



TEXAS A&M
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

FORGING LEGACIES



IN THIS EDITION

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT
TEAM

DR. PABLO ARENAZ, PRESIDENT

PUBLISHER:
ROSANNE PALACIOS

EDITOR:
STEVE HARMON

ART DIRECTOR:
ANA P. CLAMONT

CONTRIBUTING DESIGN:
GEORGINA ZAMUDIO

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
MIKA AKIKUNI
STEVE HARMON
CHRISTINE ROJAS
PETER HUGUENIN

CONTENT:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
THOUGHTS ON GIVING	5
UNIVERSITY NEWS	7
UNIVERSITY DONORS	13
UNIVERSITY FACULTY	17
TAMIU STUDENTS	21
UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS	25
UNIVERSITY OUTREACH	27
TAMIU ALUMNI	31
GIVING	35
BY THE NUMBERS	41

Visit us Online at tamiu.edu
STAY CONNECTED



WANT MORE NEWS ABOUT TAMIU?
SCAN HERE TO VIEW
OUR TAMIU NEWSHUB.
go.tamiu.edu/newshub



PHOTOGRAPHY:
ROLANDO SANTOS
TAMIU STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS



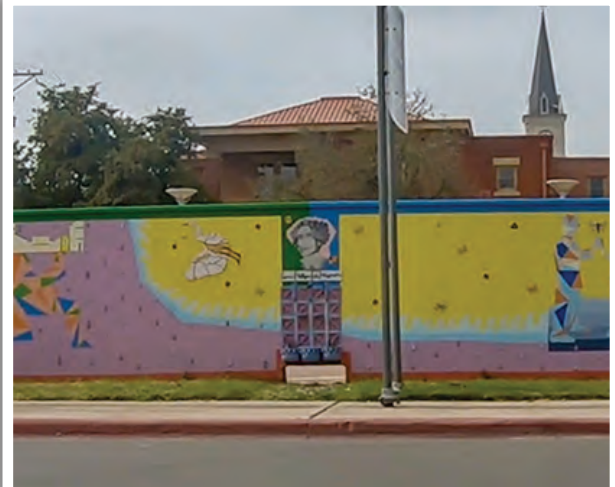
NEA-FUNDED “THE LIVING MURAL” NOW AT HOME IN DOWNTOWN LAREDO

“The Living Mural” is now a part of downtown Laredo.

You might recall that TAMIU art faculty members **Josias Figueirido** and **Emily Bayless** were the recipients of a grant for the mural from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The colorful mural, created with student research associates, is located on the exterior wall surrounding the Border Heritage Museum, and depicts Laredo’s rich and vibrant culture and history.

Watch a special documentary go.tamiau.edu/pir-livingmural on the mural and its significance. Visit go.tamiau.edu/living-mural-news to learn more about the project and those who brought it to life.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



FORGING LEGACIES IS OUR SHARED LEGACY

The theme for this year's annual report is "Forging Legacies." In these pages, you will be introduced to students, alumni, faculty, and donors who have forged or are forging lasting legacies through education, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy.

At TAMIU, we change lives – for generations – and that is our legacy! As an example, I was at an event recently and a lady came up to me and told me that she was a Laredo State graduate, her daughter graduated from TAMIU, and her granddaughter was a current student – three generations attending TAMIU.

Maybe you were the first in your family to get a post-secondary degree and opened the door for your siblings and cousins to go to college. Maybe you are

a single mother who went back to school and inspired your daughter to attend college, or maybe you inspired your mother to go back to school. Maybe you are a grandparent who encouraged your grandson to go to college. We make a difference in the lives of those we love by being role models. AND we all leave a legacy.

Let me tell you a little bit more about the legacy TAMIU is forging.

Eighty-five percent of our students come from Laredo and Webb County. We consistently have the highest percentage of top 10% high school seniors enrolled among The Texas A&M University System regional universities. We have among the highest persistence rates of all regional universities in Texas.

Our six-year graduation rate is the highest among the A&M System regional universities and over 82% of our degrees are awarded to economically disadvantaged individuals. We have been recognized nationally for having one of the lowest student debt levels....and 77% of our graduates are gainfully employed within a year of graduating, well above the Statewide average of 72%. We also continue to be recognized as among the best western regional universities by *U.S. News and World Report* and are ranked among the top in Texas.

Since moving to our northeast Laredo campus in 1995, we have graduated nearly 30,000 students. What has been the impact of all these degrees on Laredo?

In 1990, 11% of Laredoans over 25 had a bachelor's degree; in 2000, that number was 14%, and in 2021, 23%. By doubling the percentage of university graduates, Laredo has become a more educated community. We have been ranked among the Top Ten Universities nationally for both our return on investment and the upward mobility of our graduates.

In 2000, 83% of our graduates identified themselves as the first in their families to graduate from college. Today, that number has dropped to 55%. Yes, we have had an impact on increasing the post-secondary educational level of Laredoans and their families and the quality of their lives. This is the shared impact that your legacy, whether as a student, faculty or staff member, or a generous donor of scholarships, has had on Laredo and the region.

This is the transformational impact that TAMIU has on this community and beyond: lives changed, opportunities realized, and futures measurably brightened... metamorphosis at every level.

By continuing to be affordable, accessible, and exceptional, TAMIU will extend this legacy for generations to come. Your continued investment in TAMIU will ensure that we continue to -- Go Beyond.



Dr. Pablo Arenaz
TAMIU President

'BRAIN BAG' INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON LEGACY OF READING

Becoming a new parent can be overwhelming, but a new collaboration led by Laredo Learns and TAMIU's College of Education believes it's all in the "Brain Bag."

Laredo Learns, the College and its community partners created the Brain Bag as a resource filled with learning materials. Included are guidance, parenting tips, online child development insights and prompts, and more. It's a tool to help new parents ensure their children meet critical growth and learning benchmarks.

Guillermo "Memo" Treviño, a local businessman and philanthropist who has helped spearhead the effort with community-based partners, said the Laredo Learns goal is simple.

"We want Laredo to be a Learning City. Just as we celebrate Laredo being the Number One Inland Port, we celebrate a commitment to learning that brightens our children's futures. With the Brain Bag, we're providing new parents with tools and resources to help them be the best parents possible, and meet benchmarks to succeed in school," Treviño said.

Key to the partnership was **Jorge Leal**, Laredo Medical Center's (LMC) Chief Executive Officer, who helped ensure creation of 250 Brain Bags a month, beginning in August and ending in December for moms who gave birth at LMC.

"We support Laredo Learns and are proud to take the lead with the implementation of the Brain Bag initiative because we know that reading begins with parents," Leal observed.



Celebrating the launch of the Laredo Learns "Brain Bag" Initiative were, left to right: Jimena Morales, Melissa Cigarroa, Dr. James O'Meara, Jorge González, Rosamaria Treviño and Mayor Víctor Treviño, Jorge Leal, Erika Martínez, Guillermo "Memo" Treviño, and Priscilla Salinas.

THOUGHTS ON GIVING

Every day, friends and partners of TAMIU are assuring, creating and encouraging legacies made real by supporting higher education.

For some, this is part of a longstanding business or community investment, or perhaps a cherished family tradition. For some, it is a way to memorialize a beloved family member, friend or colleague.

For others, this is a beginning and something they are eager to nurture. And for still others, giving at a larger scale is aspirational (for now!)... but as is well-known, “ ’tis better to give...”

Let’s meet some of the many who have, or continue to forge legacies at TAMIU.

For over 10 years, **Sabas Perez’s** son **Alfredo** has been a monthly donor to TAMIU and granddaughter **Yelitza Pérez Howard** proudly serves the University as its dedicated director of career services.

J. J. Haynes and his siblings honored their father’s athletic advocacy with a baseball field named after him at TAMIU – Jorge B. Haynes Field.

He and his wife, Minnie Dora Bunn Haynes, an alum and former Alumni Association president, created an endowment to honor her daughter, now **Minnie Dora Haynes Rodríguez**.



Dedication of the Jorge Haynes Baseball Field May 1 2010. Pictured are (left to right) Juvenal J. “J.J.” Haynes, Jorge Haynes, Roberto L. Haynes, Cynthia Haynes Ramírez, Chad Porter, former TAMIU Men’s Baseball Coach, and Larry Haynes.

Radcliffe and Sue Killam and son **David Killam** helped make the University’s 300-acre home possible with their land donation and the Killams have created

additional endowments to help advance students and programs. Radcliffe’s grandson Cliffe has created an endowment honoring his mother, worked as an adjunct professor and serves on many University committees.

Former Mayor, the late **J. C. Martin, Jr.** served as a Trustee for the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust, creating endowments and initiating an expansive cycle of funding for University programs and scholarships that exceeds \$30 million to date. He was succeeded in 1997 by his late son, **Joseph Claude Martin, III** as Co-Trustee till his passing October 29, 2023. His grandson and great grandson now serve as Trustees.

Longtime business owner and community advocate **Peggy Newman** created endowments, as have her children the late **David T. Newman** and widow **Lulu** and David’s sister **Nancy** and her husband **Javier De Anda**. The De Anda’s also support athletics through sponsorships.

Dennis Nixon, as a trustee for the **Matias De Llano Charitable Trust**, has awarded TAMIU funds for scholarships and capital improvements including the KLRN-TAMIU campus and a lecture hall in the Academic Innovation Center. The University’s remarkable legacy gift of a seven-volume Heritage Edition of The Saint John’s Bible, a work of sacred art, was a gift from the Trust.

Hank Sames and his wife **Elizabeth** created a college-bound mentorship program that pairs high school students with TAMIU faculty mentors throughout their high school experience. Upon completion of high school, it offers students a four-year scholarship to TAMIU that supports tuition. The program is now in its 21st year.

Antonio R. “Tony” Sanchez, Sr. was a staunch advocate for higher education and now his grand daughter **Ana Lee Sanchez Jacobs** and the Sanchez Family Foundation have created multiple endowments that provide critical support to programs for the School of Business that bears his name and engineering and nursing programs.

Dr. Judith Zaffirini, our State Senator and higher education champion has dedicated legislation that has enabled the University to exist and excel. Her commitment to TAMIU is steadfast and has inspired her son **Carlos Zaffirini** to create an endowment that honors his mother and empowers student success.

Other have followed those who first built the University and started traditions of their own. **Louis LaVaude** is following a tradition first started by his uncle **D.D. Hachar** whose foundation has been awarding scholarships since 1980. In 1998 his aunt, **Guadalupe H. Didieu** honored her parents **N. D. and Felisa Hachar** with an endowment supporting nursing. His mother **Olga H. LaVaude's** fund for the arts honors her father **N. D. Hachar**. **Louis** is building an endowment to support pre-law students.

Gifts of time or treasure make lasting legacies at the University possible today... and for the future that's just around the corner. We salute all those that forge legacies every day in many ways to further the University's mission.

In the pages ahead, learn how legacies are being forged with donor kindness and partnerships, including those highlighted in our Giving section.

For another look at legacies made manifest, meet our TAMIU Trailblazers, who are honored on campus with our Trailblazer Tower. See page 15.

Rosanne Palacios

Rosanne Palacios,
TAMIU VP For Institutional Advancement



These legacy donors gathered at the Strategic Planning Dinner last Spring. (l – r) Dr. Pablo Arenaz, TAMIU President, Louis P. LaVaude, Albert Martin, Joe C. Martin (†), Rita Peters, and Charlie Maynard.

WHAT'S YOUR LEGACY?

Interested in forging a legacy of your own at
Texas A&M International University?

Call Rosanne Palacios at 956.326.2178,
email rosanne.palacios@tamiu.edu
or mail donations to

TAMIU Office of Institutional Advancement
2501 University Boulevard, Laredo, TX 78041

GIVING HAS NO AGE, AND TAMIU STUDENTS ARE COMMITTED TO GIVING BACK

Each year, students give gifts of time and treasure that enrich our campus and our community!



Aside from raising over \$3,000 for Penny Wars this year, the Student Philanthropy Council (SPC) also fundraises for their Dustdevil P.R.I.D.E. Endowment currently totaling over \$82,000. This is a powerful example of students helping other students.



TAMIU Giving Day is our community's chance to support TAMIU students. During this year's edition of Giving Day, we are so very grateful our University was able to receive over \$29,000 from over 520 donors. The funds raised will support programs and initiatives such as Reading the Globe, Student Nurses' Association, Ballet Folklórico, and more.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

TAMIU ALUM DR. SAN MIGUEL NAMED PROVOST, VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

This summer, TAMIU named **Dr. Claudia E. San Miguel ('97, '99)** as the University's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

TAMIU President **Dr. Pablo Arenaz** said that after an exhaustive national search, the University had found its Provost close to home.

"Our search committee conducted a nationwide search, attracting some very impressive candidates, but determined that our most qualified candidate was someone with an extensive knowledge of our campus, our culture, and our community. Dr. San Miguel will be our first female and first Hispanic Provost. She has already achieved a remarkable legacy of teaching, research, and service to the University, and we believe she is keenly positioned to continue that legacy as our new Provost," Dr. Arenaz said.

Dr. San Miguel said she is honored and eager to serve.

"As Provost, my top priority is advancing the success of our students, first through enabling affordable and accessible courses for them to pursue their dreams, and by actively supporting their academic path to timely graduation via effective student support services such as advising, mentoring, and tutoring."

**Dr. Claudia San Miguel,
TAMIU Provost**



Dr. Claudia San Miguel

"TAMIU is an amazing University and daily demonstrates an unwavering commitment to its students, staff, and faculty. Together, we serve as a beacon of higher education for all," she said.

San Miguel holds her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Her M.S. and B.S., also in Criminal Justice, were earned at TAMIU.

Before becoming Provost, she served as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Chair of the Department of Social Sciences, Director of the Criminal Justice Program, and Director of the Border Studies Institute/Texas Military Forces. Her research efforts have secured over \$5.7 million in external grants.

San Miguel is also the first female and Hispanic president of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice. At TAMIU she has earned the Senator Judith Zaffirini Scholarship and Leadership Award and the University's Largest Sponsored Research Award.

She leads the University's federally funded Center for Countering Human Trafficking and has co-authored five books on criminal justice and related Constitutional issues.

RTG PROGRAM CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY, PAST AMBASSADORS SHARE LEGACY EXPERIENCES

In celebration of its 15th anniversary this year, TAMIU's Reading the Globe (RTG) Program invited former RTG ambassadors to share their life-changing travel stories through recorded video testimonials.

The videos were posted on the RTG Program website and RTG Instagram account at <https://www.instagram.com/tamiureadingtheglobe/> and TAMIU's Instagram account at <https://www.instagram.com/txamiu>, as well as other University-affiliated social media channels.

The videos answered questions such as the name of their common read, the country traveled to, a special trip memory, the legacy impact of their experience, and advice for current First-Year students hoping to travel abroad.

The Fall Campus Common Read for University students also serves as the selected text for the Laredo Public Library's One City, One Book selection as part of an ongoing community partnership. This year's

selection was *Where the Dead Pause and the Japanese Say Goodbye* by **Marie Mutsuki Mockett**. The author visited Laredo in October and met with students and the public. University students also applied to be RTG Ambassadors for an opportunity to travel to Japan in Spring 2024.

Since 2008, the University's RTG Program has offered First-Year students the opportunity to travel abroad to connect their common read to an international experience. The selected read offers opportunities for discourse on student-relevant issues while raising social awareness on both a local and global scale.

University students have traveled the world, including Cambodia, Chile, China, Eastern Europe, Ghana, India, Poland, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey.



