

Leonardo de la Garza
Chancellor, Tarrant County College District

Leonardo de la Garza has served as a community college educator for over 35 years. He is in his ninth year as chancellor of the Tarrant County College District, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas. The College District serves more than 82,000 credit and non-credit students yearly, through four campuses and other sites. Prior executive positions have included presidencies at Santa Fe Community College in New Mexico and El Paso Community College in Texas, and executive vice presidencies at Coastal Bend College and Austin Community College, also in Texas.

He holds an associate's degree from Bee County College, a bachelor's degree in finance and management, *Summa Cum Laude*, from St. Edwards University, and a Ph.D. in educational administration, community college leadership, from the University of Texas at Austin. His teaching concentrations have been in finance, management, higher education administration, and community college leadership.

His recent public service activities for more than 20 organizations and associations at the state, national and international levels have included the boards or commissions of the American Association of Community Colleges, The College Board, the American Council on Education, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, and the Texas Association of Community Colleges. Current active service commitments include Chair, Advisory Board, Bill J. Priest Center for Community College Education, University of North Texas; Member, Board of Directors, North Texas Regional Center for Innovation & Commercialization, Alliance for Higher Education; Member, Legislative Committee, Texas Association of Community Colleges; Chair, Start-Up Funding Committee for New Campuses/Centers, Texas Association of Community Colleges; Member, Board of Visitors, McDonald Observatory and University of Texas at Austin Department of Astronomy; Member, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Advisory Committee of Presidents; Charter Member, National Community College Advisory Council, Educational Testing Service; Member, Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Member, Executive Committee, President's Academy-American Association of Community Colleges; and Visiting Advisor/Team Chair, Universities Project for Eastern Europe, the Salzburg Seminar, Salzburg, Austria as well as a member of the Community College Study Program Advisory Committee of the Salzburg Seminar. Locally, he is a Member of the Board of Trustees, Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, Member of Downtown Fort Worth Rotary, Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas, and other public service organizations.

Recent service recognitions by the higher education profession include: the 2003 International Leadership Award, NISOD, University of Texas at Austin; the 2003 Leonardo de la Garza Endowed Scholarship in Forensics established by the Humanities faculty, Tarrant County College; and the 25-Year Distinguished Service Award, Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education, awarded in 2000.

He enjoys particular expertise in the three major areas of community college administration: finance, instruction and student development. Finally, he is recognized for his expertise in the development and use of evaluation models for achievement of organizational success, with emphasis on the evaluation of the chief executive officer and the assessment of governing board effectiveness.

His immediate family consists of his wife of 42 years, Virginia, their son, Carlos, a C.P.A. in the Houston area, daughter-in-law, Claude and four-year old grandson, Lucas Leonardo.