



## **FACE, GEAR UP, Alice, host historic National Father/Student College Dreams on Wheels Rally!**

The *National Father/Student College Dreams on Wheels Rally!* will be held in Alice, Saturday, November 19, 2011. The event will begin with a parade being coordinated at the baseball fields off of Langford St. in Alice at 2 p.m. and will wrap up with an indoor program at Wm Adams Middle School, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Fathers Active in Communities & Education (FACE) and the GEAR UP STAR Partnership are inviting fathers, students and their families from the Alice ISD campuses as well as middle and high school campuses from the other five GEAR UP STAR school districts.

Colleges and universities are also expected to send representatives to the event to interact with dads, students and families.

“This historic event is inspired by the recognition of José L. Rodríguez as one of five Parent Leadership Award winners from across the country,” explained Alphonso Rincón, FACE president. The National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP) made the award to Rodríguez in July during its national GEAR UP conference in San Francisco. Program leaders and educators from the nation’s GEAR UP partnerships, the U.S. Department of Education and the San Francisco School Board stood witness as Rodriguez crossed the stage to receive his award.

Rodriguez, and his grandson, Kristopher, currently an Alice High School freshman, began attending FACE events at Salazar Elementary. At that time, Alice ISD combined Title I funds (elementary) with GEAR UP funds (middle, high school) to implement the FACE program districtwide.

“We need to celebrate Jose Rodriguez’s achievement for the personal effort and dedication he has shown over the years,” said Rincón. “But we also need to celebrate and rally the tremendous communities of fathers that have stepped up to the plate of education in Alice, Odem, Brooks County, Kingsville, Mathis, Corpus Christi, and Premont ISDs.”

The pedestrian parade will consist of walkers and non-motorized “wheels” such as bikes, wagons, strollers, and skateboards. Participants are encouraged to wear their favorite university apparel and decorate their wheels, banners and signs with messages promoting the engagement of fathers in the creation of a college going culture in South Texas.

“Our work, and the dedication of fathers like José Rodriguez, have caught the attention of the country as it searches for ways to ensure that more students finish high school prepared to succeed in higher education,” Rincón added.

Fathers interested in participating in the *National Father/Student College Dreams on Wheels Rally!* should contact Alphonso Rincón at [face.arincon@gmail.com](mailto:face.arincon@gmail.com) or (210) 317-5424.

Submitted by: Alphonso Rincón, President, FACE, (210) 317-5424, [face.arincon@gmail.com](mailto:face.arincon@gmail.com)