

Award for Excellence Special Programs

Chad Bergquist is the son of Traci Dyck.

He plans to go to Odessa College, pursue an associate's degree in criminal justice, and become a police officer.

Chad loves his dog and likes playing video games, working on his truck, and traveling.

Chad's favorite teacher is Ariel Thurber. "She would help me with assignments and became a great mentor to talk to."



Chad Bergquist
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Category sponsored by:



Welcome..... **Tom Crowe**
Superintendent of Schools

Master of Ceremonies **Mike Adkins**
Public Information Officer

Welcome..... **Carol Gregg**
President, Board of Trustees

Dinner Served (6:45 p.m.)..... **Musical Performance**

Awards for Excellence Presentation..... **ECISD Board of Trustees,
Superintendent's Leadership Team (SLT) & Sponsors**

Award for Excellence Special Programs

Reagan Hudson is the daughter of Michelle & Mike Coffman.

Reagan has been involved in AVID for six years and is currently AVID president. She is also a member of National Honor Society.

She has won a number of awards including the Optimist Award for AVID in ninth grade, as well as Perfect Attendance.

Her hobbies include reading and crocheting in her free time.

She plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and aspires to be a forensic scientist or a teacher. She would like to teach Special Education, math, or AVID.

Reagan chose Robyn Hernandez as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Hernandez is my twelfth grade AVID teacher. She does not just teach her students, she helps us in any way she can. Mrs. Hernandez has made sure that her classroom is a safe place where we can all be ourselves."



Reagan Hudson
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence Special Programs

Marina Yanez Sotelo is the daughter of Alejandra Sotelo & Martin Yanez.

Marina is a member of National Honor Society, AVID, the Coca-Cola Valued Youth Program, is on the A/B Honor Roll, and is the first generation of her family to go to college.

Her hobbies include running, reading, and volunteering.

She is going to Odessa College to study cosmetology.

Marina names Naomi Fuentes as her favorite teacher. "I chose Mrs. Fuentes because she is an excellent and motivating teacher. She advises me to stay on track with school."



Marina Yanez Sotelo
Odessa High School



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Favorite Teachers of the Awards for Excellence Recipients

Abel Avila
Ajinoam Morton
Ariel Thurber
Bernadette Barragan
Candy Thompson
Cheryl Cunningham
Christina Kile
D'Shannon Mendez
Darren Reeves
Dawn Treen
Dex Dennard
Dustin Winkler
Elias Martinez
Elizabeth Cleveland
Hilberto Ochoa
Holly Ferguson
Janis May
Jeff Patterson
Jeffrey Whitaker
Jelene Ballard
Jennifer Nunez
Jerimie Hernandez
Johnny Rodriguez

Laree Morris
Lauren Rieves
Lee Jordan
Mallory Langford
Melissa Lara
Lisa Roth
Michael Flax
Naomi Fuentes
Peter Getz
Ramon Rivera
Rene Faulkner
Robyn Hernandez
Samantha Baker
Shawn Lunsford
Shelly Barker
Stephen Brant
Steven Dojahn
Thad Fortune
Todd Berridge
Tony Gonzalez
Yesenia Barajas



Award for Excellence Social Studies

Zachary Flowers is the son of Mark Flowers & Angie Miller.

Zachary is head tutor of the NTO Writing Center, head delegate for Model Organization of American States for two out of three years, and took all Dual Credit/AP Classes.

He has won awards from National Honor Society as well as various Optimist Awards and is a Texas Scholar.

Zachary is involved with the Youth Choir at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Midland, and some of his hobbies include reading, writing, hiking, mountain biking, photography, and trying new things.

He plans to graduate from New Tech Odessa with both a high school diploma and pharmacy technician certification. After that, he will attend Texas Tech University and plans to major in education. After teaching for a few years, he would like to work in administration to help as many students as possible.

Zachary's favorite teacher is Lauren Rieves. "Ms. Rieves not only pushed me as a student but went above and beyond the expectations of a teacher and strived to give every student in her class the best learning environment possible. She doesn't come out to meet students in the middle, she finds the students at whatever level they are and lights a fire to learn inside of them."



Zachary Flowers
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Social Studies

Peyton Kidd is the daughter of Lainie & Kevin Kidd.

Peyton is a member of National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America.

Some of her awards include winning second place in Digital Media Production at BPA Regional conference, third place in Digital Media Production at Business Professionals of America State conference, Business Professionals of America National Qualifier in Digital Media Production, Optimist Youth Appreciation Award, and first place in Headline Writing at Academic UIL Regional competition. She was also voted Best Director and Best Short Film in ECISD Audio Video Production class.

She enjoys drawing, making videos, and reading.

Her plans are to go to the University of Texas and become a director or video editor.

Peyton's favorite teacher is Peter Getz, her 7th & 8th grade teacher at Hood Junior High. He now teaches in Dallas ISD. "Mr. Getz inspired not only a love of learning but also a love of social studies in me at a time when I was less than interested. He showed me that school can be fun and that I can be myself in class, as long as I get done what needs to get done. He taught me that I have complete control over my future and that I can do anything if I work hard enough and smart enough."



Peyton Kidd
Permian High School



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Thank you!



