

# ***Tejano Conjunto Festival en Austin***

# ***La Voz de Austin***



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## **Maria Elena “Lena” Guerrero Aguirre**



**November 27, 1957  
April 24, 2008**

# People in the News



## Decierdo Named Director of AISD Diversity Relations

The Austin School District announced the appointment of **Margarita Arce Decierdo** as the new **Director of Diversity and Intercultural Relations** for the District. Her expertise is in management, capacity building and community engagement.

**Decierdo** has taught sociology at **Austin Community College**, **Huston-Tillotson University**, **Abilene Christian University**, **San Francisco State University** and the **University of California at Berkeley**. She has also taught courses in race relations, social inequality, Mexican American History and Chicano/Latino Studies. She also served as a historian and curator for the African American Museum in Oakland, California.

**Decierdo** has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish Literature from the **Universidad de Madrid**, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from the **University of California at Santa Barbara**, a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology from the

**University of California at Berkeley** and is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology from the **University of California at Berkeley**.

In **Austin**, **Decierdo** has provided cultural competency training to the **Austin Police Department** and worked with the **City of Austin** as an Assessment Stability Project Coordinator for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. **Decierdo's** duties will include working with the district on a variety of equity and diversity issues as they relate to student, staff and the community.



## Lopez Named Elementary Teacher of the Year

**Catherine López** is a 1st grade Bilingual teacher at **J.J. Pickle Elementary School**. As a child, she immigrated to the United States from South America — but encountered difficulties in school. *"I was determined to make the educational experience of immigrant and non-English*

*speaking students a more positive life event than my own,"* she said about her decision to become a teacher. She encourages her students to be proud of their cultural and linguistic heritage, teaching them that the ability to speak two languages is "a marvelous gift."

**Ms. López** earned a bachelor's degree from **Oberlin College**, master's degrees from **Texas A&M University** and **Southwest Texas State University**, and professional certification by the **National Board of Professional Teaching Standards**. She joined the **Austin School District** in 2000, and taught at **Blanton Elementary School** from 2000-2006.



## LBJ Student Gomez is a Scholarship Winner

**Maria Elizabeth Gomez**, a Senior at **LBJ High School** in **Austin, Texas** is the winner of a \$1000.00 dollar scholarship that

be awarded to her at the **Austin Voices for Education and Youth Shout Out Awards Dinner and Fundraiser** at the **Mexican American Cultural Center** on May 8, 2008. **Gomez**, who will be attending **Texas A&M University in College Station** was nominated and selected by a committee over the last several weeks.



## Rosas From Reilly Elementary Wins "Scholarship"

Parent Volunteer **Irma Rosas** is the winner of one of two \$1,000.00 "Parent Scholarships" that will be given at the **Austin Voices for Education and Youth Awards Dinner and Fundraiser** at the **Mexican American Cultural Center** on May 8, 2008.

**Ms. Rosas** who is originally from **Monterrey, Mexico** puts in an average of 35 hours a week at **Reilly Elementary School** doing everything from designing bulletin boards to reading to children of various grade levels.

**Ms. Rosas** went to school in **Mexico** to become a bookkeeper but says it is her dream to one day become a school teacher.



## Gilberto Ocañas to Lead Hispanic Leadership Council

Long time **Democratic Party** activist **Gilberto Ocañas** has been tapped to co-lead a new effort by the **Democratic National Committee** to build support in the Latino community for the coming presidential election in November.

**Ocañas** is a regular **Democratic Party** financial contributor and has a wide range of contacts throughout the state of **Texas**. During the 1990s, he worked for the Democratic Party in Washington, D.C. during Hispanic outreach. **Ocañas** is a graduate of the **University of Houston**, **Ocañas** is the owner of **Ocañas** printing and fulfillment company in **Austin, Texas**. He is also a **Senior Advisor** with **Sonnenschein**, a law firm with over 700 attorneys around the world.

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**Saying Good Bye to a Legend in Her Own Time**

I did not know **Lena Guerrero** personally. I had heard much about her during the 1980s as her political career was taking off, but I cannot say that I knew her. But I did say hello to her once as we passed each other at a conference at the **University of Houston**. She smiled back and said, "hi."

It was not my intention to put on the cover of this edition of **La Voz de Austin**. Something else was already in the works. But after attending her funeral mass on April 26th, and listening to all the people who were indeed her friends, I thought it would be appropriate to switch out the covers.

As I listen to the various speakers share their memory of this remarkable young lady, I was impressed by how each one seemed to touch on the tenacity of **Ms. Guerrero**. I was also moved by how many others commented on her lack of fear. (ella no tenia miedo de nada)

It is not often that a **Lena Guerrero** answers the call for public service. She was indeed a pioneer and role model for the many who have since followed in her footsteps. De parte de **La Voz de Austin**, and all those who help to produce this publication every month, we wish to extend our condolences to the **Lena Guerrero** family. On page 10 is a tribute that was taken from the funeral program in **Austin, Texas**.

**A Mother's Day Message**

Dear readers,

*I've always thought of the month of May as a precious and beautiful month. Flowers are blooming, the grass is growing and school will be ending soon. May also is the month we honor our dear mothers. Many people speak of their country as the mother country. Sometimes they speak of their language the mother tongue. Eve is called the mother of mankind. We speak of the earth as Mother Earth and Mother Nature. But, the word "Mother" is the sweetest of all the words we hear. It means love, patience, understanding, forgiveness, respect, caring and many more.*

*The second Sunday of May, the 11<sup>th</sup>, is "Mother's Day". Call your mother, send her a bouquet of flowers, or go with her to church and see how proud she is to be with her family on this very special day. We celebrate mother's day in many churches throughout the world. In many countries it is traditional to wear a carnation-red if your mother was living, and a white carnation if she was deceased. That tradition is not seen very often anymore.*

*A day for honoring mothers was observed many years ago in England. It was called "Mothering Sunday" and came in mid-lent. Julia Ward Howe made the first known suggestion for a Mother's day in United States in 1872. For several years she held an annual Mother's day meeting. Mary Towles started conducting Mother's Day celebrations in 1887. Frank E. Hering launched a campaign for the observance of Mother's day in 1904. It was until three years later that Ann Jarvis began a campaign for a nationwide observance of Mother's day. It was in 1914 that Mother's Day received national recognition*

*The Bible tells us to honor our mother. Does this mean only on Mother's day? We should honor our mothers always. Everyday should be one of honor, love, respect, understanding, patience, caring, to "Our Mother."*

Happy Mother's Day!

