

Awards for Excellence



May 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
MCM Eleganté Hotel



HONORING OUR
OUTSTANDING HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS!!!

Presented by the Ector County Independent School District
Board of Trustees



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

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

Invocation..... **Teri Ervin**
President, Board of Trustees

Dinner Served (6:45 p.m.)..... **Performance by Satin Strings**
Permian High School

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





Favorite Teachers

of the

Awards for Excellence Recipients

Aaron Cox
Ajinoam Morton
Alicia Dominguez
Allen Jones
Angela Braziel-Smith
Angela Love-Jackson
Ariel Thurber
Brittany Raney
Candy Thompson
Thad Fortune
Cheryl Cunningham
Cheryl Sellars
Christina Kile
Christina Mendoza
Courtnee Hembree
Debbie Boyd
Denise Escalante
Elizabeth Cleveland
Jaclyn Hastings
Jana Davis
Janet Weyant
Jason Arzola
Jodi Fernandez

John Carroll
Josette Zeigler
Judy Sutherland
Kaci Vestal
Kathie Squyres
Kathleen Mahoney
Kristen Vesely
Lauren Rieves
Laurie Wash
Lee Jordan
Mary Neff
Michael McBride
Naomi Fuentes
Nat Armendariz
Pablo Davilla
Pam Burkhalter
Ramon Rivera
Dr. Rebecca Joy
Ricardo Abalos
Robyn Hernandez
Suvanna Lyon





2017 Sponsors

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Thank you! **ECISD**



Excellence

This is the 30th 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

Colton Beard is the son of Karri & Josh Beard.

Colton is member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, and volunteers at the West Texas Food Bank and Meals on Wheels.

He played football and baseball at Odessa High School serving on the football Captain's Counsel in 2015, winning the Most Conscientious Award for football in 2016, and earning Honorable Mention All-District in 2016.

He counts football and baseball among his interests.

He plans to start at Odessa College in the fall, major in exercise science and become a coach.

Colton's favorite teacher is Debbie Boyd. "Ms. Boyd is a teacher who adapts her lessons and assignments to the students and teaches to the students rather than the curriculum."



Colton Beard
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Athletics

Andrea Molinar is the daughter of Di'Andra & Adan Molinar.

She is a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, Senior Board, and Broncho Polo.

She is a 2-time Honorable Mention All-District selection for softball, is in AP classes, and will graduate with 37 hours of dual credit college hours.

Her hobbies are playing softball, being with friends and family, and helping others.

She plans to go to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and eventually pursue graduate school for occupational therapy.

Andrea's favorite teacher is Odessa High School assistant softball coach Christina Mendoza. "Coach Mendoza has not only taught me how to play the sport I love at a more competitive level but she has also taught me to never give up on anything you do and to give it everything you have no matter the time, day or situation."



Andrea Molinar
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Athletics

Jessica Nguyen is the daughter of Michelle Nguyen.

Jessica is the captain of the Permian High School volleyball team and the basketball team, she participates in track & field, and is on the powerlifting team. She is a member of National Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, Future Farmers of America, Student Board and Texas Scholars.

Among her accolades are All-District volleyball and basketball, Academic All-District volleyball and basketball, Miss PHS, voted Most Athletic, and an Optimist Club Award for Most Athletic. She also earned All-Tournament honors for volleyball in Monahans in 2015 and basketball in Andrews in 2016. She was Tournament MVP in Monahans and Abilene in Volleyball 2016.

She likes sports, playing with her dog Thunder, singing and dancing, drawing, traveling, going to concerts and festivals, and hanging with friends.

She plans to attend Wayland Baptist University and play volleyball. She is undecided on a major right now.

Jessica chose PHS girls' basketball coach Angela Braziel-Smith as her favorite teacher. "Coach Braziel-Smith has been an amazing coach and mentor. Having her coach me in a sport I've been playing since 3rd grade impacted me. She used to play in the WNBA and I always thought that was the coolest thing ever. But she wasn't just a coach to me, she would have our backs on and off the court. We could talk to her about anything, like basketball was another escape from the 'real world'. She made the season so much fun, and I know she feels what I'm going through with my injury. But she will always be there for me and I'm forever grateful."



Jessica Nguyen
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Athletics

Hunter Wynne is the son of Shara Akins and Gary Wynne.

Hunter is a member of Immanuel Baptist, varsity football player at Permian High School, involved in Fields of Faith, a member of National Honor Society and a Texas Scholar. He has also traveled to Kenya, Africa on mission trips.