Award for Excellence Social Studies

Genesis Martinez Morales is the daughter of Nora & Haydel Martinez.

Genesis is the captain of her Decathlon team and has been in the Decathlon for two years, is the Social Secretary of National Honor Society, Vice President of the senior board, secretary of the Model United Nations, and the social secretary for the Spanish Club.

She has also been involved in octathlon, orchestra, Mariachi, and Student Council.

She is an AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, competed in UIL-History (3rd place overall), and has a GPA of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale and 5.2 on a 6.0 scale

One of her favorite hobbies is volunteering at the Food Bank.

Genesis is going to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and plans on double majoring in history and biology as well as getting a minor in Spanish literature. She wants to study abroad in Europe or Asia for a couple of semesters and graduate before age 30.

Genesis chose Lee Jordan as her favorite teacher. "Mr. Jordan has taught me many things in the three years that he has been my teacher. He has been one of the few people that I trust enough to confide my opinions and fears to. Even when I am in the wrong, he is sure to correct me without looking down upon me. I have an enormous respect for him and everything he's done for my classmates and me. Also, he has an amazing sense of humor."



Genesis Martinez Morales
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Science

Keylah Cortinas is the daughter of Gabriela & Pedro Cortinas.

Keylah was Vice President of Student Council 2016-2017 and president of the youth at her church.

She will be graduating from Odessa College with her LVN. Her hobbies are reading, writing, Bible study, and community service.

She plans to graduate from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and continue her education until she obtains a doctorate in nursing.

Her favorite teacher is Bernadette Barragan. "Mrs. Barragan taught me more than anatomy and physiology or student leadership. She inspired me to pursue my dreams, she guided me more than any educator ever did, motivating me to someday be a role model like her. Thank you so much Mrs. Barragan for giving me the tools to grow and be successful in my education."



Keylah Cortinas
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Category sponsored by:



Excellence

This is the 31st anniversary of the Awards for Excellence. It began in 1988 as a vehicle to recognize outstanding students in their academic areas of study.

Students who receive these awards demonstrate that excellence is not only a goal to be attained but an attitude that exudes commitment. It is through this attitude that goals are truly realized and multiplied. Individual excellence benefits both self and society, perpetuates the growth of our democracy and ensures the continued yield of its fruits. As others before them, this year's 45 students charted a course to do their best. Along the way, the standards they set serve as daily examples for their peers.

This very special award honors students for their accomplishments in 11 categories. Award winners were selected by a consensus of teachers from each particular category for academic standing, consistent outstanding performance over a period of years, participation and commitment to excellence within the activities of the discipline and long-range goals of the students.



Award for Excellence Athletics

Nathan Sanchez-Juarez is the son of Guadalupe Juarez & Saul Sanchez.

Nathan is a member of National Honor Society, is an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate, played two years of varsity football, powerlifting, and track & field.

He is an Odessa Junior Leadership Program graduate and won awards for the Academic All-State football team, and Odessa High Offensive Lineman of the Year.

In his spare time, he likes to draw and to work on cars.

His future plans include starting at Texas A&M and one day becoming a petroleum engineer.

Nathan's favorite teacher is Dex Dennard. "He has pushed me to be a better athlete and person. He has taught me to be competitive in everything I do."



Nathan Sanchez-Juarez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Science

Braylynn Carrion is the daughter of Tanya & Bryan Brewer.

Braylynn is a member of National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, Business Professionals of America, Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteers, Texas Scholars, and Senate.

She is in the PHS Hall of Fame, a BPA State Finalist, and is ranked seventh in her class.

She will attend the University of Texas and plans on majoring in chemistry, and later furthering her education in medical school with hopes of becoming a doctor.

Braylynn's favorite teacher is Mallory Langford. She says of her, "Langford is my favorite teacher because she has influenced my life beyond just my education. She was relentless in her effort to push me towards success in all of my endeavors, and continues to be someone I can always count on."



Braylynn Carrion
Permian High School



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Science

Jonathan Dominguez is the son of Lorenzo Dominguez.

Jonathan is a member of the Broncho Band and an International Baccalaureate student.

His hobbies include reading and playing video games.

He will be attending the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and studying to become a lawyer.

Jonathan's favorite teacher is Stephen Brant. "Mr. Brant is very blunt and straightforward about how he wants people to act and understands the abilities of his students. I respect his work ethic and how he conducts himself."



Jonathan Dominguez
Odessa High School



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Athletics

Steve Steen is the son of Lisa & Steve Steen.

Steve is a member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, is in the Permian High School Academic Hall of Fame, and voted sophomore Class Favorite.

He has won many awards, including Football Highest GPA Award, Football Academic All-State, and Football Most Valuable Player.

He is a youth group worship leader at Crossroads Church and is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He likes to volunteer at the Ellen Noel Art Museum, the Junior League of Odessa, the Rehabilitation Center, Texas Scholars, and reading in elementary schools.

Steve is going to the United States Naval Academy and plans on majoring in economics. After attending the Naval Academy, Steve plans on enlisting in the Marines Infantry and pursuing a career in the military. His goal is to be in the Recon Unit in the Marines. After his time in the military, Steve hopes to pursue a career in accounting or attend post-graduate school to attain a degree in law.

