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Featuring: Aimee Nunez, College Admissions Specialist for Lamar Academy, McAllen ISD

How long have you been a member of TACAC?

1 year

How has TACAC played a role in your career?

I was a TACAC member previously but was unable to maintain my membership after returning to a traditional public school setting. Recently, I made the decision to rejoin, personally covering the cost because I recognize the value of staying connected with professionals who share a commitment to this important work.

I deeply value collaboration, continuous learning, and professional growth. Rejoining TACAC has reaffirmed the importance of being part of a network of dedicated colleagues who are committed to expanding access to higher education. It has been a meaningful reminder that, together, we can have an even greater impact on the students and families we serve.

Tell us a little bit about your career journey?

I began my career as a high school English teacher before transitioning to teach the AVID elective, where my passion for college access truly took root. That experience confirmed my desire to become a school counselor with the ultimate goal of serving as a college counselor.

Now in my twentieth year as an educator, I have the privilege of supporting students as they navigate the path to higher education. During the 2023–2024 school year, I was honored to be named McAllen ISD's Secondary Counselor of the Year.

As a first-generation college graduate, my commitment to expanding access to higher education is deeply personal. My own journey to earning a college degree shaped my belief that every student deserves the knowledge, guidance, and opportunities needed to pursue their postsecondary goals with confidence.

My dedication to college access extends beyond my professional role. I volunteer with local community organizations to help bridge information and resource gaps for students and families, ensuring they have greater access to college and financial aid information. I am also a current member of NACAC and an alumnus of the New Leaders Council, South Texas Frontera chapter, experiences that continue to strengthen my leadership and commitment to educational equity.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of my work is seeing students realize they have options! There is nothing more rewarding than watching them thoughtfully weigh the opportunities before them, comparing colleges based on their goals, values, and aspirations rather than wondering whether college is possible at all. Seeing students empowered to make a choice, not simply accept the only option available, is what makes this work so meaningful. Every student deserves the opportunity to choose the college or pathway that is the best fit for them, and I am grateful to play a small role in helping make those choices possible.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing our profession today?

One of the greatest challenges facing the counseling profession is the high student-to-counselor ratio. Across the country, counselors work tirelessly to meet the diverse academic, social-emotional, and college and career needs of their students, often while serving caseloads that far exceed recommended levels.

Despite these challenges, counselors continue to find innovative and resourceful ways to maximize their impact. They build strong partnerships, leverage community resources, and develop systems that allow them to reach more students effectively. While counselors consistently rise to meet the needs of their school communities, improving student-to-counselor ratios remains essential to ensuring every student receives the individualized support and guidance they deserve.

What's a random fun fact about you that most people don't know?

A fun fact about me is that I love sneakers! While I wouldn't call myself a serious collector, I probably own more pairs than the average person. I enjoy finding styles that are both comfortable and expressive, and there's nothing like a great pair of sneakers to complete an outfit.

What's something currently bringing you joy?

Going on walks with my husband brings me great joy. It is one of the simplest yet most meaningful parts of our routine, giving us uninterrupted time to connect and have long conversations. Our schedules are often busy, so I truly value these walks as a chance to slow down, be present with one another, and stay connected amidst the demands of everyday life.

What are you currently watching or binging on TV/Podcast/Netflix?

I'm currently listening to Dream School by Jeff Selinger for the second time.

If someone were to visit your town, where should they eat?

Nana's Taqueria in my hometown, Weslaco!

What do you like to do when you are not working?

When I am not working or volunteering, I enjoy unwinding with the latest releases on Netflix, most often a good documentary.

What is your favorite TACAC memory?

My favorite TACAC memory is attending my very first conference! I remember feeling so excited and energized as a first-year college counselor, eager to learn and connect with others in the field. It was a meaningful experience that helped me feel grounded in this profession and affirmed my path in college counseling. I also made connections that I continue to maintain to this day, which has made that first conference especially memorable.