

Orlando Bejarano pursued an occupational therapy education and earned a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy in 1998 at 50 years old—he was the oldest OT student in the program’s history. In 2004, Bejarano started a therapy service business from scratch in his own home in the suburb of Houston. Through hard work, passion and dedication, his business has grown to serve over 600 patients a week and employ nearly 40 therapists. Despite his successes over 800 miles away in Houston, he has never forgotten the city he grew up in and the school that helped him to reach his dreams. He established the Ignacia Aguilar Bejarano Annual Scholarship in honor of his mother. This scholarship supports an OT student who is in need and is also a single parent, like his mother. Bejarano serves as a role model to UTEP occupational therapy students. He has demonstrated a shining example of how one can overcome obstacles to reach their goals with hard work, determination, and graciousness.