

American GI Forum # 1
Veterans Family Organization
621 Gabaldon Road, N.W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87104

November 18, 1890

Office (505) 243-7551

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National Merit Scholarship Corporation
One American Plaza
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American GI Forum is heavily involved in upgrading the test scores of Hispanic and Chicano students in New Mexico. We have devised programs which encourage the Chicanos and Hispanics to apply for the SAT's and ACT's in the low income areas. We have plans to even pay for the cost of taking the tests in order for the students to become test-wise.

We award annual scholarships (see attached brochure) to Chicanos who are in the top scholastic category in their respective high schools. Last year we conducted competitive programs between the top students of four of the predominantly Chicano populated high schools in Bernalillo County. We awarded eight \$1,000.00 scholarships to the winners without regard to income status of the student or family.

Last year we sponsored 18 students to the Sea of Cortez Institute in Guaymas, Mexico. The selection was made among students who had high scholastic marks and were highly motivated. All of the 18 students were accepted to colleges or universities in the US.

I am a Commissioner of White House Fellows and engage in the selection of some of the outstanding persons in the US who will spend a year in Federal Government work. I am sure you are familiar with the program and understand objectives of the White House Fellows program. I believe it is important for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation to name a Hispanic or Chicano to your governing board. Secondly, I note that applications for the Merit Scholarship Program give consideration to outstanding negro students. It appears to me that some consideration should be given to the Chicano and Hispanic student. The American GI Forum has an education foundation under the Directorship of Mr. Antonio Morales; 1157 E. Seminary Drive; Fort Worth, Texas; 76115 - who is deeply involved in the education of the Chicanos of this nation. I am a Director of the Hispanic Education Foundation as well and, therefore, I

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suggest that you make contact with Mr. Morales for the purpose of establishing communication and some method of increasing the number of Chicanos and Hispanics who participate in the National Merit Scholarship program.

Sincerely,

Vicente T. Ximenes
Chairman

VTX/rip

Enclosure

cc: Antonio Morales
Manuel J. Salinas/Conciliator
Community Relations Service
Dr. Hector P. Garcia/Founder ✓
American GI Forum