



WELCOME BECALOS 2018!

Alamo Colleges District welcomes the fifth cohort of SEP-Becalos Mobility students from Mexico. Thirty-six students from 14 technical, polytechnic, and bilingual technical universities across Mexico are taking classes at four of the five Colleges and living throughout various communities in San Antonio. Through a partnership with the Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) and Televisa Foundation, an Exchange Scholarship Fund was established as part of the Proyecto 100 Mil Initiative to promote education abroad for students studying in STEM fields. Alamo Colleges District has proudly hosted more than 380 students through this initiative. *Contributor: Carol Fimmen, Executive Director of International Programs*

AUSTIN TEXAS: A CAPITOL ADVENTURE

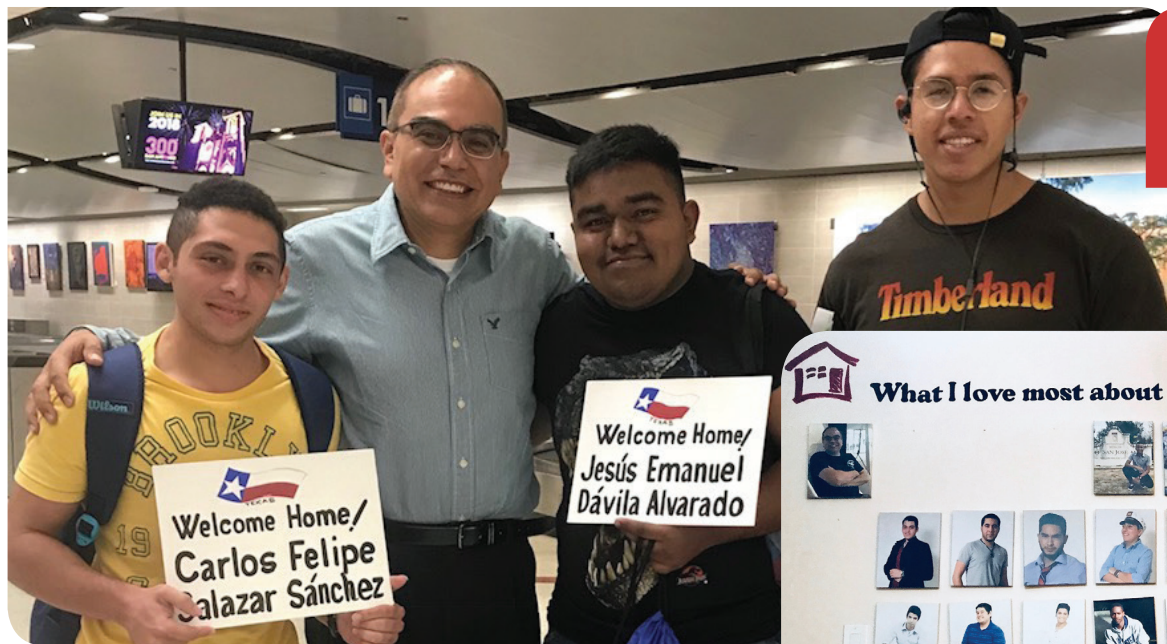
First of all, we are 36 people who have been given a Becalos scholarship to come and take classes for four months in one of the Alamo Colleges in San Antonio, Texas. The first weekend [in San Antonio] we went to the Capitol. [It] was a great experience because we learned a lot of the Texas history and how the independence of Mexico occurred. One of the things that was really interesting was that Texas was an independent nation, but later became attached to the United States in 1845, becoming in another state (28th).

After of the Capitol, we went to Zilker Gardens and had a good time there. We could take a lot of photos, feel comfortable, and see the beauty of nature. Afterwards, we ate lunch and came [back] to the San Antonio. It was a great, but tiring day.

It is awesome how we can learn a lot in only one day. Personally, I love this trip. I love learning and going to new places where I can enjoy nature. I am sure all of us could have a good time there.

Contributor: Keyla Robles Garcia, Northwest Vista College Student





REDEFINING FAMILY: THE IMPACT OF HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Since 2005 when I decided to host international students, some of my friends wondered about my motives to be involved in such activity. With the passing of time and after hosting 29 students, the answer became evident to those around me; these students bring joy and laughter to anyone willing to be transformed. Personally, the best part of this experience is that my immediate family and friends saw all the fun I was having and they also became involved in the activities planned for my students, now my children. I call them “my children” because all of them have become family- as if they were meant to be there from the beginning of time.

