

# Interview with John P. Howe, III, MD

Interview conducted by Dr. Julieta V. Garcia and Tanya Thirlwall-Diaz on 2023-05-24 via Zoom

0:00

John Oh, OK, let's see I got it.

0:05

OK, I got it.

0:05

Do you want do you want him or yes, my shot on my camera to be better?

0:15

OK, sorry, I'm trying to we're we're recording our our our videos And so I would like not to have a McDonald's breakfast bag in the shot.

0:27

I just impressed that you had just for me, you're gonna go through 5 bottles of water, right?

0:38

Well, I, I am office wherever I can find a little corner on this campus.

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And so this is, this is my newest version of an office and, and it's a classroom.

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And so I just take a little corner of a classroom and that's where I am.

0:54

But but that's, that's, that's OK.

0:56

Well, so I've been reading about.

0:58

So first of all, thank you.

1:00

Thank you for everything that you did during your time as president.

1:06

The, the groundwork that you laid opened the door for us, of course, to work with Francisco later on and made it possible to do so many other things.

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But it was yours first to, to offer up.

1:19

And, and so first, thank you Sir, for all of those gracious decisions, kind and generous decisions that you make.

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Joey, I, I appreciate your kind words.

1:33

If I may, for the record, jump in in response by saying that one of the great attractions of coming to San Antonio in 1985 is to be the second leader of what was chartered is the South Texas Medical School, the South Texas Medical School.

1:55

So you you follow the cookie crumbs back to the beginning of that institution.

2:01

That was its name.

2:02

And so during my tenure, it was a joy to find ways to have that charter be a living one.

2:17

And, and so when you sent a note and said, want to talk to me, I wanted to say that as we're talking, it's really, you're talking to the South Texas Medical school and it, and it's, and it's evolution as much as it's John Howe.

2:40

And, and that's, that's important to me because I, I think that it was a real joy to see the phases of development of the health professions in, in South Texas, particularly river Grand Valley, mid river, Grand Valley coastal.

3:02

And, and is, is I was thinking about talking with you.

3:06

I, I was just hopeful that you'd allow me to share a perspective of the school that was chartered by the legislature as a South Texas medical school and why it was important to do these things and not focus on John Howe.

3:26

And I thank you for that, John.

3:28

And I remember you remind me of a conversation, a very heated conversation that I had with Wilhemina Delco.

3:35

Remember our friend Wilhemina, who still is around and, and I bump into her every once in a while and is still as fiery as ever.

3:44

But she and I, she at the time was a, a real heavyweight in the Texas Legislature.

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And I was arguing with her about what we needed in the Valley.

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And she said to me, Juliet, we already did this.

4:01

And I said, what are you talking about?

4:03

And she said we started the medical school in San Antonio.

4:08

That's your medical school.

4:10

And I said, Willamina, with all due respect, will you get in a car with me and drive from San Antonio to Brownsville and then tell me again that that's our medical school 'cause I had to, I had to in their minds, segregate and, and explain the distance, right?

4:30

Because many of them just didn't know it.

4:32

They thought and this and your statement about that's what that's our name.

4:36

Of course, that was our purpose was to take care of South Texas.

4:40

And just so you know, John, I am alive today personally.

4:46

I am alive today because of surgeries that I've had at your hospital.

4:51

Exactly.

4:53

Yes.

4:53

Well, thank you because I make the trek to San Antonio and I've made it several times and I'm here today because of the of what you all built there at that that we still benefit from.

5:08

Great.

5:09

That's really a wonderful story of your conversation heated conversation with Wilmeda Telco as we progress in our our conversation today, I want to the fact that as I speak to being the South Texas medical school, it's not a paternalistic South Texas medical school.

5:35

Second of all, as as not the Wilmeda model of we're the school for the region, but more that we're the the the school wouldn't this year, sharing the story of the nursing professions.

5:52

Our role was to help aid in that the development of the health professions and our conversation today about you and what you're working to do is to tell the story.

6:05

It's just a wonderful example of that.

6:07

But I just want to say at the outset as you you speak to.

6:12

Well, I'm in Delco and on the heels of my mentioning that we're not chartered at the South Texas Medical School, this is not John Howe and her camp.

6:21

It's John Howe saying, yes, we have the South Texas Medical School and yes, we have a responsibility.

6:25

And we'll come to that later with my conversation, recounting my conversation with Bob Bullock.

6:30

But it's A to me, that was the real joy.

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It should be given the opportunity.

6:37

It was work.

6:37

You remember it was hard work.

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It wasn't easy, it was contagious, but it was something that is just for both of us.

6:45

We can feel very good about and you and I had the personal experience with nursing and is that is an example of having that investment made in San Antonio that then with the right encouragement and support of the Health Science Center, we were able to aid aid and and and and enable something very special.

