Agenda Item No.

**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

**Submitted by:** CEO’s Name, Title

 Member

**Subject:** Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr.

**Proposed Board Action:**

Authorize the president of Member Name (Member acronym) [see [Policy 02.04](https://policies.tamus.edu/02-04.pdf)] to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr.

**Background Information:**

In accordance with Section 1.2 of System Policy [11.07, Granting of Honorary Degrees](http://policies.tamus.edu/11-07.pdf), Member acronym submits this request to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr. This recognition is in tribute to his distinguished career and for the positive and significant impact his lifetime of service has made on member acronym, the state of Texas, and the United States of America.

The nomination for this Honorary Doctor of Letters degree received the unanimous support of the University Honorary Degrees Committee. The nomination was endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, the Faculty Senate as a whole meeting in executive session, and the president (note: this information may be different for each member) of member acronym.

With Board authorization, this honorary degree will be presented to Dr. Cavazos at member acronym’s commencement ceremony in Month Year.

**A&M System Funding or Other Financial Implications:**

None.

**Strategic Plan Imperative(s) this Item Advances: (This must include System SPI’s which can be found** [**here**](https://www.tamus.edu/system/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/09/BOR-StrategicPlan-v6-HR.pdf)**).**

## Agenda Item No.

**MEMBER NAME, BOLDED, ALL CAPS CENTERED**

Office of the President

Date of Submission

# Members, Board of Regents

The Texas A&M University System

Subject: Authorization to Award an Honorary Degree to Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr.

I recommend approval of the following minute order:

**“The president of Member Name is authorized to award an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree to Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr.”**

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Smith

President

**Approval Recommended: Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

John Sharp Ray Bonilla

Chancellor General Counsel

Billy Hamilton

Deputy Chancellor and

Chief Financial Officer

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James R. Hallmark, Ph.D.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

ATTACHMENT TO ITEM

**Member Name**

Honorary Degree Candidate Summary

**(Bio should be no longer than one page)**

Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr.

Candidate for Honorary Doctor of Letters

Dr. Lauro F. Cavazos, Jr. is a sixth-generation Texan who was born on the King Ranch. His father was a cattle foreman and his mother was a descendant of Francita Alavez, the “Angel of Goliad” and heroine of the Texas Revolution.

He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in zoology from Texas Tech University and a Ph.D. in physiology from Iowa State University. He began his career in teaching and later moved up to the top administration in higher education. His career includes serving as a faculty member at the Medical College of Virginia, dean of the Tufts University School of Medicine and president of Texas Tech University. Dr. Cavazos was the first alumnus and Hispanic to serve in that role at Texas Tech.

After his presidency at Texas Tech, Dr. Cavazos was chosen to serve as Secretary of Education under President Ronald Reagan. This made him the first Hispanic appointed to a presidential cabinet. He was asked to continue in that role under President George H.W. Bush.

During his service as Secretary of Education, from August 1988 to December 1990, Dr. Cavazos initiated reform of the federal student assistance programs, targeted resources to improve opportunities for those most in need, and provided leadership to encourage parental and community participation in education reform.

Throughout his career, Dr. Cavazos published many books on medical education and medical sciences. He also wrote a memoir, “Remembering: An Educator’s Journey,” which offered an account of his life and career in education. He served as a consultant to the World Health Organization and other national and international public health organizations.

In 1984, he received an award for Outstanding Leadership in the Field of Education from then President Reagan. He also received the National Hispanic Leadership award from the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Following his tenure as Secretary of Education, Dr. Cavazos returned to Tufts University School of Medicine as a professor of public health and family medicine.

In addition to his degrees from Texas Tech and Iowa State University, he also holds 21 honorary degrees.