



TO: Greater San Antonio Chamber Membership
FROM: Greater San Antonio Chamber Executive Board
SUBJECT: Statement on Alamo Colleges bond program
Date: April 9, 2025

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Alamo Colleges District 2025 bond proposal included on the May 2025 ballot. Alamo Colleges is a critical partner for the business community to strengthen educational attainment outcomes and grow our local workforce. Its impact will only become more significant as district enrollment is expected to grow from nearly 78,000 students in the Fall of 2024 to 100,000 by 2030.

The 2025 bond package will ensure the district has the physical resources and infrastructure to serve our growing student population. The bond is focused on facilities to increase access to education and training of students for in-demand jobs in key sectors across the San Antonio region.

Background:

The Alamo Colleges District is one of the highest-rated community college systems in the country. In 2018, the district became the first community college system in the nation to be awarded the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Congress established the award in 1987 to raise awareness of quality management and recognize U.S. companies that have implemented successful quality management systems. Alamo Colleges earned the award again in 2024, one of only five organizations in the United States – and the only education organization – to receive the award.

Alamo Colleges' AlamoPROMISE offers graduating seniors in Bexar County the opportunity to pursue higher education without incurring a financial burden. This "last-dollar" scholarship covers tuition and required fees after financial aid awards are applied for up to three years or until the completion of an associate degree or academic certificate, whichever comes first. The 2025 bond program will help provide the facilities to support AlamoPROMISE.

The Alamo Colleges District is our region's leading provider of workforce education. Importantly, Alamo Colleges partners with industry to ensure the programs the district offers prepare students for jobs that the business community needs to fill. The 2025

bond program will align the district's programming with our region's key sectors, including: Engineering, IT/Cybersecurity, Emerging Technologies, Automotive Technology, Healthcare, Applied Technology & Construction Trades.

This bond program will not create any new campuses for the Alamo Colleges District. It will, however, expand existing campuses and add new industry-sector programs at Port San Antonio, Brooks and the Medical Center.

The entirety of the bond will be spent on capital improvements: \$535 million for facilities to support new and expanded programs, \$205 million for the development or expansion of multi-sector program facilities, and \$247 million for infrastructure investment and land acquisition.

This bond program will not require a tax increase. The Alamo Colleges District maintains the highest AAA bond rating from Moody's and Standard and Poor's.

Request:

The San Antonio region continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. It is imperative Alamo Colleges have the infrastructure to keep up with our growth and continue its valuable partnership with the business community in workforce development and transforming the economic and educational landscape of our city. The Greater San Antonio Chamber urges voters to approve the Alamo Colleges District 2025 bond proposal. Early voting begins April 22. Election Day is May 3.