

Profiles in Success



in San Antonio

The Alamo Area Academies program is an educational partnership between the Alamo Colleges, San Antonio area cities and school districts, and local businesses and industries. The program is designed to provide training, education and work experience to local high school students interested in getting a head start on their careers. Qualified students who participate in the program may earn up to one year—between 24 and 35 semester hours—of college credit at no personal cost. In addition to receiving a high school diploma, students who successfully complete the Alamo Academies program receive a Level One Certificate of Completion from the Alamo Colleges.

The Alamo Academies program is two years long and is structured to allow students to enjoy their high school years without disruption while they benefit from a unique opportunity to experience college life firsthand. High school students in the Academies program take half of their classes at their home high schools and the other half at one of the Alamo Colleges. School districts provide the students with transportation from their schools to the community college campus where they receive instruction from college teachers and use campus facilities and equipment.

A cornerstone of the Alamo Academies program is the paid summer internship offered to high school students between their junior and senior years. The internship is a full time, eight-week long position that pays students



approximately \$2,800 and offers them a glimpse into the working world and a possible future career. During this time the student may job shadow, participate in on-the-job training, or work with a mentor.

The paid internship is an opportunity for students to learn by doing. It is a unique hands-on experience where students apply what they have learned at school to a real-life job setting. For employers, the internship is an opportunity to teach students the habits of successful employees who will be familiar with their company culture and ready to succeed once hired. Industry partners who have recently sponsored internships with the Alamo Academies include AT&T, Boeing, Broadway Bank, Chromalloy, Cox Manufacturing, HEB, ITM, Karta, Kinetic Concepts, KLN

Steel, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, Rackspace, and the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Each partner in the Alamo Academies program makes an essential contribution and plays a critical role in shaping this partnership into a regional talent development system. For example, the school districts provide the books and transportation, while the Alamo Colleges provide facilities and instruction. Employers are responsible for paying the salaries of the program’s summer interns, and the cities of San Antonio, New Braunfels and Seguin pay staff salaries and program operating costs.

Currently, the four academies include Aerospace, Information Technology and Security, Advanced Technology and Manufacturing and Health Professions. These high-skill, high-wage fields are within the high-growth target industry clusters identified by Governor Perry in 2004 and offer students practical experience in growth industries close to home. The Academies’ Certificate of Completion qualifies graduates to go straight into industry, or if they prefer, to continue on a college path with a substantial amount of postsecondary credit already earned.

Regional employers have many reasons to support the Alamo Academies. A successful workforce development program, the Alamo Academies program gives employers a cost-effective way of recruiting a future workforce. The Academies are intended to increase the available pool of skilled entry-level workers for local industries. Since employers participate in developing the training programs, they know that program graduates are well-qualified applicants. The Academies strengthen communities by creating an important link between business, home and school. In addition, the Academies form a bridge between secondary and postsecondary education, providing

students multiple choices and opportunities after they complete high school.

Between 2002 and 2009 the Alamo Academies have achieved high job placement outcomes. Out of 503 graduates, 95 percent obtained employment in industry, continued postsecondary education, or joined the military. The last four graduating classes have received over \$550,000 in scholarships. Academies graduates are 83 percent male and 17 percent female. They are 62 percent Hispanic, 32 percent White, 4 percent African American and 2 percent Asian. The average starting hourly wage is \$10.58 with average annual starting salary and benefits over \$30,810.

In September of 2009, the Alamo Academies announced a new pilot program for the Health Professions Academy. St. Philip’s College, one of the five Alamo Colleges, will be the primary training site for the Health Professions Academy. Sixteen students, recruited from area high schools, are eligible to earn up to 35 hours of college credit their junior and senior years and to work at paid internships beginning in the summer of 2010. Internship sponsors include the Methodist Healthcare System, the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa system, Morningside Ministries and the Connolly Memorial Medical Center. The Health Professions Academy will be a launch pad for individuals wishing to pursue degrees ranging from nursing and health information systems to respiratory care and invasive cardiovascular technology. The Center for Health Professions at St. Philip’s College has the most advanced human simulation patient facility in the United States. It houses complete radiology systems and surgical suites, an eight-bed general hospital suite, and a fully functional nursing station.

