

TACHE Past, Present and Future: History & Accomplishments--An Overview

By Dr. Jude Valdez and Felix A. Zamora
Compiled by Dr. Matilda Saenz

At the 31st Annual State Conference, Dr. Jude Valdez and Mr. Felix A. Zamora presented an historical perspective of TACHE's implementation and approach to its Mission, Purpose, and Goals. This review was designed as part of a process to affirm the direction of the association now and in the future.

The Mission states that "TACHE is a professional association committed to the improvement of educational and employment opportunities."

The Purpose is "to provide state, regional, and local forums for the discussion of issues related to Chicanos/Latinos in higher education and to collaborate with institutions of higher learning to create workable solutions for these issues."

The Goals include four areas: 1) Educational Advocacy, 2) Networking, 3) Recruitment and Retention and 4) Cultural Promotion.

After highlighting this fundamental background, Valdez and Zamora continued their power point presentation with a listing of TACHE's major accomplishments. Accomplishments highlighted include the selected ones below.

- **1974-- Founding**

A group of educators in Higher Education met at the Tropicana Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, and after several meetings elected Dr. Leonardo Valverde as the first President of TACHE (see lead article by Valverde on page 1 of this *Noticario*).

- **1982-- TACHE is granted Tax Exempt Status**

After submission of an application and financial records by the TACHE Board of Directors, the Internal Revenue Service determined that the organization as one that is not a private foundation under section 509 (a) (2) of the internal revenue code. This designation has been significant in allowing TACHE to apply for and receive funding from many public and private sources.

- **1985-- Noticario Nacional Published**

The first edition of *Noticario* was published with Dr. Ramon Dovalina, past TACHE President and President of Laredo Community College, serving as its first editor. Currently several thousand educators and many more via the TACHE web site access news published in the *Noticario*. The members routinely submit articles and news events for publication as well as notable educators in the state of Texas such as chancellors and college and university presidents.

- **1986-- TACHE First Policy Report to a Select Committee on Higher Education**
 The first official TACHE Policy Report entitled “The Mexican-Americans and Texas Higher Education” was presented to the Texas Select Committee on Higher Education in Austin, on June 13, 1986. Since then, TACHE has established itself as the voice for Latino higher education issues in the state of Texas.
- **1994-- TACHE First Legislative Proposal**
 At the 1994 State Business Meeting, TACHE members approved a resolution in support of the state’s Texas Access and Equity 2000 Plan. Today, as a logical progression from the ‘94 proposals, TACHE works through a policy committee to study appropriate policy initiatives for presentation to and education of the state policy makers in the Texas Legislature.
- **1994--Scholarships and Fellowships**
 Since 1994 TACHE at its Annual State Conference, awards scholarships and fellowships to graduate students from state-wide applications. These students and their families are honored at the Conference Awards Dinner. (See page 5 of this *Noticario* for the 2006 fellowship winners.)
- **2000--Under-Representation of Hispanic Faculty and Administrators**
 In 2000 past President Ed C. Apodaca, of the University of Houston, presented a paper entitled “*Crisis in the Ranks: The Under-representation of Hispanic Faculty and Administrators in Higher Education.*” This work delivered at the Senate Hispanic Research Council Fall Issues Conference drew attention to the continuing under-representation of Hispanics despite the exponential growth of the Hispanic population in the state of Texas. At that time, “less than 5% of faculty in Texas colleges and universities [were] Hispanic. Less than 11% of administrators in Texas colleges and universities [were] Hispanic” (Apodaca qtd. in *Noticario* December 2003). At the current time, 12% of faculty in two-year institutions and 8% of faculty in four-year institutions are Hispanic. The executive and administrative staff employees in two-year colleges include 12% Hispanics and 15% at four-year colleges and universities (THECB web site).
- **2001-- Rationale for TACHE Higher Education Policy Initiative**
 This document was developed as an executive briefing for TACHISTAS to use with their respective legislators to educate them on the importance of Latino higher education progress to the economic progress of the State of Texas. It was mailed to every legislator, college/university presidents, members of all elected and appointed board of regents or trustees throughout the state. It became the basis for future advocacy for the Association’s policy proposals.
- **2001-- TACHE Higher Education Policy Forum**
 As part of the 2001 annual meeting, TACHE pulled together a town-hall type meeting of different leaders and constituency groups in higher education to discuss strategies on closing the gap in participation. This forum was

unprecedented in the history of the state and was recorded on video tape for posterity. Represented were chancellors and presidents from all major college and university systems including the University of Texas (UT) and Texas A&M University (A&M), all the urban community college districts, legislators, Texas Education Agency (TEA), League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas State Board of Education. The forum helped refine policy proposals for the future.

- **2002-- TACHE Report Card**

Starting in 2002 TACHE has issued a series of Report Cards on the status of employment and educational access of institutions of higher education in Texas. Each institution is given a performance grade based on Hispanic student enrollment as well as the extent to which faculty and administrative employment at these universities reflect the student demographics of the respective institution.

- **2003-- Doctoral Incentive Program**

This program for doctoral students in the state of Texas scored a major “Home Run for TACHE” (*Noticario* December 2003). Designed to help fund doctoral students from underrepresented groups, the program aids students who secure work as faculty members or administrators in a Texas public or private college or university. The students are eligible for repayment funds (a type of loan forgiveness) through a fund implemented through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). TACHE worked with many educational partners, state agencies and elected officials to secure the passing of legislation for this program.

TACHE historical and original documents are archived at the University of Texas in Austin. These records form a part of the Benson Latin American Collection as stipulated in the Constitution Article IX, Section 1 entitled “Records.” Any current or former member with prospective submissions for this archive is encouraged to contact Javier Olguin at jolguin@austincc.edu or Matilda Saenz at msaenz@dcccd.edu.