



SEPTEMBER WRAP-UP

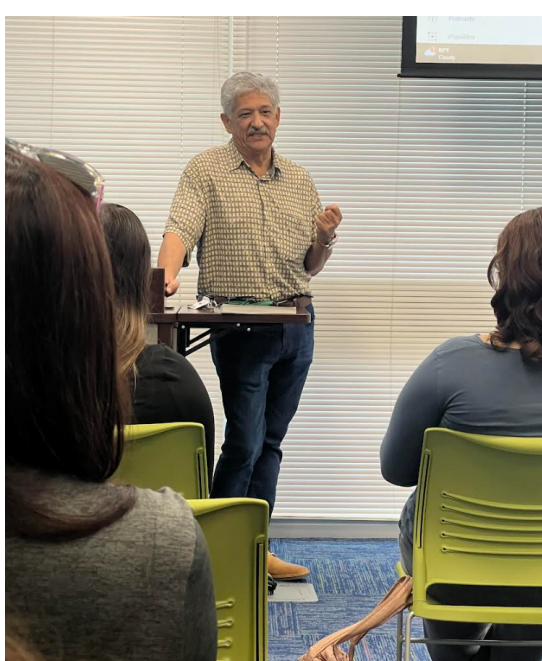
September
Volume 13, No. 2

We are excited to reflect on the success of our recent **online webinar** and **Charla's**, which had a remarkable turnout, and to share upcoming events that will enrich our community. The **2024 Fall Seminar on October 24th and 25th** will feature sessions to enhance pedagogy and collaboration, and we encourage all faculty and staff to attend. Join us for our next **Charlas, Real-Talk: Informal Student Talks: Finding Your Voice**, with **Dr. Amber Sarker**. These events continue to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration across our academic community.

Culture Event- Ascender Students at South Texas College- Starr Campus



As part of a cultural event at **South Texas University**, acclaimed author and Ascender professor **Juan Ochoa** presented his latest novel, **Pa'l Otro Lado**, at the STC Starr Campus on September 5th. A prequel to his previous work, *Mariguano*, *Pa'l Otro Lado* chronicles five generations of the Cortina family as they endure violence, forced migration, and the harsh pursuit of survival. Ochoa artfully captures the struggles that drive these characters, revealing how hunger and poverty can overshadow the pursuit of the American Dream. Through rich characterizations and poignant storytelling, *Pa'l Otro Lado* highlights such hardships' emotional and psychological tolls, inviting readers to empathize with those caught in cycles of struggle and hope.



Juan Ochoa's words resonated deeply, inspiring students to reflect on their family experiences and cultural identities. Through this interaction, Ochoa emphasized the importance of storytelling in honoring and preserving personal and communal histories.

A key highlight of the event was Ochoa's dynamic engagement with students. He encouraged them to write their own stories and preserve their histories.

Features of the Month



Stacy Ybarra Evans, Ed.D., is an innovative educator and dedicated academic leader with a passion for student success. Currently serving as the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Our Lady of the Lake University, she spearheads initiatives to enhance pedagogical practices and support faculty development. Stacy holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Capella University and has a rich academic background, including degrees from Texas A&M University and Alamo Colleges District.

With extensive administrative experience, she has led transformative projects, such as implementing diversity initiatives and advancing online learning. Stacy's commitment to excellence in education is evident in her various roles and contributions to fostering a culture of learning and growth.

In her recent publication over the summer, Stacy Ybarra Evans authored a chapter titled **"Empowering Faculty Vitality and Mitigating Burnout Through Generative AI in Higher Education"** as part of the book **Transforming Education With Generative AI: Prompt Engineering and Synthetic Content Creation (2024)**. Evans comprehensively analyzes how generative AI can transform educational environments, providing innovative approaches to alleviate faculty burnout while promoting sustained vitality. Her work emphasizes the critical role of AI in fostering resilient and adaptive teaching practices within higher education.



Anavey Perez has been a Catch the Next Ascender student for almost two years and serves as the president of the Ascender club. In August, she won the Alamo Promise Student of the Month award. Anavey accepted this award and gave a speech at the August District Board meeting. Nine years ago, Anavey

However, reality quickly set in, and she was forced to accept that Pace University would not be affordable. She then set out to go to UTSA, utilizing scholarships and grants, but again, even with scholarships, the university was not affordable. It was then that she chose to attend Palo Alto College.