7:07

The apple in in in the region, but it was not paternalistic South Texas.

7:12

Thank you.

7:13

Thank you for that clarification.

7:15

And I meant my example of Wilhelmina, my conversation with Milhena, to not focus on that, but to focus on the mindset that we had to change and create and where the valley had to be seen as a distinct territory with its own needs to grow its own universities.

7:37

And, and, but had that we knew it was a step in that direction with the excuse me, with the relationship that we had with with you.

7:48

And I just want you to know that I never hesitated to ask you for anything we needed.

7:55

Maybe I should have, but but it never occurred to me because you were you were always we were always with an open mind and it was and was always well, let's see how we can make this work.

8:08

It was not.

8:08

It was never again more.

8:12

Are you kidding me?

8:14

And I know, I know.

8:15

Well, let's talk about the the pressures that starting a program like the nursing school program in the Valley.

8:24

Let me, let me ask you clearly, what were the pressures that you were feeling?

8:30

What made it so hard?

8:31

You said a moment ago, we know that was hard work.

8:33

From your perspective, what was the hardest part of it?

8:39

When I I'm referring to the hardest part, it was the the the challenges after the legislative session in 1997 and and when in fact, and I will share the stories.

9:02

The decision was made by the legislature to the creation of the regional academic Health Center and but in Representative Gutierrez bill, it said that it will be in partnership with any academic Health Science Health Center and science in Texas.

9:26

Senator Lucio said San Antonio and and then but it was silent on what the zip code was going to be OK, the region yes, the zip code no.

9:40

And so you can imagine what the IT was a no one was bashful or faint hearted about saying my community, my community.

9:53

But but if you, if you'll allow me to talk about the the RAC, really it's important to talk about my perception of how we got there.

10:09

And that is is that it goes back to what we're talking about the view of this leader that we were the medical school and the Health Science Center for and with South Texas and we would fail if we just unjust.

10:29

But if we developed great heart programs or or cancer programs for the people in San Antonio.

10:36

You know what we need to do is to have the rising to take like all boats and in in the region.

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And so it that's not something that we could do.

10:49

It had to be something that's done that engaged and involved and, and and the collaborations throughout the regions.

10:58

So if you look at the talk about the RAC, what really need to be start with, as I've mentioned, the concept, the charter of a medical school in South Texas with a certain responsibilities and we've talked about that responsibilities to the people of the region #2 is that and it began its expression visibly in 1993 where we applied for federal funding for AHEx.

11:31

Oh my yes, yes.

11:32

And you and you recall if it was the coastal, there was a valley that was the Mid Rio Grande Valley.

11:40

And ultimately there was an A heck in San Antonio, but there was a a heck was the the essentially, it's in my mind, the the the first platform for what ultimately would become the rack.

11:58

Why do I say that?

12:00

Because we reached out to do something that our the people of Harlingen or if that matter Laredo couldn't do at the time.

12:09

And that is take our cachet and go to Washington and say we we would like to compete for and get ERA health education centers and the Health Center was successful in that and that led to the apex.

12:24

And why is that important?

12:26

For me?

12:27

It's important because it's an expression of what we've been talking about, where the Health Science Center was saw itself in a role.

12:36

We can just create a, a hack for San Antonio.

12:38

We created a hack for the region.

12:40

We we were here to help.

12:44

And so, and what that did is it allowed a a an array of programs, principally residency programs, but the programs sat throughout the region and it was just that will joy see the appetite that the communities had for the AX.

13:03



And, and, and again, it, it wasn't easy because there was a sense that these are our AX, not those folks way up in San Antonio And even got to a point where they there was a complaint to the state auditor that the the federal funding, which we gathered before programs was going to the originators of the program, the medical school, etcetera.

13:33

And it was really ultimately going to go to the medical school and dental school and so on.

13:40

But by federal statute, it needed to go to the AHEC first and then the AHEC would purchase our Rd.

13:45

training.

13:46

And that was the subject of it on that, that we have a complaint from those communities back in 1993.

13:55

And that's what I mean by is creating some very special.

13:59

It was not for the faint hearts and and not because anybody was mean or upset.

14:06

It's just that that's when when you think of you're in, in, in, in the valley and there's that institution in the in the sky 250 miles away, the UT Hill Science Center.

14:20

It's gonna be these kinds of concerns.

14:22

But it's a story for me.

14:24

The story begins of the rack with the apex because that whetted the appetite.

14:29

It demonstrated that community program educational programs are vital and there there he really sought after in the local community.

14:41

So that was the and that was 1993.

14:46

In 1995, there was a issued note of Representative Gutierrez and and filed a bill to create a a medical school and the the system pushed back saying that's that's a a big venture.

15:10

And and then and at that point in time, though the bills were placed in the legislative queue, it didn't pass and and then the instrument year.