REP. CUELLAR HELPS CREATE NEW LEGACIES WITH \$4.4+ MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING

TAMIU was the recipient of over \$4.4 million in federal funding this year announced by U.S. **Congressman Henry Cuellar**, which supports legacy opportunities for undergraduate and graduate Hispanic students including the improvement of a binational air quality system.

In April, TAMIU received \$2,910,420 to promote graduate-level opportunities for Hispanics through its Next Level Engineering Project. The Project will expand courses and institutional resources for Hispanic graduate-level students by developing a Master of Science in Systems Engineering and graduate certificates in Engineering fields.

In August, Congressman Cuellar announced \$1,399,532 in federal funding of which \$1,199,532 is to be used to prepare 37 undergraduate TAMIU STEM students to be mathematics teachers at Laredo Independent School District and United Independent School District, thereby reducing teacher turnover and improving engagement for STEM studies. The remaining \$200,000 will be used for TAMIU's Track 1 Project, which is focused on improving undergraduate Engineering student retention through virtual learning and group activities.

In addition, TAMIU and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute received \$150,000 focused on the design and implementation of a binational air quality measurement system for the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo cross-border region. Provided by the North American Development Bank, the funding will be used to monitor air quality along heavy truck routes, including the World Trade Bridge and the Colombia Solidarity Bridge.



UNIVERSITY NEWS

LONGTIME TAMIU ADMINISTRATOR'S PASSING LEAVES LASTING LEGACY



José "Joe" García

The beginning of 2023 sadly marked the passing of longtime TAMIU administrator **José "Joe" García**, who served the University for 30 years.

García passed away in San Antonio on January 10, 2023, surrounded by his family. Born on September 18, 1939, he was 83 years old.

Many had the good fortune to work alongside Joe, or to have benefited from the many programs and systems he put in place at TAMIU and other A&M System campuses.

"We are grateful for Joe García's legacy and service here and will cherish his memory always," said TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz**.

The Joe García STEM Scholarship honors his service and memory at TAMIU.

Before joining then-Texas A&I University at Laredo, he completed more than 25 years in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of Major. He started the University's ROTC program in 1973.

He served in several leadership positions, including director of Physical Plant, vice president of Finance and Administration, and as interim president. He oversaw TAMIU's primary Phase I – IV construction -- while leading the business office, human resources, campus police, physical plant, purchasing and support services, computer and telecommunications services, and payroll.

Upon his retirement, the A&M System Board of Regents designated him Vice President Emeritus, Finance and Administration. Always up for a challenge, he would go on to serve as Special Assistant for Academic Affairs at Texas A&M University-San Antonio-- while also serving as interim vice president for Finance and Administration at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

He is survived by his wife **Gloria**, and son **Joseph (Toni)** and grandchildren **Sebastian MacMahon** and **Mia García**; son **Philip (Emily)** and grandchildren **Nicolas** and **Alex García**, and daughter **Verónica (Eddie)**.



Mr. García joins students and campus leaders for groundbreaking for University Village, the first housing complex, which opened in 1997.



García was a strong advocate for the addition of Starbucks to campus life and collegiality with the coffeehouse opening in 2008.

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF UNIVERSITY HELPS ALUM CREATE NEW TAMIU LEGACY

It doesn't seem so long ago that **Juan Gilberto García, Jr.** was a wide-eyed freshman from Roma, TX, carefully balancing his time in TAMIU classrooms with his exploits as a Dustdevil Soccer team member. But today, the ball is on another pitch.

That freshman of two decades ago is now a TAMIU Vice President, leading the Division of Enrollment Management. He believes his education and career trajectory at TAMIU mirrors the University's transformative power.

"Today, I tell students: 'I was in your shoes, contemplating the pivotal decision of where to embark on my higher education journey. The very reasons that guided me to TAMIU then are the same reasons that guide my belief in the transformative power of TAMIU now,'" he shared.

His dedication, energy, and enthusiasm are contagious and this Fall helped TAMIU enroll the largest freshman class in its history (1,382) students, a 6% increase over Fall 2022, with an 8% increase in transfers to TAMIU. The total enrollment this Fall was 8,507 students, and shows both growth and recovery, he believes.

García has had the rare experience of working in or helping guide some of the University's largest student touch points over the years with proximity to Recruitment, Registrar's, Student Success, Advising, Strategic Plan creation, budget development and implementation, and enrollment management.

While he still tries his hand on the pitch with the occasional alumni soccer team event, García believes he has also become quite good at another sport: cheerleading for TAMIU.

"It's hard not to be a cheerleader," he observed, "we're one of the nation's top degree producers for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, the highest-ranked regional university in The Texas A&M University System among Regional Universities West by *U.S. News and World Report*, our 2022 graduates have the State's highest employment rate after graduation at 81.3%, and we have an aggressive commitment to always being Affordable, Accessible, and Exceptional.



Juan Gilberto García, Jr.

We've just launched our Proyecto Amigos initiative, which targets student engagement and elevating the sense of campus community here. Finally, this Fall alone, we disbursed over \$50 million in financial aid for our students. That's a lot to cheer about."

Read more about García's journey and the future at TAMIU here: go.tamiau.edu/garcia-transformative

STUDENTS TRAVEL THE WORLD, LEARN WITH STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

TAMIU students traveled to eight countries in the world this summer while strengthening the knowledge they gained in their classrooms through study abroad programs.

All told, TAMIU students' travels took them to France, Belgium, Chile, Germany, The Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and México.



One group traveled to France as part of the course, "Public Relations and Special Issues in Culture," led by **Dr. Daniel De La Miyar**, University College instructional assistant professor.

Also, a group of 14 undergraduate students participated in an immersive study abroad program in Belgium, France, Germany, and The Netherlands to explore their cultures and cinema histories, led by **Dr. José Carlos**

Lozano, professor of Communication and chair of the College of Arts and Sciences department of Psychology and Communication.

Five undergraduate students studying Ballet Folklórico traveled to Mexico City to undergo a series of dance master classes at the Escuela de Ballet Folklórico de México de Amalia Hernández, led by **Nayeli López**, adjunct faculty of Dance and advisor of the TAMIU Ballet Folklórico Club.

Traveling to Singapore were students in the Reading the Globe Program led by **Dr. Jonathan Martínez**, University College instructional assistant professor, **Dr. Daniel De la Miyar**, and former TAMIU College of Education faculty member, **Dr. Barbara Hong**.

Other faculty members who led study abroad programs this summer included **Dr. Lola Norris**, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, **Dr. James Norris**, associate professor of Political Science, as well as **Dr. Melody Carriere**, and **Dr. Julien Carriere**, instructional associate professors in the Department of Humanities.

Scholarships from the Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Trust support student travel experiences.



CELEBRATED NOVELIST SANDRA CISNEROS VISITS TAMIU

Members of the TAMIU community welcomed iconic author **Sandra Cisneros** to campus this fall including a reading shared by Cisneros, a Q&A session and book signing in the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Recital Hall.

Presented by the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Humanities, this event was offered free of charge and was open to the public.

Cisneros, the celebrated author of the beloved best-selling novel *The House on Mango Street*, a coming-of-age classic, read from her new poetry collection, *Woman Without Shame*.

Woman Without Shame has been hailed as a moving collection of songs, elegies, and declarations chronicling the author's pilgrimage toward rebirth and recognition of her prerogative as a woman artist. Honest and humorous and full of meditations on desire, love, memory, and self-awareness, *Woman Without Shame* is considered the culmination of Cisneros' search for home – in the México of her ancestors, and in her heart.

Cisneros is a poet, short story writer, novelist, and essayist whose work explores the lives of the working-class. Her numerous awards include NEA fellowships in both poetry and fiction, the Texas Medal of the Arts, a MacArthur Fellowship, the PEN/Nabokov Award for International Literature, the National Medal of Arts, the Ruth

Lilly Poetry Prize, and the Ambassador

Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award from the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation.



Sandra Cisneros



Cisneros signs copies of her new poetry collection *Woman without Shame*.

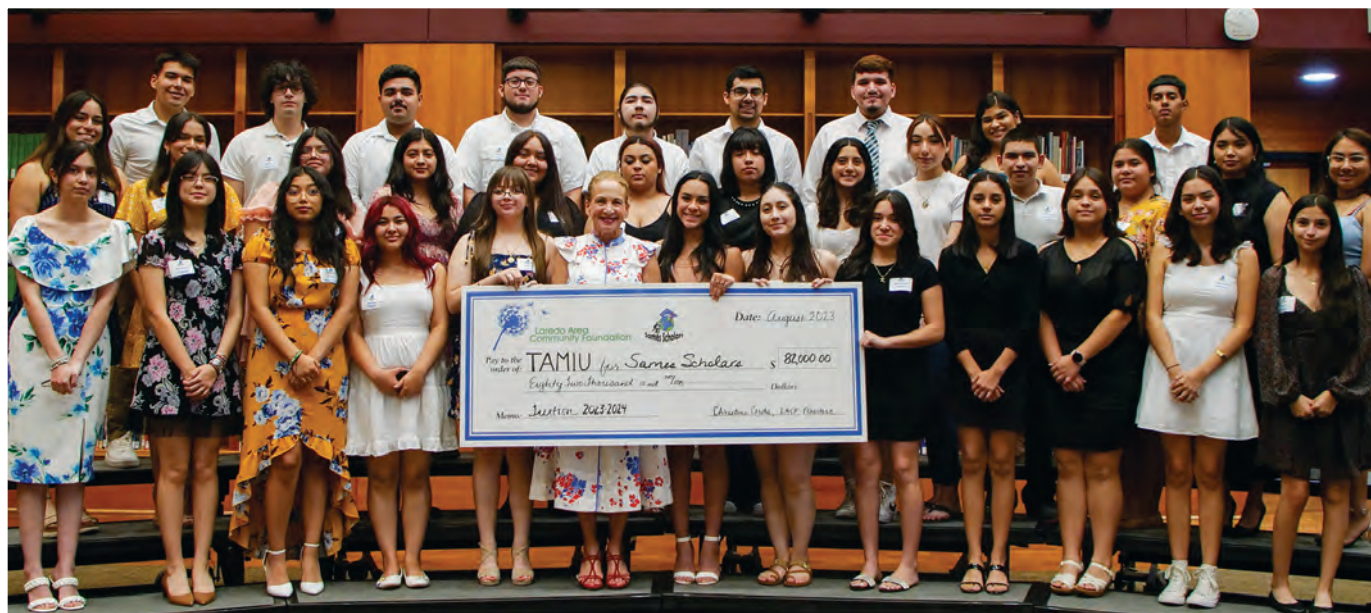
Her novel *The House on Mango Street* has sold over seven million copies, has been translated into over 25 languages, and is required reading in elementary, high school, and universities across the nation. *Martita, I Remember You/Martita, te recuerdo*, a story in English and Spanish, was published in 2021.

Woman Without Shame, published by Knopf in the Fall of 2022, is Cisneros's first book of poetry in 28 years.



Cisneros lectures before a full-house.

UNIVERSITY DONORS



NEWEST SAMES SCHOLARS NAMED AT CEREMONY

This Fall, TAMIU welcomed its newest high school Sames Scholars Cohort.

The Sames Scholarship Program is a college-bound mentorship program that pairs high school students with TAMIU faculty mentors throughout their high school experience. Upon completion of high school, it offers students a four-year scholarship to the University.

Founders **Hank and Elizabeth Sames** are celebrating the 21st year of their unique scholarship program providing funds, mentors and support for first-generation and high-risk college-bound high school students. Founded in 2002, it pairs United Independent School District high school students with TAMIU faculty.

To be eligible, high school freshman students must meet the economically disadvantaged State criteria, be first-generation college-bound in their family, meet monthly with their designated TAMIU mentor,

2023 Sames Scholars were introduced at a gathering at TAMIU. Accompanying the students was Sames Scholars Program Founder Elizabeth Sames, first row, center.

maintain a 90 percent GPA, and maintain 95 percent attendance while in high school.

The new high school cohort includes:

United South High School – **Janie Magayanes**,
United High School - José Carlos Guzmán,
Celine Guzmán, **Alexander High School –**
Amanda Cortez, **Kathleen Vidaurri**, and Lyndon
Baines Johnson High School – **Alejandro Peña**,
Marely Mejía, and **Kiara Castillo**.

The cohort also includes:

United South High School - **Cynthia Mata**,
Julia Paredes, **Britney Hernández**, and **Dana Rios**;
Alexander High School - **Diego Hernández** and
Shannon Morales and Lyndon Baines Johnson High
School - **Jorge A. Jaime**, **Julieta Castañeda**,
Yadhira Tellez, **Darlene Sepúlveda**, and
Dahiana Vasquez.

Currently, there are 21 Sames Scholars in high school being mentored by 12 TAMIU professors and 17 TAMIU scholars.

INNOVADOR AWARD RECIPIENTS SHARED LOVE LEGACY FOR LAREDO

A shared lifetime of loving their Laredo community and impacting education was recognized with the awarding of the 2023 Texas A&M International University Innovador Award to **Evelyn Summers** and her husband, the late **Carroll E. Summers, Jr.** at TAMIU's Fall Convocation Ceremony.

TAMIU's Innovador Award was created in 2018 to recognize individuals or organizations making a lasting impact on education, particularly higher education, in Laredo and the South Texas region. It is presented annually alongside Faculty Awards and the State of the University address.

Dr. Pablo Arenaz, TAMIU President, said the selection of this year's Innovador Award honorees truly affirms the values the Award espouses.



"This year's honorees, Evelyn and Carroll E. Summers, created scholarship endowments at both TAMIU and Laredo College, in addition to scholarships with the Laredo Area Community Foundation and the Webb Soil and Water Conservation District.

This combined giving provided hundreds of students with educational opportunities they would not have.

"Over 141 currently enrolled students benefit from Summers-created scholarships. This love of community and support of higher education has created a lasting, transformational legacy in Laredo, which their son **Robert Summers** is proudly carrying forward," Dr. Arenaz observed.

Last year's Innovador Award recipient was the late **Frank Staggs**. Previous recipients have included Guadalupe and Lilia Martínez Foundation Trustees **Bob** and **Shirley González** and **State Senator Judith Zaffirini**.

Find out more at go.tamiau.edu/fall23-convocation

LÓPEZ FOUNDATION FORGES NEW STUDENT DESTINIES, LEGACIES AT TAMIU

A first-of-its kind \$1 million grant is forging new destinies and legacies for 15 TAMIU students.

The **Hector and Gloria López Foundation** (HGLF) has provided an innovative grant offering full tuition assistance for 15 first-generation students at TAMIU — creating pathways to educational attainment and a pipeline to a successful career.

López Scholars receive support for tuition and fees, as well as other resources including mentorship, tutoring, housing, study abroad programs, paid internships, leadership development, and more.

"It's so important that young students see themselves represented in academia and can learn from individuals who have insight into their lived experiences," said **Sergio Rodríguez**, Foundation CEO and nephew of **Hector and Gloria López**. "We're proud to partner with TAMIU because of their 50-year history of serving students from the South Texas region."

"This is much more than a grant," said TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz**, "this is a visionary investment in the future of our students and their communities. It will act as a catalyst for brighter legacies for our graduates. In turn, their careers will positively impact the communities they call home. The University is honored to share the López Foundation's partnership and vision -- and to further it by continuing to provide TAMIU students with the resources they deserve and need to succeed," Dr. Arenaz said.

Hector and Gloria López left their estate to the Austin-based Foundation in 2021. Their legacy is represented in the Foundation's commitment to helping remove traditional barriers to resources and supporting the academic success of first-generation college students in need of financial assistance across Texas.