He is currently ranked #7 in his senior class, was 1st-team Academic All-District & All-State, won the football program's Myron Schneider Scholarship Award and George Manly Memorial Award, was selected to the Permian Hall of Fame and was accepted into the Honors College at Texas Tech.

His hobbies include learning to play guitar, Bible studies, and playing different sports.

At Texas Tech he is going to major in Business Management.

Hunter's favorite teacher is Thad Fortune. "Coach Fortune has been the biggest influence on me since I have been at Permian High School. I was fortunate enough to make the varsity as a sophomore, but his leadership and teaching didn't stop there. I can speak for all the football players when I say that Coach Fortune was more to us than a football coach. He taught me how to persevere through workouts that I thought I couldn't get through as well as being an example for Christ that we can all follow. The biggest lesson I have learned from Coach Fortune is that football isn't everything, but that Christ is and to never lose focus on the one who gave us the ability to play football."



Hunter Wynne
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Jake Rowe is the son of Sherri & Scott Rowe.

Jake has interned at Texas Department of Transportation, and is the owner and founder of Midland Tree Trimming. He was recognized as Class Citizen his sophomore and junior years.

His hobbies are bow hunting, fishing and working on trucks.

He will attend Angelo State University with a goal of becoming a civil engineer.

Jake's favorite teacher is Jana Davis. He says of her, "She helped me through the good times and the bad, always encouraged me to never quit."



Jake Rowe

George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Brianna Escontrias is the daughter of Rosa & Juan Escontrias.

Brianna is a member of National Honor Society. Her hobbies are volleyball, Netflix, and reading.

She plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, get her Bachelors of Science in nursing and become a Registered Nurse.

Her favorite teacher is Judy Sutherland saying, "She is no doubt an amazing, humble woman who has helped me become a better student. Her enthusiasm for the subject gave exceptional guidance, and the support she showed for her students created an amiable classroom environment. I couldn't have asked for a better teacher!"



Brianna Escontrias
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Cristian Garcia is the son of Herminia and Mauricio Garcia.

Cristian is active in his church, Holy Redeemer.

He is part of the welding program and the Odessa High School soccer program. Welding, soccer, and tinting are the things he enjoys doing.

He plans to attend Odessa College, and wants to own his own welding/engineering business and travel the world.

Cristian chose welding instructor Nat Armendariz as his favorite teacher. "He's taught me so much. He showed me how to be a better person, showed me how to respect others, to never give up no matter how big the obstacle is, and he's leading me to be a good example for others."



Cristian Garcia
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Ahidalay Ramos is the daughter of Alma & Jose DeAnda.

Ahidalay is active in Business Professionals of America having qualified for the state contest in Fundamental Accounting, and being a state alternate in Advanced Accounting.

She likes spending time with her family, going on walks, and jumping on trampolines.

Her plans include going to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, getting her Bachelor's degree in business management and eventually opening a business with her brother and sister.

Ahidalay's favorite teacher is Alicia Dominguez. "She is one of the few teachers that will get along with other students. She will help students with their problems and she gives wise advice to students. She is one of the few rare teachers that students will encounter."



Ahidalay Ramos
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Tiare Ramos is the daughter of Rosie & Jose Luis Ramos, Jr.

Tiare is the vice president of Odessa High School Student Council, a member of Business Professionals of America, a member of National Honor Society, a Practicum (3-year) audio video production student, BPA Liaison her junior & senior year, part of the NPO News film crew, and a two-year German student.

She qualified for BPA State competition as a sophomore, junior and senior; placed 1st at BPA regionals in the category of Broadcast News the last two years, and helped create a “shelter in place” training video for the Ector County ISD police department.

She enjoys going out to film, editing video, helping others, and hanging out with friends.

She wants to attend the University of Houston, and plans to study film and production hoping to one day become a producer or director and filmmaker.

Tiare’s favorite teacher is Courtnee Hembree. “Ms. Hembree has taught me more than I ever thought I could learn throughout the three years that I have been with her in audio video production. She has taught me that there is no time to waste and while hard work does pay off you must also be passionate about your work. Without her I wouldn’t have made it to BPA State. I hope she realizes how much of an outstanding woman she is because she has helped me in achieving my dreams of becoming a filmmaker.”



Tiare Ramos
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Madison Clement is the daughter of Kimberly & Brian Clement and Peggy Cherry.

Madison is a member of the MOJO Hall of Fame, National Honor Society, the FCCLA Executive Council, and Chain Reaction (Youth Organization for the March of Dimes).