His hobbies include playing guitar, snowboarding, water skiing, golf, and long walks on the beach.

Steve's favorite teacher is Thad Fortune. Steve says, "I selected Coach Fortune as my favorite teacher because he has had the single most impact on my life throughout my high school career. On the field, he has pushed me to my limits, driving me to become the best athlete, and the best leader I can be. Off the field, Coach Fortune has had an even bigger impact in my life, as I have looked to him as a role model for the past four years of my life. Coach Fortune has set an example of what it is like to be a man in Christ, and I will forever be thankful for him."



Steve Steen
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Athletics

Katelyn Dockall is the daughter of Christine & Christopher Dockall.

Katelyn is a member of National Honor Society, an International Baccalaureate Diploma program student, and in the Top Ten percent of her senior class.

Her hobbies include powerlifting, cross country, track, and drawing.

Katelyn will attend Texas A&M University and wants to become a veterinarian.

Katelyn's favorite teacher is Melissa Lara who taught Katelyn throughout elementary school at Austin Montessori here in ECISD. Melissa now works in Westbrook ISD. "She was a key influence into the beginning of my educational career. Without her, I might not have become the student or person I am today. She was basically my second mom, and along with my parents, she would push me to be the best student I can be and to always try to do my best at everything I pursue."



Katelyn Dockall
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Math

Danilo Karol F. Anoos, Jr. is the son of Aylene F. & Danilo P. Anoos.

Danilo is the treasurer of Anchor Club at New Tech Odessa, a member of Junior Leadership Odessa, and a junior volunteer at Medical Center Hospital.

He won the Junior Leadership Odessa Completion Award and enjoys playing basketball.

He plans to acquire his prerequisites for nursing at Odessa College, and then transfer to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin to finish nursing.

Danilo's favorite teacher is Jennifer Nunez. "Last year's Pre-Cal, according to some of the seniors and alumni, was not fun at all. However, with Ms. Nunez, the "not-so-fun" class became an enjoyable, fun class!"



Danilo Karol F. Anoos, Jr.
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Math

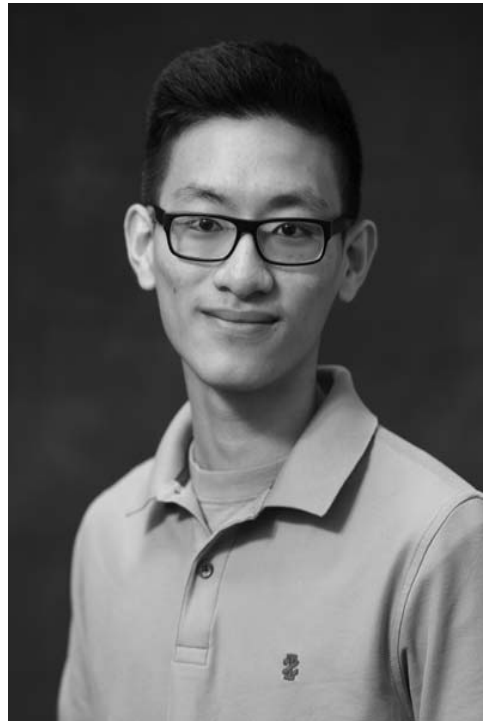
Brandon Chhor is the son of Celina Khuth and Bunev Nhek.

Brandon is a member of National Honor Society and the United Way of Odessa.

He likes to read, doodle, and watch movies & shows.

His plans include going to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and UT Austin, getting his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and eventually traveling to Japan.

Brandon's favorite teacher is D'Shannon Mendez. "She is very humorous, gives out a lot of candy, and the material that she teaches is easy to understand."



Brandon Chhor
Permian High School



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Athletics

Calyha Brown is the daughter of Shaterika and Roy Robinson.

She is a member of National Honor Society, Odessa Junior Leadership, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Board, Superintendent's Advisory Council, Senate, and the Vice President of AVID Leadership.

Among her awards and honors are the Top Ten Scholars Award, Optimist Award for Mathematics and Choir, Texas Relays qualifier, Texas state powerlifting qualifier, West Texas Relays record holder for shot put, Regional 6A powerlifting record holder, nominated for 6A female athlete of the year. She was also voted Most Likely to Succeed and the PHS Hall of Fame.

Her hobbies include track and field, powerlifting, and singing all the time.

She plans to get a doctorate in psychology and become a professor at a university. She wants to be the first in her family to graduate from a university while participating in track and field. Calyha would like to be a coach at Permian High School and give back to the community that has given so much to her.



Calyha Brown
Permian High School



Calyha's favorite teacher is Hilberto Ochoa. "Coach Ochoa is my high school track coach. I have only known him for a year, but in this year, I have learned so much from him. He has pushed me to not only be a great athlete but also to be a better woman. He has seen the greatness in my team and has taken what was once seen as broken and cultivated it into a successful, hardworking, and humble program. I am thankful for everything he has done and given me the opportunity to do. He will never truly understand what he means to me but if I had to compare, he is like my second father and I will forever be thankful for our track family."



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Vianka Suchil is the daughter of Rene & Oralia Suchil.

Vianka is president of the OHS Business Professionals of America Club and secretary of Production Theater. She is a National Qualifier for the Texas Thespians Festival and will compete in Lincoln, Nebraska in July. She also qualified for state, two years in a row, in Business Professionals of America.