Find out more at go.tamiau.edu/lopez-foundation-grant



Board members of The Hector and Gloria López Foundation presented a \$1M grant for TAMIU first-generation students.

UNIVERSITY DONORS



GENEROUS GONTOR ENDOWMENT FORGES LEGACY SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION

González Torres y Compañía (GONTOR), a renowned leader in the Mexican international trade services sector, has donated a generous Endowment of \$25,000 to TAMIU.

The Endowment will support TAMIU's mission and also benefit the children of GONTOR employees who attend TAMIU.

Founded in 1945 by **Francisco González Torres** and **Elia Norma Treviño**, GONTOR is a family business renowned for its dedication and personalized

service in the international trade services sector. The company's legacy is carried forward by **CEO Francisco Julio González**, **Elia Norma Barrera**, and Mexican Custom Broker **Carlos Javier González**.

The family's legacy continues with the third generation of the González family contributing to the company's growth and success: **Elia Margaret O'Brien** (Endowment Administrator), **Francisco Javier González** (Logistics), **Alejandro González** (COO), and **Hector Alonso González** (U.S. Custom Broker).

TAMIU President **Dr. Pablo Arenaz** shared TAMIU's gratitude for the generous Endowment.

"We are deeply honored by GONTOR's commitment to education and community," said **Dr. Arenaz**, "This Endowment will strengthen our ability to provide high-quality academic programs, facilitate research endeavors, and offer scholarships to deserving students."

The partnership between TAMIU and GONTOR reflects the power of collaboration between academia and industry, said GONTOR CEO **Francisco González Treviño**.

"Education is the best legacy we can pass on to our children," Treviño affirmed.

HONORING OUR TRAILBLAZERS

Countless Laredoans played leadership and supportive roles in passing legislation and securing funding for a four-year University in Laredo. Listed are persons who played significant roles in working cooperatively and with legislators and State leaders as trailblazers whose work cumulatively resulted in passage of Senate Bill 6 by **Senator Judith Zaffirini** and **Representative Henry Cuellar**, establishing Texas A&M International University.

TAMIU's impressive Trailblazer Tower honors these remarkable individuals for their shared commitment and vision.

TEXAS TRAILBLAZERS

Gilberto Acuna
Bill Baker
Rep. Hugo Berlanga
Manuel Bravo, Jr.
Elmer Buckley
Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock
Dr. Joaquin Cigarroa
Dr. Leo Cigarroa
Speaker Billy Clayton
Gov. John Connally
Joe Finley, Jr.
Dr. Dianne Mendoza Galaviz
Clemente Garcia
Hector Garcia
Rey Garcia
Msgr. Geroge Gloeckner
Elvia Gonzalez

Ricardo Gutierrez
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haas
J. J. Haynes
Jorge Haynes
Minnie Dora Bunn Haynes
Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby
Gary Jacobs
Rep. Rob Junell
Senator and U.S. Rep.
Abraham "Chick"
Kazen
U. S. Judge George Kazen
Jim Kazen
Phillip Kazen
John Keck
David Killam
Radcliffe Killam
Sue Killam

MASTER PLAN OFFERS LOOK AT TAMIU'S FUTURE LEGACY



It's not often that you get a peek at the future, but that's exactly what the new Master Plan for TAMIU does.

"Creating a Master Plan affirms the importance of a unifying vision guiding future building, land use, and infrastructure changes needed to reach goals, adapt to change, and align with our overarching Strategic Plan objectives," explains TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz**, "It's simply a smart thing to do."

The Master Plan looks at TAMIU in five years, 15 years, and beyond and was unveiled last Spring. Perkins+Will delivered the project, which offers a vital tool to guide the growth and development of the 300-acre campus for generations to come.

It includes existing conditions analysis, space utilization and benchmarking, and enrollment statistics, offering a holistic set of improvement recommendations for land use and building renovation/demolition/ construction. Landscape design, infrastructure and transportation, and parking solutions were included.

Concurrent with the Plan's unveiling came news that the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents had approved plans for a new Health Sciences Education and Research Center (HSERC), and an expansion of the Western Hemispheric Trade Center (WHTC).

"These two campus additions will drive program growth and expand impactful teaching, service, and research opportunities," noted Dr. Arenaz.

The 57,000-square foot HSERC will create an interactive clinical building promoting health sciences learning and research.

The 25,200-square foot WHTC will create an integrated business hub for A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business activities.

The Master Plan process and findings can be explored at **go.tamtu.edu/masterplan**

Mrs. Mary Louise Kleberg
Speaker Pete Laney
Laredo Chamber of
Commerce
Speaker Gib Lewis
Dennis Longoria
Max Mandel
Mayor J. C. Martin, Jr.
Blas Martinez
Judge Mercurio Martinez
Sen. John Montford
Mexican American Legal
Defense and Education
Fund
Peggy Newman
J. W. Nixon
Dennis Nixon
William M. Pena

Sabas Perez
Dr. Shannon Peterson
Mayor Saul N. Ramirez, Jr.
Jesus Rodriguez
Rep. Jim Rudd
Hank and Elizabeth Sames
Harry Sames
Antonio R. "Tony" Sanchez, Sr.
Dr. Crispin Sanchez
Mayor Aldo Tatangelo
Vidal Trevino
Norma Vargas
Jorge Verduzco
Carlos Zaffirini, Sr.
Dr. Judith Zaffirini

PRESIDENTS

Dr. Billy Cowart, 1969-84
Dr. Manuel T. Pacheco, 1984-88
Dr. Leo Sayavedra, 1988-95

MEMBERS OF TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Sen. Wayne Connally, 1967-72
Rep. Honore Ligarde, 1963-72
Sen. John Traeger, 1973-86
Rep. Billy Hall, 1973-86
Sen. Judith Zaffirini, since 1987
Rep. Henry Cuellar, 1987 - 2001



UNIVERSITY FACULTY



Dr. Mehnaaz Momen

TAMIU PROF'S LATEST PUBLICATION FOCUSES ON STORIES, LEGACIES OF LAREDOANS

Dr. Mehnaaz Momen, TAMIU professor of Public Administration, spent time this Fall presenting her latest publication, *Listening to Laredo: A Border City in a Globalized Age throughout Texas, with stops in Austin, Edinburg, San Antonio, and Laredo*.

In her book, Dr. Momen traces Laredo's history while examining the city's ever-changing economic and cultural infrastructure. Through a critical examination, she focuses on the existing interdependence on a sister city across a national boundary and the resilience of a border community that thrives amidst the ever-present challenges of a national narrative centered along the U.S. – México border.

The narrative of Momen's publication focuses on collected oral histories from Laredoans, focusing on the implications of daily life along the U.S. – México border.

For Momen, living in a border city offers a myriad of challenges, particularly for those who hold preconceived notions of existing cultural stereotypes.

"I want my readers to see Laredo from the eyes of the people who live there by choice. We always hear about the dangers of the border, but the border is fragile, the border is beautiful, and the border is evolving. The border is full of possibilities, especially because it is always a little wild. For the people who live on the border, it was historically an abstract notion that had legal and political restrictions - but did not obstruct cultural and economic exchanges," Momen explained.

Momen has been a member of the TAMIU faculty since 2002.

TAMIU PROFESSOR EXPANDS ACADEMIC LEGACY AS '23 FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR TO CANADA

A TAMIU faculty member has earned among the highest honors in the academic tradition – he's been selected as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2023 for Canada.

Dr. Adam Kozaczka, assistant professor of English for TAMIU's College of Arts and Sciences, department of Humanities, is the Fulbright



Dr. Adam Kozaczka

Canada Research Chair in Arts & Humanities, based at the University of Alberta, a public research university located in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Dr. Kozaczka's research examines how British and Canadian literary texts

represented Canadian frontier communities, especially concerning how British colonial officials administered British law in places distant from Britain.

"I'm honored by this selection and thankful for the opportunity to represent TAMIU and Laredo as a Fulbright Scholar. It's exciting research, and I'm eager to contribute to academic knowledge in this area and to forging new collaborations and friendships in Canada," Dr. Kozaczka said.

TAMIU bears the distinction of having authorization from the 74th Texas Legislature to develop joint degree programs with Mexican and Canadian institutions of higher education.

Kozaczka has been a member of the TAMIU faculty since 2019. Born and raised in a bilingual English-Polish home in New York State, he earned his Ph.D. in English from Syracuse University

Dr. Kozaczka joins an elite group of current, former, and retired TAMIU faculty and students who have been Fulbright Scholars. Among them are **Dr. Rafic A. Bachnak, Dr. Susan Berdahl, Dr. Norma E. Cantú, Dr. Stuart H. Davis, Dr. Christian Faltis, Dr. Stanley Green, Dr. Peter Haruna, Dr. Barbara Hong,**

Dr. Mazhar M. Islam, the late TAMIU professor of history **Dr. José Roberto Juárez, Julio Obscura, Dr. Aaron A. Olivas**, and **Dr. Jaime Ortiz**.

DR. HAYNES NAMED A&M SYSTEM REGENTS PROFESSOR

Dr. Robert W. Haynes, TAMIU professor of English, was named as one of 12 faculty members and 11 agency service, extension, or research professionals within the Texas A&M University System to be recognized as Regents Professors and Regents Fellows.

The A&M System Board of Regents established the Regents Professor Awards program in 1996 and the

Regents Fellow Service Awards program in 1998 to recognize employees who have made extraordinary contributions to their university, or agency, as well as to the people of Texas.



Chancellor John Sharp congratulates Dr. Robert W. Haynes

Haynes has been a member of the TAMIU faculty for 31 years. His courses have included medieval

topics, including Chaucer and medieval drama, as well as courses focused on the Renaissance, particularly Shakespeare. His book *The Major Plays of Horton Foote* was published in 2010, and his edited volume *Critical Insights: Horton Foote* appeared in 2016.

He continues to publish articles on Foote and on Renaissance England. In 2016, he received the South Central Modern Language Association's Poetry Prize and, in 2019, the Sam Alley Teaching Excellence Award from Sigma Tau Delta.

Writing as R. W. Haynes, he has published four poetry collections (*Laredo Light*, *Let the Whales Escape*, *Heidegger Looks at the Moon*, and *The Deadly Shadow of the Wall*) in the past four years. Over 200 of his poems have appeared in journals in various countries around the world.

Haynes holds his Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia.

PROFESSOR'S LEGACY OF TEACHING RECOGNIZED WITH NAME LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For over 20 years, TAMIU College of Education associate professor of Curriculum and Instruction **Dr. Diana Linn** has forged a legacy of multicultural teaching that inspires, educates, and empowers her students and TAMIU graduates.

This remarkable legacy was recognized with the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Region 5 Texas National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) Conference hosted by Baylor University's School of Education, department of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Linn was also a keynote speaker at the Conference and provided the Cherry B. Gooden Executive Board Keynote Address.

She said the distinction of the Lifetime Achievement Award is especially important to her as she has long championed multicultural education and NAME's advocacy.

"I'm honored by this recognition by my peers. I've been an active NAME member since 2002 and I'm proud to support its mission and legacy...and especially proud to join other Lifetime Achievement Award recipients who have been similarly honored," Dr. Linn said.



Dr. Diana Linn

TAMIU College of Education **Dean Dr. James O'Meara** commended Linn's selection and her impact at TAMIU.

"Dr. Linn is revered by her colleagues and her students, and we are all delighted to see her service to NAME recognized by this Award. Her contributions here at TAMIU have impacted hundreds, if not thousands of our students and graduates," Dr. O'Meara observed.

This year's NAME Award to Dr. Linn also recently earned some new award company.... at TAMIU's University Convocation in October, Dr. Linn was named the '23 recipient of the University's Distinguished Teacher Award.

Congratulations, Dr. Linn!

UNIVERSITY FACULTY



Marcela Morán

TAMIU FILMMAKER SHARES LEGACY OF UNHERALDED SUSTAINABILITY WORKERS IN AWARD-WINNING FILM

For TAMIU associate professor and filmmaker **Marcela Morán**, the unappreciated and unheralded legacy of the border's cardboard recyclers was something to share and recognize.

Her documentary film, "Cardboard Scavengers," with collaborator **Maritza Bautista**, has done just that...and in the process has earned a Cinema Verde Award as part of the 2023 Cinema Verde 14th Annual Film and Arts Festival. It is also the 2023 recipient



of the Best Direction Award from the Environmental Feedback Film Festival.

The film explores the daily on-the-street manual cardboard recycling that occurs in Laredo, providing a source of income for generations of families from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, México. Those who do this have come to be called "*cartoneros*."

Morán said she believes the documentary delivers a powerful message.

"On the border, it is the people that are the least privileged that are doing the most in terms of participating in sustainable practices. Most people in the community do not know why people like Chole and Beto pick up cardboard. We were honored to share their story and impact," she explained.

A multiple award-winning filmmaker, Morán has been part of the TAMIU College of Arts and Sciences faculty since 2003. She holds the terminal MFA in Film from Ohio University, College of Fine Arts, and a BS in Radio-TV-Film from The University of Texas, College of Communication.

Her films have been selected for festivals including the NYC Downtown Short Film Festival, the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival, the Harlem International Film Festival, and the Cine Las Americas International Film Festival, among others. She has screened and exhibited in Canada, Spain, Indonesia, México, and across the U.S.

The film can be viewed on the Cinema Verde Roku Channel at:

<https://channelstore.roku.com/details/974a158bc010ada01578fa76c541056f/cinema-verde>

TAMIU SANCHEZ SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MAINTAINS RIGOROUS AACSB ACCREDITATION

Texas A&M International University students can take pride in their campus being home to one of only 500 accredited business schools in the Americas.



Dr. Stephen Sears

This year, TAMIU's A.R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business maintained its business accreditation by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) with its most recent continuous improvement review.

The Sanchez School of Business joins a select group of only 5.7% of business schools of the estimated 16,593 business schools worldwide to be AACSB-accredited.

Sanchez School **Dean Dr. Stephen Sears** said this accreditation review is especially noteworthy as it reflects a new set of more stringent accreditation standards.

"In the past, accreditation reviews were conducted on a 10-year cycle. That cycle has been shortened to a five-year cycle and in addition reflects elevated standards of faculty performance, research, and tenure. We endorse the vision of these higher expectations as business education is dynamic -- and so should be the standards expected for an accredited institution," Dr. Sears explained.

Sears noted that among the AACSB standards is that 75% of semester credit hours delivered by Business School faculty must be by full-time, engaged faculty. The Sanchez School faculty has grown to meet and exceed that benchmark.

AACSB Accreditation is a hallmark of excellence in business education, requires business schools to meet specific standards of excellence and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing continuous improvement to ensure the School continues to deliver the highest quality of education to students.

TAMIU PROFESSORS SPEARHEAD AWARENESS FOR TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Earlier this year, a group of TAMIU faculty members presented a special awareness panel to draw attention to the earthquakes that killed over 50,000 in Turkey and Syria in February '23.

The panel, titled "Turkey-Syria Earthquake Relief Effort," offered insight into the short- and long-term impacts of the earthquake, challenges of rebuilding, and importance of helping the affected countries.

The panelists included **Dr. Huseyin Cinoglu**, associate professor of Criminal Justice, **Dr. Irma Cantú**, associate professor of Spanish, **Dr. Peter Haruna**, professor of Public Administration, and **Dr. Virginia Berndt**, assistant professor of Sociology.

Dr. Cinoglu, a Turkey native, spoke of the personal tragedy of seeing his homeland destroyed by the series of earthquakes. He noted that while Turkey and Syria are no strangers to natural disasters, the earthquake dramatically surpassed its predecessors, thus presenting challenges beyond the coping capacity of governments involved.

