

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Alamo Colleges Foundation		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2422589		Are you a 501(3)(c) charity? Yes	
Address: 2222 N. Alamo St		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78215	
Website: www.alamo.edu/foundation			Fax: (210) 485-0044		

Head Of Organization

Name: Sheila Marlow Due		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: smarlowdue@alamo.edu		Phone: (210) 216-6493	

Application Contact

Name: Deborah Martin		Title: Director of Major Gifts		E-Mail Address: dmartin82@alamo.edu		Phone: (210) 216-6493	
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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation		
Year	Funding \$	
2011	\$10,000	
2013	\$2,000	
Total	\$12,000	
Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined? Yes October 2019		
Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$25,000	\$500,000	\$3,362,670
Mission Statement: The Alamo Colleges Foundation strengthens capacity of the Alamo Colleges District to empower for success the diverse communities served by each of the Colleges. Fully inclusive Disability Support Services at each college ensure all programs, services, and facilities are accessible to and provide equal opportunities for education to all students.		
PROJECT INFORMATION		
Program / Project Title: Alamo College Student Impact Fund support for students with disabilities		
PROJECT TIMELINE		
Start Date	End Date	
12/01/2020	11/30/2021	
Program / Project Description: A Gordon Hartman Family Foundation grant will directly support students with disabilities struggling to stay in school. "I was diagnosed with Adult Attention Deficit Disorder and starting college with a 5th grade education did not help. Life can be chaotic, and I have taken many breaks. Countless remedial courses and college hours later, I have achieved an education that has allowed me to be a stronger woman, a better mother, and soon-to-be college graduate. Without the dedication and support of tutors like Andrea Cardenas and professors like Jennifer Scheidt, I would not be where I am today. I cannot carry the world, but with my education, I can carry myself." ~ Rebecca T., Palo Alto College Rebecca is just one of the 1,017 Alamo Colleges District* students who self-identified this semester with a disability or medical condition, and asked for accommodations from Disability Support Services to help them pursue their dreams of education. (* Comprised of St. Philip's College (SPC), San Antonio College (SAC), Palo Alto College (PAC), Northwest Vista College (NVC) and Northeast Lakeview College (NLC), Alamo Colleges District (ACD) is Bexar County's only community college system, and the first such system to receive a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (2018). Normally, we'd be inviting you to renew support for the Gordon Hartman Endowed Scholarship to benefit Palo Alto College students with special needs - students like Rebecca. This year, however, we are all navigating the uncharted territory of a global epidemic. COVID-19 has brought new challenges for our entire community, but there's no doubt that our disabled students have been disproportionately impacted. Yes - they need your help now more than ever, but we'll be asking you to consider providing that help in a very different way.		

As you know, even in ordinary times individuals with disabilities have greater needs than most. The COVID-19 Pandemic has increased those needs exponentially. Many have seen their jobs eliminated, while others have underlying conditions and cannot return to work safely. Lost wages are straining household budgets already stretched to accommodate the costs of attending college. Adding to these difficulties, students had to adjust to a new learning environment when instruction went remote following safety guidelines. While DSS offices adjusted to offer accommodations virtually, such as tutoring, access to assistive technology and motivational conversation, some students still struggle to adjust. ACD is deeply concerned that coping with these additional challenges may impact students' academic success, or worse, force them to withdraw.

But that doesn't have to happen. Resources are available to help students weather these short-term challenges in order to stay in school. With so many students in desperate need, emergency assistance funding has become an urgent priority. With this in mind, this year we invite the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation to give to the Student Impact Fund to specifically support students with disabilities in need of emergency assistance.

Even in the best of times, basic needs insecurity is an issue for many college students. In 2018, students from SAC, PAC, SPC and NVC were among 123 post-secondary institutions that participated in the National #RealCollege Survey Report** created by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice (Hope Center) to evaluate students' access to affordable food and housing. Results found that a) Rates of basic needs insecurity are higher for students attending two-year colleges compared to those at four-year institutions; and b) Rates of basic needs insecurity are higher for students who self-identify with a disability or medical condition. In fact, food insecurity and housing insecurity rates are as high as 60% and 70% respectively for students with disabilities, compared to 42% and 56% for those with no disability or medical condition.