She is NBTA State High School Majorette Line State Champion, NBTA State Team Twirl State Champion, UIL State Twirling Group- Division I, UIL Regional Twirling Group- Division I, UIL Regional Twirling Soloist- Division I, Permian High School Majorette 2014-2017, Permian High School Majorette Captain 2016-2017. She is also a Certified Instructor in Taekwondo including Special Needs Children, 5th in the World in Taekwondo XMA Extreme Weapons, 2-Time Texas State Champion XMA Extreme Weapons, and a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Her interests are twirling/majorette, playing the flute, Taekwondo, and Winter Guard.

Madison is going to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and has aspirations to become a teacher for either Special Needs Children or high school students.

Madison chose Cheryl Cunningham as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Cunningham has always been a caring and compassionate person towards me. She has always done everything in her power to help me achieve and also exceed the goals I set for myself. Mrs. Cunningham is not only a great person, but also an amazing teacher. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help each of her students stay on track and meet the expectations they set for themselves. I hope to one day become a teacher like her. I also hope that I will be able to impact each of my students' lives like she has impacted mine."



Madison Clement
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Victoria Fabela is the daughter of Viviana Zubiarte.

Victoria's interests focus on hair and make up and she plans to earn her certificate in Cosmetology at Odessa College.

Victoria's favorite teacher is horticulture teacher Christina Kile. "I selected Mrs. Kile because she is an amazing teacher and I look up to her. Throughout the year I've learned many things I never knew about; both of us share the love of flowers, and I hope to go back next year and teach right next to her."



Victoria Fabela
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Career & Technical Education

Jacinda Florez is the daughter of Letty & Louis Nuñez and Viv & Frank Florez.

Jacinda is president of Zanimatoz (digital animation club), president of Gamerz Unlocked, a member of Permian High School's Kantorei choir, a member of National Honor Society, and a member of National Society of High School Scholars.

Through Business Professionals of America contests she has been a 2nd State Qualifier Computer Animation Team, 2nd State Qualifier Computer Modeling, and 7th State Finalist Computer Animation Team.

She likes to play video games on her Xbox and draw in her sketchbook. She also collects items from her favorite game series, The Legend of Zelda. She also considers sleep as a hobby.

She will attend Odessa College, and wishes to become a famous video game designer like Shigeru Miyamoto! To accomplish this she plans to major in Art and Technology.

Jacinda's favorite teacher is computer animation instructor Josette Zeigler. "Mrs. Z is an amazing animation teacher! I had her all throughout high school and she has taught me everything I know about animation. Mrs. Zeigler is funny, intelligent, and is great at what she does. She always works diligently to help me with any issues I have in the class. I'm very lucky to have had her as a teacher and a friend."



Jacinda Florez
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Career & Technical Education

Tate Thompson is the son of Candy & Randy Thompson.

Tate is President of the Senior Class, vice president of Permian Student Senate Executive Board, President of Business Professionals of America, a member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, a graduate of Odessa Junior Leadership, a Beaux for the Odessa Symphony Guild, a Crystal Ball Paige, and was selected as a member of the Congressional Leadership Youth Advisory Council.

Three times he was chosen as Optimist Club Outstanding Student, he is in the top 5% of his senior class, Permian High School Hall of Fame, 2015 State Champion Website Design Team, 3-year National Qualifier for Business Professionals of America Digital Publishing, 2017 State Runner Up & National Qualifier for Website Design, and a National Qualifier for Fine Arts Vocal Ensemble & Vocal Solo 2015 through his church.

His interests include anything that is family or church oriented. His hobbies are playing sports or coaching/teaching sports to children in camps, vacation Bible school or intramurals.

He will be attending Texas Tech University and majoring in Secondary Education and minoring in math or science. He hopes to earn a Master's degree and teach and coach in high school or college.

Tate chose his digital publishing teacher Candy Thompson, his mom, as his favorite teacher. "I chose her because not only does she push me to do my very best as my mom, she also does as a teacher. Some may think that having your mom as a teacher is easy, but it is quite the opposite. She has pushed me, and all of her other students, to go above and beyond in everything with no excuses and no breaks! She actually told me to choose someone else that has made a difference in my education....but that wouldn't be fair... because she has been the best!"



Trevor Tate Thompson
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

English

Kardelen Ertekin is the daughter of Zubeyde & Abdullah Ertekin.

Kardelen is a member of the College Readiness Leadership Program, National Honor Society, Anchor Club, and captained the long jumpers on the track & field team as a freshman & sophomore at her high school in Kansas.

She earned spots on the Distinguished Honor Rolls in 9th, 10th, & 11th grade. She likes to read, write, learn foreign languages, play guitar, and sketch.

She is bound for Texas A&M University to major in neuroscience while minoring in linguistics with plans to go to medical school.