Dr. Cantú, a Spanish professor, discussed the difference between charity and solidarity. Dr. Haruna, who heads the University's graduate program in Public Administration, explored the arduous process of rebuilding structures, systems, and government services. Dr. Berndt discussed the gendered impact of earthquakes.

The organizers expressed their hope that initiatives like the panel discussion bring awareness about the need for all to simply assist one another. They also shared opportunities for charitable giving by providing approved and vetted online options such as the World Central Kitchen, The UN Refugee Agency and Doctors Without Borders.



Dr. Peter Haruna



Dr. Irma Cantú



Dr. Virginia Berndt



Dr. Huseyin Cinoglu

TAMIU STUDENTS



(L) Emmanuel Reyes Corona

TAMIU STUDENT INTERN HELPS NURTURE GREEN LEGACY AT SMITHSONIAN

The next time you visit the gardens of the Smithsonian Institution, look at the leafy boughs that frame and shade

the gardens. You might be looking at some legacy beneficiaries of research and service provided by TAMIU student intern **Emmanuel Reyes Corona**, a Communication major.

Reyes was selected as an intern in a partnership with the Emerson Collective, an organization focused on education, immigration reform, the environment, media and journalism, and health founded by **Laurene Powell Jobs**.

As a Smithsonian Leadership for Change Intern, Reyes worked on four different projects over the paid eight-week program.

One project comprehensively analyzed trees according to their ability to contribute to potentially increased urban forest diversity or to the conservation or assisted migration of vulnerable plant groups. Another focused on examining, analyzing, and improving eight educational lesson plans that expanded student tree knowledge about the Washington, D.C. area. The third saw Reyes write a first-ever Smithsonian report card on its 2022 sustainability initiatives. The fourth researched the crape myrtle tree and its new insect pest, the crape myrtle bark scale, which has seen an outbreak in the past two years in the Smithsonian Gardens. Reyes wrote a documentary video script, recorded it, and edited it as part of his communication degree skills.

Reyes said the internship provided him with a better understanding of teamwork communication, the proper handling of several projects, improved interpersonal skills, and an enriching cultural experience.

TAMIU STUDENTS, ALUM GARNER AWARDS AT GET PHIT SUMMIT

Alums and students from TAMIU earned several awards during the Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology (GET PHIT) First Annual Summit, held this Fall in Houston.

Their efforts garnered two distinct awards: Best Poster Winner and Runner-Up Best Poster.

The poster winner, “Does your Major Matter? Examining the Relationship between Students’ Academic Majors and the Benefits of a Public Health Informatics Undergraduate Research Experience,” was presented by undergraduate Biology major **Nereyda Molina** and graduate Psychology major **Jenna Arsuaga**.



The runner-up poster winner, “The Significance of Socio-cultural and Demographic Factors in Bipolar Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder,” was presented by TAMIU alum and Texas A&M University Ph.D. student **Saliha García** (’21,’22) and undergraduate Biology major **Ana Ramos**.

Also presenting were undergraduate Public Health major **Lizett Cruz**, whose project was titled, “Correlation Between Abortion, Socioeconomic Factors, and Legislations in Texas and California,” and undergraduate Management Information Systems and Data Analytics major **Simileoluwa Odunuga** with, “E-Prevention is Better than Cure.”

The GET PHIT Summit, held at the Cooley University Life Center in Houston, was made possible through the UTHealth Houston School of Public Health and School of Biomedical Informatics.

A GET PHIT Summer Bootcamp is scheduled at TAMIU July 8 – 19, 2024.

TAMIU FUTURE TEACHERS GARNER STATE, NATIONAL AWARDS IN COMPETITION

TAMIU College of Education students are creating a legacy for themselves and others...as future teachers.



TAMIU College of Education students excelled at the recent Texas Association of Future Educators Teach Tomorrow Summit.

A team of College of Education students excelled at the spring Texas Association of Future Educators Teach Tomorrow Summit and the national competition held this summer in Florida.

The Texas competition was attended by 11 TAMIU students and faculty advisor **Dr. Seth Sampson**, TAMIU assistant professor of School Counseling, and **Vanessa Almaraz**, co-faculty advisor. Nine of the 11 students placed in the competition.

Competing students included **Katherine Aleman**, **Megan Flores**, **Jorge Guajardo**, **Elda Guzman**, **Angel Hierro**, **Ashley Hernández**, **Krystal Inclán**, **Haziel Mota**, **Andrea Martínez**, **Raquel Rodríguez**, and **Roberto Salinas**.

At the national competition, students **Katherine Alemán**, **Elda Guzmán**, **Haziel Mota**, and **Raquel Rodríguez** placed first in a research-supported presentation on positive practices in schools to support students with emotional disturbances.

Roberto Heirro earned First Place in public speaking, addressing the teacher shortage crisis.

Haziel Mota also earned First Place delivering a speech about pursuing a career in education.

Meagan Flores and **Andrea Martínez** also earned First Place for their creation of materials to implement a lesson and facilitate students' achievement of objectives.

Katherine Alemán and **Elda Guzmán** were awarded Second Place for their preparation of an interactive display board and oral presentation focused on classroom use to teach a lesson.

Elda Guzmán and **Krystal Inclán** earned Third Place for writing and illustrating a book that was presented to an audience.

Dr. Sampson said the students prepared diligently for both competitions and

truly excelled at state and national competitive levels.

"The students practiced a great deal for each of the competitions and developed action plans for executing each of their competitive events," Sampson said, "Our students were amazing and exceeded their expectations and represented TAMIU, and the Laredo community with integrity."

TAMIU STUDENTS

TAMIU MUSIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR TALENT

Several TAMIU music students in the College of Arts and Sciences, department of Fine and Performing Arts garnered numerous accolades for their musical talents.

Dante G. Carreón, a junior music performance major and budding classical pianist under the direction of **Dr. Friedrich Gechter**, was chosen as the 2023 Adam's Music House Fellowship recipient. Adam's Music House is an Austin-based organization that fosters an appreciation for classical piano. Carreón

was recommended by

Gechter, TAMIU associate

professor of. Upon completion of the Fellowship, Carreón will receive \$1,000.

Ricardo Hernández, flautist and senior majoring in Music – All-Level Certification, recently submitted a recording of “Orange Dawn” by composer Ian Clarke. The submission was sent to the Carolyn Nussbaum Music Company in Plano, TX, which sponsored a workshop and masterclass by Clarke. Hernández was invited to play the piece during the workshop, and masterclass performers were selected to participate in a master class with Clarke.

Carlos Merino-Gutiérrez, flautist and senior majoring in Music Performance, participated in the Texas Flute Society Collegiate/Adult Masterclass Competition. After submitting a recorded musical

piece, Merino-Gutiérrez won a spot to perform at the Texas Flute Society Festival in Trophy Club, TX. Merino-Gutiérrez was the only winner chosen from Texas.

Hernández and Merino-Gutiérrez study under the direction of **Melissa Hinojosa**, TAMIU adjunct faculty member.

TAMIU offers a Bachelor of Music Education and a Bachelor of Music in Performance. A music minor is also available.

TAMIU BIOLOGY STUDENTS TAKE PART IN RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

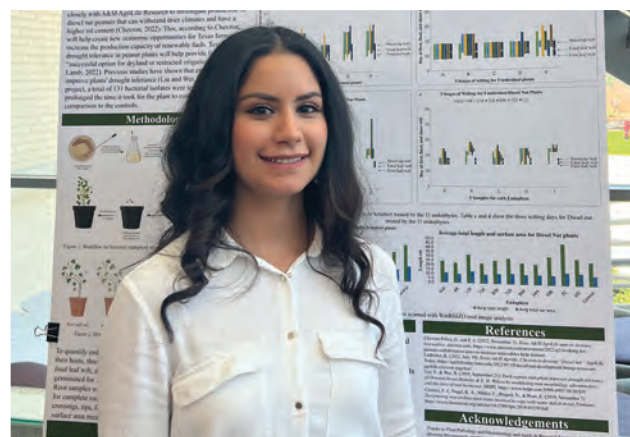
Two TAMIU students recently completed an undergraduate research opportunity through the Texas A&M University's School of Agriculture & Life Sciences' department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology.

TAMIU students **Ana Ramos** and **Geysira Vela** took part in the 2023 Summer Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates at the Interface of Plant, Microbial, and Bioenvironmental Sciences, held in College Station. Students attending the summer-long research experience focused on learning the fundamentals of biological research while taking part in independent research activities.

Ramos, a senior Biology major, noted that the opportunity to complete the research project aligned with her future career goals. Her readiness for this



Dante G. Carreón

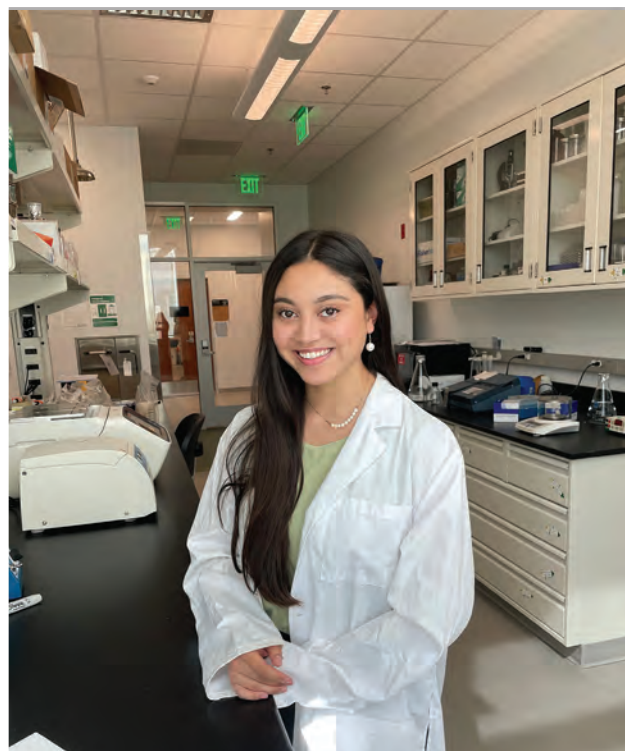


Geysira Vela

opportunity was bolstered by undergraduate research experiences, including undergraduate research under **Dr. Sharmin Hasan**, assistant professor of Biology, **Dr. Michael Kidd**, associate professor and chair of the TAMIU department of Biology and Chemistry, and **Dr. Amanda Muñoz**, assistant professor of Biology.

Vela, a TAMIU junior Biology major, started her college journey as a research volunteer due to her enthusiasm to be a part of the scientific community. She was informed of the opportunity by her University research mentor, **Dr. Ruvini Pathirana**, TAMIU assistant professor of Microbiology, who emphasized engaging in different opportunities.

“Undergraduate research can be valuable to all students – students will learn the classroom topics and concepts by being involved in it through research. Undergraduate research experiences hone the skills that all employers seek in college graduates such as teamwork, time-management, effective communication skills, analytical skills and critical thinking skills,” said Dr. Pathirana.



Ana Ramos

STAY SOCIAL.

WE <3 SEEING YOU ON SOCIAL, DUSTDEVILS!
HERE'S SOME OF OUR “VIRAL” SOCIAL MEDIA POSTINGS. #TXAMIU



UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS



DUSTDEVIL ATHLETICS '23 SETS LEGACIES ON/ OFF FIELD

2022-23 was a successful year for Dustdevil Athletics. The Department reached great heights with the volleyball team setting a program record for wins in a season, making the postseason for the first time since 2012 and earning its first postseason victory in the NCAA Era.



Carla Arellano

Mauricio Figueroa of the Men's Golf Team was also a highlight on the season. He placed third in the NCAA National Championship, was ranked No. 1 in NCAA

Division II preseason, and earned NCAA Division II PING Second team All-American Honors.

TAMIU's 11 programs saw team grade point averages above a 3.0 and 25 student-athletes had a perfect 4.0 for the Fall semester. Some 98 Dustdevils were named to the Fall 2022 LSC Commissioner's

Honor Roll and 106 Dustdevils did so in the Spring semester.

Baseball earned the school's first win over a No. 1 ranked team when they defeated Angelo State 2-1 in April.

Men's Basketball came one win shy of qualifying for the LSC Tournament after winning 18 games and the Women's Basketball season started the season with an 11-4 record -- including a six-game winning



Mauricio Figueroa



Rai Brown

streak. **Rai Brown** of Women's Basketball also set a program record for points in a game with 39.

TAMIU Dance won first place in Hip-Hop at the DTU Virtual Championship.

Men's and Women's Cross Country also shown with a victory at the Our Lady of the Lake University Invite.

Men's Soccer had plenty of highlights throughout the season, including a 1-0 win over No. 18 Midwestern State on the road. Women's Soccer had a big victory of its own when it defeated No. 14 West Texas A&M 3-1 to end the season on a high note.

Softball had a pair of ranked wins, defeating No. 19 Oklahoma Christian and No. 11 Lubbock Christian.

Multiple individual athletes also won accolades.

Emma Lade, Robin Verhoeven, Tajani Fairclough, Hannah Thompson, Megan Menchaca, Tiras Morton, Meli Hornedo and Jermaine Drewey all won LSC Player of the Week in their respective sports.

Follow our legacies to come at godustdevils.com



Jermaine Drewey



Cody Thompson

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH



WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE LEGACY OF HEALTHY COMMUNITY

When we come together, we can accelerate progress and nurture healthy legacies.

This Spring, over 120 TAMIU students, faculty, and community members came together as part of an innovative community listening session focused on food and health hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas A&M AgriLife's Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture (IHA) at TAMIU.

This national listening session, "Building a Healthy Community Together," provided input from the Hispanic community to help ensure USDA's science-based solutions on nutrition and diet-related chronic diseases are impactful and relevant to the communities it serves.

USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, and Chief Scientist **Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young** said she was impressed with the Laredo response and engagement.

"The overwhelming response from the Laredo community demonstrates the importance of community-based conversations linking healthy eating and disease prevention. We appreciated

the eagerness and engagement of participants who shared important perspectives about their communities' lived experiences in accessing healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate foods," Dr. Jacobs-Young said.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Dr. F. M. Canseco School of Nursing students helped facilitate conversations and collect responses. A "share fair" provided information and community resources

while a food demonstration showcased a healthy watermelon salad.

TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz** said the University was honored to partner with USDA and IHA.

"We are keenly aware of the diet-related health disparities in our community and how certain food choices can, unfortunately, lead to health outcomes including diet-related chronic diseases and cancer. This initiative offered a positive opportunity to gain and share knowledge and impact solutions," Dr. Arenaz noted.

Information gathered will be used by TAMIU and IHA to enhance Laredo programs and activities supporting health and well-being. It will inform USDA's future research, education, extension, and program efforts, while others can use the findings to develop more effective programs, services, and initiatives promoting community health and wellness.

"By partnering together, we can accelerate progress towards a shared goal of improving health through food and nutrition and reducing the burden of diet-related chronic diseases for all individuals, families, and communities in this country," the USDA Summary Report on the initiative concludes.

Read the report and see video story sessions here:
https://www.nutrition.gov/topics/ascend-better-health/engagement/laredo_



TAMIU VOLUNTEERS GENERATE 20,000+ 'BIG EVENT' COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Some 520 volunteers including TAMIU students, faculty, staff, and alumni donned their gardening gloves and planted trees during “The Big Event,” the University’s annual TAMIU day of service March 23, 2023.