To learn more about the Alamo Area Academies, call (210) 485-0811 or (210) 485-0826. On the Web, visit <http://www.alamo.edu/academies>.

Alamo Academies Graduation Placements - 2002 to 2009						
Academies	Graduates	Targeted Industry Jobs	Other Jobs	Military	Higher Ed	Unknown or Moved
Aerospace (2002-08)	247	175	12	8	46	6
Information Technology and Security (2004-08)	197	8	0	8	176	5
Advanced Technology and Manufacturing (2005-08)	59	42	1	0	11	5
Total	503	225	13	16	233	16
Percentage		45%	2%	3%	47%	3%

Alamo Area Academies: Student Profiles



Annette Enriquez is 23 years old and currently a Contract Coordinator Specialist, procuring government and private contracts for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in San Antonio. In 2004, Annette graduated from McCollum High School and from the Alamo Aerospace Academy. In addition to her diploma, she received a Level One Certificate of Completion for Aircraft Structures Mechanic through the Aerospace Academy and St. Philip's College. Annette learned about the Alamo Academies program from her high school teachers. Once she was accepted and taking classes, she forged strong friendships with other program students and her college teachers, many of whom she remains in touch with today.

Her paid internship between 11th and 12th grade was with the 433rd Airlift Wing, a C5 Air Force Reserve Unit, where she assisted with the repair and maintenance of aircraft ground equipment and learned applied skills in sheet metal, flight line and bonding work. During this internship she worked hand-in-hand with military personnel and was able to benefit from a true mentorship experience. The team she worked with was like a second family to Annette, guiding her on the jobsite and carefully monitoring her work, while urging her on and encouraging her progress. Annette was heartened by this experience and realized she was in the right field to make her life's work.

In her senior year, Annette had a second internship through the Alamo Academies program with the 433rd Airlift Wing and after graduation, she received an offer from Lockheed Martin for a permanent position. From 2005 to 2008, Annette worked at Lockheed Martin as a mechanic and earned two Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees, one in Aircraft Mechanic Airframe

and the other in Aircraft Mechanic Powerplant. This made Annette the first woman to graduate from the Aerospace Academy and receive these AAS degrees. She is also the first woman to graduate from the Alamo Academy and receive certifications from the Federal Aviation Administration in Airframe and Powerplant, both of which required her to successfully complete written, oral and practical examinations.

Still working fulltime, Annette is now earning her Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and will receive her degree in 2010. She plans to remain in her current position with Lockheed Martin, the company that provided her professional start and sponsored her postsecondary training. Annette's next aspiration: to continue the path of advancement that began with the Alamo Academies by earning a Master's in Business Administration.



Adam Arroyo is 21 years old and works at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in San Antonio, where he was recently promoted to Test Cell Operator – Mechanic II. As a test cell operator, Adam tests, troubleshoots and ensures that jet engines are airworthy and safe to install in airplanes that will soon fly the skies above Texas. In 2006, Adam graduated from San Antonio's Earl Warren High School and at the same time, earned a Level One Certificate of Completion for Aircraft Turbine Mechanic through the Alamo Aerospace Academy and St. Philip's College.

Adam had learned about the Academies program from his brother, also an Alamo Academies graduate. However, for Adam, it was really the experience of getting to know the Academies program teachers and his co-workers that captured his interest and set him on a career path in aerospace. Adam remembers how this

close-knit community made work interesting and fun, even for small things. For example, he recalled how well this dynamic work environment tempered the shock of having to be on the job by 6:45 a.m. for his first paid internship, which was also his first experience in the working world.