Kardelen's favorite teacher is Kaci Vestal. "I thought Miss Vestal was nice before I even took one of her classes. This semester, I'm taking speech with her and I like her more now. I was scared of taking speech this year, but she has been very helpful throughout my senior year with tutoring and in-class experiences. She always tells stories that lift up the mood immediately; that is one of my favorite things about her. She creates a great atmosphere around her. I'm glad she is my teacher."



Kardelen Ertekin
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Category sponsored by: *Sondra & Toby Eoff*



Award for Excellence

English

Jamie Newton is the daughter of Brandi Carrasco and James Newton.

Jamie is the captain of the Odessa High School varsity cheerleading squad, a member of National Honor Society and an All-American Cheerleader.

She likes spending time with her family, her dogs, going to the lake, reading and listening to music.

She will attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, then would like to pursue a Master's degree in nursing from either Baylor or Texas Christian University.

Jamie chose Cheryl Sellars as her favorite teacher. "Ms. Sellars genuinely cares for all of her students and goes above and beyond to provide the necessary tools we need to excel in not only English but also our educational careers."



Jamie R. Newton
Odessa High School



Category sponsored by: *Sondra & Toby Eoff*



Award for Excellence

English

Mercedes Elguezabal is the daughter of Shana & Tom Turbyfill and Cesar Elguezabal.

Mercedes is President of the Permian HS Orchestra, a position she also held as a freshman. Her junior year she served as the Orchestra's Historian. She is an Optimist Club award winner, Orchestra Belle, and was voted most talented freshman girl.

She plans to attend Texas A&M and for a Bachelor's in Biochemistry, then continue on to medical school and work to become an anesthesiologist.

Her favorite teacher is Dr. Rebecca Joy who taught her Pre-AP chemistry during her sophomore year and AP chemistry her junior year. "Even when I asked what felt like ridiculous questions she did what she could to explain to me and helped me to understand the information given. She never made me feel like I was asking a dumb question and she never judged when I didn't catch information the first time."



Mercedes Elguezabal
Permian High School



Category sponsored by: *Sondra & Toby Eoff*



Award for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Nakima Bryant is the daughter of Dorothy Faust.

Nakima is the treasurer of the National Honor Society and president of the Poetry Club. She won the Optimist Club Leadership Award.

Her hobbies are working as an athletic trainer at Permian High School, reading and watching movies.

She plans to get a degree in culinary arts and a Master's degree in hospitality & tourism management, then opening her own restaurant and hopefully a whole chain of restaurants. Her college of choice is Johnson & Wales University in North Miami.

Nakima's favorite teacher is Ricardo Abalos. She says, "I picked Mr. Abalos because he has been a great inspiration in my last few years of high school. He is very helpful and supportive even when you're not sure what is actually going on in your life or what you want to do. He helps you understand the college transition quite a bit and then explains some of the clubs you should try. He inspired me to go after my goal even if the people around me said that I could not do it. Without Mr. Abalos I would not have been able to handle all the extra classes I took to earn my Associates [degree] this year and for that I am very grateful not just for his support, for being someone I can look up to also."



Nakima Bryant
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Shandon Herrera is the son of Kendra & Richard Herrera.

Shandon is on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, and is a member of the Odessa High School Senior Board.

He is an All-District baseball selection, and Pitcher of the Year.

His hobbies are hunting and video games.

He will attend Lubbock Christian University to play baseball, and plans to become a lawyer and/or play professional baseball.

Shandon chose Brittany Raney as his favorite teacher: "Mrs. Raney is an amazing teacher and person who genuinely cares about her students not just academics but life in general."



Shandon Herrera
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Faculty Ambassador

Elise Hutson is the daughter of Heather & John Hutson.

Elise is president of Student Senate, vice president of Senior Board, a 2-year varsity cheer captain, junior board president, part of Mike Conaway's Congressional Youth Advisory Council, graduate of Junior Leadership Odessa, a member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, and the student leadership team at Crossroads Fellowship.

She is in the Permian High School Hall of Fame, and is 4-year UCA All-American Cheerleader.

Her hobbies are spending time with friends and family, and tumbling and stunting with girls on her cheer team.

She is going to the University of Texas to major in public relations.

As her favorite teacher, Elise chose Allen Jones. "Mr. Jones is my favorite teacher because he has always believed in me. Mr. Jones taught me in Teen Leadership and has always been my teacher for my junior and senior year in Senate executive board. Mr. Jones has always pushed me to be the best I can be. He has had faith in me, when I had little to no faith at all in myself. I believe that Mr. Jones has taught me how to be a leader in our school and has also prepared me to be a leader with whatever else I do throughout my life and I am so thankful for him and all he has taught me."