She loves to learn new things and to travel. She aspires to be a well-rounded person and experience the many wonders the world has to offer. Her passion is theater, acting and performing. Altogether, the arts are a big part of her life.

She plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and get a bachelor's degree in accounting. Although these plans may change, she believes it is important to have a good starting point.

Vianka chose Jeff Patterson as her favorite teacher. "I could have selected at least 5 teachers right off the bat, however, I chose Mr. Patterson because he always went above and beyond. He taught me so much more than how to play the clarinet and read music. He taught me how to be a good person and how to handle life's unpredictable situations. Even to this day if I have an issue his door is always open. This person is so much more than just a band instructor; he is an outstanding person that I am honored to know."



Vianka Suchil
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Math

Shivani Alur is the daughter of Sowjanya & Sudesh Alur.

Shivani is National Honor Society president, ECISD Superintendent's Student Advisory Council member, co-captain of Academic Decathlon, co-founder of Reading Cafe, a volunteer of the West Texas Food Bank, and an International Baccalaureate student.

She has won a number of awards including first place in the Jack Hendrix Piano Competition, third place for Interview in Academic Decathlon, second place in Knox Piano Competition, All-Region Orchestra Violist, and the American Legion School Award.

Her hobbies include playing the piano, cooking, photography, painting, and reading.

Shivani is interested in Rice University and Trinity University and has been accepted into UT Austin, UT San Antonio, Texas A&M, and Loyola University. She has a desire to work as a leader in international business, using a position in management to improve lives and make the world a better place.

Shivani chose Lisa Roth as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Roth teaches perseverance and kindness by example. Her support and guidance encourages me to be determined to achieve and to be a principled and caring member of the community. Her everlasting optimism has shaped my determination to reach my dreams."

Category sponsored by:



Shivani Alur
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Journalism/Speech

Johnny Drake is the son of Brian Drake and Christy Harris.

Johnny is on the archery team and is a Yearbook staff member.

He loves spending time with friends and family, playing video games, and listening to music.

He will attend Odessa College and wants to become a teacher, be successful, and find a new & exciting way of teaching.

Johnny chose Dustin Winkler as his favorite teacher. "Gives great advice for other subjects, always there to help, taught in a different way than I've ever been taught."



Johnny Drake
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Maria Chavez is the daughter of Viviana Arenivas.

Her hobbies include making people smile if they need it or just in general, being herself, and drawing.

She plans to attend Odessa College and take her basics first and then see what happens from there.

Maria's favorite teacher is Christina Kile. "I selected Mrs. Kile because she's taught me so much from the past years and without her teaching me everything I need to know now, I probably would have got lost or wouldn't have a clue what to do. She's everything I aspire to be now and in the future."



Maria Chavez
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Jaylyn Guzman is the daughter of Nivia Cruz.

Jaylyn has an internship at the Small Business Development Center and is the first in her family to go to college.

She will be attending Angelo State University with future goals of completing her business website which will aid in getting a master's degree in finance as well as a bachelor's degree in business management.

Jaylyn names Ajinoam Morton as her favorite teacher. "She has pushed me to do more than I believe I could. She has been one of my most important teachers. Without her, I wouldn't have done many things, including my website."



Jaylyn Guzman
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Journalism/Speech

Lindsey Redding is the daughter of Jodie & Ricky Redding.

Lindsey is a member of the USBC and the assistant editor of 'The Panther' Yearbook.

Her hobbies are bowling and photography.

She plans to start as a pre-nursing student at Odessa College, and then get a BSN through Texas Tech University.

Lindsey's favorite teacher is Michael Flax. She says, "He has been the teacher that has impacted me the most, not only through academic's but through my everyday life."



Lindsey Redding
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Journalism/Speech

Raven Hirst is the daughter of Trudy & Chad Hirst.

Raven has been the head editor of yearbook for two years, participated in AVID, National Honor Society, and Students in Philanthropy.

She also received the President's Award and chaired in the All-City Symphony.

Her hobbies include reading, sleeping, and complaining about editing, loudly, to anyone who will listen.

She plans to attend college somewhere that has a pretty view, studying business, and pursuing an additional career track of politics, mainly in the presidential area. On the side, she plans on being a beekeeper.

Her favorite teacher is Shelly Barker. "She has helped me grow into the strong and confident editor I am today, and I consider her one of the greatest mentors I've had and will ever have. She made me love yearbook and because of that, I love her."



Raven Hirst
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Fernando Aguirre is the son of Adriana Aguirre.

Fernando was in Mariachi from grades seven through nine and won the two-mile run in seventh grade.

He likes passing time with family, welding, and working.

His plans are to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and to become a radiologist. He will have to go to college for four years plus one more of basics, after that he wants to become a state trooper.

Fernando says Johnny Rodriguez is his favorite teacher. "The reason I choose this teacher is because he motivates me to keep doing my best no matter how hard it is, and that it takes practice and mistakes to learn from them. He's always pushing me to become something better and teaching us a better way that we can understand."



Fernando Aguirre
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Kayla Owen is the daughter of Yvonne & Clark Owen.

