



Triunfadores honors 6 Hispanic achievers

by Aileen B. Flores \ El Paso Times

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Six El Pasoans were recognized for their achievements and community contributions at a special event Thursday.

The 12th annual McDonald's Hispanos Triunfadores Award was given to artist Francisco Romero, entrepreneur Amada Flores, community service leader Elvira Escajeda, historian and writer Fred Morales, County Tax Assessor-Collector Victor A. Flores and scientist Hector Holguin.

The event was part of the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, said Richard Castro, president of El Paso/Las Cruces McDonald's.

"It's our way to recognize and contribute to that celebration," Castro said.

The awards' purpose is to distinguish outstanding individuals in El Paso for their professional accomplishments and community contributions, Castro said.

At a ceremony at the Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel and attended by nearly 300 people, recipients said they were honored and thankful. They also encouraged others to support future generations in becoming successful people.

From the artist who discovered his passion for drawing at 6 years old to the historian with more than 20 books to his credit, each award winner shared his or her story.

Escajeda, 92, fought for a peaceful resolution when she saw her property threatened by the Chamizal dispute between U.S. and México.

Escajeda led a movement to get fair and just compensation for area land owners.

Amada Flores, who in 1982 founded MST Consulting Inc., a multimillion-dollar construction company, said the support given to all

Hispanic endeavors is very significant. She encouraged others to teach respect and dignity to children so they could become better people.

"They are our future," she said.

Victor Flores was recognized for his service at the El Paso County Tax Office for more than 14 years. Holguin was honored for his technological contributions, which include being a pioneer in creating the first desktop workstation for computer aided design.

Romero, who worked at a box factory before becoming a famous painter, was honored for his singular artwork and contributions to nonprofit organizations such as United Way and Avance. Morales has helped educate others about the history of El Paso.

The award winners were selected by a committee of representatives of several civic organizations, including the El Paso Chamber of

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Commerce, the League of United Latin American Citizens and Entravision.

Organizers sponsored a group of students to attend and witness the honorees' stories.

Castro said the success stories are an inspiration to others, especially young students. He said it is important to encourage students to stay focused on their education because it can help more people in the community become successful.

"Hopefully one day, their stories can be the ones that are being told," he said.

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