



Native Texan Severo “Tré” Rodriguez III begins his tenure as executive director of NREMT in January. Rodriguez replaces William Brown Jr., who is retiring from NREMT.

NREMT names new executive director — a native Texan

The National Registry of EMTs has selected a new executive director— born right here in Texas. Severo (Se-VER-oh) “Tré” Rodriguez III, MS, NREMT-P, will assume the reins at NREMT in January when longtime director William Brown Jr. retires. The selection was made after a 14-month national search led by a Search Committee made up of NREMT board members, staff and legal counsel.

Rodriguez, who has worked for EMS and hospital systems in Texas, Florida and Canada, was first certified as a paramedic in 1993 in Texas and as a nationally registered paramedic in 1994. He has since held jobs of increasing responsibility as a clinical provider, and educator and administrator. Along the way, he completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees and is finishing his doctoral studies in Learning Management. He currently lives in Ontario, Canada, with his wife and children.

Rodriguez recently answered a few questions for Texas EMS Magazine.

EMS: Let’s start with the important stuff. You were born in Texas. Where did you grow up?

SR: I was born at Methodist Hospital in San Antonio. I grew up on the southwest side of San Antonio in an area called Valley Hi. I attended Holy Cross of San Antonio for grades 7 to 12, graduating in 1987. I completed my EMT and paramedic training at the University of Texas at San Antonio Health Science Center (UTHSCSA) in 1992. I earned a degree in sociology from St. Marys’ University in 1998 and graduated from the University of Texas in San Antonio with a master’s degree in 2002.

EMS: How did you get involved in EMS?

SR: I took an EMT course with my best friend and never looked back. I went on to complete my EMS training though the paramedic level, including advanced-level instructor and examiner.

EMS: What was your first job in EMS?

SR: I worked as a paramedic for a small community just outside of Houston. I worked a 24/48 split with a kit full of medications for \$8 per hour and no benefits.

EMS: What year were you certified in Texas?

SR: I was certified as an EMT in 1992, EMT-Paramedic in 1993, LP in 2000.

EMS: Where else have you worked in Texas?

SR: I worked as a paramedic on a

24/48 split for an ambulance service in San Antonio. On my days off, I worked for Fiesta Texas EMS. I also taught at San Antonio College EMS program at varying levels. I took a full-time position at UTHSCSA EMS Department in 1997.

EMS: You've stayed in EMS, but have lived outside Texas. Where else have you worked?

SR: I've held positions in education and administration in Florida and Ontario.

EMS: What has kept you interested in EMS all these years?

SR: A passion and commitment for improving patient outcomes through excellence in emergency medical care. My lens has changed from my field days preparing to provide optimal care for my next patient to where I stand today in optimizing systems of care for hundreds of thousands of patients. As executive director, I hope to positively influence care for millions of patients across our great nation.

EMS: I hear there is an interesting story about how you met your wife.

SR: Yes, it's actually pretty cool. I was on shift and brought a patient into the hospital (University Hospital in San Antonio) where she worked (she is an

RN) and I transferred the patient to her. Somehow I talked her into giving me her number, which I wrote on my hand. Next call — guess what? The number got washed off. I spent the next few shifts looking for her and when I finally found her, I had to



Rodriguez began in EMS as a medic in a small community in South Texas. He met his wife, a nurse, while he was working as a medic in San Antonio.

convince her I'd been trying to find her. Fortunately, one of her colleagues walked by and confirmed it. That was 18 years ago. I knew when I met her that she was the one.

EMS: How did you end up in Canada?

SR: This is a great story. My wife is from St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada. When I asked her to marry me I promised her that our kids would be able to grow up in her home town. So some nine years later she reminded me of my promise (really had to remind me) and we moved to St. Thomas.

EMS: Why did you want to apply for the position as the executive director of the National Registry?

SR: I am looking forward to the opportunity to work at a national level to protect the public by optimizing patient care through national certification provided by the NREMT. I hope to affirm existing relationships and create new relationships with stakeholders from the EMTs in the field to state directors.

EMS: What do you bring to this position?

SR: Broad experience and perspective as a field paramedic, educator, administrator and researcher developed over twenty years in EMS. This includes key facets of international EMS systems experience. I

am not unlike EMTs and paramedics across our nation who work their way through the ranks.

EMS: What do you see as the most exciting aspect of your new job?

SR: As I mentioned, I'm excited to be building relationships with EMS stakeholders across our nation to improve care and protect the public through national certification provided by the NREMT. Also, after being in EMS for so many years, the prospect of influencing the shape and direction of EMS into the next two decades is exciting.