



Black College Fund Connects Hispanic and Latino Students to Higher Education *Student Profile: Abelardo Flores-Dominguez, Huston-Tillotson University*



Soccer enthusiast Abelardo Flores-Dominguez, a junior at Huston-Tillotson University, is one of 22 recipients of the Black College Fund's "All Are Welcome: Hispanic Pipeline" scholarship award.

In a report to the Black College Fund, the Texas native explained that the scholarship was a tremendous help to him and his family. "This has given me the opportunity to have more time for school work, as it has released the stress of worrying about the cost of school." This opportunity is important to Abelardo as he works to become a professional soccer player and tax professional.

Abelardo's desire to further his soccer career is what led him to Huston-Tillotson. "Coming to Huston-Tillotson had been on my mind ever since I decided to commit to the soccer program." Abelardo described Huston-Tillotson as a "perfect fit" after learning that the majority black school offers scholarships to other minorities.

What he didn't discover until later, however, was a passion for accounting. His professor's zeal for the field influenced him to change his major. "I saw a potential skill I could develop. This motivated me to have a 3.0 grade point average for the year," a feat Abelardo achieved for the first time.

He credits his enthusiasm for Huston-Tillotson and scholastic achievement to his passion for the game of soccer. "Playing for the school has given me a sense of pride and accountability with the University ... I progressed every day physically and mentally as a player, which transferred into the classroom."

Abelardo was emotional when he received the award because he believes, "giving to whom needs is a lot more gratifying than receiving the gift," wrote Abelardo. As a volunteer who gives soccer training to youth in his community, Abelardo now understands what an amazing feeling it is to receive the gift.