**Editorial**

**Alfredo R. Santos c/s**  
**Editor & Publisher**



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# Got summer plans?

Are you a teenager looking for ways to keep busy this summer? There are so many options for summer activities, no wonder it can be difficult to know where to begin.

by Linda Medina



Here are some tips to help you get going on your search.

**Work —** Check with your

high school counselor and ask how they can assist with your job search. They may have postings for local businesses, for babysitting or for other part-time positions. Next, tell everyone you know that you're looking for work. Speak with teachers, family, coaches, friends, parents of friends - anyone and everyone you can think of - and ask for help. Most jobs are found through referrals and people you

know are often happy to assist. Some examples are:

**Yard maintenance.** There is always something that needs to be done...mowing lawns and weed control.

**Pet sitting.** Offer pet walking, bathing, cleaning, etc. services.

**Run errand, messenger, or delivery service.** Many law firms, small businesses need runners to send messages. Keep in mind that you'll be on the go!

**Summer School**—it may make you think of remedial classes for students. Yes, lots of high schools do have mandatory summer school for students who have under performed. But summer school can also mean attending classes at a college, in programs students actually

compete to get into. These days, there are summer schools for just about every type of student, whether you'd like to work on academic subjects or developing skills such as playing an instrument or sport. Check out the local performing arts centers, science museums, and parks; many have summer programs where you can get hands-on experience.

When looking for a summer school program, here are some important factors to consider:

- What do you want to get out of summer school? Do you want to charge up your academics? Act in a play? Teach young children? Learn how a political campaign is conducted? Polish up a second language? Work with engineers in the computer industry?

- Can you get high-school (or college) credit for summer school courses? Receiving credit depends both on the school where you take the course and on your home school.
- How much can you spend on summer school? If the answer is nothing, are free programs available in your state or school district?

## Volunteer: Make a Difference

Community service is always a valuable endeavor, and the summer is a wonderful time to make a difference in your community. Find a non-profit that you are passionate about children, the arts, homeless, elderly citizens, etc.

## Last note

In addition to the programs, the internships, the jobs, the volunteer work, the college visits, or whatever else might be part of your summer, there should also be time for family, friends, and just for you. No matter how you spend your summer, do not forget to do the things that make you feel happy and energized—whether that means spending extra time with your younger sibling before you leave for college, swimming at Town Lake, making time to see friends you haven't seen in awhile between tests and athletic games, reflecting on the past year, going out for ice cream, or anything else, you shouldn't forget to relax and have fun!



This column is brought to you by the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation.

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Raul with his wife, Theresa, and their daughter, Sofia.

Political Ad Paid for by the Raul Alvarez Campaign, 3812 Kandy Dr., Austin, TX 78749. Theresa Alvarez, Treasurer.

# Plans progress for new Catholic high school

By Donna Poston Williams  
Correspondent

*"How many times in your life do you get the chance to create a legacy?" Anna Lange mused, explaining her decision to co-chair the capital campaign to build Austin's newest Catholic high school.*

Anna and her husband Kevin Lange, the young parents of five children, are spearheading a \$15 million fundraising effort, "so that our children, and our children's children and many future generations will be able to have a Catholic education," Anna said. "It is a huge commitment of time and treasure, but a small price to pay in the long run."

The new high school, **St. Dominic Savio**, named for the 19th century teenage saint, is expected to open its doors in the fall of 2009. Located in north Austin on a 45-acre tract adjacent to **Holy Family Catholic School**, the site was selected because of the projected population growth in that area.

"Today, Austin has only two Catholic high schools, and both are located south of town," Anna said. "As our city continues to grow north, many Catholic families, including ourselves, are left with the difficult choice of either driving across town every day or going to a public high school. **St. Dominic's** will change that. My husband and I are very committed to Catholic education and want to make it a real possibility for more families like us."

Austin is a relatively young diocese, only 60 years old, and has seen a steady increase in the number of Catholics. "As more and more people relocate here, the number of Catholics continues to grow, and they bring with them an expectation of conveniently-located Catholic schools," said **Ned Vanders**, the diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools. "The increasing demand for Catholic education in Central Texas is good news. Many dioceses in the northern part of the country are closing down their schools, while here in the



south and southwest we have a thriving community and our need for an updated long-range education plan has become urgent."

**Bishop Gregory Aymond**, a strong proponent of Catholic education, was assigned to the **Austin Diocese** in 2001, and quickly began strengthening Catholic schools. Since then, he has focused a great deal of his time and energy creating a vibrant vision for the future of Catholic education in **Central Texas**. The creation of **St. Dominic Savio** is part his overall plan.

*"This school fills a deeply felt void in our diocese, opening the way for many more families to experience*

*"I'm awed by the dedication of Kevin and Anna Lange and so many others, who are working tirelessly to make **St. Dominic Savio** a reality," Bishop Aymond said. "This school fills a deeply felt void in our diocese, opening the way for many more families to experience an outstanding high school curriculum in a faith-filled environment. This will be a diocesan high school, rooted in the Catholic tradition," Bishop Aymond continued. "Its academic, athletic and extracurricular programs will challenge students to go beyond excellence, to reflect on the needs of others, to be committed to faith and to become public servant leaders."*

**St. Dominic Savio's** facilities will be built in three phases. The first phase, to be completed by opening day, includes 83,690 square feet of new construction with 13 classrooms, a self-standing

cafeteria with a stage, a drama, band/orchestra and choral suite, an art studio, a gym, two science learning centers with laboratories, a computer learning center, a chapel, a library/media center, administrative offices with reception area, conference room, student health and teachers' work suites and three athletic fields. Additional classrooms, science labs, technology and computer classrooms and fine arts rooms are planned for future phases.

Opening in the fall of 2009 with a freshman class, **St. Dominic Savio** will add a grade each subsequent year, with full enrollment by 2012. Construction plans are designed to ultimately accommodate 750 students. The school will be dedicated to serving diverse cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds.

According to **Debbie Ortiz**, a fundraising consultant with **Community Counselling Services**, the cost for the construction of phase one of the high school is approximately \$21.5 million. The capital campaign has the task of raising \$15 million of that, while the diocese has agreed to carry the anticipated debt.

"This effort can only be successful with passionate leadership and the financial support of many," Ortiz explained. "We are truly blessed to have the **Langes** at the helm." The capital campaign is on track according to **Anna Lange**. "We have raised about half of our goal to date, but we still need to raise a minimum of \$5 million by October of 2008." Actual construction will begin this June.



