



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SYSTEM  
FOURTEEN INSTITUTIONS. UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

Office of Community,  
National, and Global Engagement  
210 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1.200  
Austin, Texas 78701  
956-882-8947  
[WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU](http://WWW.UTSYSTEM.EDU)

## Biography

Dr. Juliet V. García is a national thought leader who has devoted her life's work to higher education, focused on sustaining the democracy of our nation by empowering first generation college students. As Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Community, National and Global Engagement, she is committed to developing creative ways to expanding the impact The UT System can have in accelerating success for all Texans.

Among the many honors she has received for her work is recognition by *Fortune* magazine as one of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders, the American Council on Education Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Mexican consulate's Ohtli Award, the government's highest recognition awarded to foreigners who have improved the lives of Mexicans living abroad. She was honored by The University of Texas with both the Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award, and she has been awarded honorary doctorates from the University of Notre Dame, Brown University and Smith College. In 2009, *Time* magazine named her one of the Top 10 College Presidents in the U.S. Most recently she was awarded the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Chair's Medallion Award and the League of United Latin American Citizens National Leadership Award.

Dr. García is a convener of important conversations. She has served on the transition teams of two Presidential administrations, was a member of The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, and chaired the Advisory Committee to Congress on Student Financial Assistance and the American Council of Education (ACE), the nation's largest higher education association. She was selected as one of 12 US university presidents to participate in the US AID and ACE South Africa Project, charged with helping integrate higher education in South Africa after the end of apartheid. For more than a decade, she has served as a guest faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School's Institute for Educational Management, where she annually coaches aspiring university presidents.

Dr. Garcia's articles and essays have been published in national periodicals such as *Change Magazine* and the Association of American Colleges and University's *Diversity and Democracy*, and she is author of a chapter in *Women & Leadership in Higher Education*. She is a widely sought national speaker, and has been featured on National Public Radio's *Tell Me More* and NBC's *National Education Summit*.

Named the first female Mexican-American president of a U.S. college or university in 1986, Dr. García spearheaded the creation of the University of Texas at Brownsville in 1991 and formed a unique partnership with the local community college that consolidated the fiscal, physical and human resources of both institutions, eliminated redundancy in administrative structures, increased efficiency, and eliminated all transfer barriers for students in the South Texas border region. In 2011, Dr. García began a grass roots effort to envision a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century University model. As the project gained statewide and national interest, the University of Texas System Board of Regents voted to create a new university in the Rio Grande Valley that embraced the 21<sup>st</sup> Century University guiding principles, consolidated two UT universities and established a medical school.

Dr. García now serves as senior advisor to the Chancellor for community, national and global engagement, at The University of Texas System. She works as an ambassador, participating with leaders and organizations throughout Texas, the nation and internationally to convey, clarify and advocate for the UT System and the Chancellor's priorities.

Dr. García was born in Brownsville, Texas, where her father and his family immigrated when fleeing the Mexican Revolution. She is a fifth-generation Texan on her mother's side. She is a first-generation college graduate, earning two degrees from the University of Houston and a Ph.D. in communication from The University of Texas at Austin. She has been married to Oscar E. Garcia for 47 years. They have two grown children and five grandchildren.