

# TRANSCRIPT: RAÚL HINOJOSA III INTERVIEW

Dr. Raúl Hinojosa · International Educator & Administrator

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## TRANSCRIPT

An interview with Dr. Raúl Hinojosa III, an international educator and administrator currently serving as the principal of International Leadership Texas. Hinojosa is a 1985 graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

This video was posted April 26, 2017 on the Tyrus R. Timm Registry YouTube Channel.

Could you please introduce yourself and tell us about your career?

Hi, my name is Dr. Raul Hinojosa III. I am an Aggie, Class of 1985, and, to tell you a little bit about my background, I was born here in Texas, raised in the Dominican Republic during my formative years and have been an educator for the past 29 years. I would describe myself as an international educator and administrator. During my years here at Texas A&M, I was involved in the Corps of Cadets, MSC Great Issues, political forum, and a number of other organizations. During my career, I had been fortunate enough to have taught at the elementary level, middle school level, high school level, and even at the adult level and been uniquely privileged to be a principal, or head of school, at each of those levels as well. I would say that the most important thing that keeps me going is servant leadership. I really enjoy helping and serving other people and challenging them to do their best.

What do you value most about your experiences at Texas A&M?

While I was here at Texas A&M, I definitely appreciated while my time in the Corps of Cadets that they, I was able to forge an attitude of never die, being able to accomplish anything. I definitely appreciated my involvement in the MSU organizations. I learned a great deal of leadership, problem-solving, and most of all over in my adult years I've appreciated the camaraderie of Aggies all over the world and the opportunity to share Aggie muster with them in different countries.

Besides hard work, what is needed to be a successful entrepreneur?

I think one must be willing to take risks. It's very important to have a broad mind and also to be able to fail. A lot of times people, young people hear about failing and they want to avoid failure or run away from failure, but it's through failure that we can really learn, and if you take people like Edison or Einstein, they, they failed many, many times before they were successful, and so that's what I would encourage: to be able to take that risk, and then learn from your mistakes, and then be able to get up and, and go further and keep on trying.

Do you have any advice for Agricultural Economics students who are about to graduate and start their careers?

I would say to ag economics students to go ahead and keep an open mind. With an ag economics degree, it could take you many, many endless possibilities. You could be in agribusiness, you could be an agricultural consultant, a specialist. Obviously, you could be an ag economist, you could be an agricultural appraiser, marketing specialist. I mean, it could take you into banking, even. In my situation, it took me into education, and so, as a school teacher, as a school principal, I've been able to touch thousands of lives, so I would just say to ag economics grads: keep your mind open to different possibilities, be willing to try different things, and most of all, seek your passion.

What has been the biggest challenge in your career, and how have you faced it?

I would say the biggest challenge in my career would be the unexpected loss of a job, through no fault of my own, and so in the world that we live in with the economy being rough, with companies, and downsizing for whatever reason, I would say that the only thing that really kept me going was I stayed positive and professional and just kept my faith in God that as one door would close another one would open, and so it's, it's important to go ahead, if that ever happens, to go ahead and reach out to your friends, to your colleagues and contacts, and immediately begin looking for your next adventure. And, so for me, if you notice, I don't call it a job, but I call it an adventure.

What is your proudest accomplishment within your career?

I would say that my proudest accomplishment would be the earning of my doctorate degree. It was so difficult. It was like a mental boot camp, and so that working hard being persistent from, where I learned here at my days at Texas A&M, that hard work ethic, it kept me going on with my doctorate, and so being

Dr. Raúl Hinojosa III | Transcript

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able to accomplish that, it opened, the doctorate opened many, many doors. I would say a close second as far as proud accomplishments would be my vast career. Not only do I have depth, but I have breadth, and so I've been able to teach at all the different levels: elementary school, middle school, high school, and post-secondary, and then also be a principal, or school leader, at all of those levels, and so there's probably maybe less than 5% of people in the world that have had those opportunities, and so that feels like quite an accomplishment.

What kind of goals do you continue to set? How do these help you to grow?

I continue to set goals that challenge me, that challenge me. I am passionate about helping others and serving others — I call it servant leadership — and so I'm never really satisfied with the status quo, and so it helps me to kind of set a goal, maybe two or three years down the road, about what's next, and it keeps me always looking for something bigger or something better, kind of brings out that competitiveness in me and helps me motivate others to give their best.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I'm just really humbled and honored to, to have been inducted into the Tyrus Timm Honor Registry. It's a, it's a unique group of people, and, and I just really feel fortunate and thankful to Texas A&M.

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