

THE EVOLUTION OF THE INCLUSION OF MEXICAN AMERICANS IN THE

EDUCATIONAL PROCESS: A STUDY OF THE WESLACO

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, 1926-2006

A Dissertation

by

Jose Richard Rivera

Submitted to the Graduate School of the
University of Texas-Pan American
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

November 2008

Major Subject: Educational Leadership

ABSTRACT

Rivera, Jose Richard, The Evolution of the Inclusion of Mexican Americans in the Educational Process: A Study of the Weslaco Independent School District, 1926-2006.

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), 128 pp., 42 titles.

This qualitative study dealt with the evolution of the inclusion of Mexican American students in the educational process in the Weslaco Independent School District from 1926 to 2006, at ten-year intervals. The unique story of Weslaco ISD was presented by synchronizing the city's history documents, Weslaco High School's yearbooks, school board agendas, and personal reflections of 35 participants composed of former students, former and current teachers, administrators, and school board members. The limitations of the study are that the findings were confined to people's memories which may not be totally accurate, and that the records of the time were restricted due to social conditions that did not always record information pertinent to all social, racial, and ethnic groups. The following questions were used in guiding this study: 1) *What were the social issues that affected the education of Mexican American students from 1926 to 2006?* 2) *What educational issues affected Mexican American students during the different time periods?* 3) *What were the personal accounts of former Mexican American students, former and current teachers, administrators, and board members of Weslaco ISD?*