



## HIGHER EDUCATION & MINISTRY

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### **Black College Fund Connects Hispanic and Latino Students to Higher Education** *Student Profile: Victoria Elizalde, Huston-Tillotson University*



“Receiving academic and athletic scholarships to Huston-Tillotson University paved the way for me to attend college,” Victoria Elizalde, a Huston-Tillotson alumna, explained. Maintaining these scholarships provided financial security for her education and relief to her family. The scholarships proved to be even more important after she received devastating news shortly after settling on campus. “Just in my first year of college, my mom discovered she had a brain tumor. After major surgery, she was not able to return to work.”

It was because of the Black College Fund’s All Are Welcome Hispanic Pipeline Scholarship that she could finish her bachelor’s degree, she wrote in a report to the office. “It was God sent and alleviated so many of my financial concerns,” Victoria expressed.

Growing up in rural Beeville, Texas, this three-sport athlete longed for a sense of belonging and community. “In my hometown everyone knows you and friendships are everlasting and strong. I loved every bit of the small-town life.” After visiting the campus, Victoria exclaimed that the decision to attend Huston-Tillotson University “just felt right.”

Victoria was most attracted to Huston-Tillotson because of the chance to play multiple sports, but was ultimately impressed by the community she discovered while visiting. “The diversity of the campus, its rich heritage, many extracurricular opportunities, small classes and friendly campus were all important things to me coming from a small town.”

The Kinesiology major, who aspires to coach and enter the medical field, flourished during her tenure at Huston-Tillotson. Graduating summa cum laude in the of class 2017, Victoria received numerous academic and athletic awards.

“My experience was phenomenal. I grew during my time at Huston-Tillotson,” an experience Victoria believes was only heightened by the school’s commitment to excellence.