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# OPPONENTS CARRY INJURED HOME RUN HITTER AROUND BASES

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BRIAN MEEHAN The Oregonian Staff

**Gary Frederick** thought he had seen everything in 40 years at **Central Washington University**. He'd coached baseball and women's basketball for 11 years, been an assistant on the football team for 17 and athletic director for 18.

Last weekend, he learned he was wrong.

In the top of the second inning as his Wildcats played host to **Western Oregon University** in **Ellensburg, Wash.**, something happened that spoke to the beauty of athletics. It came in the form of a home run that no one in attendance will forget.

*"Never in my life had I seen anything like it,"* said **Frederick**, 70, in his 14th season as softball coach. *"It was just unbelievable."*

Central entered Saturday's doubleheader one game behind **Western Oregon** in the **Great Northwest Athletic Conference** race. At stake was a bid to the NCAA's Division II playoffs. Western won the first game 8-1, extending its winning streak to 10 games. Central desperately needed the second game to keep its postseason hopes alive.

**Western Oregon's** 5-foot-2-inch right fielder came up to bat with two runners on base in the second inning. **Sara Tucholsky's** game was off to a rough start. A group of about eight guys sitting behind the right field fence had been heckling her.

*"They were giving me a pretty hard time,"* said **Tucholsky**, a **Forest Grove High School** graduate. *"They were just being boys, trying to get in my head."*

At the plate, **Tucholsky** concentrated on ignoring the wise guys. She took strike one. And then the senior did something she had never done before — even in batting practice. The career .153 hitter smashed the next pitch over the center field fence for an apparent three-run home run.

The exuberant former high school point guard sprinted to first. As she reached the bag, she looked up to watch the ball clear the fence and missed first base. Six feet past the bag, she stopped abruptly to return and touch it. But something gave in her right knee; she collapsed on the base path.

*"I was in a lot of pain,"* she told **The Oregonian** on Tuesday. *"Our first-base*



ABOVE: Players from the other team carry the injured **Sara Tucholsky** around the bases so the home run she hit will count.

*coach was telling me I had to crawl back to first base. 'I can't touch you,' she said, 'or you'll be out. I can't help you.'"*

**Tucholsky**, to the horror of teammates and spectators, crawled through the dirt and the pain back to first.

**Western coach Pam Knox** rushed onto the field and talked to the umpires near the pitcher's mound. The umpires said **Knox** could place a substitute runner at first. **Tucholsky** would be credited with a single and two RBIs, but her home run would be erased.

*"The umpires said a player cannot be assisted by their team around the bases,"* **Knox** said. *"But it is her only home run in four years. She is going to kill me if we sub and take it away. But at same time I was concerned for her. I didn't know what to do."*

...

*"That is when Mallory stepped in."*

**Mallory Holtman** is the greatest softball player in **Central Washington** history. Normally when the conference's all-time home run leader steps up to the plate, **Pam Knox** and other conference coaches grimace.

But on senior day, the first baseman volunteered a simple, selfless solution to her opponents' dilemma: What if the

**Central Washington** players carried **Tucholsky** around the bases?

The umpires said nothing in the rule book precluded help from the opposition. **Holtman** asked her teammate junior shortstop and honors program student **Liz Wallace** of **Florence, Mont.**, to lend a hand. The teammates walked over and picked up **Tucholsky** and resumed the home-run walk, pausing at each base to allow **Tucholsky** to touch the bag with her uninjured leg.

*"We started laughing when we touched second base,"* **Holtman** said. *"I said, 'I wonder what this must look like to other people.'"*

**Holtman** got her answer when they arrived at home plate. She looked up and saw the entire **Western Oregon** team in tears.

*"Everybody in the stands was crying. My coach was crying. It touched a lot of people."*

*"My whole team was crying,"* **Tucholsky** said. *"Everybody in the stands was crying. My coach was crying. It touched a lot of people."*

Even the hecklers in right field quieted for a half-inning before resuming their tirade at the outfielder who replaced **Tucholsky**.

**Western Oregon** won the game 4-2 and extinguished **Central Washington's** playoff hopes.

Afterward, Central coach **Frederick** said he received a clarification from the umpiring supervisor, who said **NCAA** rules allow a substitute to run for a player who is injured after a home run. The clarification, however, could not diminish the glory of **Holtman's** and **Wallace's** gesture. **Holtman** downplayed her role, which her coach said is typical of the **White Salmon, Wash.** native.

*"In the end, it is not about winning and losing so much,"* **Holtman** said. *"It was about this girl. She hit it over the fence and was in pain and she deserved a home run."*

...

*"This is a huge experience I will take away. We are not going to remember if we won or lost, we are going to remember this kind of stuff that shows the character of our team. It is the best group of girls I've played with. I came up with the idea, but any girl on the team would have done it."*

**Tucholsky** went to the doctor Tuesday. Her knee was still swollen; her trainer suspects she tore her anterior cruciate ligament. She will be in the dugout this weekend when **Western Oregon** attempts to cement an **NCAA** berth with games against **Seattle** and **Western Washington**.

**Tucholsky** will graduate this spring as a business major with a minor in health. She plans to continue her studies at **Portland State** and pursue a career in the health field. But she will never forget the generosity of her opponents in her final collegiate game.

*"Those girls did something awesome to help me get my first home run,"* she said. *"It makes you look at athletes in a different way. It is not always all about winning but rather helping someone in a situation like that."*

**Holtman** knows something of knee injuries. On May 8, she is scheduled to have arthroscopic surgery on both knees, which have pained her all season. On June 7, she will graduate with a degree in business. She intends to study sports administration in graduate school at **Central Washington**.

**Holtman** believes sports has made her a better person. She wants to give back. **Mallory Holtman** plans to do that by becoming a coach.