Elisebeth Hutson
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Candice Cirilo is the daughter of Madelyn & Ronald Cirilo.

Candice is the president and concertmaster for Odessa High School's Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, member of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, a junior volunteer at Odessa Regional Medical Center, treasurer of the OHS Chapter of Amnesty International, and founder and instructor for Juice & Canvas Painting Class.

She has won a number of awards including a spot in the Congressional Art Competition, Optimist Club Young Texanne State Finalist, Visual Arts Scholastic Event State Qualifier, ECISD High School Art Exhibit Best of Show, 5-year member of All-Region Orchestra, 3-year Solo and Ensemble Orchestra State Qualifier, graduate of Junior Leadership of Odessa, and an Optimist Club Award for Outstanding Art Student.

She plans to attend Wesleyan University and double major in studio arts and film studies. Later she would like to pursue a Master's Degree in Arts, and hopes to become a freelance artist, an animator, and a film director. Her major goals in life are to direct a movie, volunteer in the Peace Corps, and travel around the world with her family.

Candice chose Michael McBride as her favorite teacher. "Mr. McBride is by far one of the grooviest teachers I've had. His style of teaching and conducting, relaxed but at times demanding, made me love orchestra even more than I thought possible. It also didn't hurt that he had a plethora of lame jokes. Contrary to popular belief, it was not the long practices, excessive tuning, and his tendency to fall off of his podium that led me to select him as my favorite teacher. Mr. McBride is a very intelligent, caring, and supportive teacher. Not only did he teach me scales, but he also taught me the best way to live life: always go after your dreams, despite what others tell you, while having fun at the same time."



Candice Cirilo
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

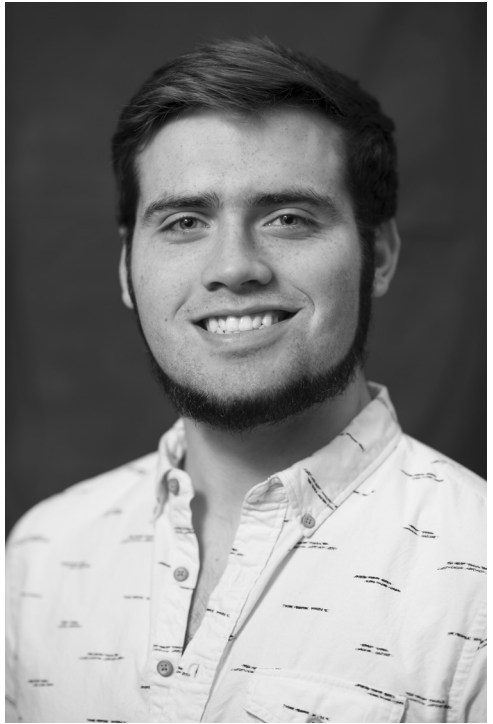
Aaron Hunt is the son of Melissa & Mark Hunt.

Aaron is a member of National Honor Society, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and active in his youth group at Life Change Baptist Church.

Among his honors and awards are 2-time Optimist Club Award winner, 4-Year All-Region Choir, 3-Year Pre-Area Choir, 3-Year Area Choir, twice selected TMEA 1st Chair All-State Mixed Choir, 3-Year UIL Division I Soloist, 2-Year UIL State Solo & Ensemble qualifier, and chosen UIL State Solo & Ensemble Outstanding Soloist.

He plans to get a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, a Master's Degree in Music Education and a Doctoral Degree in Conducting. He wants to conduct his own choir and share his passion for music with students. He has been accepted to Hardin-Simmons University with a full music scholarship.

Aaron's favorite teacher is his voice teacher of the last three years, Laurie Wash. "I chose Mrs. Wash as my favorite teacher because she challenges me to be the best person I can be. She has very high expectations of me and she believes that I can reach them. Her belief in me inspires me to work hard and to believe in myself. She has taught me to pursue excellence in everything I do. Every time I achieve something in my music career, she is the first person I want to tell. Without her teaching and support, my musical accomplishments would not be possible. Mrs. Wash, thank you for everything you have done for me. The things you have taught me will stay with me for the rest of my life. I love you! Also, when I am nominated for my first Grammy Award, I want you to come with me!"



Aaron Hunt
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Jamie Inman is the son of Lynda & Brian Inman.

Jamie is the vice president & librarian for the Odessa High School Orchestra.

His accolades include principal double bass All Region Orchestra, All Area Orchestra, All State Orchestra, principal double bass for the Honor Performance Series at Carnegie Hall, Texas State Solo & Ensemble, and Texas State Music Scholar.