15:23

So it was Ramiro Castle.

15:26

Do you remember Romero?

15:29

And Romero was saying, you know, we have a model that maybe what we should do is create a, a branch like Texas Tech.

15:36

And So what what happens is, is, and it was a, let's see, 95 and 97.

15:46

I can't just I think it was the 74 legislature the the the bills came up again with Chuy Hanajosa cause Representative Gutierrez had died and Chuy Hanajosa was the leader in the House and Senator Lucio in the Senate and and and this was for a just that a branch and and Representative Gutierrez.

16:12

It was silent on which university to be associated with.

16:16

And here's a wonderful story that I was called in to to Bob Bullock's office, he said.

16:28

Doctor Howe, people in this regions are very desirous of health professions education.

16:38

They're desirous of a medical school and they're concerned that the resources for medical schools had not gone to the Valley or the border.

16:51

They've gone to Houston and Dallas and San Antonio and, and, and he said part there are many reasons for that.

17:03

The one he cited for me was that unlike when the San Antonio delegation, they came in with locked arms or they cut in the Houston, they came to locked arms.

17:15

It was a lot of, as he described it, I'm and Julia, I'm not in position to say anything other than I'm telling you what I heard.

17:23

And what he said is there's a lot of tension among the people in the in the in the in this region.

17:32

And at the end of the day, for want of a cohesive March forward, nothing happens.

17:40

Not because there is a desire, but it's more a matter of lack of cohesiveness.

17:48

And I'm choosing my words carefully and I hope I'm clear about the fact that this is not John have.

17:53

This is what I'm being told.

17:56

And and and so he said, but I want to do something.

18:02

I want to do something.

18:03

And he said, I'm, I am, I'm going, I'm going to provide money.

18:10

This is Bob Bullock.

18:12

I'm going to provide money for health and education a, a regional center now in this particular session.

18:26

And he said, I'm not going to allocate the money to any given institution along the border because, and it's not because they're not willing, but they, they just, there isn't the experience in my mind to spend whatever is seventy \$500 million.

18:45

He said, I'm going to approve the money for you to you.

18:51

But it wasn't.

18:52

But this is Bob Wong.

18:54

It wasn't to me.

18:55

It was to the Health Science Center.

18:56

Sure, of course.

18:58

And and he and the Health Science Center.

18:59

And then he said, I'm going to hold you accountable.

19:05

Thank you.

19:07

Does that sound like Governor Bullock anyway?

19:10

And so at any rate, the bill that was ultimately passed, I think it was more akin to the Senate six O 6 than it was Gutierrez's 1557, because in in Lucio's six O 6 is specifically said to be administered by the Health Science Center of San Antonio.

19:30

But so when I began the conversation with you and said there was a tension, you can imagine my sensation of tension when he said, won't you accountable.

19:45

Now, at the same time, there had been some concerns about the the, the monies that were appropriated in 1995.

19:59

And, and as I mentioned it, phase one from my perspective was the AHAC.

20:06

Phase two was 95, where they said no to a Regional Medical school, but they provided \$14 million, as you remember, for health professionals education from ophthalmology to nursing and Corpus Christi, even there are a couple of A&M institutions.

20:25

The Laredo, the Valley and, and it was called the South Border Region Health Initiative, not to be confused with the South Texas Border Initiative.

20:38

It was just with the Richards.

20:40

That's right.

20:41

That's right.

20:42

This is one that was the South Border region health professional education initiative.

20:48

I mean really that's the 2nd run on the ladder.

20:56

The 1st is a second is the 1995 and then and then 1997.

21:04

Well, around that time there was, as I say, voices saying, gosh, it's the health sites that are embarrassing that our money properly.

21:14

And so that there was a state author came in and there was an audit done and I think it was completed in 1997.

21:22

And, and he acknowledged the concerns, but he concluded that the Health Science Center had the appropriate adequate controls for budget and planning for an efficient use of the monies.

21:39

So that sets the stage for the government.

21:42

Governor Bullock's conversation saying I'm going to hold you, hold you accountable.

21:48

So, John, may I ask you on that note, I had the state auditor come visit me one time because a state senator thought we were so mingling funds and, you know, he had all kind because of the complicated nature of the partnership that I was running.

22:07

And and I know what kind of event that can occur on, but I know who asked for the audit in this case.

22:15

Do you know who asked for your audit?

22:18

Yeah, I don't honestly, I don't recall if it's OK.

22:21

I probably did it at the time, but I don't really recall at the time.

22:25

I'm just surprising it was someone that that felt as though that we're spending too much on administration, not not throw programs or I'm some and or not not enough in their area more in others.

22:43

But to all candor that's conjecture.

22:47

I have no idea.

