

Nomination Cover Sheet
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame
(effective date: January 16, 2008)

Name of Presenter: EDMUND STANSBURY _____

Date of Presentation: 04/05/2021 _____

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Business Address: 720 EMERALD VIEW DR 79932 _____

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Name of Nominee: RICK HERNANDEZ _____

Category Being Nominated In: SUPPORTER OF ATHLETICS _____

Home Address: EL PASO, TX 79922 _____

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Cell Phone: 915-478-6904 _____

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RICK HERNANDEZ

Community Supporter of Athletics | Nominee 2021

Rick Hernandez has been the executive director for the Greater El Paso football showcase for nearly two decades. The impact he has had for student-athletes in El Paso has been monumental. The Greater El Paso Football Showcase has awarded \$592,000 in scholarships to over 500 El Paso students who have excelled in football, band, choir, JROTC, cheer, dance, and journalism in its 28 years of existence.

As the Executive Director for the last 19 years, Rick Hernandez has spent countless hours as a volunteer and implemented many components for the showcase including the all-star game, scholarship banquet, all-star draft, mentor program, parent symposium and the combine. The combine was initiated to help eliminate the isolation we face in El Paso and give exposure to our athletes to continue their education and continue to play the game they love. The combine event brings in Division II, III and NAIA Universities to El Paso to recruit our student-athletes that excel in football. In its eight-year tenure scholarships awarded have totaled **19.2 million dollars** to over **230** football players in El Paso. Many of the scholarship recipients have graduated and returned to El Paso as doctors, attorneys, and educators being productive members of our beloved community. Rick Hernandez epitomizes an El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame member and certainly has brought great honor and credit to El Paso student-athletes. His impact will be felt for many generations and will not only live on through me, but the thousands of other athletes he has impacted.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GREATER EL PASO
FOOTBALL SHOWCASE

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$592,000

COMBINE SCHOLARSHIPS
GENERATED IN 10 YEARS
UNDER RICK HERNANDEZ
\$19.2 MILLION

OVER 30 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY SERVICE IN
THE CITY OF
EL PASO

501 c 3 Non-Profit

**Football, Band, Cheer,
Dance, Choir, JROTC,
Trainers, Mascots,
Journalism**

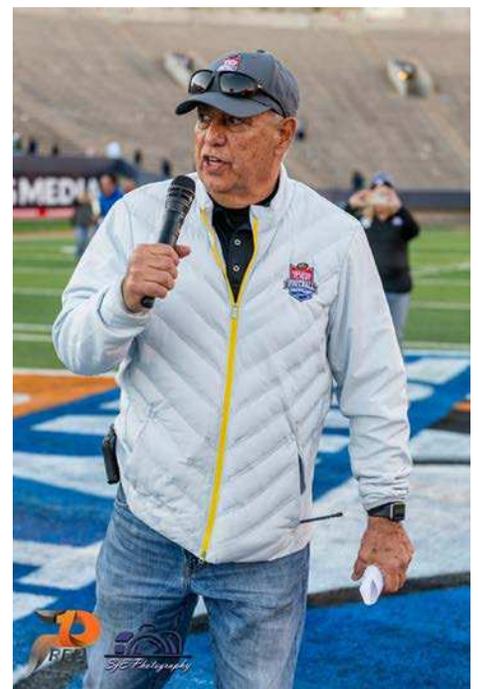
All El Paso County Schools Represented



Photo by Andres 'Ace' Acosta - Chief Photographer - El Paso Herald Post

GREATER EL PASO FOOTBALL SHOWCASE'S 2018 COMBINE HELPS 59 ATHLETES, \$1.7M SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Staff Report August 29, 2019



Kenneth Owen

(915) 269-4771

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Recommendation

Rick Hernandez

2-6-2020

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Rick Hernandez, better known as Coach Hernandez, for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Rick was born and raised in El Paso where he has spent his life giving back to the El Paso community. Rick's career paths took him from Teacher/Coach to successful El Paso businessman. However, his support and dedication to the youth of El Paso has been never ending.

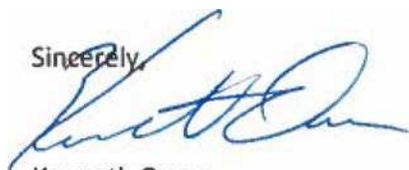
Rick is currently the Director of the Greater El Paso Showcase, a position that he has held for years. In the game's first year of existence as the El Paso All Star Football Game, Rick became involved as a position coach. He continued to volunteer each year and became the Defensive Coordinator for the West Team. He later became the Head Coach for the West Team. When Mr. Fifer stepped down as the Founder and Director of the game many wondered if the game would continue. Rick stepped up and accepted the challenge of insuring that the game would continue, and the athletes of El Paso would be showcased. Under Ricks' direction the once All-Star Football Game became The Greater El Paso Showcase where hundreds of students are involved yearly. The Greater El Paso Showcase has provided opportunities for El Paso students to receive scholarships that have added up to millions of dollars.