As a host parent, I have been enriched in many ways: my eyes and heart have been opened to new cultures, languages, and a great diversity of foods. I am forever grateful that these brave students decided to come to the United States and be a source of inspiration. They have reminded me that learning has no frontiers and that everything is possible when we dream big. Now, I can proudly say that I have children in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, and South Korea. The bond created among all of us has become so strong that some of these students have returned during their vacation time to enjoy a few days with students from other generations and countries. I am happy to see that they now take it upon themselves to send a welcome video to provide advice to the incoming generation and to make the new students feel at home and part of our multicultural family. A wall at home has been reserved to proudly display the photos of each of “my children” and soon a new wall will be prepared for future students. I have no doubt that we will always remain in contact. On several occasions, I have had the privilege of visiting my children in their home countries and their biological families have welcomed me with open arms. We are indeed a multicultural family.

Contributor: Dr. Jose Moreno, San Antonio College

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- August 10: Yorlett Cid Solis
- August 26: Cesar Manuel Rodriguez Vazquez
- August 26: Enrique Rosales Lazcano
- August 26: Genesis Valenzuela Rodriguez
- September 2: Carlos Felipe Salazar Sanchez
- September 4: Edgar Roberto Gonzalez Garcia
- September 13: Manuel Antonio Fuentes Payan
- September 14: Arturo Montiel Segura
- September 15: Madian Martinez Hernandez
- September 21: Angel Soriano Gonzalez

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

- September 22: Habitat for Humanity – Host Family Group
- September 29: Habitat for Humanity – Tobin Lofts & Villa Maria Groups

“AS A HOST PARENT, I HAVE BEEN ENRICHED IN MANY WAYS: MY EYES AND HEART HAVE BEEN OPENED TO NEW CULTURES, LANGUAGES, AND A GREAT DIVERSITY OF FOODS. ”



THE JOURNEY TO SIX FLAGS

Since we arrived in San Antonio, we have been surprised about the beautiful city and the amazing people. We were very nervous at the beginning of classes. Fortunately, we met [many] Alamo College District staff who are a big and a really nice group of people that have helped us feel more comfortable and have given the trust for us to feel at home... starting with free passes for everybody to go to a wonderful place called Fiesta Texas.

It all started on Saturday, August 25th. It was a really exciting day. It was very early and we had to arrive at 9:30 a.m. to Six Flags to receive our tickets. San Antonio is a very big place to live, but it is a little difficult being ready to take the buses. So, we woke up early for that. However, we had a funny experience because we took the wrong bus. Although we were a little late, we enjoyed every moment.

There are many extreme games [at Six Flags] and this is an opportunity to face your fears and scream as loud as you want. It was very nice to see the wonderful attractions, stores, and beautiful nature. You can enjoy the view from the amazing Sky Screamer. My friend, Marlen, faced one of her biggest fears and got on the roller coaster named Superman. She really enjoyed it and even wants to come back as soon as possible and try all the other games.

I am very happy for the experience. I think this was really good for us because it helped us be more relaxed and comfortable for the first day of classes. It also gave us the opportunity to know more about the American culture. We are very grateful for this and we thank Alamo Colleges for the experience.

Contributor: Zaid Narvey Hernandez Solis, Palo Alto College Student

“WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THIS AND WE THANK ALAMO COLLEGES FOR THE EXPERIENCE.”

ON DEVELOPING GOOD HABITS: 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS

My name is Melissa Aguayo Márquez and I am a student from Universidad Tecnológica de Chihuahua. Firstly, I want to express that I am very grateful to each of the people who are involved in this great opportunity that we provide to the students to grow in our professional and personal field.

About this incredible certification: I want to say that after taking this training, it has changed my life completely because they are workshops and advice that no one else will give me anywhere else. In addition to this, you learn to value the things that are around you and to be a more organized and successful person in life. It is an incredible way in which you learn to synchronize your mind, your heart, and your habits. They are fundamental elements for the successful development of each one of the people. I am sure that these 7 Habits [also] impacted, in a very good way, the lives of each one of my friends who had the opportunity to take this certification.

It is important to know that these 7 Habits, and the experiences that will happen every day within these 16 weeks that we will be away from home, will help us completely to strengthen, improve, and perfect our skills as students, children, friends, and of course successful professionals looking for the welfare and improvement of our environment and of course of our country.

Finally, it is important to be gratefully with the people who gave us the certification, for opening the doors and giving us the necessary tools for our future. I am sure that they will serve us a lot and we will be grateful to them for the whole life.

Contributor: Melissa Aguayo Marquez, San Antonio College Student