22:48

All I know is that the audit appeared and they went through a pretty slow and they ruthless yes on how we spent that \$14 million and came up with I think that was stage setting for Governor Bullock saying that I think we're going to go forth with the with the RAC with the Health Science Center accountable and again, not a royal accountability, but he's he's looking at that.

23:18

So as I open by talking about the tension, they lesser people would not be as candid as I I was being called in by the Lieutenant Governor being having that conversation.

23:30

I walked out of there and said wow.

23:32

And So what it was faced with is that, and as you have visited with Bill and Charlie and you visit with Francisco, there was the they're different eras.

23:48

I mentioned the a heck era.

23:49

I mentioned the 1995 era, I mentioned the 1997 era and then obviously the 2000 on for with Francisco.

23:59

But but Julia, if, if I may, I'd just just like to share with you my impression of what happened after that.

24:08

That's what is a wonderful story.

24:11

I, I thought, wow, we've got this money and that, gosh, people are going to welcome me.

24:20

And, and, and so I thought, I, it's important to go out and, and visit early on.

24:27

So it's not the perception.

24:28

No, I've got a bag of money up in San Antonio and it's John Howe is sitting on it.

24:33

So my first stop was in Corpus Christi.

24:36

I'll never forget.

24:39

I, I went to visit with Senator Truant and he said, doctor, just remember, you're the banker, not the lender.

24:54

You're the banker of the lender.

24:57

Oh, I understand.

24:59

I hear what's being said here and and the following conversations in the valley and the radio were were by not of that character and not of that directness, but it was a the kind of thing.

25:18

And when I heard it from the from the senator, I I didn't, I really wasn't upset or or or critical.

25:28

What it what it described was this is he represented a region that had a real appetite for this and wanted to make sure that I would not make decisions that would feather the San Antonio Health Science Center.

25:44

Yeah, but but on the other hand, it was like the bullet conversation.

25:47

It was it was a colorful one.

25:51

And I said, yes, Sir, I understand.

25:54

But what that led to is just the the visits, as you'll recall, in the in the and Brownsville and and Harlingen and Edinburg and McAllen and Laredo and what what was I really enjoyed this at the those visits were made easier by the all those areas and all those leaders like yourself who had had experience with the experience with the South Texas border, had experience with the Health Science Center and and and and so, but from 97 to the transition to Francisco, there was a sense responsibility on my part expectation that the next phase, the post legislative action of 1987 would be executed wisely, inappropriately.

26:58

And what was that next phase?

26:59

It was decisions what what institutions or what entities that way in what locations so that that it would be a point where I departed in Francisco.



27:13

So he, they at that point in time, the locations were decided and, and the, the, and the entities were, were decided.

27:25

He had the, the, the challenge of and, you know, bringing a medical school information, which I gave him great credit for.

27:34

But focusing back on usually at my era, our era, it was, it was, it was challenging because clearly the focus was on the, on the valley, no matter what it's despite the, the message of the, of the Senator from Corpus Christi, focus on the valley.

27:57

And as you will remember, eagerness for Brownsville participation, eagerness for Harlingen McAllen and in, in, in, in Edinburgh.

28:09

And I'll never forget that it was people in the community that just stepped up that were so, so, so helpful.

28:20

And I admired so much, for example, Ben, the Gibbons at the Valley Baptist Hospital.

28:26

You know, I, I just doing some homework.

28:28

He, he passed recently, I guess in 2020, but he, but he he said, he said we would like that here.

28:37

And as we've demonstrated with the same many practice program with the previous monies, we can meet expectations.

28:47

There was, you know, it was similar conversations and having to do with McAllen and but as I recall, at this point in time, it was both McAllen and Harlingen were willing and head what was important to the RAC associated teaching hospitals that are talking to hospitals that could be at a teaching hospital, not the other, not the other communities couldn't get there, but they were pretty far farther along.

29:20

So Julia, what what happened then was it was it was a conversations with people in both areas and

two people stand out What and you know well, Bob and Ann Shepherd and Bob was on the coordinating board.

29:39

If he thank you or he just come off.

29:42

I think he was on the coordinating board and he and Ann were at least it was me very ecumenical.

29:48

They were they wanted to see that regional rock chemical center in the valley and they were they are kind of 24/7 to say, you know, how can we help make this work.

30:03

So it was not who's the person from 250 miles away is parachuting in the bomb at some of the that I knew.

30:12

You can remember your experience.

30:15

He knew as a supplicant who came before the courting board asking for permission.

30:19

So he he he he he he knew me for better for worse.

30:24

And I knew Hammond is very respectful.

30:26

So as the story ultimate with the story is told and he he will tell.

30:31

I, I hope there's a place for recognizing the fact that Bob and Anne were, were just wonderful champions.