"I never envisioned that I would be here today. I enrolled at Palo Alto College as a nontraditional student, a single mother of a small child, experiencing homelessness, and returning to an academic environment after a 7-year time gap. Through a youth opportunity organization called NXT LEVEL, I was assisted in enrolling in Palo Alto College and the AlamoPROMISE Program," she said.

"Through my own experience, I have been able to influence the attendance of 5 immediate family members to

graduated from South San Antonio High School as the first person in her family to receive a high school diploma. She graduated with honors and scholarships, and, as the President of the Student Council, she spoke at the graduation ceremony. She was bound to New York as she wanted to attend Pace University.

enroll at Palo Alto College to work towards their academic and career goals. Today, I represent the success of a program like AlamoPROMISE and its impact on a minority, nontraditional student. I stand before you today as a licensed cosmetologist and an associate's degree holder who can now build financial stability and provide a better quality of life for my daughter Nylah, myself, and my family. None of this would be possible without the AlamoPROMISE program. The AlamoPROMISE program promises future leaders that success is possible through hard work and dedication," she added.

Palo Alto College Ascender Host The Back to School Bash



The **Palo Alto College Ascender club** hosted their first meeting of the semester called **“The Back to School Bash”** where new students learned about what the Ascender club is and what it can do for them.

Returning members got to talk about their experiences in the club thus far. They talked about how this program is a Familia , and how it can help their college lives not be so lonely. They also talked about fundraising, what CTN means to them, and the **Ascender Motivational Conference** at UT Austin. Club members ate food and got to know each other a little better. New students got excited and felt enthusiastic about this school year knowing they had a supportive environment around them. One new student said “It’s my first semester, and I’m just happy to have a group of friends.”

Fall plans for the PAC Ascender Club include fundraising and having at least one social event each month with food and games; and at every social event, members' birthdays from that month will be celebrated.



Noche de Familia A Night of Community and Connection at San Antonio College



We are excited to share that our recent event, **Noche de Familia**, held on **September 20 at San Antonio College**, was a wonderful success! With around 50 attendees and faculty members, the evening was filled with laughter, conversation, and a true sense of belonging.

Noche de Familia aimed to foster community within our college, and we were thrilled to see so many students and staff come together. Attendees enjoyed a delicious spread of food and desserts, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The highlight of the evening was our spirited game of Lotería, where participants joined in friendly competition and shared plenty of smiles. Seeing everyone engaging, making new friends, and strengthening existing connections was heartwarming.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to the event's success! We look forward to more gatherings like this that bring our community closer together. Stay tuned for our next event in November—let’s keep building those connections!

Advancing the Humanities Dr. Rafael Castillo and Alfredo Torres, Jr. Publish and Present on Critical Pedagogy

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 Up with ASCENDER News

Catch The Next: September Connect and Chat

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-to-one/group interactions between Ascender Cohort Members and the CTN team, particularly those involved in the professional development component of the program.

09/05, 3 PM - 4 PM CST

The session focused on fostering a classroom environment where all members feel valued and heard. Participants engaged in lively discussions about practical approaches to building trust, encouraging student engagement, and promoting a sense of belonging. The insights shared during the event provided valuable takeaways for enhancing classroom dynamics and student success.

September Charlas Hosted by Elissa Gutierrez

The September Charlas, led by **Elissa Gutierrez**, was an invaluable resource for first-generation and incoming first-year students looking to start the semester on the right foot. Attendees were guided through strategies for effective goal-setting, time management, and building meaningful relationships with advisors and professors.

CATCH THE NEXT

CHARLAS

A student belonging CTN Initiative

Save the Date

September 12, 2024 on Zoom

Topic: Charting Your Course
 Presenter: Elissa Gutierrez
 Certified Advisor at San Antonio College

Sign up and attend all fall Charlas to enter to win a gift card!

Elissa Gutierrez also emphasized the importance of utilizing campus resources to maximize success. By the end of the session, students walked away with personalized academic plans, ready to navigate their college journey with confidence and clarity.

Monthly Webinar Hosted by Dr. Emily Kyung Jin Suh

CATCH THE NEXT
 PROFESSIONAL MENTORING NETWORK™

FREE Monthly Webinar
 9.19.24
 3 pm - 4 pm CST
 Speaker
 Dr. Emily Kyung Jin Suh
 Associate Professor — Curriculum And Instruction
 Texas State University

Building beloved community:
 A freedom dream for creating student-ready colleges in the era of anti-equity legislation

The monthly webinar hosted by Catch The Next and led by **Dr. Emily Kyung Jin Suh** offered powerful insights into creating student-ready colleges in an era of anti-equity legislation. Titled **Building Beloved Community: A Freedom Dream for Creating Student-Ready Colleges**, Dr. Suh emphasized fostering inclusive and equitable educational environments, even amidst challenging political climates.