Together, they generated some 20,800 hours of community service with an approximate monetary impact of \$475,000. Participants gathered at North Central Park, planting 150 trees, painting a mural, and picking up trash and debris.

TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz** lauded the students’ efforts.

“You students are true ambassadors for TAMIU in our community ...and people in our community know that TAMIU students make a difference here, engage here, and make life better here. I’m enormously proud of the impact our Big Event participants have each and every year,” Dr. Arenaz said.

This is the 14th year students served their community through “The Big Event.”

Organizers took their inspiration from Texas A&M University in College Station, the home of The Big Event.

All beautification efforts were brought about by the University’s Student Government Association L.O.V.E. Committee, Keep Laredo Beautiful, and the City of Laredo.

The Big Event initially began at Texas A&M University in College Station in 1982, and has since been adopted by dozens of universities, serving communities across the nation. Embraced in 2009 by the TAMIU community, The Big Event has quickly become one of the University’s largest service initiatives.

See a highlight video at go.tamiau.edu/thebigeventvideo

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH



PARTNERSHIP TAMIU: AN ALLIANCE FOR GOOD AFFIRMS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LEGACY

Five local community-serving agencies have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) affirming their commitment to Partnership TAMIU: An Alliance for Good and its legacy of community engagement.

The MOA signing further empowers student learning at TAMIU while also focusing on service opportunities that provide much-needed help to community agencies.

Partnership TAMIU agencies include Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation, Laredo Immigrant Alliance, Laredo Regional Food Bank, Southwest Key Programs: Las Promesas de Laredo, and the Washington's Birthday Celebration Association. Signature partners sign three-year MOAs with TAMIU for exclusive collaborative efforts.

Through these established partnerships, TAMIU seeks to affirm its continued commitment to improving its local community, explained **Mayra Hernández**, Student Conduct and Community Engagement director.

"Studies have shown that civically engaged students can contribute to a community's economic growth and build reciprocal relationships that foster transformational change. Transformational change is about adopting new processes and innovative ways of thinking to make the community more successful and increase the quality of services that provide a better quality of life," noted Hernández.

Launched in Fall 2014, Partnership TAMIU: An Alliance for Good is a nomination-based community engagement agreement that enhances existing relationships between TAMIU and external agencies. The TAMIU partnerships help community partner agencies meet their respective agency's mission and goals, promote the exchange of resources between the University and the agency, and attest to a commitment to social responsibility regarding issues of public concern.

SECOND ANNUAL BILINGUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT TAMIU

Some 400+ participants participated in the 2023 TAMIU Second Annual Unidos Para Texas Bilingual Education Conference.

The Conference theme, “Developing Thriving Teachers,” included 28 presentations scheduled across campus, in addition to morning and noon distinguished keynote presenters. Participants attended from across the State. Conference chair was **Dr. Gilda Y. Martínez**, TAMIU Instructional Assistant Professor.

The morning opening session keynote speaker was given by **Dr. Norma Elia Cantú** ('73) who presented “Quien habla dos idiomas vale por dos: A Personal Testimonio.” Dr. Cantú, a Laredo native and daughter of the borderlands, is the Norine R. and T. Frank Murchison Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University in San Antonio.

Dr. Patricia Sosa-Sánchez, also originally from Laredo, was the noon keynote speaker. She presented “Native Language Support: Bridging Comprehension of Academic Language with Translingual Mentor Text.” Dr. Sosa-Sánchez is an Assistant Professor of Bilingual/English as a Second

Language (ESL) at the University of North Texas-Dallas and Program Coordinator for Bilingual/ESL and LOTE programs.

TAMIU Dean of the College of Education **Dr. James O'Meara** said the Conference affirmed the College's leading regional role in the preparation of bilingual educators.

“We are proud to be the leading producer of bilingual teacher candidates in our region and excited to have offered this professional growth opportunity to our bilingual education colleagues here and beyond,” Dr. O'Meara affirmed.



TAMIU-SANE PROGRAM CREATES LASTING LEGACY IN HEALTHCARE

There is possibly no greater legacy than that which addresses gaps in healthcare.

That's something that a federally-funded program at TAMIU is addressing in the critical area of sexual assault, where trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) conduct assessments, recognize and respond to trauma, protect against sexually transmitted infections, and collect evidence needed to prosecute.

Regrettably, SANE-certified nurses are few, and broad swaths of regions and states are often without an examiner, prompting victims to travel many miles for care. Sadly, some can't and try to recover on their own.

But TAMIU's College of Nursing and Health Sciences is bridging that gap through a collaborative certification program building resilience for the expansive and underserved U.S.-México border. Organizers believe it offers a model for others to follow.

Dean of the College **Dr. Marivic Torregosa** explained TAMIU's SANE's program and impact.

“THE TAMIU-SANE program is blessed to work with 23 local and external partners to create a program that since its 2018 inception has successfully certified 36 OAG-certified SANEs. We've expanded to certify 15 Pediatric SANEs, and secured 16 additional Adult and Adolescent Certifications,” Dr. Torregosa said.

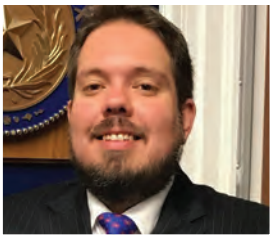
“These SANE-certified nurses see people at what is most likely the darkest, scariest moment in their lives. The experience that these survivors have been through is horrendous, and life-altering, and requires the full attention of a trained professional who can be a pillar of hope to help survivors move forward to healing,” she explained.

“Most importantly, SANE nurses provide crucial emotional support for survivors and act as vital links for survivors to receive counseling services, legal assistance, and support from survivor advocacy groups,” she concluded.



Dr. Marivic Torregosa

TAMU ALUMNI



JUAN SÁNCHEZ ('09)

Laredo native **Juan Sánchez** was sworn in to serve as the Federal Co-Chairman of the Southwest Border Regional Commission. Sanchez has served in public service

for over 12 years. His current role is as Director of Economic Development and Special Initiatives for Senator **Martin Heinrich**, a Democratic senator from New Mexico.

Raised in Laredo, he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from TAMU in 2009. He is experienced working with local, state, and federal government entities to promote economic growth and development in South Texas and New Mexico. He has helped create the first bipartisan humanitarian aid reimbursement program for border communities, boosting investment from the federal government in water infrastructure projects and more.



DR. ALEX BARRERA ('13)

Dr. Alex Barrera leads a double life as a dentist and a yoga instructor. He's a dentist in Houston at Legacy Community Health and a yoga instructor at Black Swan Yoga. In 2013,

Barrera graduated from TAMU with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, and in 2017 graduated from The University of Texas School of Dentistry. He is a proud LGBTQ+ health advocate and is furthering his pride in practice as president of the Houston Equality Dental Network (HEDN), a nonprofit organization started in 2019 to address the lack of LGBTQ+ representation in dentistry.

"My goal as an LGBTQ+ health advocate is to empower queer people to live healthier lives. I want to

make it easier for LGBTQ+ people to access primary care like regular visits with a doctor or dentist," he said.

He said HEDN's vision is expansive.

"Our vision is to end LGBTQ+ discrimination in dentistry through awareness, education, and action. We hope to increase access to oral health care, representation in dentistry, and ensuring we teach dentists and students how to be better allies," he said.



SANDRA MENDIOLA ALANIZ ('89)

This year marks 10 years since the opening of RE/MAX Real Estate Services in Laredo, by **Sandra Mendiola Alaniz**.

In 2013, she partnered with

RE/MAX LLC to bring innovative real estate services to Laredo and surrounding areas. She is a licensed Real Estate Broker/Owner for RE/MAX Real Estate Services, servicing people in Laredo and surrounding areas. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration at TAMU. She has been a long-time business owner and decided to pursue her interest in real estate 20 years ago.



ALEJANDRO GARCÍA ('00)

Alejandro García has joined TxDOT as the director of communications and public affairs. García will direct and coordinate the department's overall

communications and public affairs strategy, overseeing the communications and travel information divisions. He has a wealth of experience and a vast portfolio in communications, public affairs, government relations, state policy and campaigns. He previously served as director of communications for the Texas Office of the Attorney General. He holds a Bachelor's degree in

Political Science with a minor in Criminal Justice from TAMIU and a Master's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



AUSTIN MARTÍNEZ ('19)

Austin Martínez

is a 2017 graduate of Texas A&M University, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He earned a Master of Business Administration in

International Business from TAMIU in 2019.

A Laredo native, Austin is passionate about Hispanic/Latino advancement and addressing issues surrounding financial literacy and inclusion. A public policy and outreach professional based in San Antonio, He works at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and is tasked with strategic initiatives and fostering connections to the people of the 11th Federal Reserve District.

He previously served under U.S. Congressman **Joaquin Castro** (TX-20) where he was responsible for providing direct services to Texas residents, particularly in low-to-moderate income areas. During the height of the Pandemic, he was instrumental in facilitating access to federal agencies and addressing issues related to immigration, small business, and social services. Austin enjoys spending his free time with loved ones and his Husky, Kira.



DANIELA MATA ('19)

Daniela Mata

has been named Astronomy's newest associate editor. She earned her B.S. in Mathematics at TAMIU in 2019 and went on to earn a Master's degree in

Astrophysics at the Université Côte d'Azur in Nice, France. Her specialization was galactic archaeology. For her final internship, she focused on retrograde metal-rich stars in the Milky Way, classifying their

origins. She also studied populations of stars near the galactic center.



MAURICIO ROUSSELON ('23)

New alumnus **Mauricio Rousselon** has a lot to celebrate – all fueled by his desire to learn.

"I have always known education and the desire to learn are like second nature to me. I have been blessed with a gift that allows me to go forward with my studies and overcome any challenges. It would not be wise of me to let that gift go to waste," he noted.

Mauricio was diagnosed with cancer in 2016 and saw it as a new challenge.

"It was a moment of introspection when I reevaluated my life. Should I just stay, cry, and go to the doctor? Or accept it and take another challenge? While I was going through radiation, I decided to pursue my Master's degree as it would keep my mind busy. Today I am thankful to God because I got to fulfill both of my goals: I am now in remission, and I successfully finished my degree," he said.



MÓNICA Y. MARTÍNEZ, ('09)

The Laredo Chamber of Commerce has selected **Mónica Y. Martínez** as its new Executive Director.

Martinez is a TAMIU graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2009. She is pursuing a Master of Business Administration, also at TAMIU.

As Executive Director, Martinez has strategic goals she wants to achieve with the Chamber's Board of Directors and various committees. She says her focus is on increasing membership and services that the Chamber provides its associates and the community at large.

TAMIU ALUMNI



Aisha Christa Atkinson

TAMIU ALUM NAMED 2023 TEXAS MOTHER OF THE YEAR

TAMIU
alum **Aisha
Christa Atkinson**
(’20) was named
the 2023 Texas

Mother of the Year by
American Mothers, Inc. (AMI).

She is the 71st woman in Texas history to hold this honor. Atkinson and other honorees from across the United States were recognized during the AMI’s 88th National Convention.

Atkinson earned a master’s degree in Educational Administration from TAMIU. She is a member of the Texas Council for Teachers of English Language Arts 2022-24 Rising Leader Cohort and a committee chair for the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee in the Fort Bend Independent School District.

She is also a contributing writer for *Education Week*, the George Lucas Educational Foundation’s Edutopia, and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s** Teacher2Teacher and Principal Project.

AMI is a national non-profit, nonpartisan organization that selects the National Mother of the Year from honorees representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since 1935, the organization has selected a Mother of the Year.

Supporters of the organization have included **Sarah Delano Roosevelt**, and former First Ladies **Mamie Eisenhower**, **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and more.

ALUM RETURNS TO TAMIU AS CHIEF OF POLICE



Cordelia G. Pérez

When TAMIU Chief of Police **Cordelia G. Pérez** (’14) looks out across the sprawling 300-acre TAMIU campus, she sees a new legacy for her impressive career in law enforcement.

She’s quick to remind that it’s this campus that was home to her earning her Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. That degree was a cornerstone in a groundbreaking Laredo Police Department career focused on leadership in community policing, and advocacy for, and outreach to victims of crimes.

TAMIU president **Dr. Pablo Arenaz** said this powerful combination has well prepared Pérez for a new legacy as the first female Hispanic Chief of Police at TAMIU.

“She’s a role model and truly represents our ‘Go Beyond’ vision for our campus, its students and its graduates. We’re tremendously proud of her and her team,” Dr. Arenaz said.

Pérez has now completed her first year of service as TAMIU’s Police Chief.

“It’s definitely a full-circle moment for me. TAMIU empowered me to build a foundation that helped secure my future. It’s now doing the same for over 8,500 students here each semester. Nothing is more important to me than their safety,” Chief Pérez said.

This year has maintained her focus on two core values: compassion and empathy.

“We work best by listening, acknowledging our shared humanity, and working together to find a solution. TAMIU is an extended family and a home away from home for many. As a family, we’re committed to maintaining the safest and most welcoming environment for our University community and visitors,” Pérez observed.

Pérez notes that she has a great team sharing that commitment.

TAMIU COMM GRAD NOW OFFERS INSPIRING LEGACY FOR STUDENTS

Dr. Melissa Santillana ('11, '17), an assistant professor in Texas Tech University's Department of Journalism and Creative Media Industries, believes her forged legacy will be students who are inspired and empowered to speak up in the face of injustice.

While her route to Communication study may be unusual, it's been no less consequential.

"I came to TAMIU after doing one year of Med school in Monterrey, México. I was a little unsure as to what I wanted to do next, and a recruitment officer said I could take some time to figure it out and enroll as undeclared. My first semester I took a photography class with **Associate Professor Marcela Morán** and fell in love with the dark room and the entire photographic process. That's why I decided to major in Communication," she recalled.

The opportunities at TAMIU further sharpened her focus on Communication.

"I have a lot of good memories from TAMIU. The Communication Department's faculty was incredibly supportive, encouraging, and kind. During my undergrad, I participated in several projects with **Dr. María Flores** and Prof. Morán. I remember Dr. Flores who was supervising *The Bridge*, — the student newspaper — reached out to me and asked me to submit my work to the paper. That's something that I would've never thought to do on my own and felt very proud once it was published. Another great experience was when I was 'appointed' curator of a student photo exhibit, a project for one of Prof. Moran's advanced photography classes. It was very helpful to experience the curatorial process and I learned how to feel comfortable and assertive when making big decisions," she recalled.

With her undergraduate degree in hand, she returned for a graduate degree, working with **Dr. José Carlos Lozano**, chair of the department of Psychology and Communication, and professors **Dr. Stuart Davis** and **Dr. Ariadne González**.

"I was part of the first cohort of the Master's in Communication program. I think I was lucky because as the department was figuring out the shape of the program, I was truly encouraged to take on as many research projects as I wanted. One of my favorite memories is all the field and conference trips we took

together," she said. Santillana has gone on to work around the State, but says there's something special about TAMIU students.

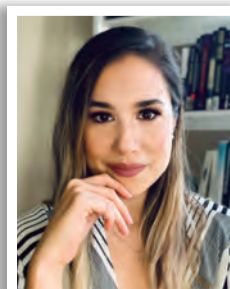
"I've worked at different universities and I can say without a doubt that TAMIU has some of the hardest-working students I've ever met. A lot of my students had part-time and even full-time jobs, and this allowed them to bring that work experience into the classroom. When I was an adjunct, I encouraged students to design research projects in line with their interests that would help them get the jobs they wanted after graduation," she explained.

Her research today deals primarily with activism, protest, and social movements.