Rick played football at Bel Air High School and upon graduating served our country in the military. He then returned to El Paso and attended UTEP. While a Graduate Assistant for the UTEP football program he received his Master's in Education. Coach then began his career as a teacher and coach at Irvin High School, where he positively touched the lives of thousands of students in Northeast El Paso. Rick then moved into administration and became an Assistant Principal at Irvin High School. He later went to Clint ISD as Principal at Mountain View High School. In his first two year at Mountain View, he turned the school around and the proud community became the home of a recognized school.

Rick left education and entered the business world where he continues to support local athletics through donations, speaking engagements, and as a mentor to many aspiring coaches.

Coach Hernandez is a true leader for El Paso and very deserving of induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Owen

January 27, 2020

Selection Committee
El Paso Hall of Fame
El Paso, Texas

The El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame was established for the purpose of "Honoring those athletes, both men and women, who have in their athletic fields of endeavor brought great credit upon themselves and El Paso County". It is my honor and pleasure to submit to you the name of Rick Hernandez for your consideration for selection into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Rick has been involved in athletics in El Paso his entire life. From playing to coaching to administration he has been and continues to be involved in improving the quality of football in El Paso. Rick was a star player at Bel Air High School and West Texas State (now known as West Texas A & M). Upon completing his playing career, he began his coaching career at UTEP as a graduate assistant. He then got into high school coaching and became part of Tony Shaw's staff during the 1980s and 1990's. As the defensive coordinator the Rockets became known throughout West Texas for their "split six" defense. During this time Irvin won multiple district championships and playoff games.

After a successful coaching career, Rick became an assistant principal at Irvin and then a principal at Mountain View High School. Prior to his arrival, MVHS was under performing academically and athletically. Within two years of his arrival the school became "Recognized" by the Texas Education

Agency and the sports teams thrived due to his leadership and high expectations. In order to provide support for his family Rick got into insurance and has won numerous state and national awards. Even though Rick has left education and coaching he wasn't through.

Eighteen years ago, Rick became the Executive Director of the Greater El Paso Football Showcase. The game was started in order to provide a platform for high school football players to "showcase" their talents for college recruiters. During his tenure the showcase has become a tradition that players aspire to participate in. He continues to look for new and innovative ways to increase scholarship opportunities for students. As the Executive Director, he has added various programs to increase participation. Programs such as the Mentoring Program, Quarterback Challenge and All-Star Draft and Combine. At this year's Combine over 250 high school seniors participated. Sixty college coaches from across the United States were present. There were schools from Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska and from as far away as Iowa. At one time, El Paso was geographically isolated and only a handful of high school players were able to continue their playing careers. Because of Rick Hernandez and his efforts there are El Paso kids playing college football across the United States today.

It is without any reservation that I recommend Mr. Rick Hernandez to you for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Pat O'Neill



THE DISTRICT

ATHLETICS

14 January 2020

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to recommend Rick Hernandez to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame, in the Community Supporter Category.

I have known Rick for over 40 years, and I can attest to him being one of the most giving individuals that I have ever had the opportunity to be around. As a teacher and coach, as a school administrator, as a giant in the insurance business, a TV personality and as the current executive director of the Greater El Paso Football Showcase, Rick thinks only of others as he lays out his plan for the day.

Rick is a tireless worker making certain that the folks under his charge are always his main focus. The proof is everywhere you look, and it covers all of his adult life. Coach Hernandez and I have worked together on several projects and I have seen his contributions unfold in real time.

Coach Hernandez is very well known around the El Paso area because of his past experiences as well as those that he is currently working on, as we speak. Rick is, without a doubt, proactive. He is a popular fixture everywhere you look. He does all that is necessary and more in order for all that are involved with him to be successful.

This gentleman has a clue, develops great rapport with all those involved, and he knows how to be successful with any project that he is involved in.

In addition to all of the above, Rick has always established positive relationships with all those with whom he comes into contact on a daily basis.

Coach Hernandez is a person of integrity, well-liked and respected by all. He is a quality person that goes above and beyond.

Without any doubt, I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Rick Hernandez to be strongly considered a 2020 nominee for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions/concerns.

Sincerely


Rene X Aguilar

