

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY BEST PRACTICE

Tech Prep Texas Scholars and the Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarships

Through donations of public- and private-sector supporters, Tech Prep of the Rio Grande Valley, the Texas nonprofit and federal 501c3 corporation that manages the affairs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Tech Prep Consortium, has sponsored scholarships for Rio Grande Valley students and encouraged others to pursue rigorous academics every year since 1999. The primary goal of Tech Prep Texas Scholars and the Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarships is to encourage large numbers of Rio Grande Valley students to pursue rigorous academic coursework in high school and continue to postsecondary education.



Tech Prep Texas Scholars is a student-recognition initiative that was developed in partnership with the Texas Business and Education Coalition. Over 18,000 Rio Grande Valley high school students have graduated as *Tech Prep Texas Scholars* since the program began. For graduation honors, students must complete the requirements of either the Recommended High School Program or the Distinguished Achievement Program, complete college-level courses (locally or statewide articulated or dual/concurrent enrollment) that are included in Tech Prep graduation plans in place with local two-year post-secondary institutions, and declare intent to be Tech Prep Texas Scholars.

In May 2004, there were 6,523 Rio Grande Valley *Tech Prep Texas Scholar* graduates coming from 39 high schools in 24 school districts. Approximately 8,000 high school students are expected to complete the requirements to graduate as *Tech Prep Texas Scholars* in May 2005. *Tech Prep Texas Scholar* graduates receive special graduation recognition and become eligible to compete for the Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep scholarships, which are supported through donations by colleges and private-sector individuals as well as by Tech Prep RGV board fund-raising activities.

The *Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos Tech Prep Scholarships* are named in honor of former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos. Cavazos is a South Texas native who rose to prominence as the first Hispanic ever to hold a U.S. Cabinet-level position and is a supporter of Tech Prep Inc.'s work in the Valley. Students must graduate from high school as Tech Prep Texas Scholars to be eligible to compete for the Cavazos Scholarships, which for May 2005 include a \$5,000 scholarship for any college or university of the student's choice, a \$4,000 scholarship for a Texas State Technical College, a \$3,000 scholarship for the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College, a \$3,000 scholarship for the University of Texas-Pan American, a \$2,000 scholarship for South Texas College, a \$1,000 scholarship for Texas A&M University Kingsville, and a \$400 Lockheed Martin scholarship for engineering at any college or university of the student's choice.

Consortium staff operates the Scholars and scholarship programs. A committee of Board members and volunteers reviews scholarship applications, interviews finalists, and selects scholarship recipients.

For additional information, visit www.techprepRGV.com or contact

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