NAME:
The program honors the names and legacies of Dr. Lauro Cavazos, the first graduate to serve as President of Texas Tech University and Ophelia Powell-Malone, the first African American undergraduate to enroll in Texas Tech University.

PURPOSE:
The purpose of the Lauro Cavazos & Ophelia Powell-Malone Mentoring Program is to enhance the quality of the educational experience of students from underrepresented populations through programs, services, advocacy, and campus and community involvement.

MISSION:
Through faculty and staff mentoring and peer group networking, to improve the retention and eventual graduation rates of all students in the Texas Tech University System, with a special focus on those from underrepresented groups, by fostering a campus climate that is conducive to their academic, social, and cultural needs and interests.

PROGRAM HISTORY:
The program was piloted in November of 2002 with 46 students and more than 100 mentors. A unit within the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, in recent years, the program has grown to more than 1,000 total participants annually. Since the program’s inception, more than 3300 students have received services through Mentor Tech. Mentor Tech’s average retention rate (86%), is consistently higher than the University’s average. Over the course of the last 12 years, nearly 1,200 participating students have earned degrees from Texas Tech University and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

PAIRINGS:
Mentors and protégés are paired according to their academic, professional, social and cultural interests.

PROTÉGÉ REQUIREMENTS:
• Student on the Lubbock campuses of Texas Tech University or the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
• Commit to participating in the program for at least a full academic year
• Attend a minimum of three program-sponsored academic related and one social event per semester
• Maintain weekly contact with mentor (in person or electronically)
• Have a minimum of two in person interactions with mentor per month
• Provide feedback to program staff and Protégé Advisory Committee members (peer student leaders)

MENTOR REQUIREMENTS:
• Graduate Student, Faculty or staff member of Texas Tech University or the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
• Commit to serving as mentor for at least a full academic year
• Attend one Mentor Information Session or the Prospective Mentor Luncheon
• Provide feedback to the program staff and Mentor Cluster Leaders (peer mentor leaders)
• Maintain weekly contact with protégé(s) (in person or electronically)
• Have a minimum of two in person interactions with protégé(s) per month
• Cannot serve as mentor to more than two protégés at one time