



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE SECRETARY

LAURO F. CAVAZOS

Lauro F. Cavazos was asked by President George Bush to continue as Secretary of Education following the November 1988 presidential election. Secretary Cavazos was originally nominated for the post by President Ronald Reagan on August 9, 1988, and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on September 20, 1988.

A sixth generation Texan, Secretary Cavazos was born on January 4, 1927, on the vast King Ranch in South Texas, where his father was the foreman. He earned his B.A. and M.A. in zoology at Texas Tech University and holds a doctoral degree in physiology from Iowa State University. In addition, he has received honorary degrees from several universities and colleges.

Dr. Cavazos has served in various professional and administrative positions. He has taught at the Medical College of Virginia and at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, where he was also Dean for five years. He returned to Texas Tech University in 1980 to become its tenth president, the first Hispanic and first graduate of the school to hold that office.

Secretary Cavazos has received a number of awards recognizing his efforts in education. In 1984 President Reagan presented him with an award for Outstanding Leadership in the Field of Education. In 1985 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences, and in 1987 he accepted an award designed in his honor from the Texas Tech University Ex-Student Association. The next year he received the National Hispanic Leadership Award in the field of education from the League of United Latin American Citizens. In 1989 he has received the President's Medal from the City College of New York and the Medal of Honor from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Secretary Cavazos has vigorously served both the field of medicine and the field of education. He has been a consultant to national and international health organizations, including the World Health Organization and a variety of inter-American health groups. He is author or co-author of approximately 75 publications in the areas of physiology and reproduction, fine structure of cells and tissues, and medical education.

Dr. Cavazos has served education as a member or leader of numerous councils of higher education at both the state and national levels, and his beliefs about education are the result of wide familiarity with a broad spectrum of schools and educational institutions. His efforts as Secretary of Education have concentrated on three areas of reform critical to the improvement of American education. First, he has focused on raising the expectations of students, teachers, and parents and has encouraged them to demand the best possible school systems. Second, he has stressed that all students—especially those most at risk—must have access to quality education. Third, he believes that quality education in America should be everyone's responsibility.

Dr. Cavazos has initiated a consumer-protection approach to federal student assistance programs, targeted federal resources to improve opportunities for those most in need, and initiated special programs to combat drug and alcohol use. As a strong advocate of parent involvement in education, he has provided leadership to encourage parental and community participation in education reform.

He is married to the former Peggy Murdock. They have ten children.

Revised 6/1/89.