

# ***ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM***

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5440 Harvest Hill Road, Suite 145E, Dallas, Texas 75230

## **3 DallasISD Students chosen as TWU Terry Scholars**

June 17, 2015

**Dallas, Texas** – The financial burden of affording their college education was a concern for three Garza Early College High School students until they each received the exciting news that they had been selected as TWU Terry Scholars. Valeri Lopez, Kimberly Morales, and Georgette Rojas were all ranked in the top third of their high school class at GECHS and all were awarded their associates degree in May from through the school's partnership with Mountain View College. They will have the potential to graduate from Texas Woman's University in just two years! All three young ladies were active participants in the Academic Success Program where they completed their applications to become Terry Scholars. One hundred sixty students applied for the scholarship and eighty students were nominated by TWU to interview on-campus with current Terry Scholars and faculty members. From there, thirty-two students were chosen to interview with the Terry Foundation and only sixteen students were awarded the full scholarship that provides financial security and leadership development.

### **Valeri Lopez**

Valeri is a remarkable student athlete who played varsity soccer all four years of high school. Further, Valeri was highly involved in the Garza community and has participated in NABT Bio Club, Team Water Works, and National Honor Society. Valeri constantly exhibited compassion for others and has a genuine interest to see her peers thrive which led her to become a Senior Leader for the Academic Success Program. Valeri encouraged and assisted her classmates with their applications to the same colleges and scholarships that she was applying for, showing great maturity on her part. Valeri fell in love with TWU when she attended the first round of Terry Scholars interviews and was able to see the campus and speak with current students. She plans to study Kinesiology at TWU.

### **Kimberly Morales**

Kimberly knew early on that she wanted to attend TWU. She did everything in her power as a high school student to prepare for college and amassed 70 college credits from Mountain View College. Kimberly was been active in student activities at Garza, participating in the Sigma Delta Nu honor society and Models Club. She currently works 25 hours a week as a waitress to help support herself financially. Kimberly has experienced many hardships, including the tragic and senseless loss of her loved ones due to gang violence, but she keeps a positive outlook on life and used boxing to relieve her stress. She plans to study nursing at TWU to help others in traumatic situations.

### **Georgette Rojas**

Georgette is so serious about her goal of becoming a doctor that she has already purchased an MCAT prep book and has begun studying for the exam! Her passion for the medical profession comes from witnessing her parents experience medical illness. For the past two years, she has volunteered at Dallas Methodist Hospital where she shadows and assists nurses with their duties and paperwork. Everything Georgette does—from taking advanced classes to her extensive volunteer work—she does with the greater goal of becoming an effective doctor in the future. Georgette was a student leader in many activities at Garza, participating in Student Council, the Dallas Urban Debate Alliance, Trinity River Mission, Believe and Achieve, Phi Theta Kappa, among many other activities. Georgette plans to use her medical degree to support the underserved Latino community in Dallas.

### **Contact**

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