



PRESS RELEASE
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AGUSTIN SALAZAR OF MCALLEN WINS LLOYD SESSIONS EDUCATIONAL MERIT AWARD

AUSTIN, Texas – Agustin Salazar of McAllen, Texas, received the 2015 USTA Texas Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award for his tireless efforts to continue the growth of tennis in the Rio Grande Valley. Agustin was honored with this award at the joint USTA Texas and USPTA Texas Division awards banquet in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Established in 1973 to emphasize the importance of developing junior tennis in Texas, the nominee for this award exhibits outstanding abilities at a professional level, in building stronger junior tennis at all levels of skill. Agustin was recognized for his commitment to ensuring that the children of the Rio Grande Valley have access to tennis. He persevered despite the age of the facility, a lack of time when he was running other businesses, and funds.

Agustin formed the Rio Grande Valley Tennis Academy in 2006, using courts built in 1963. The population is economically challenged; so many families cannot afford tennis for their children. Additionally, the Valley is a geographic challenge when it comes to traveling to participate in tournaments. Long journeys and overnight stays are another necessary expense.

Yet in the face of adversity, Agustin remained dedicated to developing junior tennis. Over 200 children have started with Red Ball 10 and Under tennis, with some making it all the way to Super Champs. Many have been subsidized by the Academy to do so. Several of Agustin's students have competed at all levels of USTA events and others have succeeded in obtaining college scholarships.

In addition to running the Academy, Agustin is a volunteer for the South Texas Community Tennis Association, where he willingly takes on all assignments. He works tirelessly to support their efforts to obtain a new tennis facility, which has proven to be a difficult and disappointing endeavor. The local high school team and the City of McAllen tennis programs are also beneficiaries of his time.

USTA Texas is currently accepting nominations for the 2016 Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award. Applications can be found at www.texas.usta.com and are due by April 15. The entire awards banquet can be viewed at the USTA Texas YouTube page.

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USTA Texas

Located in Austin, USTA Texas is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with over 52,500 individual members and over 600 organizational members. Since 1895, USTA Texas have been one of the 17 sections of the United States Tennis Association, the governing body of tennis in America. USTA Texas is the third largest of the sections and features a Pathway of tennis programs for beginning, recreational and competitive juniors, adults and seniors. With hundreds of volunteers, USTA Texas is devoted to promoting and developing the growth of tennis in Texas. For more information about USTA Texas go to www.texas.usta.com, "like" the official USTA Texas Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ustatexas or follow us on Twitter @USTATexas.

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CUTLINE: (Center): Agustin Salazar, the Lloyd Sessions Educational Merit Award winner.