"I am currently working on a book project that explores the communicative processes and events surrounding the Mexican Feminist Spring of 2019-2020...which started when I was a graduate student at TAMIU in 2016. Dr. Lozano and Dr. Davis worked with me to design a small research project in an expedited manner, even though it was more of a 'side' project, completely unrelated to my thesis, or the work I needed to do to graduate," she explained. She is clear-eyed about what she wants her research and life's work to do.

"If my work can do one thing, I wish it could change the ways we think about protest and protestors. I think there is a lot of stigma toward mass mobilizations and groups demanding better treatment or conditions. In particular, I wish communication professionals — especially journalists and those in mass media — would break away from professional routines and engage in nuanced, fair coverage of social movements. I hope my legacy to my students is that they always feel inspired and empowered to speak up in the face of injustice. I tell my students that they don't have to change the world after graduation. Little things like offering a fresh perspective at an editorial meeting or making people a little uncomfortable with their routines in the newsroom can have a big impact on the way we produce and consume news," she concluded.

Learn more from Melissa Santillana at go.tamiau.edu/santillana-lmas



Melissa Santillana

ANNUAL GIVING 2022-23

President's Society

(\$25,000.00 +)

American Petroleum Institute-Border Chapter
Nancy N. and Javier de Anda
Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity
Charles Butt Foundation
Doctors Hospital of Laredo
EOG Resources, Inc.
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Gontor Logistics
D. D. Hachar Charitable Trust Fund
Halliburton
John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation
Laredo Area Community Foundation
Louis P. LaVaude
Diana S. and Albert T. Lowry
Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Foundation
Ann* and George* Neel
Elizabeth and Hank Sames
A. R. and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation
Schlumberger
Frank M. Staggs, Sr.
Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust
Welch Foundation

Dean's Circle

(\$10,000.00 +)

Falcon International Bank
Greater Houston Community Foundation
Improved Order of Red Men of Texas - 16 Redwing Council
Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Laredo
Laredo Rehabilitation Hospital LLC
Laredo Specialty Hospital
Dr. Francisco Leal and Mrs. Nora Muñoz Leal
L.I.F.E. Scholarship Fund
McLaughlin Doty Foundation
Pilar Munoa
Proexi Logistics LLC
Redman Tomahawk Tribe, No. 28
Audrey and Carlos M. Zaffirini, Jr.

Chair's Circle

(\$5,000.00 +)

ALPFA, Inc.
Cape May County District Technical School District
Chickasaw Nation Education Services
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

Consulate General of Mexico
Doctors Hospital Auxiliary
Hector Hall
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
John B. Alexander High School
Kaleidoscope Group, PBC
Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club
Mendoza Maintenance Group, Inc.
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.
Mid Rio Grande Border Area Health Education Center
National Collegiate Athletic Association
Rosanne Palacios
PGA of America South Texas Section
Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
Richer T. P. W. INC.
San Angelo Area Foundation
Texas Association of Developing Colleges
Texas Mutual Insurance Company
The Be It Foundation, INC.
United High School

Scholar's Circle -

(\$1,000.00 +)

A+ Federal Credit Union
AMVETS Department of Ohio
Service Foundation
Auxiliary to Laredo Medical Center
Bank of America
Bell County Sheriff's Department Foundation
Belton Educational Enrichment Foundation
Grizelda and Ralph Black, Jr.
Blue Diamond Capital LLC
Alicia and Vidal Cantu, Jr.
Cherokee Nation
Christ the King Catholic Church
Coastal Bend Community Foundation
Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, Inc.
Compass Group, North America
Cougar Club
Elysian Social Club
Estes Express Lines
Funso Fagbongbe
Sandra '92 and Peter Fallgatter '92
Flour Bluff Independent School District
Veronica and Luis Garcia
Greater Than Expectation, Inc.
Leonor and Frank Guerra
Adela* and Manuel Guerra
Raul Guerra '90
Christina '99 and Albert Gutierrez, III
H-E-B Grocery Company

International Society of Automation
Khoury AutoWorld LLC
Knights of Columbus 17991
Chih-Yung Kuo
La Salle County Fair Association, Inc.
Laredo Area Retired School Employee Association
Laredo Country Club
Laredo Independent School District Educational Foundation
Laredo Migrant Counsel
Laredo Pan American Golf Association
Laredo Theater Guild International
Trevor C. Liddle
Lyndon B. Johnson High School
Alejandro A. Martinez, Jr. '89
Maverick Athletic Booster Club
McDonald's Restaurant
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Military Family Association
Oklahoma City Community Foundation
Patriot Cargo Solutions LLC
Pearsall Independent School District
Phi Delta Kappa International
PNC Bank
Powell Watson Motors, Inc.
ProvisionBridge
PSJA Education Foundation
Patricia and Renato Ramirez
Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Diana '79 and Abelardo Samaniego
Security State Bank South Texas
JoEmma and Edward Sherfey, Jr.
Sports In Action LLC
TAMU Alumni Association
Texas Interscholastic League Foundation
Texas Tennis and Education Foundation
The Dallas Foundation
The Joe H. Anderson, Jr. Foundation
The Stanzel Family Foundation, Inc.
Thurman Crawford Charitable Trust
Miguel A. Trevino
Tulsa Community Foundation
Lynne Twiss
TXCPA Education Foundation
United South High School
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI)
Webb Soil & Water Conservation District No. 337
Women's City Club
Zapata Lions Club

University Partner's

Circle (\$500.00 +)

Jeannette '83 and Charles Fox
Leonor and Frank Guerra
Alan Lamoglia
Laredo Lawn, Inc.
Joshua Llamas '16
LULAC Council #7
James P. McGrath
Elaine Mendoza and Larry Gay
Sergio A. Perez '14
Lu Rao '90 and Zhao Liu
Marty Speer '89
Tuesday Music & Literature Club
Eduardo Vidales
Shawn D. Young

Century Circle

(\$100.00 +)

Flora Aguero '72
Christie '17 and Tayeb Ahmadi '17
AIG Retirement Services
Elia P. Alaniz '99
Patsy and Jesus Alaniz, Jr. '95
Andrew Alexander
Juan G. Alfaro '03
Judith and Stephen Alton, JD
Teena and Joe E. Arciniega
Cecilia '72 and Ricardo Arredondo '71
Alma Arredondo-Lynch
Elizabeth Ball
Guadalupe E. Bazaldua '77
Donald and Rayma Beal
Jennifer and Edward Beckelhymer
Doris '81 and James Bell, PhD
Dr. Luis Benavides and Gloria Benavides
Maggie Blasco '98, '01
Jackelyne K. Briseno '15, '19
Aide Brooks
Patty and Ernest Bruni, III
Gene L. Burgess
Bibiana '09 and Aaron Calderon '09
Adalia '03 and Aaron Canales
Diana Valdez '06, '14 and Hector Cantu '07, '11
Dr. Vanessa Carpenter and Dr. Joe Castellano, Jr.
Andrew L. Carranco '21
Elizabeth and Alfonso Casso, Jr.
Gabriel Castilleja '13, '15
David Chapa '11
Óscar Cisneros '94, '97
County of Webb
Jaclyn de la Vina '03, '10 and Carlos Mendez
Betty De Leon
June Deadrick
Lorna P. Espinoza '18, '20
Susy Farias
Mary and Robert Freeman, II
The Honorable Anna Galo and The Honorable John Galo

Ricardo Garcia '10
 Olga P. '90, '98 and Richard E. Gentry
 Viola and Reynaldo Godines, MD
 Jose E. Gomez '16
 Angela L. Gonzalez
 Eliza and Javier Gonzalez
 Gina '99, '01 and Gilberto Gonzalez
 Janice and Arnulfo Gonzalez, Jr.
 Marissa R. Gonzalez
 William B. Green
 Pati Guajardo and Daniel Ryan
 Briana and Clinton Herman '21
 Roberto Hernandez '05
 Maria and Jose Herrera
 Luis Hinojosa
 Ruoxu Hu '90
 Alma '02 and Arnoldo Chavez
 Raquel Juarez * '00
 Vanessa and Ruben Juarez '96
 Mark R. Lecuona
 Raquel Lopez '91, '96
 Kimberly and A.J. Maldonado
 Karen and Enrique Mejia, III
 Ruben Montoya '13, '20
 Lilsy '96 and Vicente Morales, Jr. '95
 Leticia Moran '78
 Virginia '76 and Albert Muller, Jr.
 Alma and Gilberto Narvaez, Jr. '84
 Imelda Navarro '81
 Janene Niblock
 Larry A. Norton
 Martha Olivos '05 and Adan

Gonzalez, III
 Rosa and Ricardo Ortiz, Sr. '06
 Jessica Palacios '03
 Rosanne Palacios
 Doreen and Oscar Pena
 Alfredo Perez '89, '09
 Christian J. Perez '20
 Jessica '09 and Jose Ibarra, Jr.
 Sergio A. Perez '14
 Adamo J. Pesce '97
 Rita Peters '76, '84, '86
 John Portlock
 David R. Ramirez '21
 Adriana and Ed Ramirez, Jr.
 Alfredo Ramirez '99
 Pedro L. Rivera '19
 Aceneth and Edgar Salazar
 Veronica and Ruben Serna '95
 Maria E. Siller '20
 Tami '16 and Robert Summers
 Maite and David Trachtenberg
 Judith '13 and Lee Trevino '12, '15
 Maria '72 and Ernest Trevino, Jr.
 Susana E. Valencia
 Olivia Varela
 Dr. Susan S. Walker
 Water Environment Association of
 Texas Scholarship
 Dr. Michael Grayson and Virginia
 Watkins Grayson '11
 Angela Williams

Maroon & Silver Circle (\$50.00 +)

Francisco Alvarez, Jr. '03, '11
 Patricia Benavides
 Juanita Cardenas
 Monica and Roberto Castaneda,
 Jr. '01
 Edward Castillo '19
 Brianna N. Cepeda '20, '22
 Thelma and Daniel Cuellar
 Oscar B. Espinosa '06, '13
 Alma L. Esquinca-Narvaez
 Angela Garza '99
 Elisha Gonzalez
 Hector F. Gonzalez
 Johanna Gonzalez '23
 Jorge A. Gonzalez '20
 Tracy Grimsley
 Sophie '96 and Yafu Guo '95
 Candy and Conrado M. Hein, Jr. '78
 Edgar O. Hernandez '16, '22
 Sabrina M. Hernandez '11
 Jules R. Hetland
 James H. Hickey '04
 Alexandra C. Howland '18
 Laura '85 and William Hrcnc
 Anthony Leyendecker, Jr.
 Daniela E. Magana '21
 Sofia C. Maldonado '11
 Jacqueline '93 and Jesus Martinez
 Susy R. Martinez '19

Cecilia M. Moreno '83
 Hedei '11 and Chris Newcomb
 Adriana '90, '98 and Erik Ommen '93
 Cristi '99 and Joe Palacios, Jr.
 Juan L. Perez, Jr. '07, '18
 Adriana Ramirez
 Julio Reyes, Jr. '18
 Danielle D. Rivera '13
 Maria de Lourdes '84 and Fernando
 Rodriguez, Sr.
 Adrian Salcedo '20
 Adrianna Salcedo
 Daniela A. Sanchez '19
 Dubelza E. Sanchez '05
 Calixto Seca, Jr. '88
 Angelica I. Silva '22
 Aurora '01 and Ruben Soto, Jr.
 Alicia Valdez
 Priya and Shashi Vaswani
 Julia Vela
 Rosario and Arturo Zavala '75
 Edgar A. Zavala '21
 Arlette and Raul A. Zavala '93, '96

* Denotes deceased

TAMIU ALUM'S EXPERTISE CHARTS LEGACY OF GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

TAMIU Alum **Dr. Ricardo Ortegón ('92,'96)** has channeled a lifetime of experience as a distinguished higher education administrator and college admissions counselor into a business that helps students and their families successfully navigate what can often be a complex college admissions journey. It's a legacy of guidance.

While based in Bethesda, Maryland, Dr. Ortegón serves students in the Washington, D.C. metro area, across the USA, and the world. Ortegón taps into 25+ years of experience in college admissions, enrollment management, academic advising, student retention, student success, continuing education, and international education. The services his firm provides are offered in English and Spanish.

He's had leadership roles from his hometown university, TAMIU, to Montclair State University, Ramapo College, Emerson College, The Washington Center, and American University, where he continues to serve as an adjunct faculty member.

Ortegón is committed to empowering students from diverse backgrounds and serves as a board member for More Than Bootstraps, a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education. He's also an advisory board member for the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium.

He's a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling and the Potomac and Chesapeake Association for College Admissions Counseling.

"Empowering students to navigate the college admissions journey is a commitment that transcends my experience in higher education. Through GPS College Guidance, we provide personalized support, ensuring success for students and families worldwide; it's about creating a legacy of empowerment and fostering diversity in education," Dr. Ortegón said.



Dr. Ricardo Ortegón

FACULTY AND STAFF GIVING 2022-23

President's Circle (\$25,000 +)

Dr. Pablo Arenaz
Elizabeth Jones Rubio

Dean's Circle (\$10,000+)

Rosanne Palacios

Chair's Circle (\$5,000.00 +)

Dr. Barbara H. Hong

Scholar's Circle (\$1,000+)

Dr. Jui-Chin Chang
Dr. Nathaniel P. Graham
Dr. Barbara H. Hong
Dr. John C. Kilburn, Jr.
Trevor C. Liddle
Alejandro A. Martinez, Jr. '89
Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell
Dr. James G. O'Meara
Dr. Claudia E. San Miguel '97, '99

University Partner's Circle (\$500 +)

Dr. Deborah L. Blackwell
Dr. Li Z. Brooks
Dr. Randel D. Brown
Juan J. Castillo
Dr. Guillermo C. Dominguez
Juan G. Garcia, Jr. '05, '07
Maria Elena Hernandez '82
Dr. Kevin D. Lindberg
Michelle K. Nigliazzo
Cordelia G. Perez '14
Dr. Cody Perry
Dr. Alfredo Ramirez, Jr. '93, '98
Dr. Steve Sears
Dr. Marivic B. Torregosa
Dr. Desi Vasquez
Dr. Marcus Ynalvez
Griz Zimmermann

Century Circle (\$100 +)

Dr. Patricia I. Abrego '85
Jhoanna Angeles '21
Claudio E. Arias
Grazia D. L. A. Barrera '21
Claudia C. Beltran '01, '17
Daniel Berndt
Maria Magdalena Blasco '98, '01
Dr. Manuel Broncano
Dr. Jeffrey M. Brown
Thomas R. Brown
Dr. Jack C. Byham
Maria Eugenia Calderon-Porter '99, '01
Dr. Colin A. Campbell
Ivan Cano '16, '21
Dr. Irma L. Cantu
Paty Cantu '95
Jody L. Carlisle
Dr. Yong Chen
Juan Cisneros, III '01
Dr. George R. Clarke
Daniel Covarrubias '07
Malynda M. Dalton
Dr. Lina M. De La Garza '03
Adrian Dominguez '03, '07
Dr. Stephen M. Duffy
Christa L. Elizondo '19
Laura Elizondo '95
Abigail Fernandez '15
Cristina C. Flores-Westerman
Anne R. Frey
Pat Garcia
Rocio Garcia '08, '11
Vivian I. Garcia
Ana M. Gonzalez '08
Dr. Ariadne A. Gonzalez '05
Dr. Belva J. Gonzalez
Scheiby C. Gonzalez Fisher '07, '16
Carol A. Gunnoe
Rita M. Haber '97, '06
Dr. Peter F. Haruna
Astrid Hernandez '17, '19
Mayra G. Hernandez '07
San Juanita Hernandez '03, '12
Dr. Nicholas L. Hudson
Alma V. Jasso Chavez '02
Fred Juarez, III '92, '08
Dr. Nereu F. Kock
Scott E. Libby
Patricia G. Lopez
Dr. Jose C. Lozano
Dr. Shuhong Luo
Dr. Lynne L. Manganaro
Elena Martinez '93
Dr. Gilda Y. Martinez '04, '08, '12
Dr. Curtis N. McReynolds
Jessie M. Mena
Angelica M. Michelangeli '01, '10

