

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

Contact: Ione Echeverria
(214) 648-3404
ione.echeverria@email.swmed.edu

DALLAS CONCILIO ESTABLISHES DR. ONESIMO HERNANDEZ SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS AT UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT DALLAS

DALLAS – January 27, 1999 – A nonprofit organization committed to working with volunteers and local agencies to enhance Hispanics' access to health and human services has awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to a first-year medical student at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The Dr. Onesimo Hernandez Scholarship, funded by the Dallas Concilio of Hispanic Service Organizations, commemorates the first Mexican-American graduate of Southwestern Medical School.

Cristina Montalvo, 22, is the first beneficiary of the partial scholarship. She resides in Fort Worth with her husband, Rodolfo, and has just completed her first year of medical school. Aside from the rigorous demands of school, she aids her community by lecturing to high school and middle school students about preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Upon completion of her medical training she wants to be a family practitioner and serve as a mentor for Hispanic students who aspire to enter the medical field.

"This award is such a great distinction, and I am honored to be representing the Hispanic community as well as UT Southwestern," Montalvo said. With both Montalvo and her husband attending medical school the \$2,000 will help reduce the financial burden incurred by pursuing a medical degree.

Jesus Sandoval, executive director of the Dallas Concilio, said the committee that

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selected the winner was impressed with Montalvo's volunteer efforts.

"I was amazed how Cristina, at such a young age, had held several significant volunteer positions and was able to volunteer her time to helping young kids," Sandoval said. "It is unusual to see a young individual contribute so much of his or her time to helping the community."

Hernandez, who died in 1994, was a well-known Dallas physician who graduated from Southwestern Medical School in 1953. He rose to local prominence in both medical and political circles and is remembered as a man who fought throughout his life to make Hispanics a recognized part of the community – whether it was by galvanizing the Hispanic community or by fighting exclusion of minority groups from civic, social and political participation.

The Dallas Concilio plans to continue sponsoring the scholarship, which is available to a bilingual Hispanic student who is enrolled at Southwestern Medical School and is pursuing a career in primary care. Applicants must be first-year medical students in good academic standing, exhibit a commitment to the community through volunteer work and be willing to practice medicine in Dallas upon completion of their medical training.

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