He likes music and cooking.

His future plans include earning a music teacher certification at West Texas A&M, and playing for the Chicago Symphony orchestra.

Jamie names Jaclyn Hastings as his favorite teacher. "She has been the biggest influence in my musical studies, originally encouraging me to pursue the double bass as an instrument. She has supported me and devoted extra time and effort to help me grow as a musician."



Jamie Inman
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Mia Stanley is the daughter of Annie & Christopher Stanley.

Mia is a member of National Honor Society, an International Baccalaureate Diploma candidate, an Optimist Club Award winner and vice president of the Odessa High School Chapter of Amnesty International. She is Head Drum Major of OHS band, 4 year All-Region band, 3 year All-Area band, and First Chair Trombone.

She enjoys gardening, reading, and cooking.

Her college plans are to attend the University of Texas to study physics or anthropology.

Mia named Mary Neff as her favorite teacher. "Mrs. Neff always has her student's best interest in mind. She would move heaven and earth so that they can be successful, and is a role model for other teachers. She is intelligent, passionate, authentic, and above all, incredibly kind. I am a better person for having known her."



Mia Stanley
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Melanie Eychaner is the daughter of Karen & Frank Eychaner.

Melanie is the Percussion Lieutenant in the Permian High School Marching and Symphonic Bands, Tenor Captain in the PHS Marching Band, a member of PHS Symphony Orchestra, and a member of National Honor Society.

She earned 6A All-State Percussionist honors this year, Outstanding Performance Award at Texas State Solo & Ensemble in 2015, All Region Percussionist and All Area Qualifier in 2014, 15, and 16. She is an AP Scholar and a Texas Music Scholar.

Her hobbies are practicing percussion, rehearsing, taking private lessons, and reading.

Her college choice is the University of North Texas and she hopes to become a performer in a major symphony orchestra, and perform music for movies. She would also like to become a college music teacher or a private lesson instructor.

Melanie's favorite teacher is PHS assistant band director John Carroll. "Mr. Carroll has made such an impact in my life by investing tireless hard work and dedication into me as both a person and a player. He is always so patient, kind, and a true friend. We have so much fun in lessons because he always brings his best sense of humor while maintaining the focus of work needed to improve my playing. Without him, I would be nowhere near the level of playing I am today, and it would be true to say that he has made the greatest positive influence in my life of anyone. He has brought forth so many opportunities for me and helped me achieve so much that I could not have done without him. He has stood behind me in all that I've done and been my biggest fan these past three years. Mr. Carroll is a truly amazing man who will always have a prominent place in my heart."



Melanie Eychaner
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Elizabeth Forsyth is the daughter of Anese & Chuck Forsyth.

Elizabeth is in Permian High School's Theatre Production, and was part of the Kaleidoscope Company from 2013-16.

Her interests are theatre, theatre, and theatre. She also plays the piano moderately well and occasionally sings a song or two.

Her future plans include starting at Odessa College and doing something she "can fully put my heart into, whatever that may be."

Elizabeth's favorite teacher is theatre teacher Elizabeth Cleveland. "Mrs. Cleveland has taught me so many things in the time that I have been at Permian. Couldn't have gotten through it without her."



Elizabeth Forsyth
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Seneca Mick is the daughter of Linda Mick.

She is the Soprano I section leader in Permian's Kantorei choir, and she sings at First Presbyterian Church. Seneca is a 4-year Texas All State choir member, earned the Outstanding Soloist Award for UIL State Solo & Ensemble, was selected for the Met Opera Guild Intensive Workshop in New York earlier this spring, and was nominated for "Most Talented" in Permian's Yearbook.

Her hobbies include singing, dancing, and acting, and her ultimate goal is to become a renowned opera singer by the time she is in her 40s. She is deciding between Texas Tech University and the University of North Texas.

Seneca's favorite teacher is PHS assistant choir director Suvanna Lyon. Seneca says, "Mrs. Lyon has always been a huge influence through the two years I have known her. She is caring, funny, and hard-working. I am extremely glad she is one of the four directors chosen to become a part of the Permian Choir program. She truly is my favorite teacher, and she will definitely make history."



Seneca Mick
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Fine Arts

Cassidy Ramage is the daughter of Stephanie & James Ramage.

Cassidy is a 3-year member of the varsity Panther Paws dance team, a 10-year member of Tammie Locklar's dance studio, a 4-year member of the Odessa Symphony Guild, part of the youth group at Crossroads Fellowship, a member of National Honor Society.