Henry A. Miller '00, '12
Dr. Jonathan W. Murphy
Dr. Sharity D. Nelson
Dr. Qingwen Ni
Dr. James A. Norris
Dr. Lola O. Norris '99
Dr. Angel A. Pacheco Paredes
Amelia Palacios '08, '11
Analee G. Paz
Dr. Rolando Pena-Sanchez
Jessica Perez '09
Jerry Quintero '97
Melisa R. Rangel '95, '08
Christine Rojas '12
Michelle Rubio Garcia '13, '17
Yezmin D. Salazar
Gloria Z. Sanchez '05, '09
Miguel A. Saucedo '05, '09
Jonathan P. Serna '07, '11
Dr. Filiz E. Shine
Dr. Arthur D. Soto-Vasquez
Jessica P. Tamez
Dr. Jerry D. Thompson
Ana M. Vargas '12, '14
Sonia L. Vela
Dr. Lourdes Viloria '93
Dr. Susan Wei
Dr. Richard B. Wright
Dr. Ruby A. Ynalvez

Maroon & Silver Circle (\$25 +)

Judith Abrego '15, '20
Jee E. Ahn
Mika S. Akikuni '02
Sanaa Z. M. Al Nasser '21
Stephanie L. Alderete
Raquel Urrutia '14, '17
Jose F. Arreola '08
Mariana Barberena '08
Heather K. Benavides
Rosario Benavides '12, '14
Enrique E. Botello '12
Anna Buentello '11
Cesar A. Caballero '12, '17
Kathy A. Casares
Monica A. Chavez '13, '17
Dr. Anna B. Cieslicka
Ana P. Clamont '00, '07
Cathy M. Colunga
Athena M. Cortez '05
Rosa A. Dickinson '97, '01
Melissa J. Dominguez '05
Angie Escamilla
Ofelia Escamilla-Pena
Dr. Mohammed Fuad
Eduardo Galarza '03
Dr. Nilda M. Garcia, '06, '09
Denisse Garza '12, '14

Roberto H. Garza, III '10, '13
Dr. Sergio D. Garza
Guillermo F. Gonzalez, Jr., '03, '05
Bobby Gonzalez, Jr.
Rodolfo Gonzalez
Amy L. Guerra '01, '17
Sophia A. Gutierrez
Brittany Harry
Dr. Andrew J. Hazelton
Destine D. Holmgreen '00
Yelitza M. Howard '11
Jonathan A. Hussak
Federico Juarez, III '92, '08
Dr. Michael R. Kidd
Sofia C. Maldonado '04, '06
Dr. Sumalai Maroonroge
Patricia A. Martinez '06
Mac McConnell
Philip M. Middleton
Dr. Pablo D. Morales '02
Dr. Daniel J. Mott
Dr. James A. Moyer, PhD
Dr. Ananda K. Mukherj
Dr. Jyotsna Mukherji
Dr. Monica E. Munoz '00
Dr. Paul J. Niemeyer
Patricia Ornelas '04, '13
Monica E. Palacios Robledo
Amanda C. Pena '08, '19
Martha E. Perez '19
Angelo Piccirillo '85
Mayra J. Pliego '07, '12
Juan A. Ramirez '03, '05
Blanca E. Ramos '05
Nancy Ramos '21
Benny Rodriguez
Elizabeth Rodriguez '20
Naiely M. Saldana '08, '13
Martha E. Salinas '99, '06
Marycarmen Salinas '01
Adan Sanchez '23
Dr. Bernice Y. Sanchez
Roberto G. Sanchez '84
Dr. Daniel W. Scott
Dr. Tariq H. Tashtoush
Merari T. Teran
Julio C. Tovar '22
Roberto Trevino '95
Dr. Patricia E. Uribe '91
Carlos A. Vallarta
Kristina L. Valenciano '06
Azeneth Vazquez
San Juanita Vela '01
Juana E. Villagran
Georgina Zamudio '09

**Denotes deceased*

HERITAGE SOCIETY CUMULATIVE GIVING 1970-2023

Diamond Society

(\$10,000,000 +)

Sue* and Radcliffe* Killam and Family
Maria J. and A. R. Sanchez, Jr. and Family
Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust

Platinum Society

(\$1,000,000 +)

Belia R. Benavides and Family
Canseco Foundation
E. H. Corrigan Foundation
Matias de Llano Charitable Trust
D. D. Hachar Charitable Trust Fund
Laredo Area Community Foundation
Family of Oscar M. Laurel
Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Foundation
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas Inc.
Peggy and B.P.* Newman
Georgia* and Anthony* Pellegrino
PNC Bank
Patricia and Renato Ramirez
Rio-South Texas Education Community Development Foundation
Fernando A. Salinas Charitable Trust
Elizabeth and Harry E. Sames, III
South Texas Academic Rising Scholars
Julie* and Frank* Staggs, Sr.
Evelyn and Carroll* E. Summers, Jr.
TAMU Faculty & Staff
Texas Community Bank
Dolly Richter Watson Memorial Foundation

Gold Society

(\$500,000 +)

Delfina and Josefina Alexander Family Foundation
AT&T Foundation
Frances* and Blackstone Dilworth, Jr.
Doctors Hospital of Laredo
EOG Resources, Inc.
H-E-B Grocery Company
International Bank of Commerce
Laredo Medical Center
Diana and Albert Lowry
George* and Ann* Neel
Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Health Center
TAMU Alumni Association

Silver Society

(\$250,000 +)

Branch Alliance for Educator Diversity
ConocoPhillips, Inc.
Family of Olga G. and Jorge B. Haynes
John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation

Laredo Rotary Club
City of Laredo
Olga H. LaVaude*
Meadows Foundation
Ana '82 and David T.* Newman TG
Time Warner Cable
Union Pacific Foundation
Priya and Shashi Vaswani
Welch Foundation

Bronze Society

(\$100,000 +)

AEP - AEP - American Electric Power
Norma and Pablo Arenaz, PhD
Arguindegui Oil Company
Beaumont Foundation
Campus Consortium
Commerce Bank
Nancy N. and Javier de Anda
Doctors Hospital Auxiliary
Falcon International Bank
Helene Fuld Health Trust
Juanita Galvan and Eduardo A. Garza-Robles
Elizabeth J. Gill *
Greater Texas Foundation
Adela* and Manuel Guerra
Gloria and Daniel Hastings *, Jr.
Lasker O'Keefe Hereford
Housing and Residence Life at TAMU
Nancy Smith Hurd Foundation
Sam N. Johnson *
J. A. Kavas Charitable Trust
Dr. Ray Keck, III and Patricia Keck
Cristina and Radcliffe Killam, II
Dr. W. F. King* and Dr. Edmund L. King*
Laredo Chamber of Commerce
Laredo Daybreak Rotary Club
Laredo Medical Center Gift Shop
Laredo Specialty Hospital
Louis P. LaVaude
Dr. Francisco A. Leal and Nora Leal
Logistics and Manufacturing Association Port Laredo
Los Caballeros De La Republica Del Rio Grande Inc.
Mall Del Norte
Sandra and Brian E. O'Brien
Hortense Offerle *
Family of Josette K. and Jose Palacios
Rosanne Palacios
Martha C. Pradeau Charitable Remainder Trust
Ed Rachal Foundation
Richer Family
Sandia National Labs
Francisco M. Staggs, Jr.
Raul C. Staggs
Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Women's City Club
Audrey and Carlos M. Zaffirini, Jr.

Pewter Society

(\$50,000 +)

Anonymous
Family of Anita G. Benavides
Arturo N. Benavides, Jr.
Family of Honorable C. Y. Benavides, Jr.
Norma Zuniga Benavides*
Josephine Brand *
Mary Kathryn and Rosendo A. Carranco & Family
Chemtura Company
Coca-Cola Foundation
Consulate General of Mexico
The Honorable Elma Salinas and David Ender
Excelencia in Education
Doris* and Isaac Epstein
Farm Credit Bank of Texas
Ford Motor Company
Yolanda* and Albert E.* Friedman
The Honorable Anna Galo and The Honorable John Galo
Emilia Rodriguez Garcia *
Alfonso Gomez-Rejon
Raymond Martin Gutierrez & Melba P Gutierrez Trust
Estate of Rudolph Hafernik
Minnie Dora Bunn '77 and Juvenal J. Haynes '77
Norma A. Hunt
Lakeside Subdivision LLC
Laredo Asian Association
Laredo Builders Association, Inc.
Laredo Economic Development Corporation
Laredo Morning Times
Laredo-Webb County Bar Association
Leyendecker Construction, Inc.
William Neel Mayo
Mejia Engineering Company
Pilar Munoa
Janet M. Payne
Pam and George J. Person
Prairie Foundation
Mary and Evan J. Quiros
Etta T. Russell*
Servicios Industriales Penoles S. A. de C. V.
South Texas Higher Education Foundation
Stripes Foundation
TexProtects Champions for Safe Children
Family of J. O. Walker, Sr.
Abe and Carole Wilson
Wyatt Foundation
Angela* and Renato* Zapata, Sr. and Family
Javier A. Zapata *

Copper Society

(\$25,000 +)

Dr. Esteban Alejo* and Laura Alejo
Order of the Alhambra #64 Zahara Caravan

American Petroleum Institute-Border Chapter
Aramark Corporation
Sonia '87 and Guillermo Benavides Z., Jr.
Virginia Ramon Becerra and Florentino Cantu Vargas
The Honorable Bob Bullock* and Jan Felts Bullock
Capital Farm Credit, FLCA
Juan Castillo and Raul Guerra
The Honorable Henry Cuellar, Ph.D. '82
CONAHEC
Family of Luz Maria Davila '76, '79
Educational Foundation of America
Family Chevrolet
Diane and Tom Gates
Samantha and Dos Gates
Gontor Logistics
Guadalupe Haynes
Candy and Conrado M. Hein, Jr.
Hurd Enterprises LTD
Instituto Cultural Mexicano de Laredo
International Good Neighbor Council-Laredo Chapter
Dr. Gladys C. Keene and Dr. Roger Keene
Khaledi Family
Kinder Morgan Foundation
La Posada Hotel
Laredo Daybreak Rotary Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Laredo Licensed US Customs Brokers Association, Inc.
Laredo Rehabilitation Hospital LLC
Laredo Sports Medicine Clinic
Jaime Loera
Roslyn* and Max* Mandel
Suzy N. Mayo*
Mendoza Maintenance Group, Inc.
Hilda '91 and Salvador Mercado
Mercy Health Plans
Elsa and Rudy Miles
National Collegiate Athletic Association
Palenque Group
Pan American Express, Inc.
Dr. Jana Pisani and Dr. Michael Pisani
Lupita Ramirez and the VSAL Genealogical Society
Elizabeth Jones Rubio
Raj K. and Raj P. Seekri
Jo Emma P. and Edward L. Sherfey, Jr.
Sony USA Foundation
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
Summerlee Foundation
The Honorable Aldo Tatangelo* and Alice Tatangelo*
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation
Dr. Jerry D. Thompson
Trellis Company
VOS-MITA
Winn Exploration, Co.
Josephine* and Fernando* Zuniga, Jr. and Family

*Denotes deceased

CLASS GIVING 2022-23

TAMIU STUDENTS ARE PART OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PHILANTHROPIC TRADITION AND EACH CLASS CONTRIBUTES TO THE DUSTDEVIL P.R.I.D.E. SCHOLARSHIP

Class of 2005

Rebecca T. Orta

Class of 2006

Maderlin D. Guevara

Class of 2008

Maria E. Estrada
Dalhi Pena-Garcia

Class of 2010

Stephanie J. Houchaimi
Virginia A. Lopez

Class of 2011

Triana Y. De La Garza

Class of 2014

Jaime L. Alvarez
Carmen S. Montes
Angie R. Rodriguez

Class of 2015

Jackelyne K. Briseno
Lorraine Picazo

Class of 2018

Leyda A. Alcorta
Lauren K. Munoz
Amanda Pruneda

Class of 2019

Nathalie C. Moya

Class of 2020

Maria D. Andrade
Carmen N. Gomez
Samantha A. Perez
Leonel R. Rodriguez

Class of 2021

Melody J. Arambula
Osvaldo A. De Leon
Gabriela Martinez
Cesar H. Ramos, Jr.

Class of 2022

Karliah N. Adan
Yazmin A. Alkanoff
Alejandro X. Alaniz
Karla Alardin
Diana L. Almonte
Luis A. Alvarez
Valeria Alvarez

Erika B. Arispe
Mary L. Barrera
Valeria M. Bermea
Bridget Berrones
Nailah C. Blaquez
Brit Burk
Vitor D. Burk
Antonio Cabello
Jessenia L. Camacho
Jessica Camacho
Michelle S. Canales
Chris Carreon
Gabriela Castillo
Saul E. Castillo
Valentina L. Chapa
Oscar E. Cisneros
Carmen L. Cisneros Balderas
Suzanna A. Contreras
Diego A. Cruz
Vanessa Y. Cruz
Maria J. Davila
Cassandra Deleon Martinez
Javier G. Dominguez
Stephanie Dominguez
Arizbeth Espinoza
Leeann Fleming
Matthew M. Flores
Celeste L. Franco
Chelsea A. Fuentes
Michelle Gallardo
Michelle L. Gallegos
Denisse Gamez
Samantha A. Gamez
Alicia M. Garcia
Ashley Garcia
Cristina A. Garcia
Edith M. Garcia
Kimberly Garcia
Frances G. Garcia Rodriguez
Lizeth G. Garza
Mario A. Garza
Priscilla Gomez
Aaron A. Gonzalez
Alejandra O. Gonzalez
Dayana Y. Gonzalez
Porfirio R. Gonzalez
Stacy Gonzalez
Valeria Gordillo
Jesus M. Granados
Jaden Gray
Arturo M. Guerrero
Gabriella G. Guerrero
Oscar E. Guerrero
Alicia M. Gutierrez
Vanessa Hale
Blanca G. Hall
Alejandra Hernandez
Joel A. Hernandez
Joelia A. Hernandez
Justin A. Hernandez
Liz B. Hernandez
Alexa N. Herrera
Gabriela Herrera
Ingrid D. Herrera
Sofia S. Hinojosa
Daniela Jimenez

