

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2016
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YCT-UT Starts Dialogue on Affirmative Action

Austin, TX - Today, Young Conservatives of Texas at UT (YCT-UT) held an 'Affirmative Action Bake Sale' on campus to bring attention to the absurdity of giving preferential treatment to individuals based on race, ethnicity or gender.

Affirmative action for university admissions was banned in Texas in 1996 (Hopwood v. Texas) but then overturned over by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2003 (Gratz v. Bollinger) stating that race, gender, and ethnicity can again be used as a factor in admissions as long as a quota or point system is not used.

"Our protest was designed to highlight the insanity of assigning our lives value based on our race and ethnicity, rather than our talents, work ethic, and intelligence," said YCT-UT Chairman, Vidal Castañeda. "It is insane that institutional racism, such as affirmative action, continues to allow for universities to judge me by the color of my skin rather than my actions."

The event was streamed by Yerim Ashley Choi, a University of Texas spokesman for the Gender and Sexuality Center at the university. Choi titled the video: "Racists are live at UT Austin."

"The First Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees our organization freedom of speech and expression," continued Castañeda. "YCT-UT will not be deterred by liberal elites that would love nothing more than to silence conservative, common sense voices on campus. We will continue to speak out against policies that are harmful or give preferential treatment based on nothing more than immutable characteristics."

Young Conservatives of Texas is a non-partisan organization that has promoted conservatism at universities across the Lone Star State for over three decades. The State's most active political youth organization, YCT is composed of hundreds of members and alumni who participate in the full spectrum of politics. YCT issues the most respected ratings of the Texas legislature and is the only conservative group to have done so without interruption over the past 21 legislative sessions. For more information about YCT, please visit www.YCT.org.

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