

TSC  
FOUNDATION  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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**2023 - 2024**





America Guerra



Martha Villanueva

## STUDENT *Spotlight*

### *TSC Students America Guerra and Martha Villanueva Achieve Success Through Education and Opportunity*

At Texas Southmost College (TSC), dreams turned into reality for students America Guerra and Martha Villanueva, two remarkable women making strides in their educational journeys. America, a recent high school graduate and talented soccer player, found her home at TSC, excelling both on the field and in the classroom. Martha, a dedicated nursing student and mother, is paving the way toward her dream of becoming a medical doctor. Both were awarded scholarships from the TSC Foundation, a testament to their resilience, determination, and the college's dedication to student success.

For America, TSC became her home away from home. She recalled her first soccer practice, where the team's warmth reassured her that she had made the right choice.

"I remember the first day of practice. They made me feel so comfortable that I knew right away I was going to enjoy it here," said America. "I was so excited about getting a scholarship. It would have been difficult for my parents to afford my education. I felt relief because

TSC was helping me further my education and continue playing soccer."

America had made a promise to her father during her final high school soccer game: "I'll keep playing soccer so you can continue seeing me play." Thanks to TSC, she was able to honor that promise.

Martha's journey is equally inspiring. After graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA from TSC, she was accepted into a Biomedical Sciences program, bringing her one step closer to becoming a doctor.

"I first worked to obtain my Certified Nurse Aide certificate," Martha shared. "I also received my Patient Care Technician certificate and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. My love for science is rooted in helping people get better."

For Martha, scholarships were a lifeline during challenging times, especially as she balanced school and raising her children.

"I received three scholarships," she said. "They came at the perfect time because I was struggling to pay for daycare. Those

scholarships gave me a big break and motivated me to do better, knowing that someone believed in me."

Both women recognize the power of their journeys to inspire others. America hopes to set a positive example for her younger sister, encouraging her to pursue higher education at TSC.

"Due to TSC and the TSC Foundation scholarships, I'm motivated to further my education," America said. "As an older sister, I want to be the best influence on my little sister. I only have one, and I hope she goes to TSC."

Likewise, Martha is determined to show her three children that anything is possible. "I want my children to know that anything is possible in life," she said.

America and Martha's stories reflect the vibrant spirit of Texas Southmost College, where education and opportunity go hand-in-hand. Through hard work, resilience, and the support of the TSC Foundation, they are well on their way to achieving their dreams and inspiring those around them.

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## TSC FOUNDATION

The mission of the Texas Southmost College Foundation is to transform the lives of students by providing equal opportunities of accessing a quality, affordable college education. The Foundation supports the college and its students in attainment of their educational goals by providing support for student scholarships, academic instruction, and instructional support for students. A local, volunteer Board of Directors governs the Foundation which is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.



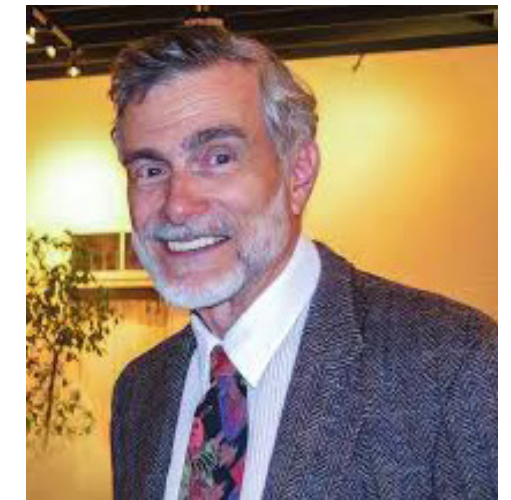
## DONOR *Spotlight*

### *Rudy De La Garza*

In January of 2024, Texas Southmost College celebrated the official opening of the TSC Legal Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the beginning of a new era for the college's Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies programs. "The TSC Legal Center started as an idea," said TSC Board of Trustees chairwoman Adela Garza, "and Judge (Felix) Recio, Trustee Ruben Herrera, and Dr. Kevin O'Malley took it to another level." Garza said that the development of the TSC Legal Center required significant effort and thoughtful planning, which was successful with the stakeholder's collaborative efforts, including subcommittee members which consisted of the TSC trustees, TSC faculty, and community leaders. Dr. O'Malley was instrumental in leading the charge to secure American Bar Association (ABA) approval for TSC's Paralegal Studies program, making Texas Southmost College the only program in the Rio Grande Valley to have ABA approval.

The late Ruben Herrera, a Texas Southmost College alumnus and immediate past chair of the TSC Board of Trustees, credited his decision to earn a law degree to his experiences as a TSC student. Trustee Herrera's vision was for the courtroom to be utilized by the Justice of the Peace Courts, Cameron County Courts at Law, and State District Courts, while providing experiential learning for students. "It presents a valuable learning opportunity for our students," said Herrera at the ribbon cutting ceremony. "What could be more enriching than hosting a court hearing and trial with TSC students observing the proceedings and later discussing the trial's outcome and its rationale?" With the TSC's Criminal Justice program being one of the college's largest areas of study, the TSC Legal Center will help students excel in their chosen fields.

Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristic of the TSC Legal Center is a fully equipped 1,743 square-foot courtroom and conference center, complemented by an adjoining jury room and classrooms. Additionally, the building also houses a law library, a resource hub



for TSC's Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and Paralegal program students.

The Rudy De La Garza Law Library was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Rudy De La Garza. In 2021, when the concept of the TSC Legal Center was being developed, Rudy De la Garza committed to making a making a \$50,000 contribution to the TSC Foundation for the naming rights of the TSC Legal Center law library. De La Garza, who successfully practiced law (bankruptcy, business and international law), still oversees the original family business. His family is a well-known pioneer business family from the Brownsville area since the early 1900's. The family's main business is wholesale groceries servicing the entire Rio Grande Valley and beyond. Along with Rudy De la Garza, his brother, William Steven De La Garza, continues to support the TSC Foundation, and each have made significant contributions to TSC, and our students. Most recently, their sister, Louise De La Garza Brown, made a contribution to the TSC Foundation in honor of their father, Rodolfo De La Garza.

Students from the Rio Grande Valley aspiring for legal and law enforcement careers now have an added reason to choose Texas Southmost College as their preferred institution to fulfill their career ambitions, and we thank the De La Garza family for their generous donation.



# By the NUMBERS

## 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR:

**\$350,000**

in scholarships awarded  
to **222** TSC students

TSC is the most affordable institution  
of higher education in the RGV:

(In-district tuition & fees for 12 credit hours)



**10,935**

students were enrolled at  
Texas Southmost College



Student scholarship  
recipients excelled,  
boasting a

**95%**

Course pass rate

**3.37**

Average GPA

**98.1%**

Persistence/retention rate



**\$1,754**



Tier 1:

**\$3,684**

Tier 2:

**\$3,240**

Tier 3:

**\$2,784**

Tier 4:

**\$2,328**

**UTRGV \$4,926.60**

**\$304,567.96**

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