# Political Overview of Latino Candidates on the Ballot in Travis County

NAME	AGE	OFFICE SEEKING	INCUMBENT	EDUCATION	YEAR OF GRADUATION	OCCUPATION
1. Raul Alvarez	41	Austin Commuity College Trustee Place 5	No	B.S. Stanford University M.S. University of Texas at Austin	1991 1996	Grassroots Community Organizer for Austin ISD
2. Christine Brister	46	Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees District 3	No	Regan High School Attended Austin Community College	1980	Human Resources Officer for Texas Board of Architectural Examiners
3. John-Michael Cortez	30	Austin Community College Trustee Place 2	No	B.A. University of Texas at Austin	2000	Community Involvement Team Coordinator for Capital METRO
4. Cid Galindo	45	Austin City Councilman Place 4	No	B.A. Texas A&M University M.B.A. University of Texas at Austin M.A. Latin American Studies	1986 1992 1992	President of the Galindo Group Austin
5. Jerry Garcia	40	Austin Independent School District Trustee District 3	No	Attended Laredo Community College Attended Texas A&I Kingsville Attended University of Texas at Austin		Stay at home father
6. Sam Guzman	58	Austin Independent School District Trustee District 2	Yes	B.A. Texas Tech University	1973	Businessman



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***Austin City Council***

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*"Council Member Kim has been a strong and consistent voice for affordable housing initiatives, preserving the integrity of our neighborhoods, protecting our environment, and providing opportunities for our small businesses. She is a true leader on the issues that are critically important to our city."*

**Muchas Gracias,  
Gus Garcia**

Paid Political Announcement by the Jennifer Kim Campaign



# Student Interns Challenge Traditional Paradigm

## Eastside vs. Westside Perspective

### Looses Credibility

by Amanda Aguirre,  
Laura Avila and Ariel Kay

#### Mission

The **School Inequities Project** is a student research project which examined a variety of performance indicators in the **Austin Independent School District's** 12 high schools.

The Project was originally created by youth mobilizers from **Garza High School, Angelo McHorse** and **Alice Geaccone**. The idea for this project came about when these students were shocked by the inequities between schools in more affluent neighborhoods in comparison to those in less affluent neighborhoods.

**... if AISD gives equitable funding to schools, why does it seem that resource**

The driving question in this study was, if **AISD** gives equitable funding to schools, why does it seem that resource allocations are not the same across the district?

Two interns from the **University of Texas at Austin**, **Amanda Aguirre**, a Sociology major, and **Laura Avila**, an Anthropology major, came on board with **Austin Voices for Education & Youth** at the beginning of the Spring 2008 semester to tackle this question.

The Project Manager of the **School Inequities Project** is Youth Consultant, **Ariel Kay**. **Ariel**, who has recently been accepted into **Bryn Mawr College** and will be majoring in Anthropology.

Other students who participated in this study were: The Youth Advisory Council, Stand Up Clubs, Youth Action for Educational Change class at **Garza High School**, and students from the four high schools that were the focus of the research.

#### Methodology

This study employed data from the **Texas Education Agency (TEA)**, The **Texas Higher Education Board** and the **AISD Climate Surveys** from both the 2005-2006 and 2006 - 2007 school years. In order to compare the 12 high schools in the **Austin Independent School District**, we wanted an objective measure that was already built into the data sets we were looking at.

We settled on the college readiness indicators such as scores of TAKS, SAT/ACT and AP/IB tests. Since public high schools profess to be about preparing students for college, we thought this measure would be most appropriate.

**We quickly discovered that 6 AISD high schools fell below the state average and 6 were above it.**

We quickly discovered that 6 **AISD** high schools fell below the state average and 6 were above. (See graph on the right) We then selected 4 high schools based on this ranking: **Anderson, Austin, Akins** and **Reagan**. **Anderson** ranked the highest while **Reagan** ranked relatively low and **Akins** ranked just below the state average. The selection of these schools using this methodology allowed us move away from the popular and tired East/West paradigm that was and is often employed by the media and others when discussing the public schools in **Austin**.

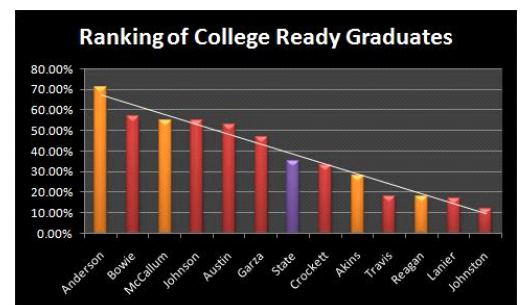


ABOVE: Austin Voices for Education and Youth student interns from left to right: **Laura Avila, Amanda Aguirre** and **Ariel Kay**, present their findings on school inequities in the **Austin Independent School District** at a candidate forum that was held in March.

#### College Readiness Indicators

- College Readiness Indicators from the Texas Education Agency Academic Excellence Indicator System from 2006-2007 school year.

Percent of College Ready Graduates		
•	<b>Anderson</b>	<b>71%</b>
•	<b>Bowie</b>	<b>57%</b>
•	<b>McCallum</b>	<b>55%</b>
•	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>55%</b>
•	<b>Austin</b>	<b>53%</b>
•	<b>Garza</b>	<b>47%</b>
•	<b>State</b>	<b>35%</b>
7.	<b>Crocket</b>	<b>33%</b>
8.	<b>Akins</b>	<b>28%</b>
9.	<b>Travis</b>	<b>18%</b>
10.	<b>Reagan</b>	<b>18%</b>
11.	<b>Lanier</b>	<b>17%</b>
12.	<b>Johnston</b>	<b>12%</b>



Source: Texas Education Agency



# Eastside vs. Westside Perspective Looses Credibility

## Overview of our Findings

Using the data from the **Texas Higher Education Board** we did a comparison of all four schools in the following areas: AP/IB Data, SAT/ACT data, High School Graduates, Graduates by Program, High school graduates in college and teachers by years of experience.

We found continuously that in each of the categories, **Anderson** and **Austin** ranked above the other schools. It should be noted that we also discovered that often all high schools including **Akins** and **Reagan** scored above state averages in the amount of students tested. But we also discovered something else. With respect to SAT/ACT Testing, **Reagan** tested 93.5% of their students while state average was only 65.8%. This is a great success along with the 3 other schools that also had many students testing.

**What was unfortunate is that at Reagan High School only 2.3% of their students scored at or above criterion.**

What was unfortunate is that at **Reagan High School** only 2.3% of their students scored at or above criterion. While at **Anderson** and **Austin** over 50% of their students scored at or above the passing criterion.