30:38

And so then the then the, the based on our work, I would go in and tell Governor Bullock that what we were going to be the decision is not mine decision was the Board of Regents, the University of Texas System.

31:01

But this is kind of where, where, where we're heading in Arlington because of their experience with the

95 bunnies and the, and the residency programs and then the research building on the Edinburgh campus.

31:17

And that was really important in the sense that we saw we had a faculty member, Ralph Defronzo, who was the head of diabetes and, and the, and the hope was that that facility could be kind of an epicenter of diabetes research.

31:38

And, and so that, that was the case for that, as you recall.

31:43

And then there was a, a, a case for an education facility in Laredo and, and ultimately the Regents listened to that recommendation.

31:59

Bob Bullock said this that was, was very supportive.

32:03

When I say Bob Bullock, I mean the clearly the Senate bill six O 6 head Co sponsors of callous Truan, Eddie Lucio, Senator Zafri and Mike Moncrief from Fort Worth.

32:21

I can't remember how he was involved, but he, he was the 4th person.

32:25

So when Bob Bullock had sort of a test, he said, so I want me to check and, and, and, and, and essentially the message was that they, they were supportive of most of those decisions and not and I, I'm going to be absolutely boring and repetitive, but not because I made them.

32:51

I didn't.

32:53

They were made by the people and, and the joy for me was being allowed to participate in the process and got got to this point.

33:02

Now after 2000, that's the Francisco story.

33:08

I I that's the my era was the a heck to South Bend Texas border regional initiative passing through an audit state audit a failed proposal before the Legislature 95 a successful 197 conversation with Bob

Bullock and a wonderful interactions with the people that I really grew to love in the in the in the valley.

33:46

So and then all of a sudden I disappeared and went to Washington and and it was and the baton was handed to the very able Francisco who was who was as president Health Science center and chancellor system made the dream come true.

34:04

I was just A and and involved with the process along the way.

34:11

It was he that deserves a recognition for, you know, crossing the finish line with a dream for the valley.

34:17

So anyway that I I I just wanted to share that progression.

34:22

I you may at the end talk of your assistant and say, gosh, that was not what I wanted.

34:28

That's boring, but but not at all.

34:33

But it's important to to, for me, John, how to be able to share a perspective which is not about me getting credit or credit.

34:44

It's really hopefully be able to say to speak to the fact that this really, really began with the legislature creating a medical school that would serve the valley and the and the region and calling it the South Texas Medical School.

34:59

And then it went through these stages.

35:02

John, thank you so much.

35:04

I have I've been a student now of yours for many years, including today.

35:09

And so I thank you for for taking time to to run through all of those details for us.

35:15

I had I had not remembered as clearly as you just reminded me about the importance of the AHEC time and AHEC was very important and the name Cito Sumaya for me remember Cito and the role that he played for so long.

35:37

I don't know if there were others aside from Seto that I'm forgetting that represented UT Health Science Center on the ground here in the valley.

35:47

Are there others that I'm he didn't One of his colleagues with Richard Garcia.

35:55

Oh, Dickie.

35:56

Yeah.

35:56

Richard.

35:57

Yes.

35:57

Yeah, Yeah.

35:58

Richard Brownsville.

35:59

I knew him when he was a kid.

36:00

Yes.

36:01

And he he was you, you know, the the the persona of Cyril.

36:07

Of course he is.

36:10

It was complimented with a name.

36:12

That's a perfect way of saying Richard.

36:15

Yes yeah, that's fine.

36:17

They were a good team.

36:19

Absolutely yeah, that's right.

36:21

I just mentioned that I saw that Richard passed a relatively young age maybe two a couple years ago sounds really sad to see.

36:31

I guess he was in early 60s, but but anyway, when I think of AI, think of Zero and I think of Richard, they were great colleagues.

36:43

And, you know, one of the things that I think is so important that as well is to recognize this in that 9597 era, one of the things that is important to me and I think very important to the process was the Department of Vice President for this overall initiative, Mario Ramirez.

37:09

Yes, yes.

37:11

So tell me about his role.

37:12

How, how did that help or how did that connect the dots for you?

37:18

Yeah.

37:19

Yeah.

37:19

Well it it was it began with a personal relationship with and and and it with his involvement with with UT.

37:35

He had a son that is today in Austin.

37:40

The doctor's doctor for my grandchildren.

37:45

OK.

37:46

So Mario was a was was a a dear friend.

37:53

But as we journey we're on this journey.

37:59

It was clear that it was important that this perception not be that the folks from San Antonio are parachuting in.

38:12

They weren't but it overcome.

38:14

You talked about overcoming will, but you don't.

38:17

My my head was that I was my, my office zip code was 250 miles away.

38:24

And, and so but Mario, beloved Mario could be right there in the valley, loved, respected and and could just be just a wonderful colleague, a neighbor, enabler, advisor.