Among her awards and honors are the 2014 Senior Scholarship at Dance Makers regional event, 2015 regional and national overall senior soloist, 2016 medium team national champions, 2016 3rd runner up national soloist, 2017 medium team national champions, 2017 3rd runner up national soloist, and a member of the 2016 homecoming court.

She likes to spend time with friends and family. Most weekends are spent in the dance studio or at a baseball park watching her brothers. And she says if she is not answering her phone she is most likely reading.

Cassidy will attend Texas Tech University and has plans to become an oncologist, specialize in pediatric care, and one day incorporate a form of dance therapy into children's hospitals.

Cassidy's favorite teacher is English teacher Kristen Vesely. "Ms. Vesely taught me a lot over the years. She was my 9th grade English teacher, my 9th grade journalism teacher, and my 11th grade dual credit English teacher. She has taught me many things that all apply to English, which I am very grateful for, but it is the things she taught me about becoming a better and stronger person that made me want to choose her for this award. Ms. Vesely was never easy on me. I was appointed editor of the school newspaper freshman year and that taught me how to become a leader. She put me in one of my first leadership positions and it taught me how to delegate and deal with issues. She shares my love of reading and always has new books ready for me to read when I've finished the last one she's given me. She sees my potential and never accepts anything but my best. She constantly pushes me to work harder and try new things. She doesn't give up when I'm stressed but continues to have me push through to become the best that I can be. Thank you Ms. Vesely for being such a great role model and person in my life."



Cassidy Ramage
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Foreign Language

Brandi Flores is the daughter of Margarita & Domingo Sanchez.

She is a member of The National Society of High School Scholars. Her plans are to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and earn a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Brandi's favorite teacher is NTO Spanish teacher Ajinoam Morton. Of her Brandi says, "Ms. Morton knew lots. She shared her knowledge and experience freely. She was warm, loving and open. She could be firm and assertive but never aggressive. She was always thoughtful of others and always helped me no matter what the situation was or what day it was. Ms. Morton was the teacher who made you realize that you can achieve whatever you want to, if you're willing to work for it. My favorite teacher was one teacher who really stood out to me in ways others didn't. Ms. Morton really impacted my senior year and made it very memorable and special."



Brandi Flores
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

Foreign Language

Azmeysda Tavarez is the daughter of Guadalupe Escontrias.

Azmeysda is the historian of Students in Philanthropy, a member of National Honor Society, a member of Ballet Folklorico, and part of the Rocketry and Robotics clubs at NTO.

She won the Optimist Club French Award, has her IC3-Digital Literary Certification, won the Rocketry Competition Award of Best Costume, was the Most Outstanding Student in U.S. History, and took the STEM Fiesta Championship-Vex Robotics.

She says reading and learning new things – such as different languages and cultures – drawing, planting, cooking/ baking, and handcrafting are among her interests.

She is headed to Austin College where she will pursue a degree and career that flourishes her mind and body, one that allows her to travel and learn different languages and cultures, and helping those in need. Most of all she says her goal is to make her parents proud and become an example to her younger brothers.

Kathleen Mahoney is Azmeysda's favorite teacher. "I chose Ms. Mahoney because she is a good-natured person, very amiable, and with a lot of patience. She's encouraging and motivational. Seeks for students to do above what they are expected. Ms. Mahoney pushes students to explore, to go beyond the limits, and to me is the type of person that asks 'why not?' I admire Ms. Mahoney and will always remember her as more than a teacher; but as a friend who guided me with a firm grip but a soft hand."



Azmeysda Tavarez
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Foreign Language

Carlos Terrazas is the son of Veronica & Ervey Lozaro and Romelia Terrazas.

Carlos is secretary of the Spanish Club and a member of the Permian High School soccer team. He is an AP Honors student, a member of National Honor Society, and was nominated to the PHS Hall of Fame.

Soccer is his hobby, playing for PHS and as a captain for Atletico Rivera.

He plans to go to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and study to become a physical therapist.

Carlos's favorite teacher is Spanish teacher Ramon Rivera. "I choose Mr. Rivera as my favorite teacher because he has helped me since I got to Permian. I met him my sophomore year and since then he's been a great help for me. I didn't know anything about my GPA and he guided me to better my GPA. Also at different times when I was in need of money he was able to provide work for me. I see him more like a friend than my teacher. I have a lot of respect for him. One of the best things is that one of his passions is the same as mine: soccer! I'm grateful for all he's done for me."



Carlos Terrazas
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Journalism/Speech

Mia Nevarez is the daughter of Amanda Gameros.

Mia is a member of National Honor Society, the Academic Decathlon team; she is the Yearbook Editor, Poetry Club President, and on the Rocketry team.

