Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship
Call for Applications

The Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship promotes Human Rights education for emerging leaders and honors the memory of a boy whose life ended far too soon. It was developed through a partnership between the Latino Center for Leadership Development and the SMU Embrey Human Rights Program, and with the blessing of the Rodriguez family.

Funds support qualified SMU students. As one of only seven institutions in the United States to offer an undergraduate degree in Human Rights, SMU is dedicated to nurturing a new generation of ethical and effective leaders. The scholarship makes this degree more accessible, especially to students with financial hardship.

In the early hours of July 24, 1973, 12-year-old Santos Rodriguez and his 13-year-old brother David were illegally taken from their Dallas home, handcuffed, and placed in a police car for questioning by police officers. Placing a revolver against the younger boy's head, one of the officers attempted to elicit information on a recent robbery by pulling the trigger of his revolver in a game of "Russian Roulette." Rodriguez maintained his innocence, a claim that was later corroborated by physical evidence. A second pull of the trigger fired a live bullet that killed the boy instantly.

The tragedy sparked widespread public outcry and led to the only race riot in Dallas history. The officer was sentenced to five years in prison, though he was released after only half that time. In 2013 - forty years after the incident - Mayor Mike Rawlings issued an official apology on behalf of the City of Dallas to the Rodriguez family after grassroots efforts brought the event back into the spotlight.

To learn about or contribute to the Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship, please visit smu.edu/santos.
Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship Application

To apply for the Santos Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship, complete all the questions below and obtain a copy of your SMU transcript or degree progress report. Then, email both items as attachments to humanrights@smu.edu. The application deadline is October 15, 2018.

Applicants must be full-time SMU undergraduate students at in good academic standing with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Human Rights majors are given preference in the selection process. Recipients receive $2500 per semester (fall and spring only) for a maximum of 8 semesters as long as they continue to meet the criteria above.

Full Name: ____________________________________________________
   (Last) _______ (First) _______ (Middle) _______

SMU ID: _______________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________
   (Number and Street) _______ (City) _______ (State) _______ (Zip) _______

Email Address: _____________________ Telephone Number: ____________________

High School: _____________________________________________________
   (Name) _______ (Location) _______

Majors: _________________________________________________________

Credit Hours Completed: ____________________ Current GPA: ____________________

Year in School: ____________________ Expected Graduation Date: _________________

Reference 1: _______________________________________________________
   (Reference Name) ____________________ (Reference Email) ____________________
   (Reference Telephone) ____________________

Reference 2: _______________________________________________________
   (Reference Name) ____________________ (Reference Email) ____________________
   (Reference Telephone) ____________________

Required Essay: On a separate page, please describe your commitment to Human Rights and/or your involvement in the community (500-1000 words).

______________________________________________________________________

I hereby attest that all of the information I am submitting is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: ____________________ Date: ____________________