Dr. Emily Kyung Jin Suh shared strategies for empowering students, promoting institutional change, and building a sense of community within higher education. The webinar provided participants with practical tools for advancing campus equity and inclusion.

Sergio Troncoso Inducted into Texas Literary Hall of Fame

2024 Inductees:

Tracy Daugherty
 Molly Ivins
 Stephen Graham Jones
 Cormac McCarthy
 Jan Seale
 Cynthia Leitich Smith
 Sergio Troncoso



We are thrilled to congratulate **CTN's Sergio Troncoso** on his induction into the prestigious Texas Literary Hall of Fame. Recognized alongside distinguished literary figures Tracy Daugherty, Molly Ivins, Stephen Graham Jones, Cormac McCarthy, Jan Seale, and Cynthia Leitich Smith.

The official induction ceremony will be held **on October 29, 2024, at 7 PM** at the TCU Mary Coats Burnett Library in Fort Worth, TX, in partnership with TCU AddRan College of Liberal Arts, TCU Press, and the Center for Texas Studies. This recognition marks a significant milestone in his remarkable literary career, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations for this well-deserved achievement.

[Texas Literary Hall of Fame](#)

[Visit Sergiotroncoso.com](http://Sergiotroncoso.com)

Join CTN'S Fernando Esteban Flores in Voces y Versos



Join us for an afternoon of poetry with Voces Cóslicas poets Fernando Esteban Flores, Gerardo Carrasco, Jim LaVilla-Havelin, Alicia Zavala Galvan, Suzanne "Zan" Green, Carlos Loera, C.L. "Rooster" Martinez, Paul Anthony Lopez. Musical guests Mario Arias Project and Gary Davenport. **This event is free.**

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024
 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
 Bazan Branch Library
 2200 W Commerce



Join us for an afternoon of poetry with Voces Cóslicas poets Fernando Esteban Flores, Gerardo Carrasco, Jim LaVilla-Havelin, Alicia Zavala Galvan, Suzanne "Zan" Green, Carlos Loera, C.L. "Rooster" Martinez, Paul Anthony Lopez, Musical guests Mario Arias Project and Gary Davenport.

This event is Free.

• **Saturday Oct. 12th, 2024**

- 2:00PM-3:30pm CST
- Bazan Branch Library, 2200 W Commerce

[Read More](#)

CTN Upcoming Events

Catch the Next, Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar

October 17th. 3-4PM CST

The Teaching and Learning for Student Success Webinar series is 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, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Finding Your Voice



October 10th, 3-4PM CST

Hosted by Dr. Amber Sarker

Our next *Charlas* will focus on empowering students to build confidence and improve their communication skills in academic settings. Designed for students who may feel shy or hesitant to participate in class discussions, this session will provide practical techniques for overcoming public speaking anxiety and strategies for engaging effectively in classroom conversations.



Participants will also learn the value of clear, concise communication and will have the opportunity to practice their presentation skills in a supportive environment. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone looking to enhance their comfort and presence in academic discussions.

2024 Catch the Next - Ascender Fall Seminar



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.

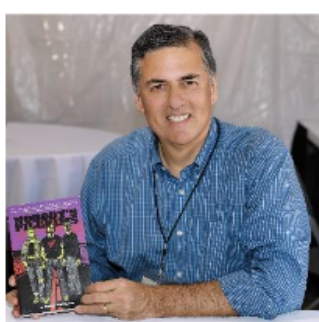
[Register Here](#)

[About Our Speakers](#)

The event will be held at the **Alamo College Palo Alto College Ozuna Library's Legacy** Located at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd., San Antonio, Texas 78224.



Ascender Fall Seminar - Meet The Speakers



Sergio Troncoso



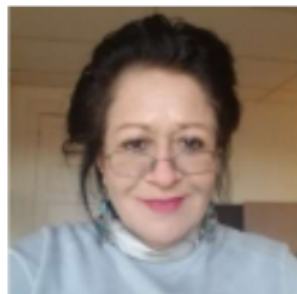
Dr. Laura I. Rendón



Dr. Christopher Nelson



Dr. Jonathan Wayne Bell



Dr. Maria Martha Chavez Brumell



Dr. Anna Bertha Alaniz



Debra McBeath



Juan José Higa Jr.



