

enlighten. inspire. achieve.

# CONNECTIONS



Hillsboro

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Summer 2022  
Accolades Edition





# TOP 10% HONORED

by Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation

The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation honored the 14 graduating Hillsboro High School seniors representing the top 10 percent of students in academic achievement. The students were honored once at a “reveal ceremony at the high school and the Legacy Reception held on May 1st. In addition to the recognition of the students' achievements, each senior recognized and thanked an educator or HISD employee who served not only as their mentor but was an integral part of their academic success.

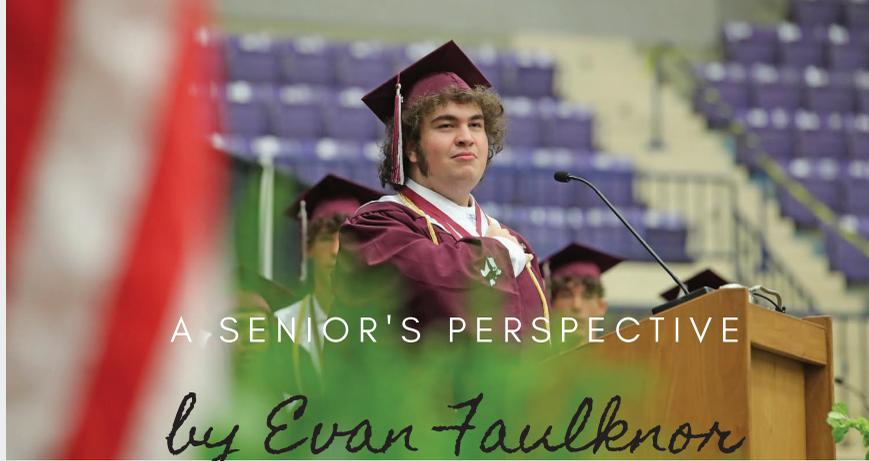
“The Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation wants to congratulate the Class of 2022 and the students in the top 10% of the class,” Deb Hanson, Director of the HISD Education Foundation, said. “Your dedication to your academics that have been exhibited by you and your teachers during this time have been truly admirable. It is our honor, with the help of our donors, to celebrate your achievements and we cannot wait to see what each of your futures hold for each of you.”



## Honor Graduates Included

**LARISSA BOYD**  
**EVANGELICA VICENCIO**  
**LEVI BONTKE**  
**FRANSICO MONTOYA**  
**EVAN FAULKNER**  
**LUKE BONTKE**  
**TRENT TIDWELL**

**MISELA CARBAJAL**  
**JORDAN FORNS**  
**KATHRYN SEELY**  
**PERLA NABOR**  
**DANIELA RAMOS**  
**RICARDO MARTINEZ**  
**WILLIAM MARSHALL**



## A SENIOR'S PERSPECTIVE

*by Evan Faulknor*

Just a few days ago, my time at high school came to an end. Dressed up in my cap and gown and leading my class of 2022 during our final Pledge of Allegiance. I began reflecting on the memories and friendships as well as envisioning my future which is truly beginning. Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," which can also sum up my high school career. I am glad to finally move on toward my next goal in "the real world," but at the same time, I am sad to be leaving Hillsboro High School. I have made many friends and have had some of the best times of my life during my senior year.

I will not walk these halls again. No more Friday night football games and marching band shows. No more vocabulary tests, school lunches, or senior prom. My classmates and I will go our separate ways and move from immature teens to having careers and families.

I had lots of important decisions to make this year from applying to colleges, choosing a college, and selecting a career path that will make me happy. I took them one step at a time with the help of my teachers, friends, and my parents. I also learned that not knowing everything is OK and that self-discovery will be part of my future journey.

Graduation Day came. My name was called. I walked across the stage, received my diploma, shook hands, hugged my teachers, and threw my graduation cap in the air. Now it's time for the next chapter in my life. I will be attending Texas A & M University in the fall and majoring in technology management. I look forward to making new memories while holding on to those I made at Hillsboro High School.



Connections is published by The Hillsboro Reporter as a courtesy to the Hillsboro Independent School District.

For additional copies of Connections, please contact The Hillsboro Reporter at (254) 582-3431.