## The AISD Climate Surveys

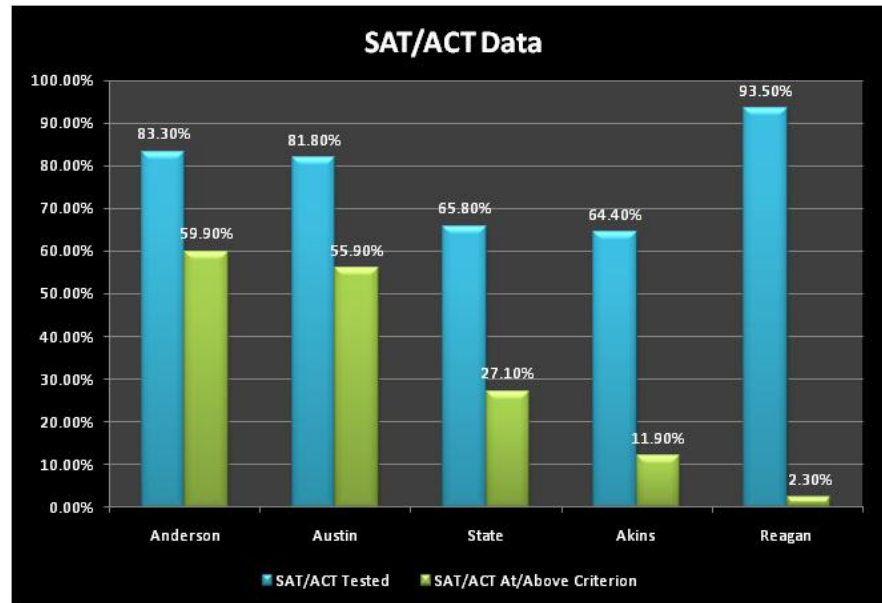
In addition to analyzing College Readiness Indicators we also looked at the school environment. We contrasted the overall Academic Environment, Behavioral Environment, Adult/Student interactions, and the Physical Environment of each high school. We compiled our information using the Climate Survey results that **AISD** gathers from students every year because we felt students' opinions are a primary resource in distinguishing a quality education.

For this section we sampled 3 questions from the Climate Surveys: "My teachers expect me to do my best work", "My teachers challenge me to do better" and "I feel/ felt well prepared for the TAKS test." We compared the 4 schools side by side and charted the progress that schools have made.

Overall, the schools all made improvements from the 2005-2006 school year to the 2006-2007 school year. This section of our presentation was meant to serve as a window to see the "bigger picture." In looking at the data we were able to see that **Anderson** and **Austin** fell at or above the AISD High School average. **Akins** responses varied from above the average to just below the average. **Reagan** was the only high school to experience a decrease in agreement to the questions we analyzed and it almost consistently fell below the high school averages.

## The Future

Although our findings and presentation has been a great success we will continue to push further. We hope to take our project and expand it by delving deeper by including student voices and researching school programs and initiatives. We would like to emphasize that in order to attain equity, student voices and needs must be heard. Although we have highlighted these disparities we look to ignite positive change. Members of our community and students can work together to help schools adequately prepare students to succeed in higher education citizenship and the work force.



## ABOUT: Austin Voices for Education and Youth

This private non-profit organizations was founded by **Amy Averett** and a lot of friends who believed that it was important to have young people at the decision making table when it comes to schooling.

After all, it is the young people who are the beneficiaries or this tremendous endeavor we call public education. The story on these pages is a great example of the that Austin Voices is doing in Austin, Texas.

**¿Le gustaría  
ganar un  
million \$?\***

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- ② **Obtenga un título universitario.**
- ③ **Sea Bilingüe.**

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\*[www.paraunabuenavida.org](http://www.paraunabuenavida.org)



# Recordando a Lena Guerrero

## From the Funeral Mass Program at Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Lena Guerrero**, former State Representative and Texas Railroad Commissioner, passed away in her sleep on Thursday, April 24, 2008 under the loving care of her husband **Lionel "Leo" Aguirre**. **Lena** was a force of nature and the center of her two **Leo's** lives and that of her very extended family and extensive network of friends and political colleagues. **Lena** was diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer over eight years ago and given only months to live. They didn't know **Lena**!

**Lena Guerrero** was a champion. In her professional and political career, she was a champion for the disenfranchised, those who needed someone to help fight for their rights in **Austin**. She had a particular passion for mentoring young Hispanic women.

Within her family, she was a champion too. She dealt with the struggles in her personal life in the same way she dealt with those in her public life - with tenacity, vigor and a sense of humor that will be missed more than words can say.

**Lena** was born in 1957 and reared in **Mission, Texas**. She moved to **Austin** in 1976 to attend the **University of Texas** where she became active in politics and public affairs in the **Democratic Party**. She was elected president of **Texas Young Democrats** at the age of 21 in 1979.