Dr. Yvette M. Regalado



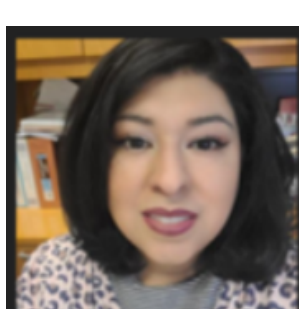
Mario Morin



Armando Joab Sanchez



Dr. Jonathan Wayne Bell



Elissa Gutierrez



Dr. Rogelio Saenz

International Literacy Day: Empowering Ascender Students in the Postsecondary Classroom



In honor of **International Literacy Day**, celebrated on September 8th, we at Catch the Next reflect on the importance of literacy at an individual and societal level. Our Ascender professors are committed to fostering literacy among our diverse students and promoting literacy across all our disciplines. This day allows championing the importance that regardless of what course is being taught, we must teach appropriate literacy skills for the required rigor of the postsecondary learning environment because literacy skills and strategies are fundamental for our student's academic and personal success as they navigate the demands of higher education. In today's multicultural and multilingual classrooms, literacy is not just about reading and writing but includes critical thinking, communication, and comprehension skills necessary for navigating the complexities of academic texts and tasks. Our classrooms are powerful spaces where these skills can be nurtured and strengthened. Here are five actionable tips that faculty can implement to help students enhance their literacy skills in their postsecondary classroom.

Timely and constructive feedback on writing and reading assignments is essential for literacy development. Professors should offer input focusing on strengths and areas for improvement in a student's work. By providing targeted support—whether through office hours, writing centers, or tutoring resources—professors can help students refine their literacy skills over time. Recognizing and celebrating progress, however small, can also motivate students to keep improving.

In celebrating International Literacy Month, Catch the Next reminds us that literacy is the foundation for our student's success in the postsecondary classroom and beyond. Ascender professors have the unique opportunity to empower their students by incorporating inclusive, supportive strategies that foster literacy for all. Doing so ensures that our diverse students thrive in postsecondary education and are equipped with the skills they need for lifelong success.



Voting is a powerful way to contribute to positive change for yourself, your family, and your community. By voting, you are actively shaping the future and supporting programs that promote academic achievement, civic action, and community leadership. Participating in elections builds self-esteem, fosters empowerment, and increases awareness of the impact each of us can have. We encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections, embracing the responsibility of being an informed and engaged citizen.

[More Info](#)



Catch The Next proudly celebrates **Rafael C. Castillo's** *Cuento* titled "**Big Lucas aka Tonina.**" Congratulations to Rafael for his continued contributions to the literary world.

[Read More](#)

CTN Event Schedule



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

| | August |
|----------------------------------|---|
| August 15 Time: 3-4 PM CST | Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Topic: Speaker: To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar |
| | September |
| September 19 Time: 3-4 PM CST | Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Topic: Speaker: To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar |
| | October |
| October 17 Time: 3-4 PM CST | Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Topic: Speaker: To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar |
| | November |
| November 21 Time: 3-4 PM CST | Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Topic: Speaker: To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar |
| | December |
| December 19 Time: 3-4 PM CST | Catch the Next - Professional Mentoring Network Monthly Webinar Topic: Speaker: To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Monthly Webinar |

Catch the Next, Connect & Chat Calendar 2024-25


| September | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| September 5 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat</p> <p>Topic: Cultivating a Validating Classroom Environment</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Cultivating a Validating Classroom Environment</p> |
| October | |
| October 3 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat</p> <p>Topic: Empowering Students Through Financial Aid & Scholarships</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Empowering Students Through Financial Aid & Scholarships</p> |
| November | |
| November 7 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat</p> <p>Topic: Ascender Giving: Supporting Each Other's Success</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: The Power of Ascender Giving</p> |
| December | |
| December 5 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat</p> <p>Topic: Crafting Compelling Resumes for Student Success</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Crafting Compelling Resumes for Student Success</p> |
| January | |
| January 2 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Ascender - Connect & Chat</p> <p>Topic: Reconnecting & Refreshing for the New Year</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Reconnecting & Refreshing for the New Year</p> |

