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SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE



New Frontiers Public Schools

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**SAC LAUNCHES EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL FOCUSED ON
SAN ANTONIO'S WORKFORCE NEEDS**

San Antonio College teams up with New Frontiers Public Schools to offer early college opportunity

SAN ANTONIO — Local high school students will soon have the opportunity to earn their associate degree in three of San Antonio's fastest-growing industries.

San Antonio College has partnered with New Frontiers Public Schools to create an early college high school offering educational paths that can meet the city's emerging workforce needs.

The Imelda Davis Early College High School – named for the late and beloved community leader – will focus its offerings on nursing, information technology and education.

“We are excited to announce this wonderful new partnership that will prepare students for important and crucial careers within the local workforce,” said SAC President Dr. Robert Vela. “This collaboration will grow and strengthen the San Antonio community on many levels.”

This initiative comes on the heels of SAC receiving the coveted Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and a \$15 million gift from philanthropists MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett, both of which spotlight the college's razor-sharp focus on improving educational outcomes for students in chronically underserved populations.

The school aims to supplement coursework with real hands-on experiences. Internships with private sector IT partners will be sought to allow students to gain professional experience. Education-tracked students will gain critical classroom experience as New Frontiers Public Schools will explore the use of district campuses as laboratory schools to provide students' with hands-on experience. School leaders are also exploring a non-traditional school day schedule.

“We take great pride offering a premiere high school opportunity that makes college accessible for all students,” New Frontiers Public Schools CEO Alfredo Segura Jr. said. “We are proud to partner with San Antonio College as we believe that schools like this one will have long-term impacts on our community's work force.”

The SAC-New Frontiers partnership is perfectly aligned with current workforce needs and trends in San Antonio. The SA Works 2019 fourth-quarter report projected that a 13 percent increase in health care jobs will occur by 2024. Information technology jobs are also projected to increase by 11 percent from by 2024, outpacing national growth by 3.4 percent. Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the employment of kindergarten and elementary teachers will increase by 3 percent by 2028.

New Frontiers Public Schools has demonstrated success in the early college domain. The public charter school network currently operates the Frank L. Madla Early College High School – in partnership with Palo Alto College. The school was recently identified as one of the 10 best public charter high schools in San Antonio, according to U.S. News & World Report and holds an “A” rating under the Texas Education Agency Accountability System.

Early College High Schools (ECHS) employ an innovative school design that allows students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours. Students have the opportunity to earn both their distinguished high school diploma and their associate degree - all at no cost.

A student interest platform has launched for families interested in applying for the 2022-2023 school year in 9-10th grades: <https://bit.ly/IDECHSInterest>.

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About San Antonio College

San Antonio College is the 2021 winner of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, making it the number-one community college in the nation. It is part of the Alamo Colleges District and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. It provides high quality general education, liberal arts and sciences, career education, continuing education and developmental education. One of the largest single-campus community colleges in the state and nation, SAC enrolls approximately 20,000 students each semester and awards more than 5,000 degrees and certificates each year. For more information, visit www.alamo.edu/sac.

About New Frontiers Public Schools

New Frontiers Public Schools is a local, community-based, free public charter school district serving children in kindergarten through high school on the south side of San Antonio since 1998. The 'B' rated district operates the Frank L. Madla Accelerated Collegiate Academy and the Frank L. Madla Early College High School. Their schools operate under a college immersion model where all students in every grade receive a collegiate experience. For information on New Frontiers Public Schools, visit www.newfrontierspublicschools.org.

About Early College High Schools

Early College High Schools are innovative high schools that allow students least likely to attend college an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credit hours. Under the authority of Texas Education Code (TEC) §29.908(b) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §102.1091, the TEA has developed a designation process for ECHS. The designation process ensures that districts and colleges operating ECHS campuses maintain the integrity of the model, which was researched and designed to target and serve students who would not otherwise consider attending college.