



Gilbert Perales, Jr.
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

This scholarship had been generously underwritten by an anonymous donor

San Antonio resident Gilbert Perales, Jr., is a perfect example of the success that can be achieved with hard work and perseverance. While pursuing his master's in occupational therapy at TWU, Perales is a full-time practitioner and has custody of his two children. With an expected completion date of December 2008, his goal for the future is to own a rehabilitation agency utilizing his vision of providing quality care.

Having worked in the field of occupational therapy for 12 years, Perales has been an area director of rehabilitation in Corpus Christi and San Antonio and is currently the program director of a rehabilitation care group who contracts with nursing homes, hospitals and clinics to provide occupational, physical, and speech therapy. He also started Continuum Therapy Services, a home health staffing company that uses therapists in facilities who are interested in following their patients home upon discharge. Perales believes that the continuum of care model is one that is very important in today's healthcare environment.

Perales has worked full time since age 18, while attending school at nights and on weekends. He is a Gulf War Veteran who spent six years in the Air Force, where he was honorably discharged and earned a degree. He received his degree as a certified occupational therapist at St. Phillips College in San Antonio and his bachelors in healthcare administration at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Through TWU's Bridge Program he currently splits his time going to school on the weekends and online. His parents provide a great source of support, helping with his children, Erik, 11, and Olivia, 8, while he is traveling.