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# Valedictorian

## Larissa Boyd



Hillabero ISD valedictorian, Larissa Boyd is the daughter of Angela and Tim Boyd. She has always enjoyed participating in various activities throughout her high school career and these experiences have led to some of her proudest accomplishments.

Larissa has served as her FFA chapter's vice president, district officer and was honored to be selected as this year's chapter president. She has raised show lambs all four years of high school and has won breed champion, reserve breed champion, and reserve grand champion at our county fair. Larissa is also passionate about singing and this past July, represented Future Farmers of America Area 8 as a Talent state finalist which allowed her the opportunity to sing on stage at the State FFA Convention to an audience of nearly 13,000 people. She has also found success competing in both leadership and career development events, including creed, quiz, radio broadcasting and milk quality judging. She has earned her FFA Greenhand, Chapter and Lone Star Degrees, and was crowned the 2020 Hill County Fair Queen. Outside of her FFA involvement, Larissa has been a varsity cheerleader, member of the varsity golf team, National Honor Society, class parliamentarian and lead cast member of One-Act Play. She has earned accolades for her academic performance that include the Eagle Excellence Award, Outstanding Pre-AP Geometry Award, Theater Award, Floral Design Award, and the Anatomy and Physiology award. Along with being chosen as the Rotary Girl of the Year and December Ag Texas Youth of the Month, she also received the Hill County Ag Youth Award. This fall Larissa will attend Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in biomedical science, with the goal of one day being a psychiatrist. She is also committed to pursuing a singing career in the Texas Country music industry and leaving her mark on the Texas Country Music Scene.

# Salutatorian

## Evangelina Vincencio



The Salutatorian for this year was Evangelina Vincencio. She is the daughter of Stefania Res and Juan Vincencio. Evangelina has focused on her academics throughout her years at Hillabero High School. Her accolades include UIL Spelling Regional Qualifier, UIL Scholar Award and academic recognition in Financial Literacy, Pre AP-Biology, AP-Calculus as well as Health and Science Theory. She was named as the Student of the Month both her Sophomore and Senior years. She recently received her Certified Nurse's Aide(CNA) certificate from completing the State of Texas' CNA program through Hillabero High School.

Outside the classroom she has been active in Student Council and served as the senior class treasurer. One of her favorite memories from high school would be senior year homecoming night. Many seniors did their best to put together a student section, and to the surprise of many, it was successful. Students brought confetti cannons to pop and powder to throw into the air when the buzzer went off for the end of the game to celebrate an Eagle victory. Vincencio stated that "That night was one that I will never forget. We all were able to be kids, and we didn't have a care in the world. We were living in the moment, creating memories that would last a lifetime."

In the fall she plans to attend Tarleton State University and major in Psychology.

**GO FORTH  
AND SET  
THE  
WORLD ON  
FIRE!**



**137  
GRADUATES**

**\$330,000 IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

An excited crowd filled the Extraco Events Center in Waco, Texas for the Hillsboro High School Commencement Ceremony, Saturday, May 27, 2022. HISD Board members, Administration, faculty and staff were in attendance to celebrate this year's graduates.



# We Honor Our Retirees



Cindy Darden

Mrs. Darden began her career in education in 1991. She started with Hillsboro ISD in July 2012. Cindy was the Director of Instructional Technology for 10 years. Mrs. Darden is starting her retirement by beginning a second career in the private sector.



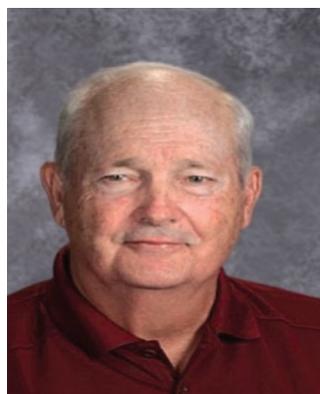
Dianna Ford

Mrs. Ford started working for Hillsboro ISD on 1996. She has now been theAccounts Payable Coordinator for 26 years. She is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, kids and grandkids, traveling, cruising and enjoying friends and family.



Pam Peschel

Mrs. Peschel began working for Hillsboro ISD in 2001 and has worked consistently for 21 years. Mrs. Peschel's retirement plans are to get settled into her new home and spend more time with family members.



