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TACHE HONORS MARIA C. AGUIRRE AS SHE ENTERS HER 36th YEAR AT TSTC

Maria C. Aguirre, Chair of TACHE Advisory Board, recognized by colleagues for dedication, commitment, and longtime service to Texas State Technical College.

[Canyon, TX, September, 18] — Daniel Villanueva, TACHE President, is excited to announce that the second annual Career and Leadership Development Institute cohort will be named after Maria C. Aguirre.

36 years ago, Maria C. Aguirre started as a new professional and began her career at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Sweetwater. Maria started at TSTC Sweetwater as a student worker in Admissions. Currently, she serves as the Senior Executive Director of Communication and Creative Services for the entire TSTC system across the state of Texas.

Maria's professional experience at TSTC has evolved as she has also served as Admissions Advisor, Recruiter, Director of Administrative Technology, Registrar, Director of Admissions, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, Executive Director of Compliance, Interim Senior Executive Director of Communications & Creative Services throughout her tenure. One of her greatest accomplishments during her tenure at TSTC was being recognized as a 2019 Chancellor's Excellence Award recipient. Maria also worked full-time while completing her master's degree in human resources management in 2011 at Wayland Baptist University.

Throughout her professional career, Maria has been very active in the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE). She has served in a state-wide role in the capacity as: President, President-Elect, Past-President, Vice President of Communications and Plains Regional Representative. In 2018, Maria was elected as Chair of the Advisory Board and works closely to guide the elected State Board.

In addition to TACHE, Maria is also a member of Texas Association of College Registrar's and Admissions Officers (TACRAO) and serves as the Treasurer for the Texas Association of Community College Marketers (TACCM). She is also the Vice-President for the Abilene Hispanic Leadership Council.

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"We applaud the determination and effort Maria has demonstrated throughout her more than 36 years with TSTC. With her wealth of knowledge and her historical recount, she's truly a highly respected member of the TSTC family," said Gail R. Lawrence, Executive Vice Chancellor at Texas State Technical College.

Dr. Magdalena de la Teja, former TACHE President, shared, "Maria is a caring and devoted TACHista, and I have loved being a colleague of hers and will always remember our many shared professional experiences, including 'el TACHEton.' Maria has led the incredible development of the awards night program with details about the graduate fellow awards. Maria has poured lots of love into that event!"

"It is an honor and privilege to congratulate my friend, Ms. Maria Aguirre, on her 36 years of service at Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Her dedication and commitment to enhance all students' success through her academic institution and Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) has no bounds. Maria and I have had the pleasure to work and serve together on the TACHE State Board for many years and have enjoyed a long and valued friendship. Her commitment, dedication, service and leadership are instrumental in the continued success of TACHE as a viable educational association. She exemplifies leadership that is grounded in loyalty, respect and service to others," said Linda Contreras Bullock, former TACHE President and inaugural namesake of the Career and Leadership Development Institute.

Daniel Villanueva, Jr., TACHE President, said, "TACHE is relevant today because of the work that Maria has put into the organization. She is truly a staple within our organization and I've enjoyed working with her, learning from her, and pushing for change alongside of her as TACHE continues to expand and reach new heights for Latino success. It is our distinct pleasure to honor Maria by highlighting her as the namesake for the second cohort".

"Maria is a leader among leaders, and has always be a champion for TACHE. I'm glad we could honor her work," said Dr. Daniel Rodriguez, TACHE Past President.

The application process for the second Annual Career and Leadership Development Institute will open in November.

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Since 1974 TACHE has been committed to the improvement of educational and employment opportunities for Chicanos in higher education, and believes in diversity and inclusion regardless of background. As an association the interchangeable term "Chicano" is used to include all of a Latino or Hispanic background, as well as those who support us, however we understand that there can be many interpretations of the term. Its 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 association has four goals: 1) Educational Advocacy, 2) Networking, 3) Recruitment and Retention and 4) Cultural Promotion.