38:43

And in this endeavor, starting with South Texas Medical school and going on to a heck and going on to the the bullet, the RAC and then health and medical school.

38:56

There was no greater of this process and he became kind of the emissary, right.

39:09

I mean, is that that's exactly right.

39:10

He he he was not Richard Garcia nothing.

39:15

No, it was not operating, but he but he, he was.

39:18

And and I think when the story is told as you will so, so well is that for this to succeed, it need different types of skills and talents at different times.

39:38

And and and that's why I, you know, realize it's Texas and and and and stories are told that certain people like to be front and centers the heroes.

39:56

That's Texas.

39:59

But I guess I got I come at a different point of what point of view The whole notion of taking a region and and going from a.

40:10

You know, there's a popular \*\*\*\* center of 900,000 without a medical school or mayjacker and then ultimately the point of of a medical school in a region that is doesn't have the wealth of Houston or the wealth of Dallas.

40:26

And and and it just reminded me of the the story I read about my children in the land.

40:33

And I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.

40:38

That was like the spirit of that.

40:40

You know, the, the Bob Molk was right that they, they didn't have the organizational clout historically for monies that Houston and Dallas did.

40:52



But in the end, they, let's say that perseverance and resilience, dream values and, and Mario represented those not not solely, but, but they were founded absolutely, absolutely and with tremendous respect.

41:08

I mean, everyone would open their door at any moment of the day or night if Doctor Ramirez had been at the door.

41:15

And that's right.

41:15

He was so gracious and so humble and so well meaning in his own life's work.

41:21

So he was the perfect person to have place in that important role.

41:26

Whose idea was that?

41:28

How did that happen?

41:33

Do you've been on the board Regents the recent Yeah, the reason I'm stumbling a little bit as I'm trying to not having focus on me.

41:42

But this particular one, I I just said I've spent a lot of time in the valley, etcetera.

41:49

Well, would you would you do this?

41:52

And so the reason I tell you this is not to direct no, no, no, I understand it.

42:00

What it what it is, is to say he wasn't foisted on me by someone.

42:05

It you know, and you know Texas well enough to know that it can be these kinds of situations.

42:11

This is not one.

42:12

It was the one where the person you I described and you just described at that particular time was a just an ideal person to well, thank you.

42:22

It was the perfect choice.

42:26

I remember OK, as a sitting president, then getting a phone call that Doctor Hamidas wanted to see me the next week of the whenever it was convenient to me.

42:34

Of course, he was always so gracious and so polite And so, but sometime within the next week.

42:40

And so of course we'd schedule it and then I'd hang up the phone and I'd think I'd better make sure we've made progress because Mario's coming to check on me.

42:49

And we and then I immediately did some homework to make sure everybody was ready for the Inquisition.

42:54

And a kind one, very polite one.

42:57

But it was, what have you done since our last visit?

43:00

Where are you now?

43:01

What progress have you made, How many blah blah blah, whatever it was you were working on.

43:05

But he was, he was.

43:07

And no one ever thought of it in a negative way at all.

43:10

You just didn't want to let him down.

43:13

Dad was coming to town and he was going to check on you.

43:16

You better have your stuff together.

43:19

So I had forgotten about that that reaction to body very important.

43:25

It's very very but you share the story probably didn't word this right, but you're something about it happened.

43:33

It happened because as I made visits the valley over time, two things.

43:41

One is not just further appreciated Mario and the how well thought he was.

43:47

And the second of all is that after one has experienced what I described to you earlier about these challenging moments, I said this.

43:56

This isn't he's not the final action.

43:59

He's not the financial expert, he's not a a heck expert, whatever, but that's not what's important here.

44:07

What needs to be is the is the person that has the gravitas that it's well respected, understands medical schools, even border regions and and but has such a kind way about it.

44:23

So as as he that appointment occurred not because I woke up in the night and beat my chest and said, and this is I want to do this.

44:31

No, it was more than just taking the pulse of the people that we're dealing with.

44:36

This is a time for just somebody like Mario.

44:40

Well, it was a perfect thank you for doing that.

44:42

And it was so wise in retrospect, just in terms of a good management decision, a good leadership decision.

44:49

But it was also good for Madhya.

44:52

He was at that stage of his career that this was like the perfect way to give him relevance, of course, an important job and then to continue to do the work he had always done for the Valley.

45:10

So it was beautiful on both sides, a lovely way.

45:14

And then we bump into him at Mass on Sunday.

45:19

So he was everywhere.

45:20

He was of the community, in the community.

45:23

And we knew that he represented only one entity and that was the goodwill of the Valley.

45:29

I mean, he was loyalty to not any one person.

45:32

We knew that.

45:33

So you didn't have to explain that.

45:35

That was very brilliant.

