

# Odessa College

## *news release*

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From: Cheri Dalton  
Director of Media Relations & Publications  
cdalton@odessa.edu

### *REQUEST FOR COVERAGE/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY*

- WHAT:** Join us for the “Grand Opening and Dedication” of the new Odessa College Rudy Acosta Student Pavilion
- WHO:** Odessa College Board of Trustees, administrators, faculty and staff, city of Odessa officials and the Odessa Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors
- WHEN:** 3 p.m., Tuesday, October 7.
- WHERE:** Rudy Acosta Student Pavilion (adjacent to the Wi-fi Java Cyber Cafe)  
201 W. University
- OTHER:** In the fall of 2007, Odessa College secured funding for a student activities pavilion to be located near the Wi-fi Java Cyber Cafe. The OC Student Government Association pledged \$75,000 – \$25,000 each year for three years – and an anonymous donor pledged an additional \$175,000 for the pavilion to be named for former OC student and disabled persons advocate Rudy Acosta. Born Nov. 25, 1964, in Mexico, Acosta died Feb. 18, 2008, in Austin. Orphaned at an early age, he graduated from Permian High School in May of 1984, through the ECISD Homebound Student Program, while he was a resident of Avalon Place Nursing Home in Odessa, and entered Odessa College in September 1984. With the support and dedication shown at Odessa College by countless staff and

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instructional personnel, he received his associate of arts degree in May of 1990, and entered UTPB, where he attended until 1996, when he transferred to Texas Tech University. In December of 1998, Acosta received his bachelor's of arts degree in psychology at Texas Tech, receiving a standing ovation from his classmates and an overflow crowd at Tech's Coliseum Arena. Thus came to its conclusion a 15-year quest for that degree awarded to a courageous young man who was never physically able to turn a page in a book. Shortly thereafter, Acosta was appointed, by then Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, and moved to Austin, where he lived until his death. During his years in Austin, Acosta became a tireless and widely renowned advocate in the Texas Legislature seeking and securing support for numberless programs to assist disabled people in all walks of life throughout Texas. During his college years, he managed to overcome his own total paralysis and with remarkable determination, he finally earned the degree, which was such a meaningful goal ahead of him for his entire life. He once explained that his motivation came from the certainty that having a college degree would better qualify him to help people who had "real problems." The reputation that he built for himself in the Texas Legislature in Austin makes clear that he was successful in those efforts, as he lived out his dream of serving unselfishly those whom he felt he could help.