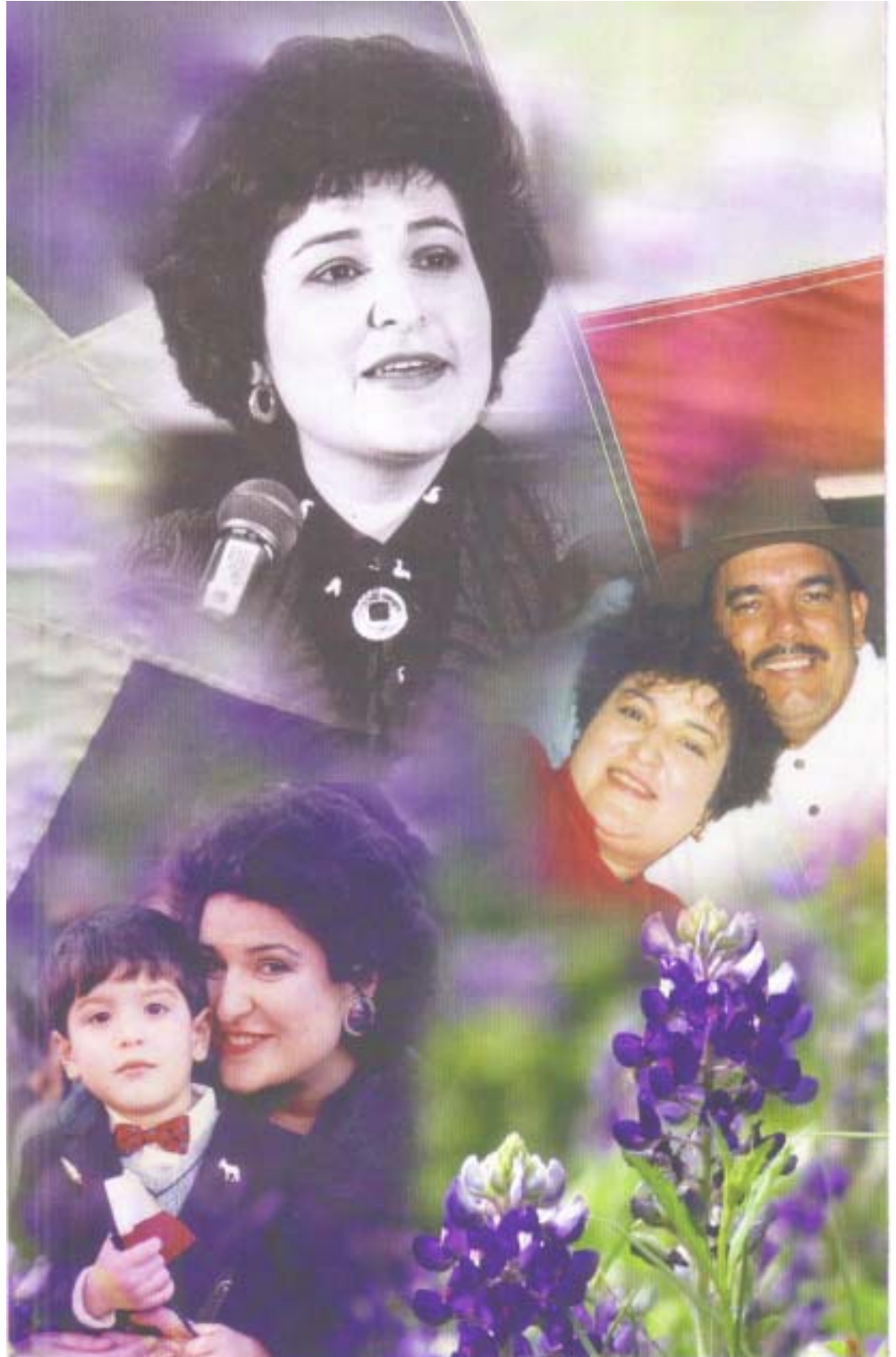
In 1984, at the age of 25, she became only the second female Hispanic elected to the **Texas Legislature**. Her district included parts of central and east **Austin**. She quickly mastered the rules, procedures and politics of the House to become known as one of the state's most effective lawmakers - often out good 'ol boying the good 'ol boys.

During her legislative career, she was known as a champion for the rights of migrant farm workers and the prevention of teen pregnancy. She also played a central role in passing legislation to preserve the views of the **Texas Capitol**.

In 1992, she became the first woman and first Hispanic to serve on the Railroad Commission of Texas when appointed by **Governor Ann Richards**. She led the effort to help independent oil and gas producers increase production in Texas at a time when the industry was struggling, and she was a strong advocate for the use of alternative fuels.

**Lena** is the daughter of **Adela Salazar Guerrero** and the late **Alvaro Guerrero**. Her mother, her husband **Lionel "Leo" Aguirre** - whom she married in 1983 - and her son, **Leo G. Aguirre**, survive her.

The family encourages donations to Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third Street, Austin, Texas or the United Farm Workers of America, P.O. Box 62, Keene, California 93531.





# Hispanic Austin Leadership Class of 2008



(Not in order) **Selina Aguirre**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: **David Ancira**, Wells Fargo Bank: **Paula Camacho**, Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC): **Clarissa Campos**, Housing Authority of the City of Austin: **Richard Castro**, State Farm Insurance: **Art Cosme**, Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC): **Felix DeHerrera**, Southwest Alliance: **Norma DeLeon**, Lennar Homes: **Daniel Louis Estrada**, Legislative Budget Board: **Yvonne Fuentes**, University of Texas-Austin, Volunteer/Service Learning Center: **Eva Maria Garza**, Austin Independent School District, Austin High School: **Patricia Gonzalez**, Time Warner Cable: **Raquel Jaimez**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: **Ronald Ledesma**, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority: **Jose Macedo**, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network: **Maria Martell**, Austin Independent School District: **Linda Medina**, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: **Patricia Mendoza**, City of Austin, Austin 311: **Guillermo Ponce**, Applied Materials: **Alicia Rascon**, Latinitas, Inc.: **Jennifer Rivera**, Breakthrough: **Guillermo "Will" Rodriguez**, Amerigroup Community Care: **Debra Rodriguez**, Dell Children's Medical Center: **Matthew John Segura**, Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HAL provides business leaders and professionals an opportunity to develop civic awareness, leadership skills and a network of colleagues for life. These are just some of the outcomes you can expect from Hispanic Austin Leadership (HAL). HAL provides participants an opportunity to become community leaders. Participants will be expected to continue to be engaged and to affect the proactive changes required to create equity, opportunity and a better quality of life for all of the Austin Area.

### History:

The Hispanic Austin Leadership (HAL) Program is a self-sustaining program that began in 1999. Since then, 131 participants have graduated from the program. The HAL Program received national attention after winning the 2000 National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA) Brillante Award. The program has been duplicated across the United States in the following cities: Roswell, New Mexico; Corpus Christi, Texas; Reno, Nevada; Fresno, California; Portland, Oregon; Pascal, Washington; Ft. Worth, Texas; McAllen, Texas.

**Fee:** \$800

For more info. on the Hispanic Austin Leadership Program, contact  
Linda Medina, lmedina@gahcc.org or 512.462.4313.



## New BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexican American Center for Community and Economic Development is pleased to announce the fourth edition of The Directory of 100 - A Guide to Latino Organizations in Austin, Texas. This directory continues the tradition set by long time Austin community activist Martha Cotera who produced the first directory in 1976.

Each organization has been contacted personally to confirm their existence and the accuracy of their organization's public profile. The directory is updated regularly and contains the name of the organization contact, mailing address, telephone number, fax number, email address, website address, number of members, and the year the organization was founded

Included in this directory are 159 Latino organizations in the following categories:

For more information about the directory please visit: [www.mexicanamericancenter.com](http://www.mexicanamericancenter.com) or call (512) 944-4123.