Kayla was president of both Junior and Senior Boards at Permian High School and is a dedicated member of the Senate Executive Board. She is the Kantorei Varsity Choir Alto 1 section leader and a two-year All-Region choir member. She is a two-year state qualifier in Business Professionals of America. Kayla is a member of Texas Scholars and National Honor Society and is an ECISD Junior VIP. She is a three-year member of Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and will graduate from Odessa College in May with her Level I Teaching Certificate.

She is currently ranked number four in her senior class and will be inducted into the Permian Academic Hall of Fame for her outstanding scores on the SAT and ACT.

Kayla enjoys reading and baking in her spare time and takes every opportunity she gets to travel.

She will go to the University of Texas at the Permian Basin to earn her master's degree in early childhood education. She then plans on teaching elementary school and eventually becoming an elementary school principal.

Her favorite teacher is Rene Faulkner, her kindergarten teacher at LBJ Elementary. "Mrs. Faulkner was my first teacher and made a lasting impact in my life. She encouraged me to love learning and gave me the confidence I needed to set high goals for myself. One of the highlights of my senior year was being able to student teach with Mrs. Faulkner and learn alongside her. Mrs. Faulkner influenced me not only as a student, but also set a great example of the kind of teacher I want to be someday, and I appreciate everything she has done for me."



Kayla Owen
Permian High School



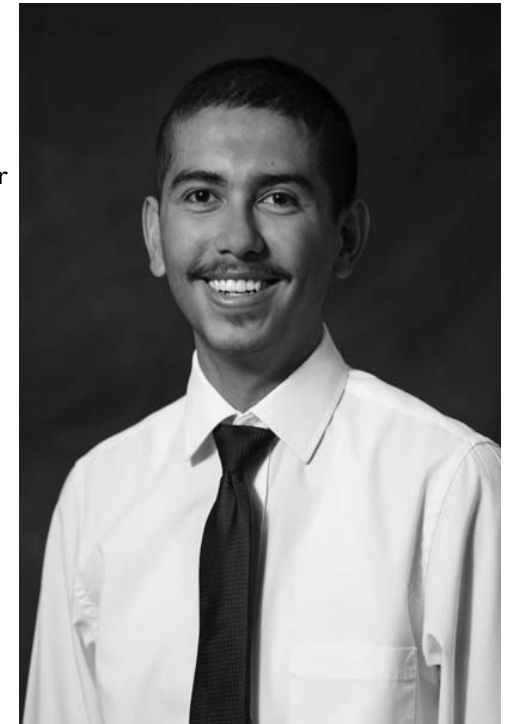
Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Christian Lamadrid is the son of Gabriela Lamadrid.

Christian is the director of the Anchor Club at New Tech Odessa and was voted "Friendliest Person" in the senior class.

He will be attending Odessa College and plans to work somewhere where he can drive heavy machinery and would like to start a business of his own.

Christian chose Lauren Rieves as his favorite teacher. "There are many reasons why Mrs. Rieves is my favorite teacher. Mrs. Rieves is a passionate and friendly person who loves what she does. One day I wish that I can be as passionate about my job as she is. Another thing that makes her my favorite teacher is that she is really cool. Everyone really likes her."



Christian Lamadrid
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Audrie Lujan is the daughter of Lorinda & Auden Lujan.

Audrie was the secretary of the Senior Board as well as the historian of the National Honor Society at Permian High School.

In May, she will be receiving an associate's degree in occupational safety.

Some of her hobbies include traveling and photography.

She plans to attend the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, majoring in sociology, and minoring in Spanish. During the summer, she will be studying Spanish language and culture through a faculty lead program in Soria, Spain.

Audrie's favorite teacher is Ramon Rivera. "I chose Mr. Rivera as my favorite teacher because he is excellent at what he does. He teaches so that the students can connect the information into real-world experiences. His love for his job is clear to see and has encouraged my love for the Spanish language and culture. He truly is a one of a kind teacher."



Audrie Lujan
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Jaqueline Balderas is the daughter of Sonia Cruz and Gary Balderas.

Jaqueline is the Broncho FCCLA Chapter President for two consecutive years (2016-2017), was selected to participate in the student panel for the 2016-2017 AVID showcase, and was a student speaker at Hays Elementary AVID celebration.

She made A-B honor roll ninth through twelfth grade, and is in the Top Ten percent of her senior class.

Her hobbies include spending time with family, listening to different genres of music, reading romance novels, and stargazing.

Tarleton State University is her college of choice but wishes to do her basics at Odessa College. Then she plans to enter the field of safety because the careers are based on teaching people how to be safe in the workplace, and providing them with information on what to do in case of emergencies. She believes she would thrive in this field because of her love for keeping people out of harm's way and preparing for the future. Ultimately, she hopes to make the most of the future and challenge herself in every way possible.

Jaqueline's favorite teacher is Holly Ferguson. "I selected Mrs. Ferguson as my favorite teacher because of the impact she has had on my life. She was the teacher that always pushed me to do my best and was never afraid to present me with a new challenge. Mrs. Ferguson has always gone above and beyond for all her students and was there for me when I felt all alone in a world where everything went wrong. She is a prime example of the kind of person I want to be and I hope to one day have her wisdom, compassion, and grace."



