



# AURELIO SALAZAR, JR.

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005

## CANDIDATE FOR HARTNELL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - DISTRICT 5

### Biography.....

Aurelio Salazar, Jr. who was named as the 2003 National LULAC Man of the Year was born February 27, 1974 in Ontario, Oregon and is the youngest of three children of Aurelio and Raquel Salazar. Aurelio grew up in the fields of Ontario, Oregon with his two older sisters Maria and Rita. Aurelio recalls waking up at the break of dawn watching his father pack the family truck full of tools.

He remembers how red electrical tape was wrapped around the handles of all of the hoes used to identify, which tools belonged to what families. "A majority of the Mexican and Japanese families who worked in the fields could not read, so the only way to name which tools belonged to what family was to wrap them up with various colors of electrical tape."

Aurelio's family lived in a two-bedroom house in Southeast, Ontario Oregon where he slept in the living room on an old couch covered with nothing more than blankets from the local Salvation Army. At the age of six, Aurelio's father passed away on Christmas Eve from a heart attack while visiting his grandmother in Phoenix, Arizona. Aurelio remembers having to pack up during the middle of the cold snowy season to drive to Phoenix, Arizona on Christmas Day to plan for his fathers the funeral.

Years later, Aurelio's mother would relocate to Salinas, California to be near her immediate family but after developing rheumatoid arthritis in her knees, hands, and elbows her medical conditions grew worse. Aurelio attended Bardin Elementary School and El Sausal Middle School where he was an honor roll student and member of the Art Club.

At the age of thirteen, Aurelio nearly lost his life after developing a blood clot in his right parietal lobe and missed half a school year. After his recovery, his mother battle with rheumatoid arthritis became critical and she passed away on April 24, 1987 at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital.

Aurelio's sister Maria had dropped out of Willamette University in Salem, Oregon and moved to Salinas to be with her younger brother and sister but later moved to San Francisco to work for Equal Rights

Advocates in the Mission District. His sister Rita, began to work full time at IDT (Information Technology Devices) in South Salinas.

In 1992, Aurelio enrolled at Hartnell Community College and was involved in student government as a student commissioner and during his last year he served as Student Body President and Elected to the Hartnell College Board of Trustees.

Aurelio stated that his inspiration for community involvement stemmed from his uncle and LULAC Council #2055 founder Jesse G. Sanchez a local attorney who passed away from colon cancer in 1995. Months after his death, the Alisal Union School District renamed Sanborn Elementary School to Jesse G. Sanchez Elementary School in honor of Jesse's 12 years as a school board trustee.

Aurelio transferred to San Diego State University and majored in behavioral psychology and served as the elections manager for the Associated Students. He later ran for office as the College of Sciences Student Representative and served as newsletter editor for the student organization M.E.Ch.A. (El Movimiento Estudiantial Chicano de Aztlan)

Aurelio's participation in student government continued as he served on Finance Board for the Associated Students Council where he was a member of the 12 students committee responsible for SDSU's 4.4 million dollar student budget responsible for funding diverse programs and services for the 30,000 student body membership. He continued on in student government and after changing his major to Chicana-Chicano Studies he served as the student representative for the College of Arts and Letters and elected as President of the student organization M.E.Ch.A.

Aurelio was the first graduating senior to hold two Graduate Teaching Assistant positions at San Diego State University through the Rhetoric and Writing Department where he served as the instructor for 48 incoming students. He had a short story published titled Raquel Maria Sanchez Salazar through the Chicana Chicano Studies department and a literary book review Barnes and Noble. Six months later his sister Maria graduated from the University of San Antonio, Texas with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Political Science.

While at San Diego State University, Aurelio organized a number of on and off campus events including: U.S./Mexico Border Awareness Demonstration, Annual Chicano Park Clean-Up Day, Dia De Los Muertos Celebration, 2001 MEChA National Conference. Aurelio states that his proudest achievement was getting SDSU's first Chicana student body president elected on SDSU's centennial celebration. Aurelio was also a founder of Teatro A.C.T.O. (A Chicano Theater Organization) and received the top recognition from the Chicana Chicano Studies Department upon his graduation.

Aurelio graduated from San Diego State University with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Chicana-Chicano Studies and immediately began working for Monterey County Board of Supervisor Fernando Armenta. Aurelio left Armenta's office in February where he now works for the Equal Opportunity Office. He plans on receiving his Masters in Social work in 2005 at San Jose State University.

On February 4, 2002 Aurelio took on the position of President of the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC Council #2055. His election took place on the same date of his uncle's birthday Jesse G. Sanchez. He has been involved in a

number of community issues and organizations in the city of Salinas and County of Monterey.

Aurelio has played a critical role in a number of city and county issues including gang violence, police misconduct, civil and labor rights, redistricting, and a number of school board bonds. Most recently Aurelio served as the lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit case no. 03-03584-JF against the State of California to prevent Proposition 54 (Classification By Race, Ethnicity, Color or National Origin) from appearing on the October 7, 2003 Special Recall Election. Aurelio now serves on the Monterey County Planning Commission and was recently elected to the Monterey County Democratic Central Committee.

Aurelio has received a number of awards and certificates from various individuals and groups. As President of LULAC Council #2055 Aurelio has received letters of recognition from U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, a Congressional Record from U.S. Congressman Sam Farr, a California State Assembly Resolution from Simon Salinas, a Monterey County Board of Supervisors Resolution from Fernando Armenta, a letter of recognition from Hartnell College Board of Trustees and a Salinas Union High School District Resolution from Art Gilbert.

## AWARDS RECEIVED

2003	Office of Lieutenant Governor	Resolution on behalf of the State of California
2003	Hector M. Flores	National LULAC Man of the Year Award
2003	U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer	Letter of Recognition
2003	Congressman Sam Farr	Congressional Record 108 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Session
2003	Assemblyman Simon Salinas	California State Assembly Resolution No. 875
2003	Supervisor Fernando Armenta	Monterey County Board of Supervisors Resolution #03-097
2003	Mickie Solorio-Luna	California State LULAC Man of the Year
2003	Dr. Edward J. Valeau	Hartnell College Letter of Commendation
2003	Dr. Fernando Elizondo	Salinas Union High School District Resolution #03-10
2003	Supervisor Fernando Armenta	Outstanding Employee of the Year - Nomination
2003	Stella Laurel	Vista Verde Middle School Certificate of Appreciation
2002	Brigid McGrath-Massie	Save Our Services Award
2002	Dr. Fernando Elizondo	Salinas Union High School District Recognition
1999	Dr. Richard Griswold del Castillo	Americo Paredes Award
1999	Dr. Jesus Nieto	MEChA de SDSU Community Service Award
1998	Cathie Atkins-Kaplan, Ph.D.	College of Science Student Council Award
1995	Dr. Leonard Grandy, Interim President	Hartnell Meritorious Service Letter of Commendation
1995	Cheri Gray, VP of Student Services	Hartnell College Certificate of Appreciation
1994	Jose Martinez-Saldana	Certificate of Appreciation San Jose State Talent Search