### The Directory of 100

A Guide to  
Latino Organizations in  
Austin, Texas

2008

Mexican American Center  
for Community and Economic Development

#### Directory Categories

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arts        | 9. Music            |
| 2. Business    | 10. Political       |
| 3. Civic       | 11. Professional    |
| 4. Cultural    | 12. Religious       |
| 5. Dance       | 13. Social Services |
| 6. Educational | 14. Student         |
| 7. Immigrant   | 15. Theater.        |
| 8. Media       | 16. Otras           |



## Tim Mahoney

for Austin Community College Board of  
Trustees, Place 1

Vote on or before May 10, 2008

Tim Mahoney is endorsed by

ACC American Federation of Teachers  
Local 6249

Capital Area Progressive Democrats

Austin Women's Political Caucus

Capital City Young Democrats

Central Labor Council

Progressive Citizens for Austin  
Community College

Austin Progressive Coalition

South Austin Democrats

Central Austin Democrats

Texas Environmental Democrats

University Democrats

West Austin Democrats

Austin Tejano Democrats

North by Northwest Democrats

Capital Area Asian American Democrats

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# In the Community



**ABOVE:** LULAC activist **Marcelo Tafoya** and **Jaime Martinez** from the **Cesar Chavez Educational Foundation** in **San Antonio** were at the **Southwest Key Grand Opening** on April 26, 2008



**ABOVE:** Moments after the ribbon cutting the crowd lets out a loud grito after having worked for years to realize amazing moment in the history of **East Austin**.



**ABOVE:** **Dr. Juan Sanchez**, President and CEO of **Southwest Key Programs** thanked the crowd for all their support over the years.

**BELOW:** Guests, members of the **Southwest Key Programs** Board and elected officials were on hand to cut the ribbon officially acknowledging the opening of the new facility in **East Austin**.



# Calendar of Events

- May 1, 2008** **March for Dignity and Respect for Immigrant Families at the Texas State Capitol** - This event will start with a rally at 4:30PM. For more information please call: (512) 524-2012
- May 4, 2008** **Cinco de Mayo** at the Mexican American Cultural Center from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The City of Austin's Mexican American Cultural Center invites the public to its very first Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 4 from 1-7pm. This free family event will have many activities for the kids. The event will begin with a special performance from Estudiantina Inantil from Alamo, Texas (Bowie Elementary) followed by ballet folklórico, mariachi music, storytelling with Dan Arellano, and much more. Award winning Los Texas Wranglers will perform at 5 p.m. For more information, contact the Mexican American Cultural Center at 478-6222 macc@ci.austin.tx.us or visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/macc>.
- May 5, 2008** **Cinco de Mayo Conjunto Festival** at Fiesta Gardens in Austin, Texas from 4:00pm to 10:30pm. This year's event features Los Fantasmas del Valle, George y Mague de San Antonio, Johnny Degollado y su Conjunto y Los T-Birds. For more information call: (512) 385-2147
- May 5, 2008** **Cinco de Mayo Luncheon - Hispanic Forum on Successful Scalability in Education** 11:30am to 1:00pm at the Headliner's Club Chase Tower, 221 West 6th Street, Suite 2100, Austin, Texas. For more information please contact Amy Bodin at (512) 924-9276
- May 6, 2008** **Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center's 27th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival** en San Antonio, Texas. This event runs through May 10, 2008 at Rosedale Park. For more information please visit the following website: [www.guadalupeculturalarts.org](http://www.guadalupeculturalarts.org) (210) 271-3151
- May 6, 2008** **Community Meeting** with Texas State Senator Kirk Watson regrading Johnston High School. This event will start at 6:00PM and will be held in the school cafeteria. Todos estan invitados.
- May 7, 2008** **Hispanic Austin Leadership Program Recruitment Reception** sponsored by the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Event is at Nuevo Leon Mexican Restaurant 5900 West Slaughter Lane Suite D550 from 6:00 to 7:30PM. RSVP Selina Aguirre at: [saguirre@gahcc.org](mailto:saguirre@gahcc.org)
- May 7, 2008** **Community Platica** sponsored by PODER (People Organized for the Defense of the Earth and Her Resources. This event will be held at the Carver Center in East Austin. For more information please call: (512) 472-9921
- May 8, 2008** **Shout Out Awards** sponsored by Austin Voices for Education and Youth. Location: Mexican American Cultural Center 600 River Street Austin, Texas from 5:30 to 8:30. For more information please call 450-1880
- May 14, 2008** **"Soaring to New Heights - a Night of Wine Flights"** sponsored by the Young Hispanic Professional Association of Austin. This is the 2nd Annual Scholarship Fundraiser by YHPAA and will be held at the Cork & Co. 308 Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas beginning at 6:00pm. For more information please call (512) 916-3916
- May 15, 2008** **Hispanic Leadership Luncheon** with keynote speech by Dr. Elsa A. Murano 23rd President of Texas A&M University. This event is being organized by the Hispanic Scholarship Consortium from 11:30am to 1:00pm at The Mansion at Judge's Hill 1900 Rio Grande in Austin, Texas 78705. For more information please contact Marisa Limon at (512) 450-5969
- May 17, 2008** **2008 Center for Mexican American Studies Graduation Ceremony** at The University of Texas at Austin. This event will take place at the University Teaching Center (UTC) 2.112A from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. The Keynote address will be delivered by Teresa Paloma Acosta, a 1974 graduate of UT Austin. All graduating students (undergraduate and graduate) are invited to participate. For more information please contact Luis Guevara at (512) 471-4557

To get your events listed in *La Voz de Austin* please call: (512) 944-4123

## Word Power

# En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz de Austin*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Austin* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

La gente	The people
esta	are
cansando	tired
de los precios altos	of the high prices
que se esta viendo	that they are seeing
Algo tiene que pasar	Something has to happen
porque al paso que vamos	because at the rate we are going
va hacer insostenible sigue	it is impossible to keep
pagando más y más por	paying more and more for
las cosas de la vida	the things in life
Lo que no sabemos es	What we don't know is
cuando se va enojarse	when are people going to get mad
y yo digo enojarse de verdad	and I mean really mad
Algo se tiene que hacer	Something has got to be done
Si uno puede, registre	If one can, register
para votar, escucha lo que	to vote, listen to what
están diciendo	they are saying
Se esta acabando el tiempo	Time is running out

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**Dan Arellano**



**(512) 826-7569**

[darellano@austin.rr.com](mailto:darellano@austin.rr.com)