Jaqueline Balderas
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Obed Alvidrez is the son of Lupita & Mario Alvidrez.

Obed is a member of National Honor Society and chapter president of Business Professionals of America.

He was on the A honor roll for Fall 2017, voted Class Favorite (most talented), won second place in Digital Publishing in Texas, and fifth place for Website Design in Texas for two years.

His hobbies are graphic design and writing.

His plans include attending Odessa College to complete his basics and then transfer to Texas A&M to get a bachelor's degree in graphic design. His future goals include working for a marketing business.

Obed chose Candy Thompson as his favorite teacher. "Mrs. Thompson is one of the most influential adults I've met. She taught me everything I know about graphic design. She inspires me to succeed every day. She also works so hard and our school wouldn't be as successful as it is without her."



Obed Alvidrez
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Foreign Language

Andrea Garcia is the daughter of Virginia Garcia and Jose E. Garcia.

She is a volunteer for Catholic Charities, Ellen Noel Art Museum, and Camp SIP. She is a member of National Honor Society, Amnesty International Club at OHS, and the varsity orchestra. She is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, scored a 5 on the AP Spanish 4 test, scored a 4 on the AP Spanish 5 test, and a 7 on the IB Spanish test.

Her interests include playing the violin, listening to music, art, dogs, and reading.

She intends to major in international relations and global studies so she can understand human relations within the government and political systems so that she is able to help people through politics.

She also plans to major in Iberian and Latin American studies because of how poorly she feels the Hispanic culture is represented in political perspectives and the lack of diversity in politics. Her plan is to one day attend law school and become a litigator.

Andrea chose Yesenia Barajas as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Barajas has always been supportive and patient with me as a student. She has given me an example of how to represent my Hispanic community with positivity and strength. She has shown me the value of an education."



Andrea Garcia
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Patrick Lucas is the son of Carole Buhr and Paul Lucas.

Patrick is a drum major for PHS Band and is the senior patrol leader for Boy Scouts of America.

Some of his honors include one-time All-State Band first alternate, one-time All-Area member, and three-time All-Region member. In choir, one-time All-Area member, and two-time All-Region member.

Boy Scouts of America - Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow Brotherhood member (Boy Scouts national honor society).

His hobbies include performing and writing music.

His primary goal is to become a high school band director and produce consistent and successful, high performing bands comprised of talented musicians who are well prepared for success in life - in or out of the music field.

Patrick's favorite teacher is Jeffrey Whitaker. "Mr. Whitaker has been my band director for three years and has helped me to grow as a musician, student, leader, and as a person. Mr. Whitaker has pushed me to do my best in not only music but as well as my academics. Mr. Whitaker also helped me select a college and help me with the audition process for West Texas A&M University."



Patrick Lucas
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Denisse Perez is the daughter of Luis Perez.

Her hobbies are reading, track, working out, and making art and crafts.

She plans to travel, learn more languages, and become an international manager.

Denisse's favorite teacher is Shawn Lunsford. "He gave me a push towards something that I would not go through on my own as in the case of helping others, and to become more productive as a student."



Denisse Perez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Haylea Brizendine is the daughter of Cherette Smith and Tim Brizendine.

Haylea is a member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholar, a member and competitor of Business Professionals of America (BPA), Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) member, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Region I officer for two years, and Second Baptist Church nursery worker.

She enjoys volunteering, hanging out with her siblings, and teaching.

Her plans for the future are to attend Odessa College to complete her basics, then transfer to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and get a degree in early childhood education and possibly become a family consumer science teacher.

Haylea's favorite teacher is Cheryl Cunningham. "I selected Mrs. Cunningham because not only is she my teacher but she is my adviser, mentor and really someone to look up to. We have grown so close since I joined FCCLA. I volunteered with her at my church in the nursery and now I actually have a job in the nursery. I can talk to her about anything and everything and she is the happiest person I have ever met, and I'm glad to have her in my life as an influence."



Haylea Brizendine
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Fine Arts

Areli Romero is the daughter of Leticia & Antonio Romero.

She is Concertmaster and Head Social Chair for Odessa High School's Symphony Orchestra, Vice President of the National Honor Society, an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, Texas Scholar, a member of the OHS Chapter of Amnesty International, and has competed in Academic UIL for History.

Her honors include being a member of All-Region Orchestra for two years, being a three year State Qualifier for Solo and Ensemble, Salutatorian in ninth grade, and an AP Scholar.

When she is not playing Sims 4, she enjoys volunteering at service events such as Empty Bowls, reading, watching documentaries, watching figure skating competitions, taking private violin lessons, and loves her dogs.

She plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin for two years and finish studying at UT Austin, or somewhere else. Her aspiration is to become a lawyer, and her dream is to say, "but go off" in court. She wants to take her family traveling, and move around.

Areli's favorite teacher is Darren Reeves. "The most challenging years of my life so far have been junior and senior year, and Mr. Reeves has helped me get through both. His class was a breath of fresh air and he always made me laugh despite all my stressing and panicking. He is patient, and understanding of the load on students' backs. He has been there since day one and was always willing to help with any questions I had about college. I am glad to have had him as a teacher for all the support, lame jokes, and bops. Thank you for making my last two years in high school memorable and special."