As it turns out, school and work proved to be a winning combination for Adam. After graduating high school, he was hired to work as an apprentice in the Kelly Aviation Center apprenticeship program sponsored by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. This U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship is an 18-month program from which Adam graduated in 2008. In addition to his Certificate of Completion in Apprenticeship for Powerplant Mechanic, Adam also earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Aircraft Mechanic Powerplant at St. Philip's College in 2008.

Adam has already started his Bachelor's degree in Applied Management through Northwest Vista College and will transfer to St. Mary's University in San Antonio in the fall of 2010. Adam is thriving in his job with Lockheed Martin and sees his future in aviation possibly expanding into the area of workforce development or law.



Daniel Leyva, 23, is a graduate of the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Academy. Daniel completed San Antonio's Phoenix High School Program in 2006 and also received a Computer Numerical Controlled (CNC) Tool Operator Certificate of Completion based on 30 college credits taken at St. Philip's College.

Daniel's experience with the Alamo Academies gave him direction and motivated him to stay in school at

a time in his life when he faced many challenges. On his own since the age of 17, Daniel was also a young parent. His internship at Chromalloy Component Services the summer between his junior and senior years of high school gave him an opportunity to earn good money and the invaluable experience of finding a path to a promising career. He excelled at the internship and was offered a part-time position at Chromalloy his senior year.

In addition to working from 3:30 p.m. to midnight, attending high school and taking college classes his senior year, Daniel entered the SkillsUSA District 11 Precision Machining Competition and won first place. After winning second place in precision machining in Fort Worth, Daniel went on to compete in the Skills USA National Competition. Daniel also earned a Marketable Skills Award as a Manufacturing Skills Trade Helper.

Daniel has now worked as a Machine Tool Operator at Chromalloy for three years and is adept at using a lathe, CNC machines, and various mills. Daniel says there is so much to learn and master in a machine shop that he is always busy. Nevertheless, he is considering continuing his postsecondary education to focus on CNC programming.



Robert Rayburn is 19 and graduated this year from Stacey Junior and Senior High School on Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Robert is also a graduate of the Alamo Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Academy and received his Level One Certificate of Completion in CNC Tool Operator through St. Philip's College.

Robert learned about the Academy program on a field trip in tenth grade. The prospect of working with

machine tools immediately caught his attention since it was an activity he already enjoyed with relatives and friends in their home shops.

The son of career Air Force parents, this astute young man realized as a high school sophomore that he had three years to put down roots for his future and that the Alamo Academy program was a way to achieve this goal. He entered the Advanced Technology and Manufacturing program and soon knew that this was a career he truly wanted to pursue.

Robert understood that domestic high-tech manufacturing is a growing field and machinists are in demand. Currently working at Southwest Research Institute in the NASA division as a machinist, Robert is able to see firsthand how a mechanical engineering degree could help him and his colleagues in their work.

At present, Robert is registered to take classes at St. Philip's for an Associate of Applied Science degree in Manufacturing Technology. He plans to earn a degree in mechanical engineering and looks forward to a long career with the Southwest Research Institute.



Ariel De La Fuentes is 17 and graduated from Sam Houston High School in San Antonio in 2009. Ariel applied to the Alamo Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Academy during her senior year and received a Manufacturing Technology Award for the 16 hours of credit she earned through St. Philip's College.

Coming from a family with several members already in manufacturing and welding, Ariel says if she had known about the program earlier in high school she would have applied at that moment, since she already had a strong interest in the field. Ariel's paid internship with

Chromalloy Component Services started before she had her driver's license, but this did not deter her in the least. In fact, Ariel made sure her parents had her at Chromalloy each and every day on time.

While she now drives herself to work, Ariel remains one of the youngest—and most talented—employees at Chromalloy. Her supervisor enjoys bragging about her, stating that she has a remarkable aptitude for welding and that “she can weld a bead almost as well as folks with 20 years on the job!” Not resting on these laurels, Ariel plans to continue working for Chromalloy and looks forward to becoming a certified welder.



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The Texas Workforce Investment Council promotes the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas and advocates a workforce system that provides quality workforce education and training opportunities.

For more information, visit:
<http://governor.state.tx.us/twic/>