



EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL WEEK

March 20-26, 2011

Learn more at www.earlycolleges.org

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALAMO COLLEGES-MEMORIAL EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrates National Early College High School Week

Week of March 20 Celebrates Successes of 230 Schools in National Program

NEW BRAUNFELS (MARCH, 2010) — Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High School is one of 230 early colleges nationwide that will bring together students, administrators, parents, community leaders, and legislators to celebrate *Early College High School Week 2011*, March 20-26.

As part of the week's activities, the school and its partners are holding "ECHS Night" on Thursday, March 24 at the AC-MECHS campus at 6 p.m. Community members and families are welcome to attend and visit with the teachers and tour the campus. (Refreshments will be served.)

"I like that we get to take college courses and have discussions in class about topics. AC-MECHS will give me a head start with college where I don't have to spend as much time working on my degree after high school," said Daniel Dobberstine. "And, I know I will be able to get a better job with my college education.

"ECHS Week is a way of showcasing college readiness in all academics. Our students have an opportunity to earn up to 60 college hours at the same time they earn their high school diploma," said Dr. Adams. "This gives them a unique advantage over other high school students who are entering college after high school."

Early college high schools are based on the concept that academic challenge—not remediation—will improve both high school and college graduation rates among those young people who are least likely to attend college and for whom society often has low aspirations for academic achievement.

"Early college high schools help graduate more students from high school prepared for college and career success," said Marlene B. Seltzer, CEO of [Jobs for the Future](#), which leads the Early College High School Initiative. "These schools represent the bold approaches we need to ensure that all Americans receive the credentials necessary to obtain a family-sustaining wage."

There are 230 schools nationwide in the [Early College High School Initiative](#), which is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation among others. These schools serve more than 50,000 students in 24

states. Their students are predominately low-income, and have parents who have never attended college. Despite those facts, **92 percent** of these students graduate high school—compared to the national rate of 69 percent, according to a 2009 Education Week report. Of those, 37 percent graduate with at least a full year of free college credit—22 percent even graduate high school with a diploma and an Associate’s degree.

For more information about the Early College High School Initiative, visit www.earlycolleges.org.

About Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High School

The mission of AC- Memorial Early College High School is to inspire, empower, and motivate each student to graduate from college or earn a marketable skills certificate in their area of study. Our students will be immersed in a college culture where they can earn a High School Distinguished Achievement Program Diploma as well as up to sixty hours of college credit towards an associate’s degree and/or baccalaureate degree at no cost to the parent or student.

About Jobs for the Future

Through research, analysis, action, and advocacy, Jobs for the Future develops promising education and labor market models, expands successful models in communities across the country, and shapes the policy environment that enables American families and companies to compete in a global economy. JFF is the national coordinator of the Early College High School Initiative.

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