# Los Años con Ocho

- 1798** The Naturalization Act raises the number of years - from 3 to 5 that an immigrant has to live in the United States before becoming eligible for citizenship
- 1848** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo officially ended the U.S. - Mexico War. Under the treaty, half of the land area of Mexico - including Texas, California, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Utah and Nevada - was ceded to the United States
- 1898** After the USS Maine blew up in Havana Harbor, President William McKinley declared war against Spain. As an outcome, Cuba and Puerto Rico became independent of Spain but protectorates of the United States.
- 1918** Texas Rangers and Anglo ranchers executed 15 Mexican farmers in Porvenir, Texas, for allegedly participating in a raid on an Anglo ranch.
- 1928** The Confederación de Sociedades Mexicanas is formed at the urging of the Mexican government. It serves as an umbrella group for fledgling agricultural unions from by Mexican workers in southern California.
- 1938** The Mexican American Movement emerges in southern California mostly among college students committed to uplifting Mexican Americans through education and clean living.
- 1948** Mexican American veterans in Texas formed the American GI Forum to win the rights that they had fought for in wartime but lacked in peacetime. Led by its founder, Dr. Hector P. Garcia, and its national organizer, Molly Galvan, one of the first Chicanas to achieve political prominence, the GI Forum battled to desegregate South Texas schools and hospitals and ensure that juries were representative of the community.
- 1958** **Chicano** writer Americo Paredes releases his book *With a Pistol in His Hand* and set down an important pattern of narrative reconstruction with his story of Gregorio Cortez
- 1968** Mexican soldiers open fire on protesting university students in Mexico City. Chicano students in East Los Angeles public high schools begin walkouts to protest the lack of a relevant curriculum, a shortage of teachers and other related issues.
- 1978** Mario Compean runs for Governor of Texas under La Raza Unida Party banner. This is the last year La Raza Unida Party appears on the ballot in Texas.
- 1988** Tony Garza, a lawyer in South Texas wins the Cameron County Judgeship and becomes the first Republican to hold the office.
- 2008** Rick Noriega from Houston wins the Democratic nomination for the United States and is running against John Cornyn in November.

# Becas Scholarships



## REMAINING 2008 HSC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

**POSTMARK DEADLINE: May 16**

**CONTACT: Marisa Limón (512) 450.5969**

**([scholarships@hispanicscholar.org](mailto:scholarships@hispanicscholar.org))**

**WEB: [www.hispanicscholar.org](http://www.hispanicscholar.org)**

**FACEBOOK GROUP: Hispanic Scholarship Consortium**

### HSC/Hispanic Bar Association of Austin Pre-Law Scholarship (Deadline: May 16)

- Qualifications: Be Pre-Law students attending Concordia University, St. Edward's University, Southwestern University, Texas State University or The University of Texas at Austin (all undergraduate degrees qualify)  
Have a minimum 2.8 cumulative GPA  
Plan to take LSAT exam in 2008  
Be of Hispanic origin

### HSC/GAHCC Education Foundation/Minority & Women's Business Fund Scholarship for Civil Engineers (Deadline: May 16)

- Qualifications: Be a graduating high school senior or university student pursuing a degree in civil engineering  
Reside in Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Lee, Travis or Williamson counties  
Plan to enroll in an accredited four-year college or university in the United States on a full-time basis throughout the 2008-2009 academic year  
Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale  
Be of Hispanic origin

### Other Scholarships:

### HSC/Montopolis Community Scholarship Fund in Partnership with St. Edwards University (Deadline: May 16)

### HSC/Jovenes Episcopales College Scholarship Fund for Active Episcopalians (Deadline: May 16)

**Contact Marisa Limon at the numbers above if you are interested.**



**A GLIMMER OF HOPE**  
F O U N D A T I O N



**THE CAMPAIGN TO MAKE  
POVERTY HISTORY**

A Glimmer of Hope Foundation is requesting proposals for funding from nonprofit organizations working with disadvantaged youth (25 years and under) and Seniors in East and South Austin. Other areas (zip codes) that are eligible include: 78751, 78752, 78757, 78758. For more information and grant guidelines, please visit, [www.aglimmerofhope.org](http://www.aglimmerofhope.org) or call 328-9944. Deadline for submission is June 30, 2008 - 5:00pm

## ABOUT the Organizer of this Festival

Johnny "JD" Degollado is the premier conjunto accordionist, band-leader and songwriter for the Austin and surrounding areas and was born on November 24, 1935 in Travis County TX.

"JD" began playing the accordion in 1952 and at the early age of 15 years, started his own conjunto with neighbor, bajo-sexto player Vicente "Chente" Alonzo. JD and Chente have been playing together for the past 50 years.

In the 70's many successful artists such as Ramon Ayala, Ruben Vela, Johnny Hernandez, Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Los Aguilares, George y Maggie, Los Chamacos, Augustin Ramirez and the Home Town Boys began to play and record his original compositions. In 1973, Johnny won the award of "Song of the Year" at an event held in Austin by Carlos Velasquez. He is a member of the Tejano Music Hall of Fame and inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1986.

JD has written over 200 songs and is a member of BMI. He has recorded over 350 songs (polkas, redovas, cumbias, boleros, huapangos, waltzes, schottizes, rancheras, and corridos) plus many of his own compositions.

Check out Johnny Degollado in the Hector Galan film, Songs of the Homeland [www.galaninc.com](http://www.galaninc.com)

# The Cinco De Mayo AUSTIN CONJUNTO FESTIVAL



**CINCO DE MAYO**  
Entertainment 2008

4:00-4:40pm  
DJ Rock'n Ruben

4:40-5:00pm

Martin Eagletts

5:00-6:00pm

Soccer Ceremony

6:00-6:30pm

Cantu-Pan Am Ballet

Folklorico Group

6:30-7:00pm

marachi en fuego



M.C. "La Reyna Del Conjunto" From San Antonio's KEDA "Radio Jalapeno" NELDA SAENZ



7:00-7:45PM  
Austin's Classic Conjunto  
**Los T-Birds**

7:45-8:30PM

International Songwriter  
Johnny Degollado

Y su Conjunto

8:00PM

Polka Dance Contest

8:30-9:30

The Pride of San Antonio

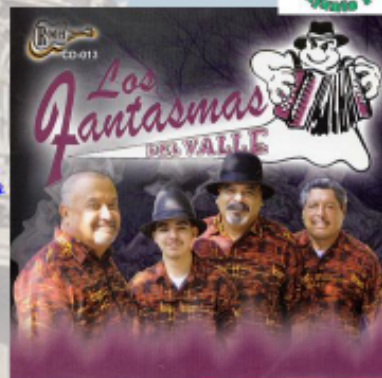
Duo Carla Blanca

**Jorge Y Mague**  
Y Su Conjunto

9:30-10:30PM

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Conjunto Coordinator  
Johnny Degollado  
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