45:36

John Al It was I mean it worked for everyone, but Julian, as I thought about this is that as, as you can sense, I I feel certain joy about that experience during my years and and and presencely, it's one of the most joyful experiences.

45:57

I don't it was always happy times, but I mean it.

46:00

It personally is a sense of joy, but I I just hope that as others, Julia, for example, share the story.

46:14

It won't be a lot focus on of course, of course, and and and and more on the fact that it was.

46:22

Here's an evolution over time and say different people at different times, whether it be, you know, Representative Gutierrez and and that one or Bob Bullock or the finger on the chest from the OR George I or Catless Duan exactly the lender exactly.

46:46

And but this, this is a this is a joyful story.

46:52

It is.

46:53

And I I I thank one of the most lovely.

46:56

You know how someone throws you an, an assignment and you think, why, why are you trying to just keep me busy?

47:02

Why are you giving me this assignment?

47:05

And and I wasn't clear, frankly, on what I was to do with this assignment, but I've decided to do what I would, would want to do, right.

47:15

So probably the benefit, the most important benefit of the assignment has been to reconnect with old friends.

47:22

Yeah.

47:23

Oh, my gosh.

47:23

I mean, this, this.

47:24

So just just so you know, I thank you very much for being so kind about lending this time and, and doing some homework.

47:31

I, I know you had to have done to have gone back and remembered all the characters and the dates and all of that, because that was a long time ago for us now.

47:41

And you, you have been world wide since then and doing you know, I OK, just so you know now on a complete.

47:49

So thank you for that first and thank you for allowing me to reconnect with you.

47:53

I, I, I, I saw you from afar at the Philosophical Society in Austin.

48:00

What a magnificent, what a magnificent program that I was blown away.

48:04

I thought it was, but I never got to connect with you.

48:08

So that will not happen again.

48:10

I will see you the next time we're we're available with each other.

48:15

But but I think what what what has been so important about this for us is is that I wanted to tell it the right story, a good story, more complete story.

48:28

And what you have done today is give me an another underlayer of of of memories that I had not included yet.

48:38

The whole notion of a heck and for example, I had did not have in my head, of course there was a heck.

48:44

I mean, of course there was, but I had just forgotten that it existed in the important role that it played or that that that the fact that it was South Texas Medical School, and no wonder will it mean?

48:58

Delco said to me.

48:59

We already did this, Juliet, get off my back, you know, And of course she did, because that's what it was called and that was its intent.

49:07

And so that that meant a structural rethinking in people's minds about what was South Texas.

49:14

And, and so that, that in itself.

49:16

So, so you brought that to surface for me in a way that I had not understood even before.

49:26

So I, I thank you very, very much.

49:29

I so and and then pointing out the shepherds, you know, the shepherds when I asked people were there unsung heroes in all of this?

49:37

Bob and Ann Shepherd's name keeps coming up.

49:40

Doctor Ramitus's name comes up.

49:42

But you gave me now a newer perspective on Doctor Ramitus and how he got there and and the important role that he played.

49:50

And so and Cito Sumaya.

49:52

Are there any other people that I have loved?

49:55

Dhawan, you've already mentioned and Lucio Hinojosa, if you think of any others along the way that you think.

50:04

Bullock of course, that I have left that we may not have talked about.

50:11

Don't hesitate to let me know who they are, even if you think about it after we hang up with each other.

50:18

But but I you go ahead.

50:22

Who who's you?

50:23

You.

50:23

You mentioned someone gave you an assignment.

50:27

Who?

50:27

Who gave you an assignment?

50:28

Well, you know, I I never know.



50:30

Remember, this is the UT system.

50:32

John Howe.

50:33

We never really know how things happen.

50:38

But Guy Bailey asked me to write the story of the medical school, and that was it.

50:49

It was a text message.

50:51

Is that right?

50:53

So and an assignment and a bit of time off of my teaching schedule because I'm still faculty here.

51:00

And so he gave me some release time to do it with.

51:04

And then the UT system got involved and said if you need a little bit of help to hire a research associate, we'll give it a little bit of money.

51:12

And so they're in the in the pot.

51:16

So the chancellor's in, so they want the story told.

51:20

And so I happen to be the one hanging around still to tell it.

51:27

I'm, I, I'm so happy because just the essence of our conversation today, it's an important story to be told because, you know, not only in the region of the state and our country we live in, we live in such challenging times right now.

51:47

And what this represents, what's the best in our country to thicken things so people have a dream and see it to, to for fruition.

51:57

And it's not somebody with a thumb on somebody's back.

52:01

It is, this is something where a lot of people participated.

52:05

It wasn't always pretty, but it was easy.

52:08

But but, and so I I said it's a wonderful story, Jill and Jill.

52:14

Yeah, No, no better person, Juliet.

