

# Scholarships share gift of an education

By Ben Goodwin

STAFF WRITER

Maria Elena Trevino never met Salvador Alvarez, but she was able to start her college career at Texas A&I University because his family shared his love for education.

Alvarez, who died three years ago, was director of the university's bilingual education program. Each year for 14 years - the number of years Alvarez taught at A&I - one bilingual education student like Trevino receives a

\$300 Dr. Salvador Alvarez Memorial Scholarship. The fund was set up by the professor's family following his death in 1986.

Both A&I and Corpus Christi State universities are supported by scholarships financed both by large corporations, such as Exxon or IBM, and smaller ones.

Many scholarship donors place restrictions on who can receive their financial help. For example, at A&I and CCSU, there are scholarships only for residents of Duval County, 25-year-old fresh-

men, computer whizzes and bilingual education majors.

University fund-raisers such as Pence Dacus of A&I and Linda Hanson of CCSU, however, welcome any help they receive - large or small.

Giant Exxon Corp., with a natural gas refinery on the King Ranch, has a close relationship with A&I's natural gas and chemical engineering department.

Although other petroleum firms contribute financial aid, the department receives as much as

\$10,000 annually from Exxon, said Department Chairman Ray Finch. Most of the money is used for undergraduate scholarships, with the remainder used for faculty travel and professional improvement activities.

"We awarded \$1,750 in scholarships this fall, ranging from \$500 to \$750, depending on the student's grade point average," said Finch. "We have been awarding anywhere between \$1,200 and \$2,000 per semester the past few

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years."

In all, Texas A&I has about 130 scholarships worth about \$385,000, while CCSU has about 125 restricted scholarships worth about \$200,000.

One restricted scholarship is Welders Equipment Co., which sponsors a \$750 per semester Hattie Cohn Abrams Tuition Fund scholarship and is awarded to a student from Duval County.

"Our family roots go back to Duval County," said David P. Engle, president of the equipment company, with offices in Corpus Christi and Victoria. "The scholarship is in honor of my grandmother, Hattie Cohn, who grew up in San Diego."

The Alvarez family of Corpus Christi helps make it possible for Trevino, a 19-year-old sophomore



GEORGE TULEY/CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Theresa Haibach of Corpus Christi has received four scholarships at CCSU 'College hasn't cost me one dime,' she says.

bilingual education major, to attend Texas A&I.

Last year, she was the recipient of three restricted scholarships

worth a total of \$1,100, including the Alvarez scholarship.

"The scholarships helped me on my tuition, fees and dorm expenses," said Trevino. "Otherwise, I couldn't have come here."

Trevino also was the recipient of the Bertie Taylor Memorial scholarship and the Margy Ann Pollard scholarship, \$500 each.

Taylor and Pollard also were former A&I professors.

Trevino, like other students, learned of the scholarships through university publications circulated to school districts throughout South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

CCSU senior Theresa Haibach of Corpus Christi said she is amazed at the number of students who don't realize scholarships are available.

"I attended Del Mar on academic scholarships and have received four at CCSU," said Haibach. "College hasn't cost me one dime. The scholarships have allowed me to concentrate on my grades and not have to work. Without the scholarships, I would have been required to work and go to college," said the accounting major.

She has received two Warren Scholarships worth \$750 per semester each, a \$500 Republic Investment Corp. of New York scholarship and a \$200 Freeman Science Award. All are based on a student's grade point average. Haibach currently has a 3.8 grade point average.

The Warren Scholarships are awarded by the Warren Founda-

tion. The Warren Foundation was started by Guy I. Warren, longtime supporter of CCSU. He died Feb. 12, 1984.

The Freeman Science Award was started by Joyce and Janice Freeman, both CCSU professors.

All the scholarships are awarded to students based on their grade point averages. Restrictions imposed on scholarships are as varied as organizations that furnish the money.

For example, two \$500 scholarships at A&I are available to any student 25 years of age or older. The scholarships were announced in 1987 and are awarded annually to students who delayed a college career, according to the University Women's Club, which sponsors the scholarship.

Others include A&I's Helen

Harp Baker Forensics Scholarship in memory of the early teacher of "declamation, elocution and oratory."

And \$500 scholarships to students who transfer from Bee County College, Del Mar College, or Laredo, Southwest Texas, Wharton or Victoria junior colleges. Eighteen of the \$500 scholarships have been awarded annually for about five years, Pecos said.

CCSU's scholarships include those sponsored by John R. Bateman, established in 1973, to furnish \$500 annual scholarships to business administration students. Bateman is a Corpus Christi investor. And the \$1,000 H.O. Hartley Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually for graduate computer science majors.