Areli Romero
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Cassidy Fry is the daughter of Johnna & Kyle Johnson.

Cassidy is the officer of Permian Production, a member of National Honor Society, Antioch Christian Church member and volunteer, a Youth Hockey volunteer, a Guatemala Missionary, was a PHS Hall of Fame Nominee and was Student Council Vice President at Bonham Jr. High (2014-2015)

She will attend Odessa College to get her basics, then plans to transfer to Texas Tech University to pursue a career goal of becoming a labor and delivery nurse.

Cassidy's passion is for theater, and so it is no surprise that she chose Elizabeth Cleveland as her favorite teacher. "Miss Cleveland has gone above and beyond to make sure I feel accepted and like I belong somewhere. She has supported me in so many different ways and always makes her students a priority. I have learned so many things about both theatre and life thanks to her."



Cassidy Fry
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

English

Marie Gutierrez is the daughter of Alice & David Gutierrez.

Marie is an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, a member of National Honor Society, and Academic Decathlon.

She has won several Academic Octathlon and Decathlon awards.

Her hobbies include reading and writing.

She plans to go to Emerson College and eventually pursue a career in publishing.

Marie's favorite teacher is Jelene Ballard. "Over the two years of having Mrs. Ballard I was able to grow as both a reader and writer more than I ever thought possible."



Marie Gutierrez
Odessa High School



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence English

Lauren Eckert is the daughter of Tonya & Ron Eckert.

She is a member of Fairmont Park Church of Christ, The Panther Yearbook editor-in-chief, Senior and Junior Board historian, National Honor Society historian, and was Student Council president at Bonham Junior High.

She is Miss PHS 2018, and on the A Honor Roll for the Fall Semester 2017.

Her hobbies include being a singer/songwriter and a photographer.

She plans to go to Texas A&M University and major in communications, with hopes of becoming a magazine editor-in-chief, a professional singer/songwriter, or both.

Andrea's favorite teacher is Janis May. "I selected Mrs. May as my favorite teacher because she inspires me every day. She has encouraged me throughout the year and continues to support my love for English and writing. She shows kindness to all students. She is truly an amazing teacher, role-model, and someone who I can look up to as I start my next chapter in life."



Lauren Eckert
Permian High School



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Fine Arts

Ibrahim Martinez is the son of Mario Martinez.

Ibrahim is the leader of the music ministry at Genesis Christian Church, leader of Mariachi Broncho at OHS, and a guitar player for the Odessa High Jazz Band.

He likes listening to music and playing guitar.

He will be starting at Odessa College and transfer later to the University of North Texas and hopes to be a touring & studio musician.

Ibrahim's favorite teacher is Jeremie Hernandez. "He has taught me many valuable lessons, that not only do I apply to music but to life. One of the most important and impacting ones being, get it right the first time because you are never promised a second try."



Ibrahim Martinez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Ariah Quinonez is the daughter of Sammy & Julie San Miguel.

Ariah is a member of National Honor Society, Texas Scholars, National Society of Leadership and Success, National Society of High School Scholars, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Odessa Chamber of Commerce Junior Leadership, Senior and Junior Board, Senate, and she is president of the National Art Honor Society.

She was a Visual Art Scholastic state qualifier two years in a row and a Congressional Art Competitor on the national level.

Her hobbies include art, painting, traveling, shopping, and watching Netflix.

She will be obtaining an associate's degree in biology and general studies at Odessa College two weeks prior to high school graduation, then she wants to obtain a Bachelor of Biology degree at the University of Texas. She will then apply to medical school in hopes of obtaining a Ph.D. and ultimately saving lives as a pediatric surgeon.

Ariah chose Laree Morris as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Morris, the sweetest, most humble individual I've ever met. She has always been a strong believer in my abilities to flourish and accomplish my goals and has never failed to teach me the things I need to prosper in Art. I'm forever thankful for her nomination of this prestigious award."



Ariah Quinonez
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

English

Carina Heredia is the daughter of Beatrice Heredia.

Carina is a member of the Anchor Club, National Honor Society, and a Writing Tutor at New Tech Odessa Writing Center.

She received the Program Completion Award, as well as "The Educator" Award from Junior Leadership of Odessa.

Carina enjoys babysitting her cousins and listening to music.

She plans to attend Odessa College and earn an Associates in Applied Sciences degree in occupational safety and environmental technology.

Carina chose Elias Martinez as her favorite teacher. "Mr. Martinez has always been someone that I could go to for help, no matter what it is. He is one of the most influential teachers that I have ever had the honor of meeting. Mr. Martinez is always there to push his students to try their best and to never give up on anything."



Carina Heredia
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Category sponsored by:



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

David Bo Adjani is the son of Mabel Bofo. He also wishes to recognize Pam Walker whom he considers a second mom.

David is the OHS band lieutenant and a gymnastic captain.

He is a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, in AP and IB classes, he won UIL 1st Division in Solo and Ensemble in tenth, eleventh, & twelfth grades, and qualified for UIL State Competition in Solo this year. He is the district champion on the pommel horse, and scored a perfect 10 on the pommel horse at both the regional and state gymnastics meets. He will be representing Team Texas at the National Gymnastics Competition in Arizona later this month.

His hobbies include music, (Marimba, drums, piano), gymnastics, and gaming.

He plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and become a doctor or an engineer.

David chose Tony Gonzalez as his favorite teacher. "Coach Gonzalez has been my gymnastics coach since seventh grade. He has taught me determination and commitment. He stuck with me even when I doubted myself. He taught me that I can do anything I want to do with hard work and willpower. He also reinforced to me that any job worth doing is worth doing with my best effort and ability."



David Bo Adjani
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Fine Arts

Jonathan Spruill is the son of Heather and Gordon Spruill and Jennifer and Tomme Deese.

Jonathan is a member of National Honor Society, German Honor Society, Speech & Debate Honor Society, International Thespian Society, and President of OHS Production and the Kaleidoscope Company at the Permian Playhouse.

He won an Optimist Award for Theatre and an Honorable Mention Award in UIL One Act Play.

His hobbies are theatre, debate and art.

He is going to West Texas A&M University and plans to double major in theatre and political science, and then become a college professor.

Jonathan's favorite teacher is Dawn Treen. "She helped me grow as an actor and as a person and showed me how to be a leader."



Jonathan Spruill
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Noah Alvarado is the son of AnnMarie Alvarado & Danny Alvarado.

Noah was first chair in the top PHS Orchestra for two years, received Division I on Solo, and played in a solo quartet with the ensemble at contest and received a Division I.

His hobbies include playing the piano, singing, and performing. He hopes to be a musical performer and teach music lessons.

Noah's favorite teacher is Todd Berridge. "I selected Mr. Berridge because he believes in me. He understands the dreams I have as a performer and he always encourages me to go after them."



Noah Alvarado
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Sydney Gore is the daughter of Jacqui & Mark Gore.

Sydney is President of Permian High School Student Senate, the Permian High School mascot, graduate of Junior Leadership Odessa, a three-year member of National Honor Society, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Odessa College, a four-year member of Texas Scholars, a four-year Medical Center Health System Junior Volunteer, a First Priority Leader, a Senior Board Member, a member of First Baptist Church Youth Group, First Baptist Church Kidzart Teacher, a Crystal Ball Princess, and a four-year Odessa Symphony Guild Belle.

She is also in the Permian High School Hall of Fame, a two-year state qualifier in Business Professionals of America, and was selected as a member of Congressmen Mike Conaway's Congressional Youth Advisory Council for the 11th District of Texas.

She enjoys spending time with friends and family, watching sports, traveling, and cooking.

Her college plans are to attend Texas Tech University, majoring in marketing with a minor in public relations.

Sydney named Samantha Baker as her favorite teacher. "I chose Coach Baker as my favorite teacher because she has taught me what it truly means to be a leader and to work hard. She was my basketball coach my sophomore and junior year. Also, she was my Algebra II teacher my sophomore year. She has pushed me and helped me through an injury that caused me to stop playing basketball. I believe that Coach Baker has taught me how to not only be a leader on the court but also how to be a leader with whatever I do throughout my life. I am so thankful for her and all she has taught me."



Sydney Gore
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Faculty Ambassador

Saray Navarrete is the daughter of Ajinoam & Russell Morton

Saray is the president of National Honor Society, a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Council, has been a member for one year and the president for one year of Odyssey of the Mind, a member of the Decathlon, a member of Student Council, a band member, was involved in cheerleading and cross country, and a member of her church youth program.

Her hobbies include spending time with her family and friends, as well as playing with her dog.

Her college choice is Texas Tech University and she plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in biochemistry as well as attend medical school to pursue a career as a pediatric surgeon.

Saray's favorite teacher is Abel Avila. "I selected Mr. Avila as my favorite teacher because I felt that he served as guidance not only in the subject of Chemistry but also to grow as a person. He was one of the reasons that I was able to open my eyes to my interest of the sciences, in which resulted in me wanting to pursue a degree in Biochemistry."



Saray Navarrete
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Fine Arts

Angelina Jimenez is the daughter of Lora Jimenez.

Angelina is a member of the Senior Board, National Honor Society, and an International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate. She participated in the Academic History and Mathematics UIL contest, Texas Scholars, held office as a librarian her junior year and section leader senior year and is ranked sixth in her senior class.

She was in the OHS Broncho Band for three years and was also a member of the OHS Symphony Orchestra for three years playing the flute.

Angelina is a volunteer at Home Hospice in Odessa.

Some of her achievements include making the All-Region Band and advancing to Area, OHS Honor Band for three years, receiving the OHS Band Spirit Award, Division I at Region Marching Band UIL Competition, Sweepstakes in the Symphony Orchestra for two years and Concert Band.

She likes volunteering at local events, helping other students with music by setting up sectionals, and reading books.

She plans to attend the University of New Mexico and major in engineering.

Steven Dojahn is Angelina's favorite teacher. "Ever since my first day of marching band, I remember Mr. Dojahn being the most inspirational director who has always believed in the whole band every year. Mr. Dojahn is a person of strong commitment to the band program and always ensuring the best outcome for his students. At times when we are sad and upset, he always finds a way to make us feel better while also giving words of encouragement. Out of all my teachers, Mr. Dojahn has influenced me to become a leader at our school and to pursue my dreams in the future."



Angelina Jimenez
Odessa High School