(See the full report at

https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HOPE_realcollege_National_report_digital.pdf)

Previous Wisconsin Hope Lab research shows that the physical and psychological strains of basic needs insecurity can result in lower grades and test scores, affecting educational success. Those experiencing hunger are often less likely to attend and perform well in class, and more likely to withdraw. In response, in 2016, SAC and PAC partnered with Alamo Colleges Foundation and San Antonio Food Bank to establish Student Advocacy Resource Centers to help meet the basic needs of students so they can stay in school. Now, all five colleges have on-campus Student Advocacy Centers - each with a food pantry; three include clothes closets; and two (SAC and PAC) offer wrap-around social work case management to help meet students' immediate socioeconomic deficits. The Centers also make emergency grants available to help struggling students meet basic needs like food, rent, healthcare and utility bills. Thanks to a United Way partnership, the Alamo Colleges Helpline was launched, enabling students to access Center services and request emergency assistance by telephone.

As instruction went remote during this pandemic, ACD leveraged its partnership with the SA Food Bank to create monthly Pop-Up Markets. These offer healthy food to students, employees and the surrounding community through no-contact, drive-through events at the colleges. The initial Markets have drawn students in unexpected numbers. Moving forward, we will need additional resources to meet growing demand.

The Alamo Colleges Student Impact Fund was established in response to exponential increases in the number of students requesting emergency assistance to meet basic needs of food and shelter. Because those with disabilities may face greater challenges, it's essential that we set aside funds especially for them. A gift from the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation will be designated specifically to support students with disabilities in need of emergency assistance.

If this proposal is accepted for funding, Disability Support Services (DSS) offices at each college would be added to the emergency assistance application process. They would offer extra assistance to students with special needs, and coordinate with counseling staff to ensure continuity of care

Your act of generosity can have a game-changing impact, providing critical support for these students during this crisis. The hardships that stem from COVID-19 are temporary, but the value of an education lasts forever.

Evaluation Plan:

Nationally, students like Rebecca are almost 20% more likely to be food insecure, compared to other community college students with no disability or medical condition. With that figure as a guide, we expect that students with disabilities or medical conditions will be overrepresented among the students who request emergency assistance during the pandemic.

A short-term goal of the Student Impact Fund is to serve the immediate needs of students who are requesting emergency assistance. Success will be evaluated by comparing the total number of requests received to the number of students served.

Another metric in our evaluation plan is to track the percentage of those who self-identified as having a disability or medical condition, requested emergency assistance, and received it, compared to similar students who did not.

The long-term goal of providing emergency assistance is to keep students in school. Outcomes will be assessed by comparing rates of in-semester retention and persistence to the rates achieved in previous and subsequent semesters.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Educating a diverse community is part of the Alamo Colleges' mission. Further, we are serving and empowering our diverse communities for success with an intentional focus on equal access, equity and inclusion. Funding for each college's Disability Support Services office is part of our annual institutional budget.

In line with our mission of fully accessible and ultra-inclusive education, and in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all five Alamo Colleges - St. Philip's College, San Antonio College, Palo Alto College, Northwest Vista College and Northeast Lakeview College - are committed to ensuring that all programs, services, and facilities are accessible to and provide equal opportunities for education to all students.

Holistic, basic needs support is emerging nationally as a promising practice to both increase student retention and completion, and to ensure a culture and environment of equity. In fact, the Community College Research Center (CCRC) examined how non-academic support can help academically vulnerable students. CCRC found helping students meet basic needs improved student outcomes (i.e., persistence and degree completion). "This mechanism encourages positive student outcomes by making daily life easier and more manageable, providing a little 'nudge' that can help students deal with small obstacles which, left unaddressed, might become large enough to stymie their progress toward a degree" (Karp, 2011).

Recognizing that many community colleges students struggle to stay in school due to food and housing insecurities, all levels of Alamo Colleges District leadership have committed to this work. We will ensure student success by maintaining the college-based Student Advocacy Centers and making emergency assistance available to students with disabilities beyond the life of this grant.

An investment in this year's district staffing budget will centralize leadership of the Student Advocacy Centers, guaranteeing cross-college care for students, equitable division of resources and continuous quality improvement. Together with the Centers, the newly established Student Impact Fund is providing a tangible safety net for students by leveraging community partnerships and private donations. As such, the Alamo Colleges Foundation has made this Fund a long-term fundraising priority, and is actively reaching out to individuals, corporations and foundations like yourselves to build support.

Education changes lives, and so too does philanthropy.
Thank you for your careful consideration of our application.

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Student Impact Fund (part of Programs line on Operating Budget)	\$500,000	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$500,000	\$25,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

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