Corpus Christi Caller

LOCAL NEWS B

Friday, April 19, 1985

Yale honors Dr. Hector Garcia

By Cindy Tumiel
STAFF WRITER

Yale University has established an endowed chair in Chicano studies in honor of American G.I. Forum founder Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi.

The endowed chair is part of the Ivy League university's new Chicano Research Center, established last summer, that will focus on the history and accomplishments of Hispanics in the United States.

"The reason Dr. Garcia was picked was because of his involvement, throughout his life, in the advancement of Hispanics, especially in education," said Zaragosa Vargas yesterday in a telephone interview.

Vargas is an assistant professor and director of the Chicano Research Center at Yale.

"I'm certainly grateful and honored and humbled," said Garcia. "This is an honor that is bestowed upon this community too."

"This is where I live. This is my home and I'm proud of it," the physician said of Corpus Christi.

Garcia said he hoped this latest award would serve as motivation for young Hispanics. Last year, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Ronald Reagan.

"I hope this will encourage more young people to achieve recognition and get involved," he said.

Garcia has had some involvement with the New Haven, Conn., school. He visited there last year at the invitation of Corpus Christi natives affiliated with the university. Garcia addressed students and faculty on his activities in the battle for equal rights.

Through the Hector P. Garcia Endowed Chair, an Hispanic scholar will be invited each year to teach and participate in all aspects of Yale University life, Vargas said.

David Avalos of Seton Hall University will be the first to hold the chair during the 1985-86 academic year, Vargas said. Avalos has been a visiting lecturer in sociology at Yale for several years.

Besides the endowed chair in Garcia's honor, the new Chicano Research Center has established a literary journal, a research journal and a dissertation fellowship in honor of Yale graduate Joaquin Avila, president and general counsel of MALDEF.

The center also has asked Garcia to consider Yale as a repository for his personal papers and correspondence.

Garcia said this is being considered, but no decision has been made yet.

G.I. Forum founder Dr. Garcia

Texas Department of Human Resources

State Headquarters Located at 706 Banister Lane
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2960 • Austin, Texas 78769

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May 1, 1985

Dear Dr. Hector,

Congratulations! Again you have made me and the City of Corpus Christi so very proud of you. We are so fortunate to have you in our midst as our role model.

As a homemaker, mother, wife, volunteer and professional woman, I've followed your involvement and commitment in our city, state and nation for many years - and yes, you have been one of my role models.

Again thank you, Sir, for all you have done for us.

Sinceramente,

Vicki Garza

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