STUDENT CONTESTS ARE NOW OPEN! Share with your students these two opportunities to win cash prizes and more!*

Learn More

FAFSA WILL OPEN

Student Graphic Design Contest: Students at NISOD member colleges can win \$1,000 and other prizes by designing the official Conference Program cover for NISOD's 2026 International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence. Learn more and download a flyer to share with your students here The deadline to participate is March 7, 2025. *Only students at NISOD member colleges are eligible to participate.

Student Essay Contest: Students at NISOD member colleges can win \$1,000 and other prizes by describing a faculty member, staff member, or administrator who encouraged them to complete a course,

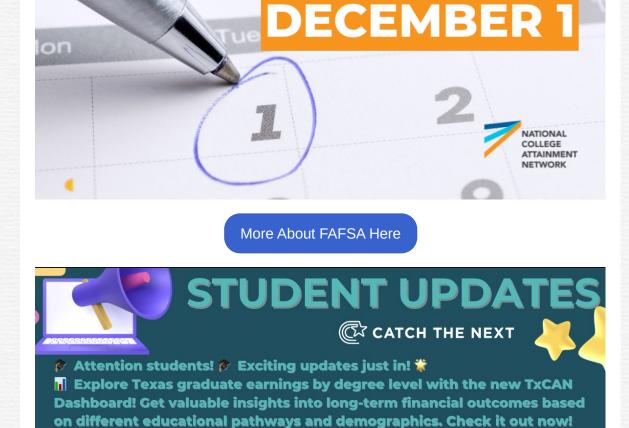
encouragement helped them reach their goal(s). Learn more and

finish a semester, or graduate from college and how that

download a flyer to share with your students here.

BREAKING: 2025-26

Student Contests



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

Having trouble with the FAFSA form? Good news! The US Department

- 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.

S 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!

CTN Program Partners





Catch the Next Program Partners; Current and Former Sponsors













The University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement









The City of Austin

















CTN Colleges South Texas College, Rio Grande Valley

Mid Valley Campus, Weslaco Pecan Campus, McAllen Starr Campus, Rio Grande City

Alamo Colleges, San Antonio Palo Alto College

San Antonio College Northwest Vista College

Austin Community College, Austin Highland Campus Riverside Campus Hays Campus South Campus

Dallas College, DallasRichland 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

Instagram







CEO, Dr. Maria Martha Chavez Cordinator of Communications and Marketing, Alejandro Enrique Medina **Submissions:**

CONNECT WITH US





SUBMIT A NEWSLETTER ITEM Submissions are welcomed. Please send all information to:

ascender@catchthenext.org **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS HERE**

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