Catch the Next, Charla's Calendar 2024-25

| September | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| September 12 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Charting Your Course</p> <p>Speaker: Elissa Guiterrez</p> <p>Overview: The Charla will kick off the semester by helping students develop a clear roadmap for college success.</p> <p>Audience: First-generation college students, incoming freshmen, and any student looking to create a strong academic foundation.</p> <p>Items Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal setting and time management strategies. • Importance of building relationships with advisors and professors. • Utilizing campus resources effectively. <p>Deliverable: Students will walk away with a personalized plan outlining their goals and strategies for achieving them.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Charting Your Voice Zoom meeting</p> |
| October | |
| October 10 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Finding Your Voice</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Amber Sarkis</p> <p>Overview: The Charla will empower students to develop their confidence and communication skills in the classroom.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Items learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques for overcoming public speaking anxiety. • Strategies for effective participation in class discussions. • The importance of clear and concise communication. <p>Deliverable: Students will have the opportunity to practice their presentation skills in a supportive environment.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Finding Your Voice Zoom meeting</p> |
| November 14 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: Building Your Network</p> <p>Speaker: Queen Samantha Ackers</p> <p>Overview: The Charla will highlight the importance of networking and building relationships with mentors and peers.</p> <p>Audience: Students interested in exploring career options, students looking for guidance and support, and anyone who wants to expand their professional network.</p> <p>Items Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Deliverable: Students will develop a plan for connecting with potential mentors and networking within their chosen field.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: Building Your Network Zoom meeting</p> |
| December | |
| December 12 Time: 3-4 PM CST | <p>Catch the Next, Charlas: Real-Talk - Informal Student Talks: The Power of Perseverance</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Joan Jaimes</p> <p>Overview: The closing Charla will focus on the importance of perseverance and staying throughout the college journey.</p> <p>Audience: Students facing academic setbacks, students feeling overwhelmed, and anyone needing a boost of encouragement.</p> <p>Items Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Deliverable: Students will create a personalized plan for staying motivated and focused on their academic goals.</p> <p>To join the Zoom meeting, go to: The Power of Perseverance Zoom Meeting</p> |


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](#)



To date, the following colleges have been trained in our Ascender Program Model


- STC - Pecan, Midvalley, Starr
- EPCC - Valle Verde, Rio Grande
- University of North Texas at Dallas (UNTDD)
- Alamo-SAC
- Alamo-PAC
- Uvalde College
- Lee College
- HCC - Downtown, Southeast
- ACC - Hay, Northridge, Round Rock, South, Riverside
- Alamo-SPC
- LSC - Montgomery
- Alamo-NLC
- Dallas (El Centro, North Lake, Richland, Eastfield, Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Mountain View.)



CELEBRATING NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK
September 9-15, 2024



Learn more about HSIs at www.hacu.net



TEXAS ONCOURSE
Professional Learning Series

Digital Learning Opportunities for Educators

Advising Students with Disabilities

The Texas OnCourse team is excited to announce the next Professional Learning Series session that will focus on advising students with disabilities. Helping students with disabilities transition into adulthood requires careful planning and community support to ensure students have the skills and services needed to be successful. In this session, we will discuss transition planning and review legal requirements under the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#). In addition, we will provide methods and resources to engage family, community, and campus teams to support special education students.

Guest Speaker



Chris Nelson
Transition Specialist
Education Service Center – Region 13
Chris.nelson@esc13.txed.net

TEXAS ONCOURSE

[Register Here](#)

[Learn More](#)



NISOD DIRECT
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!

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, finish a semester, or graduate from college and how that encouragement helped them reach their goal(s). Learn more and download a flyer to share with your students [here](#).

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.



[Learn More](#)



BREAKING: 2025-26 FAFSA WILL OPEN DECEMBER 1

NATIONAL COLLEGE ATTAINMENT NETWORK

[More About FAFSA Here](#)



10 tips to make the most of your GivingTuesday campaign

Take time to be inspired

Understand your audience

Set clear & measurable goals

Crystallize your idea

Connect with other campaigns

Get loud on social media

Speak to what matters

Pitch your campaign to the local news

Share the data behind generosity

Measure your impact

DEC. 3, 2024

[GIVINGTUESDAY.ORG/PARTICIPATE](https://givingtuesday.org/participate)

[Visit givingtuesday.org/participate](https://givingtuesday.org/participate)

CTN Program Partners

Catch the Next Program Partners; Current and Former Sponsors



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, Dallas
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

CONNECT WITH US



SUBMIT A NEWSLETTER ITEM

Submissions are welcomed. Please send all information to:
CEO, Dr. Maria Martha Chavez
Coordinator of Communications and Marketing, Alejandro Enrique Medina

Submissions:

ascender@catchthenext.org

[EMAIL SUBMISSIONS HERE](#)

Copyright (C) *2023* *Catch the Next*. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
18756 Stoneoak Parkway, Suite 200
San Antonio, Texas 78258

Want to change how you receive these emails?
you can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).