

TSC  
FOUNDATION  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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2021-2022



# STUDENT *Spotlight*

## ANETHE SANCHEZ *Foundation Scholarship Recipient*

Anethe Michelle Hernandez Sanchez had taken a big leap to come to the United States after graduating from high school in San Fernando, Tamaulipas Mexico.

She wanted to improve her English and pursue a career in architecture. So, she spent some time in Austin, learning English with a friend and researching programs in the field. The price of higher education scared her until someone suggested Texas Southmost College...an institution that is affordable without sacrificing the quality of education.



Sanchez has worked hard in her classes, while being employed at the TSC Recreation Center. She is chasing the dream of being an architect by learning the skills of the trade at Texas Southmost College. She believes the scholarship went a long way in motivating her to push through difficulties outside of class.

"The TSC Foundation's 'Finish strong scholarship' is the best award I could have received," she said. "I was very happy and shocked at the same time. To be honest, I had forgotten I had even applied. I was so busy with schoolwork and keeping up with

my own struggles. My family in Mexico was going through financial issues and I felt helpless because I didn't know how to assist. I think I felt guiltily being here in the United States, studying and using money on my education."

Because of the pandemic, Sanchez hasn't been able to see her family as often over the last few years. She knows they are rooting for her and said the scholarship gave a much-needed boost.

"I think her story is one of many that we don't even know about," TSC Foundation Director David Tumlinson said. "Those stories are out there...the difference that it makes to receive a scholarship could be the deciding factor if a student continues school or not."

Earning the scholarship turned Anethe's guilt about being away from home into motivation and fuel to keep going to improve her future.

"The TSC Foundation Finish Strong Scholarship helped me pay part of my spring semester tuition and gave me the rush of happiness I needed to continue working and giving my 110 percent to every goal that I set for myself."

Sanchez is a member of the Campus Activity Board and a Student Worker at the Recreation Center.

"Because we're a smaller institution you can really see the changes and impact it's making on our students," Tumlinson said.

To donate to the TSC Foundation and give students like Anethe a financial push on their way to bright futures you can contact David Tumlinson at (956) 295-3679.

Through several fundraising events celebrating TSC's 95th anniversary last year, the TSC Foundation was able to raise over



**\$263,000  
TOWARDS STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIPS.**



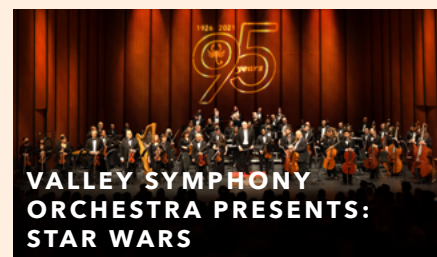
October 30, 2021



February 12, 2022



April 2, 2022



April 30, 2022



August 27, 2022



Steven De La Garza (center) and TSC Foundation Board Members stand alongside welding students who received full scholarships for their courses.

## DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:



**9,930**

students were enrolled at Texas Southmost College.

The TSC Foundation awarded



**\$275,000**

in student scholarships.

Student scholarship recipients excelled, boasting a



**94.8%**

Course Pass Rate &

**3.37** Average GPA.

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



(In district tuition & fees for 12 credit hours)

**\$1,574**



Tier 1:

**\$3,684**

Tier 2:

**\$3,240**

Tier 3:

**\$2,784**

Tier 4:

**\$2,328**



**\$4,771**

# DONOR *Spotlight*

## STEVEN DE LA GARZA *Brownsville Entrepreneur*

Brownsville native and entrepreneur Steven De La Garza understands, firsthand, the vital role community colleges have in developing the next generation workforce. To ensure students have access to high-quality education that will connect them with careers that are in demand, he is funding scholarships at Texas Southmost College.

His first donation of \$30,000 went toward full student scholarships for workforce training programs. This includes welding, industrial scaffolding, plumbing and commercial roofing.

"I have had so many people in my life help me, and now it's my turn," said De La Garza, who made the donation in memory of his father Rodolfo De La Garza. "These scholarships fill a gap for students, and as someone who has worked in the trades and also needed skilled workers, this is my chance to give back and create more opportunity."

De La Garza has assisted his family and employees in their pursuit of a college degree. His gift to Texas Southmost College will provide opportunity on yet an even greater scale. His donation will benefit individuals, their families and the greater community.

### ONGOING GENEROSITY

De La Garza will continue to fund additional scholarships. He explains that each contribution is fundamental in changing a person's life and is a crucial resource for TSC.

"Any student who wants a college education, should be able to get an education without money being a barrier," he said. "TSC is doing a wonderful job by

opening doors with its scholarships and providing a high-quality education. TSC is a college for all."

De La Garza's scholarship donation builds upon TSC's efforts to make college more affordable for families.

"We have been able to lower tuition and maintain it, lower taxes for our community and acquire donors who believe in our mission," said TSC Immediate Past Board Chair Ruben Herrera. "All of this helps us award our students with the scholarships they need to get ahead."

### INDUSTRY PARTNERS HELP TSC COMMUNITY

TSC Director of Foundation and Community Outreach David Tumlinson agrees. He said TSC's dedication to building collaborative partnerships with individuals and employers increases students' access to scholarships.

"Relationships with individuals like Mr. De La Garza and with industry partners seeking to expand their workforce keeps us moving forward in increasing scholarship opportunities for the communities we serve," said Tumlinson. "We are grateful to those who give to our college, who believe in what we do and believe in our students. Higher education is about changing lives, and that is why we are here."

TSC Foundation Board member and Vantage Bank Texas Senior Vice President Manuel Casanova said donations like this align with the TSC Foundation's goal of increasing the number of scholarships awarded to students annually.

"Last year, thanks to our donors like Mr. De La Garza, we were able to award more than 250 scholarships," said Casanova. "This means a lot to us and our students, who because of this are able to start and continue their education. This gives us the resources to assist them in reaching their goals."



## REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Texas Southmost College Foundation made an unprecedented investment in local workforce development by allocating \$1 million for workforce training scholarships at TSC. Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, TSC President, said the college has been working collaboratively with economic development organizations and industry partners to ensure the Rio Grande Valley remains a destination for innovative business, fueled by a high-quality workforce. He said investments by the TSC Board of Trustees, TSC Foundation, public entities and private partners have strengthened TSC's position as the destination for regional workforce training. "In addition to the current investment by the TSC Foundation, the TSC Board of Trustees continues to do its part in supporting academic and workforce development programs by investing \$23 million in capital investments over the past few years," TSC Board of Trustees immediate past Chair Ruben Herrera.

Those investments have turned into important pieces of workforce training such as a welding lab, simulation hospitals and training for future medical assistants or law enforcement. Foundation board member Manny Cassanova explained that short-term training programs are important to fund because many students fall outside of



grant and financial aid opportunities. "The foundation's investment will ensure more students are eligible for workforce training scholarships to support students' needs that are not covered through other grant programs," Casanova added.

Rodriguez said the college's workforce development team prioritizes listening to industry partners to build programs that complement trends and needs. As a result, TSC has established a variety of new workforce programs such as Forensic Macro Photography, Diesel Mechanics, Drone Pilot and Pipefitting. You can give to the TSC Foundation and be a difference maker in the lives of students working for a new career.

## 2021 - 2022 TSC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**TO DONATE BY MAIL,**  
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Texas Southmost College Foundation  
80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, TX 78520



## 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.