Larry Powell

Larry began teaching at Hillsboro Elementary teacher for 2 years in 1995. After a short stint at Birdville ISD in 2008 he came back to coach and teach in Hillsboro.

Larry's plans for retirement--he plans to enjoy life. Other than that you might find him playing golf, working around the house visiting his three sisters, and doing more things with my wife.



Jan Russell

Mrs. Russell started her career at HISD in 1992. In 2012 she became the District Technologist and finished with 9 years in the technology department. She will be retiring with 29 years in public education. Mrs. In retirement, Jan will become an active partner with her husband David their business. Jan also plans on exercising more, gardening, and enjoying more time with kids and grandkids.



Jennifer Standlee

Mrs. Standlee is retiring after teaching for 26 years. This year was her first year with Hillsboro ISD. M She will miss being with kids everyday. In retirement, the days will be spent enjoying time with her husband and their animals.



Edward Sumrall

Edward's joined HillsboroISD counseling staff in 2016-and served our students for 6 years. His total years of teaching is 32. His future plans are to continue pastoring, ride his motorcycle with his wife, sleep late, fish and watch his grandkids grow up.

Thank you &  
enjoy retirement!

# SPORTS



## NEWS

...And the game goes on!

Five of Hillsboro High School Graduating Athletes signed to continue their love of sports at the University level.

Jordan Williamson - Dallas Baptist University,  
Track

Jordan Forns - Texas Women's University,  
Softball

Jaedyn Campos - University of Texas at San Antonio,  
Powerlifting

Levi Bontke - University of Texas Arlington,  
Track

Luke Bontke - University of Texas at Arlington,  
Track



## ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Jordan Forns



Francisco Montoya

# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## AMANDA ROUNSVALL



Amanda Rounsvall, Hillsboro ISD's Elementary Teacher of the Year, always knew she wanted to be a teacher. She has taught 18 years from kindergarten to sixth grade. She is a firm believer that we learn something new every day. She feels blessed to be able to live in the community that she is serving because she sees previous students accomplish things that are life changing.

Rounsvall stated, "Over the years I realized that teaching requires so much more. You do have to know your content, but it's even more important to know your students. You have to know how they learn and how they like to be engaged during the learning process. There are so many pieces you must fit together to ensure student success -- socially, emotionally and academically."

"Every day I see students who are working in the community and are proud of their accomplishments. This is why I love teaching. I want my students to reach for the stars and have the support they need to get there."

## AMY BALLENTINE



Amy Ballentine, Hillsboro ISD Secondary Teacher of the year, did not originally want to be a teacher.

But after the birth of her son and reestablishing her faith in God she followed his guidance and became a teacher. She just completed her fourth year at Hillsboro High School (HHS). "Each group that comes through my doors teaches me something new," Ballentine shared. "I love to let the students teach me as I learn alongside them. For me, I just come to work and give it everything I've got. It's just me doing my job that I am honored to be able to do. I've never considered being awarded Teacher of the Year but to really see everyone, even my students, recognizing me was an insanely rewarding experience."

When asked what is one thing that your students would be surprised to learn about you, Ballentine responded that in Middle School, she played in a club soccer league. She was the number one ranked goaltender in the state of Texas for two years, having zero goals scored in the amount of time played.

"Choosing teaching as a career has had a humbling and extremely significant effect on the person that I now am and I wouldn't change any of it," said Ballentine.

## WAY TO GO!

# Shattered Dreams



Hillsboro High School (HHS) offers many activities and events orchestrated by teachers and students that provide first hand life lessons. One such event is Shattered Dreams. A bi-annual event, Shattered Dreams is a program that Hillsboro High School supports in association with Hill County and the City of Hillsboro first responders to demonstrate the dangers associated with drunk driving and distracted driving. This program is led by staff members, Officer Lynelle Sparks, Ms. Amy Ballentine and students who volunteer to participate. Approximately 40 active participants took part in the event that impacted the entire HHS student body and staff very powerfully. Students were taken out of class every 15 minutes to represent a death from drinking while driving. A simulated crash site was set up in front of the high school. Students heard an actual 911 call over the intercom and quickly processed to the front lawn to witness in real time the actual first responders at the scene of the accident. Part of the mock-up of the event included HHS students participating as victims injured or killed by a drunk driver. The following day students and staff attended a moving "memorial" service held for the victims. Despite the community sponsored event only lasting only two days, it took months of preparation. The entire program is designed in hopes of persuading students to avoid drinking and driving. Additionally, students participating learn through realistic experiences of visiting the local police station, court house, morgue, and hospital in order to learn first hand what happens when someone is killed or arrested as part of a drunk-driving incident. The Shattered Dreams program intends to have a lasting effect on Hillsboro High School and the community and will hopefully cause students to make smarter decisions about drinking and distracted driving and potentially save a life.