52:16

And let me say that Turnbound's fair play, as you said, if I think about any names clearly, if, if you or typing away, if there's a way that, or if your assistance, either way, it's your direction is there, if there's a way in which I can be of additional help, you know, I want to be so much.

52:36

I, I now feel reconnected with you personally.

52:39

I, I appreciate that.

52:41

So, and that's what this has done.

52:43

I mean, I was on the phone with Don Evans the other day and, and so that was the same.

52:49

I haven't talked to Don Evans in years and he's offering the same thing and he's still involved in medical education, but now in Midland.

52:59

Oh really, yes, and and so telling us a story about what he's doing.

53:04

So I mean everybody is so many people that I've been able to connect with and with using.

53:09

This is the reason and everyone's anxious to talk about it.

53:13

Remember in the good way, the tensions as you described that we were all feeling at the time and the urgency that we we felt to do this work really well because so many people depended on.

53:27

And if it hadn't been for all of those years of building that foundation, we wouldn't have a medical school.

53:35

We would not have been prepared.

53:36

We're still having a difficult time, as you might imagine, for all the reasons, you know, we're still far away.

53:42

We still have no resources in the valley to speak up in terms of big donors now.

53:48

We're still, you know, at the at the the altar of those who who have dollars.

53:56

And so it is still a steep climb for Guy Bailey and for others.

54:01

So the work is not made easier.

54:04

But it would not have been possible at all had not the many years occurred before.

54:09

So I thank you very, very much for taking time to talk to me and to reconnect with us and on this topic.

54:19

And so now I've got your number.

54:20

So you're in big trouble and I know how to get to Austin.

54:25

Let me just say though that they it because we paint this picture of all this Internet and they're connecting networks etcetera.

54:37

We need to focus on the fact that our beginning had to do with nursing and getting had to do with this and that was an important step a lot along the way.

54:50

And so we are crossing paths again, having been part of the process early on together.

55:01

Well, and you and your the deals that we made, I keep referring back to them because we had made deals for with other schools before and some were better.

55:09

Some were what no one was better than the deals we made with you.

55:14

But if they were all based on experience of having made bad deals, right.

55:18

And so you and I benefited from that history and, and were able to put together a very clearly stated deal.

55:28

And I use that word, but but it was a five year in and out.

55:33

You would come in with your faculty and, and, and programs and help us build capacity to offer our own bachelor's a degree in nursing five years in and, and, and then over then what we decided that had gone so well that we would do that MSN and we negotiated the second contract five years in and out and, and that worked because they, the clarity of it for everybody made it work.

56:06

We had a time period.

56:08

We had to get our act together in five years.

56:12

You all knew your role in it.

56:13

We knew our role in it and we were all moving in the same direction.

56:18

And to top it off, you all invited me to do the commencement for the first MSN nursing class in San Antonio.

56:27

And I was so honored you didn't have to do that And, and you did and I thank you for that.

56:32

That meant a lot, but it it communicated.

56:36

But the the the camaraderie and the sincerity of that work together in a important way for the students.

56:43

I think so.

56:45

I've always been grateful.

56:47

Yeah.

56:48

Shared gratitude.

56:49

I wish you well with it.

56:51

Thank you, Sir, your new journey.

56:53

And do call upon me if I can be helpful or if as you're chatting with people that you've reflected on their comments, say how it was out in the field, I got to circle back with them on this fact or that fact.

57:06

I will, I will.

57:08

I think I've got a pretty good fact space.

57:10

But on the other hand, I'm open to challenges.

57:13

Well, I next time I'm in Austin, maybe I can gather up Bill Cunningham and Gookie and and Mullins who Mullins, it keeps telling me, come on, let's talk again.

57:22

He enjoyed it.

57:23

He he had a good time because those were good time.

57:25

We have good memories and that's always nice to be able to conjure back up again.

57:29

So if I can organize something, I've got your number.

57:33

I will make sure to invite you and then and then let me know the dates of your book tour.

57:40

I'll make sure.

57:41

No, you know, but John, you and I will be there together.

57:44

And that's going to be it.

57:45

It's not going to be a best seller, but but it will have recorded some interesting stories.

57:51

And that's that's really what I'm aiming for.

57:54

I'm not going to be Doris Kearns Goodwin, unfortunately, but I'm going to help tell our story.

58:04

That's great.

58:05

OK.

58:05

Thank you, Sir.

58:06

Thank you so much.

58:08

Thank you.

58:09

And.

58:09

And I hope she didn't dispose of all your water.

58:12

Probably.

58:13

Yeah.

58:15

It's on the floor by the desk where you still have it.

58:20

Thank you, John.

58:21

You too.

58:21

Take care of yourself.

58:22

Bye.

58:23

Bye.

58:23

Bye.

58:23

Bye.