Mitzy I. Juarez
Laura Lara
Ernesto Lerma
Victoria Linares
Efrain A. Lopez
Lindsey A. Lopez
Ruth Lopez
Estefania Magallanes
Emily A. Martinez
Kayla G. Martinez
Rolita B. Martinez
Andrew R. Medellin
Vivyan A. Mendiola
Ashley G. Mendoza
Diana I. Mendoza
Etna Z. Mendoza
Raquel I. Meza
Evelyn Michel Brambila
Gilberto Mora
Angel Morales
Cesar H. Morales
Harlett M. Morales
Jessica D. Moreno
Maria G. Moreno Cruz
Valeria Munguia Sosa
Jesus Navarro
Desirae A. Nieto
Alejandra D. Nuncio
Natalie M. Obregon
Victoria G. Ortiz
Ruby Palomares
Mary J. Patricio
Andrew R. Paxon
Magdalena Pecina
Aileen Pena
Jessica L. Pena
David A. Peralta
Ernestina Perez
Guillermo Perez
Wendy Perez
Alexis Pina
Rebekah M. Plourde
Adriana A. Ponce
Ashley N. Ponce
Lizbeth Ponce
Natalie G. Ponce
Maria G. Quiroz
Eduardo Ramirez
Jesse Ramirez
Liliana Ramirez
Alondra Ramos Castillo
Catalina Rangel
Hayley R. Raymond
Francisco O. Reyes
Jared M. Reyes
Rebeca Reyes Corona
Ivanna Reyes Zavala
Elis R. Reyes-Sanchez
Priscilla and Juan Reyna
Raquel F. Riojas
Yubia E. Riojas
Noelia V. Rivas
Alejandro J. Rivera
Lauren A. Rodriguez
Lesley D. Rodriguez
Luisa M. Rodriguez

Noehelia Rodriguez
Norma C. Rodriguez
Vanessa Rodriguez
Ana C. Rodriguez-Uresti
Margaret V. Rosas
Aide Rubalcava
Desirae L. Rubio
Larissa A. Salinas
Evelyn Samaniego
Erika I. Sanchez
Juan M. Sanchez
Diana L. Santos
Gerardo J. Serna Delgado
Rochelle Y. Soliz
Cynthia M. Soto
Marijose Soto
Sara K. Sweny
Joel A. Torres
Alondra E. Trevino
Devyn Z. Tuttle
Briana C. Uribe
Celene C. Uribe
Erika Valadez
Cynthia Y. Valdez
Roque M. Valdez
Jaime E. Vela
Roger Villalpando
Ernesto Villanueva Espinosa
Adam A. Villarreal
Arturo M. Villarreal
Cindy Villarreal
Linda Y. Villarreal
Salvador Villarreal
Yesenia D. Villarreal
Roberto A. Zamarron
Kevin Zamora
Ricardo Zapata Cavazos
Jennifer Zuniga
Karen A. Zuniga Gutierrez

Class of 2023

Joseph Abrego
Bianca A. Aguilar
Xiomara K. Aguilar
Carolina Aguirre
Saul E. Aguirre
Briana D. Aker
Rosalba Alejandres
Pedro Aleman
Jesse Amezcuita
Lesly R. Banda
Fatima T. Barrera
Jackelyn R. Barrera
Gerardo J. Benavides
Adan Berlanga
Lourdes M. Boardman
Cheryl M. Breland
Karla A. Caballero
Alejandra Cabello
Mariana Cabrera
Lilian Campos
Keila M. Cane
Estephanie A. Cano
Brittney Cardenas
Jacqueline Carrera
Alejandra Carrizales
Isaac Carrizales
Victoria E. Castillo
Jose C. Castillo De La Torre
Juan J. Castro
Kathleen N. Cavazos
Ireiry D. Cazares
Byron A. Charles
Dylan C. Cole
Anabel Y. Contreras
Felipe Contreras
Carlos O. Cortinas
Michelle Cuevas
Luis H. De La Cruz
Cassandra De La Fuente
Lydia Y. De La Rosa
Dariana De Leon
Karla I. De Leon
Daniela C. Delgado
Mario Delgado
Michelle A. Diaz
Karen V. Dural
Manuel Escobedo
Emily D. Espinoza
Esmeralda Estrada
Erick P. Fernandez
Steffi Fernandez
Justin W. Ferrone
Valeria A. Flores
Flor A. Flores Perez
Edgar L. Frausto
Nicole K. Fuentes
Brett A. Gallagher
Daniela S. Gamboa
Raquel Garay
Wendy C. Garay
Alexa M. Garcia
Audrey D. Garcia
Corina N. Garcia
Emily R. Garcia
Jessica Garcia
Kayla D. Garcia
Carolina Garza
Joy M. Garza
Leslie P. Garza
Melissa H. Garza
Angelica Gomez
Stephanie M. Gonzales
Alma A. Gonzalez De La Cruz
Amanda Gonzalez
Armandina M. Gonzalez
Johanna Gonzalez
Karen Gonzalez
Kimberly J. Gonzalez
Melissa L. Gonzalez
Anakaren Gonzalez Villarreal
Aleida M. Granados
Brandy M. Guevara
Amber L. Gutierrez
Amelia A. Gutierrez
Claudia A. Gutierrez
Litzzy A. Gutierrez
Rebecca C. Gutierrez
Mariela Guzman
Saraquel Harrison
Andria M. Hernandez

Brisemily L. Hernandez
Daniela K. Hernandez
Elizabeth Hernandez
Glynnis M. Hernandez
Jose C. Hernandez
Kaydy L. Hernandez
Miriam G. Hernandez
Perla P. Hernandez
Sarahi Hernandez
Sofia Hernandez
Juan M. Hernandez Meza
Angela A. Jaramillo
Cecilia A. Jimenez
Priscilla Jimenez
Mario Juarez
Yulianna Laurencin
Yulissa Leal
Kazzandra A. Loa
Alberto Lopez
Crystal Lopez
Esmeralda Lopez
Jaime A. Lopez
Maria G. Lopez
Yesica G. Lopez
Rosa A. Lugo
Priscilla M. Machado
Karla J. Macias
Aryanna G. Madrigal
Angelica Magana
Jacqueline C. Maldonado
Elisama B. Mancillas
Monica A. Manrique
Ashley Martinez
Grecia A. Martinez
Javier Martinez
Juan A. Martinez
Kimberly E. Martinez
Priscilla Martinez
Sylvia V. Martinez
Wendy Martinez
Abram Isaac M. Masocol
Abran Mejia
Vanessa R. Mendoza
Maria T. Mendoza Alva
Benjamin Mercado
Brigid D. Meza
Jose E. Montalvo
Mia M. Morales
Andrea Moreno Lopez
Danna M. Moreno
Derly Moreno Miranda
Leslie I. Moya Gonzalez
Marla D. Munoz
Bonnie R. Murray
Gabriela Nino
Alfredo Nunez
Maricela Ortiz Lopez
Gala S. Padron Muro
Daniela S. Palacios
Jacqueline C. Parra
Elizabeth Pena
Daniel E. Perez
Samantha N. Perez
Osvaldo R. Placencia
Vanessa Plascencia
Andre G. Porras Castro
Maximiliano Prado
Christina J. Puga
Megan B. Querry
Brianna M. Quintana
Brenda Quintero
Paula M. Quirino
Ronaldo Ramirez
Magda K. Ramos
Oralia G. Ramos
Valeria Ramos

Elisa J. Rangel
Chelsie L. Reese
Hector Reyes
Samantha L. Rios
Octavio Rios
Maria F. Rivera
Anna M. Robinson
Victoria L. Rocha
Aryanna Y. Rodriguez
Luz M. Rodriguez
Mark A. Rodriguez
Mauricio Rodriguez
Natasha R. Rodriguez
Derly Rojo
Fatima L. Romo
Jesus S. Rosales
Mauricio F. Rousselon
Karla Ruvalcaba
Fernanda A. Salazar
Jesus Salazar
Juan C. Sanchez
Isabel A. Sanchez Diaz
Georgina L. Sandoval
Natalia S. Santana
Ilesha A. Sargent
Sabrina Sarmiento
Kassandra N. Segovia
Melissa Y. Sepulveda
Alejandro Soldevilla
Aaron Steffen
Karely A. Tamez
Diana E. Tarver Ramos
Yadixa N. Teran
Brenda M. Thatcher
Dianeth H. Trevino
Anahi Valdez
Jonathan Valencia
Yamile Vasquez
Lizbeth Vazquez
Rotceh Vazquez Camacho
Abram R. Vela
Miranda Vela
Samantha N. Velasquez
Viktoria A. Venegas
Christhie Vicharelli
Sara I. Villa
Iran Y. Yanez
Ramon Zamarripa

Class of 2024

Alexis De La Cruz
Graciela Flores
Pedro L. Flores
Luis E. Garcia
Daniel A. Godinez
Alyssa Jaime
Delilah J. Martinez
Abi G. Navarro
Jose A. Pena
Dylan A. Rivas Martinez
Ana M. Toscano

Class of 2025

Daniela M. Rangel

Class of 2026

Priscilla I. Abrego
Joseph I. Amaya
Emiliano Benavides
Ernesto Carvajal
Paola A. Costilla
Jesus Delgadillo
Alfredo Duncan Perez
Griselda Garcilazo

Samantha M. Garza
Christian Gutierrez
Estela L. Ollervides
Alberto Pedraza
Aaron I. Rodriguez
Esmeralda L. Rojas
Daniela Toscano
Nayellie Villanueva

Class of 2027

Valeria Avila
Lia A. Baca
Stephanie Castellanos
Layla C. Castillo
Kimberly N. Charles
Evelyn A. Contreras
Derrick W. Crooks
Rick A. Cruz
Melissa Gonzalez

Jeremiah L. Macias
Lidise A. Moreno
Cynthia O. Ramirez
Jessica L. Ramirez
Bianca Z. Reyes
Yohury Reyna
Matthew A. Rodriguez
Jewel N. Suarez
Koryna V. Vasquez

TRIBUTES

In Memory of

Griselda R. Alvarez
Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.
Evelyn Hunt Blakely
Carlos Cabello, Jr.
Dr. Billy F. Cowart

Jose Garcia
Dr. Julio Gomez-Rejon
Jayshriben Pravinchandra Khambhati
Kish Mansinghani
Peter Middleton
James Parish

Dr. Frances Gates Rhodes
Dr. Siddharth Shankar
Elizabeth N. Sorrell
Frank M. Staggs, Sr.
Maria Julieta Staggs
Carroll E. Summers, III

In Honor of

Cristal Aldrete
Griselda Ramos Alvarez
Rex H. Ball
Karina A. Barrientos
Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.
Heather K. Benavides
Ana Paola Bocanegra
Calixto Cerna, IV
Kiara Celada
Odette Cisneros
Arturo Cuellar, Jr.
Amanda Esparza
Cassidy Fonseca
Chelsea A. Fuentes
Fatima Garza
Kaithlyn Garza
Fernanda Gomez
Marlene Gonzalez
Porfirio González

Stephanie Gonzalez
Claudia Gutierrez
Valeria Hernandez
Kayla Hinojosa
Jerome Jordan
Adolph R. Kahn
Fernanda Gomez Lafaire
Ana Victoria Lopez
Magdalena Lopez
Katelyn Luera
Miguel Macalindong
Evelynn Manrique
Leslie Martinez
Paul McGrath
Dr. Thomas R. Mitchell
Mia Munguia
Emily A. Munoa
Nicolas and Ever Peña
Sylvia Olivares Portlock

Jacob M. Ramirez
Kiana Ramos
Pablo A. Rivera
Fernando Rios Rodriguez
Selene Rodriguez
Erika Sanchez
Marlene Saucedo
Edward Lee Sherfey, III
Diana Solis
Student Nurses Association
TAMIU Engineering Program
Alejandra Tawil
Cynthia Y. Valdez
Anakaren Gonzalez Villareal
Mia R. Villareal
Jennifer M. Vela
Julia R. Vela
Fernando F. Zuniga, III

WALK OF FAME

TAMIU's Walk of Fame is located on the south end of the native stone water fountain that graces the plaza in the center of campus. Purchase of the inscribed bricks is great way for students, organizations, parents, alumni, and community supporters to be part of a permanent tribute that supports TAMIU.

Elvira Aguilar '01
Sanaa Al-Nasser '21
Alejandro X. Alaniz '22
Grezia D. L. A. Barrera '21
Heather K. Benavides
Ayde Bernal
Lourdes M. Boardman '23
Jessica Camacho '22
Marta Castro '00 and
Oscar Jasso
Caterpillar Foundation
Cathy M. Colunga
Gisela E. Contreras Reyna
Athena M. Cortez '05
Arturo Cuellar, Jr. '99
Cassandra Deleon Martinez '22
Angie Escamilla

Dr. Christopher Ferguson and
Diana Ferguson '09
Ashley Garcia '22
Ricardo Garcia '10
Marilyn R. '88, '96 and Dr. Tony
H. Giese, PhD '96
Benjamin Gonzalez '23
Amber L. Gutierrez '23
David Haunschmied
Kimberly Hernandez '22
Paul Hernandez '15
Alan Lamoglia
Victoria Linares '22
Ana L. Lopez
Ashley Martinez '23
Emily A. Munoa '22
Rosanne Palacios

Larissa Perusquia '99, '07
Brenda Quintero '23
Eduardo Ramirez
Abigail M. Ramon '23
Oralia G. Ramos '23
Raquel F. Riojas '22
Lyonel R. Rodriguez, III '20, '22
Mariana Rodriguez '21
Mauricio F. Rousselon '23
Michelle '13, '17 and
Eric Garcia, II '14
Isabel A. Sanchez Diaz '23
Elizabeth Smith
Marjose Soto '22
Azeneth Vazquez
Salvador Villarreal, Jr. '22
Monica Washington

BY THE NUMBERS

2023 FRESHMAN CLASS (LARGEST IN TAMIU'S HISTORY)

86% NEW Freshman are from local High Schools

14% from out-of-town high schools

from **107** different high schools

99% are full-time students

23% of the class graduated in the Top 10% of their high school class

31% graduated in the Top 11-25% of their class

TAMIU freshmen have a targeted major;

only **38** are undeclared

Top Majors for Freshmen:

Nursing
Business Administration
Biology

OVERALL STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

62% are WOMEN

38% are MEN

93% identify as a minority

97% are from Texas

78% are from Webb Country

Undergraduates:

77% full-time students

21 average undergraduate age

Graduates:

75% full-time students

34 average graduate age

Doctoral:

39 average age

Youngest

13 yrs

Oldest

78 yrs

FALL ENROLLMENT BREAKDOWN

(UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE ENROLLMENT)

3,726 College of Arts
and Sciences

1,723 A. R. Sanchez, Jr.
School of Business

1,448 College of Nursing and
Health Sciences

891 College of
Education

719 University College
(undergraduate enrollment only)

The top five undergraduate majors:
Business Administration
Nursing
Criminal Justice
Biology
Psychology

The top five graduate majors:
Business Administration
Curriculum and Instruction
Criminal Justice
School Counseling
Family Nurse Practitioner

BRAGGING RIGHTS

National think tank Third Way's 2023 Economic Mobility Index (EMI), identified TAMIU as the

No. 1 university in Texas and **3rd** in the nation with an astounding 58.4% EMI among Third Way's Tier 1 institutions.



THIRD WAY



Degree Choice ranks TAMIU as **No. 2** among the Best Colleges in Texas, **5th** Among Southern Colleges and **10th** nationally among Hispanic-Serving Institutions, the highest-ranked Texas University surveyed.

TAMIU was the highest-ranked public/state University,

No. 3, among colleges and universities ranked in the South

in Washington Monthly Magazine's 2023 College Guide "Best Bang for the Buck" ranking. TAMIU also earned a

No. 2 ranking for low net price cost.



Degree Choices Best Colleges 2024 Rankings placed TAMIU **3rd** among Best Colleges for Social Mobility and **4th** in Southern Colleges.



In the New York Times' Build Your Own Rankings Tool, TAMIU consistently ranks nationally in the **Top Five**.

TAMIU is ranked **10th** nationally among Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI's) by Degree Choices.

TAMIU is a national Top Degree Producer for Hispanics, ranking **40th** among the nation's Top 100 HSI's by *Diverse Magazine*.





TEXAS A&M **INTERNATIONAL** UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
5201 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD,
LAREDO TX 78041-1900