# Lifetime Achievement



## VICKI ELLISON

Vicki Ellison, was awarded the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Legacy Reception from the Hillsboro Education Foundation. She was a true blessing to Hillsboro Independent School District (HISD) and all that had the privilege to work with her. Vicki once said, "I have always loved teaching, it was never a job to me. It was fun, challenging, hard work, love, fun, repeat..."

Mrs. Ellison grew up in Grand Prairie, Tx. She graduated from Grand Prairie High School and went on to East Texas State University where she met and later married her great love, Hugh Ellison. She began her 45 year teaching career in Gainesville, Tx at Gainesville State School. Vicki's early years of teaching were spent in Grand Prairie, Spring, Richardson and Tyler.

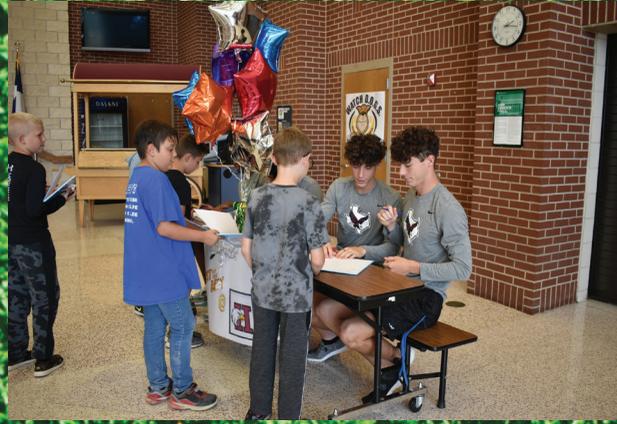
Hillsboro was blessed in 1985 when she and Hugh moved here with their family. She began by teaching 4th grade at Travis Elementary, later transitioning to 1st grade at Franklin Elementary. Vicki earned her Early Childhood certification in 1999 and for 20 years taught and loved the youngest of our students in PreK at Franklin Elementary. She loved her job, her school, her district, her students and her colleagues. Throughout her career she mentored many first year teachers and student teachers, some of whom went on to teach in our district.

## CAT PATTERSON

Cathryn "Cat" Patterson was awarded one of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Legacy Reception from the Hillsboro Education Foundation. Cat lost her battle to cancer on May 4, 2022 but leaves a true legacy behind. Cat was an Education Foundation Board Member and, despite her illness, was always willing to help and was an integral part of the Foundation team.

Cat grew up in White Settlement Texas, where she graduated high school. She went to San Angelo State and subsequently obtained her undergraduate degree from Texas Christian University. She obtained her master's degree in school administration from Tarleton State University and obtained her superintendent certification from Texas Tech University. Cat began her 30 year education career as a P.E. teacher in Port Aransas in 1988. She arrived at Hillsboro ISD in 2008 to become Hillsboro Junior High principal. She remained there until her retirement in 2019.

Throughout her career she befriended and mentored many. She worked to build confidence and growth in her teachers and students. Cat strived to be there for her students and teachers physically, emotionally and academically. Cat and her husband Dale Snyder have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Cat spent her retirement volunteering in the community, making to-do lists for Dale, enjoying their grandchildren. Cat's memory will be honored in all the lives that she touched.



# Around the District



## Where will You be

Texas A&M

Tarleton State University

Texas State University

University of Texas - Arlington

University of Texas - San Antonio

McLennan Community College

Texas State Technical College

Texas Women's University

Dallas Baptist

Hill College

Air Force

## What will You be

Psychologist

Entrepreneur

Business Owner

Hair Stylist

Chef

Midwife

Successful

Lineman