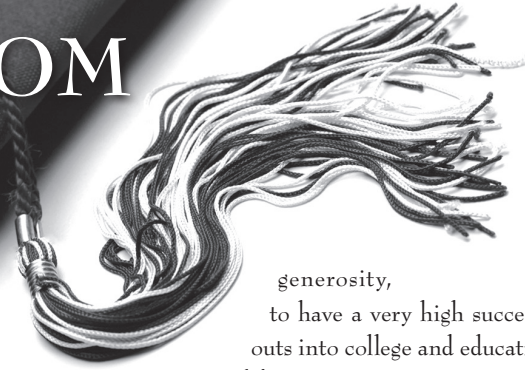


EDUCATION IS OUR FREEDOM

GED College Scholarship Awards Program



Dear Potential Sponsor:

generosity,
to have a very high success rate in getting borderline drop-outs into college and educationally prepare them for our future workforce.

The "Education Is Our Freedom" scholarship committee would like to express our sincere heartfelt thanks for being part of a program that has made a positive impact in so many young people's lives. Because of your this innovative program continues


As you know, we have a drop-out epidemic in our own community (approximately between 25-35%). These youth end up in Justice Courts and become part of the Criminal Justice System. We spend approximately \$10,000 - \$20,000 per year for any juvenile referred to our Juvenile Justice Center and if these youth are placed in a youth correctional facility we, yes, we as taxpayers, pay \$49,000 - \$51,000 per year to house them. Those that graduate to a higher crime level and are housed in state or federal institutions as inmates will cost us approximately \$70,000 - \$75,000 per year to keep them incarcerated. These types of behavior affect all of us!


We must always remember the young people of this community need us. They are our future workforce! As a sponsor you have provided these young people with a second chance to improve their life by providing an educational opportunity. A wasted, young mind is a young person (child) left behind. We will not let this happen. It was Dr. Garcia's dream that no child shall be left behind and we too, must share this dream.

Because of your generosity, 47 youth received a \$700 scholarship. Those that attend Del Mar College will receive a matching scholarship for the second semester (combined for a full year scholarship). Out of the 47, forty were GED graduates (35 court-ordered, potential drop-outs) and 7 were regular high school scholarships. Additionally, because of our endowment contributors we were able to create a GED Scholarship Endowment in the amount of \$24,000 to help future GED graduates continue their education. In the last two years we have been able to assist approximately 79 students with GED test fees (\$75 per test - total approximately \$6,000).

We have also provided 108 GED College Scholarships in the past 4 years. This year's GED Scholarship Banquet's success can be credited to your unselfish contribution. The "Education is Our Freedom" scholarship committee, Judge Joe A. Gonzalez (JAG) and the Nueces County Senior Citizen Association, in partnership with the Del Mar College Foundation, are honored to have you as a partner to provide opportunities and solutions that will continue to make a positive impact on the drop-out epidemic in our community. We hope that our partnership will continue to grow. We believe that a GED graduate should not be counted as a drop-out because they are part of our future workforce. Education should be everyone's business!

Sincerely,


Judge Joe A. Gonzalez (JAG)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Pl.1


Joe Benavides
Chairman

For More Information Call: (361) 633-9308 or (361) 888-0201

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