

# PRESS RELEASE



2310 SAN BERNARDO AVE.

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## **Laredo Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Laredo Presents Scholarships to 35 Local High School Graduates**

**For immediate release – June 3, 2022**

Youth Leadership Laredo (YLL), an educational program coordinated under the auspices of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, presented this week \$500 scholarships to thirty-five local graduating seniors. The students, representative of local public and private high schools, earned the scholarships as a reward for their commitment to the five-year program. Adrian Zapata, Chairman for the YLL Board, was joined by the Laredo Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Gabriela Morales and YLL volunteers Edna Garza and Angelica Padron in handing out checks to the elated students. Youth Leadership Laredo (YLL) is a program designed to provide local youth with leadership skills intended to assist them in achieving personal success. Students from local private and public schools are recruited in the eighth grade and are eligible to participate through the twelfth. Once in the program, students are exposed to several activities that include seminars, training on site in different settings, and field trips. More importantly, the participants get to interact in exercises with peers from other schools and different environments, which allows them to grow socially. Those who successfully complete the five-year program are awarded a \$500 scholarship upon completion of their commitment.

Aside from the academic activities, the YLL students collaborate in fund raising activities during the year, which help support the program and fund the 12th grade scholarships. Families of the students support the program with a \$100 registration fee at the start of the year. In addition, members of the Chamber and YLL seek and accept donations from interested parties to complement existing funds. Special thanks to the Members of the 2021-2022 YLL Board, who also serve as mentors for the students: Adrian Zapata, Committee Chair; Rosa Cruz, Past President; Cynthia Cardenas, Fundraising Chair; Angelica Padron and Edna Garza, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Co-Chairs; E. Carolina Garcia, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Chair; Hilda Quintanilla, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Chair; Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Chair; Nohely E. Zapata, Technology Chair; and Perla Ruiz, Special Advisor.

Students receiving scholarships this year are:

Ricardo Alvarez – JW Nixon  
Jerry Cabriaes Jr. – JW Nixon  
Carolina Cardenas – St. Augustine  
Nicolas Cavazos –  
Tyler Cerna – St. Augustine  
Vanessa Estevis - Early College  
Miarose Flores – St. Augustine  
Andrea Gallardo – Harmony School of Excellence



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Brianna Galvan – Cigarroa  
Gabriela Garcia – St. Augustine  
Santiago Garcia-Rosales – United High School  
Norberto Geronimo Jr. – LBJ High School  
Jose Gonzalez III – JW Nixon  
Regina Gripal – St Augustine  
Juan Diego Guerrero – St. Augustine  
Vanessa Hernandez – Garcia Early High School  
Celeste Loreda – LBJ High School  
Alyssa Lugo – St. Augustine  
Juaquin Luna – LBJ High School  
Nathaniel Mathews – Christian Academy  
Samantha Medina – Garcia Early High School  
Sofia Mora –  
Sarah Pombo – Garcia Early High School  
Abigail Ramirez – Emmanuel Christian Academy  
Carlos Ramirez – United High School  
Matthew Rodriguez – Martin High School  
Jacqueline Saenz – United High School  
Debra Tanguma - Alexander High School  
Diana Terrones - Martin High School  
Arturo Tovar -  
Camila Trevino - United High School  
Ryan Vaquera - Hector J. Garcia Early College  
Keila Viera - Emmanuel Christian Academy  
Abdiel Villarreal - United High School  
Irandi Cepeda - United High School

For additional information about Youth Leadership Laredo contact the Laredo Chamber of Commerce at 956-722-9895.

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Founded in 1915, the Laredo Chamber of Commerce is Laredo's and Webb County's longest running business organization. It represents almost 700 businesses of the local community and surrounding areas. The Laredo Chamber of Commerce is accredited by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce with five stars. Only 3 percent of approximately 7,000 chambers in the United States are accredited.