Her hobbies are singing, reading, writing, and taking pictures. She also enjoys traveling, driving, drawing, and memorizing historic facts.

She is going to Texas State University, and plans to become a pharmacy rep and travel the country promoting new treatments.

Mia's favorite teacher is Ariel Thurber. "I chose Mrs. Thurber as my favorite teacher because she is always there to give me advice and offer help. She is one of the sweetest people I have ever met and she has a wonderful sense of humor."



Mia Nevarez
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Journalism/Speech

Kennedi Cox is the daughter of Kristy Crutcher and Aaron Cox.

Kennedi attends Life Change Baptist, she is the secretary of Production Odessa High School Theatre, captain of the debate team, and a member of the OHS Chorale and Broncho Legacy choir.

She was a State Qualifier for Debate, a State Qualifier for UIL Choir Solo & Ensemble, and Homecoming Queen. She loves acting, performing and public speaking.

This month she will graduate from Odessa College with her Associate's degree in Communications, and then plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin to complete her Bachelors in communications and go into broadcast media or advocating for non-profit organizations.

Kennedi chose her dad, OHS speech teacher Aaron Cox, as her favorite teacher. "He's my dad. He always pushes me (sometimes drags me) into doing my best. We're super close and I am glad to be blessed with the best dad ever as the best coach ever."



Kennedi Cox
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Journalism/Speech

Robinne Rios is the daughter of Jennifer & Robert Rios and Corinne and JD Rodriguez.

Robinne is captain of the Permian High School Debate team, and a volunteer with the Boys and Girls Club. She is a National Hispanic Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar with Honor and an inductee of the PHS Hall of Fame and Academic Hall of Fame.

She likes to read, paint, and discuss current events.

She has been accepted to the University of Texas and her future plans are to become a civil rights lawyer and pursue a life of activism, focusing on bringing resources to certain affected communities throughout Texas and the United States.

Robinne's favorite teacher is art teacher Pam Burkhalter. "Mrs. Burkhalter always understood me when I felt like the world doesn't. She never gave up on me, even when I wanted to give up on myself. It was because of her I feel I reached my potential that she knew was within me all along. She has been my mentor and confidante throughout high school, and I credit her with teaching me that art has many definitions, one of which is 'the way in which we change the world'."



Robinne Rios
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Math

Orlando Campos is the son of Omero and Stephanie Campos.

Orlando enjoys solving Rubix Cubes, customizing computers, and gaming. He intends to get his Bachelor's degree in computer science or computer engineering and become a systems software developer. He plans to attend the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

His favorite teacher is Jason Arzola. "I choose Mr. Arzola as my favorite teacher because he has taught me the most out of all the teachers I have had. He taught us a lot about the subject but also a lot about things beyond high school."



Orlando Campos
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Your One Source for Health



Award for Excellence

Math

Radha Patel is the daughter of Hema & Shashi Patel.

She is in the International Baccalaureate program, vice president of National Honor Society, special events coordinator for the OHS Chapter of Amnesty International, treasurer of Model United Nations, treasurer for Senior Board, and was a member of the Academic Decathlon team.

Her honors include the President's Award, Valedictorian in 9th grade, 1st place in UIL District Spelling, and she placed in UIL District Literature & Math, in Academic Octathlon, and in art shows.

She enjoys reading, art, and traveling.

She has been accepted to the University of Texas, UT Dallas, and Texas Tech University, and plans to major in Biology, then attend medical school and ultimately become a primary care doctor.

Radha's favorite teacher is Janet Weyant. "Ms. Weyant is an excellent and inspirational teacher. She is always eager to teach and help students appreciate the art of learning math. By guiding her students through math with ease and in an understandable manner, Ms. Weyant helps her students build their skills and gain confidence in what they do. Whether it be staying after school or teaching on the weekends, Ms. Weyant does everything that she can do on her part to ensure that her students receive the best education possible. She always keeps her door open for everyone and is willing to consider the thoughts and feelings of her students. By politely listening to her students and by assisting them when necessary, Ms. Weyant helps them feel supported and shows that she is always there to guide them. Through her dedication to teaching and her support for the students, Ms. Weyant creates a strong foundation for the students and shapes them into independent learners. She not only leads her students through the journey of high school but also prepares them for the future. Ms. Weyant's love for teaching and her willingness to help shows that she is an outstanding teacher, an advisor, a good friend, and a role model who encourages and supports her students throughout all times. I am honored to address such a caring and talented person as a favorite teacher."



Radha Patel
Odessa High School



Category
sponsored by:

Medical Center Health System
Your One Source for Health



Award for Excellence

Math

Dylan Straw is the son of Johna & Scot Straw.

Dylan is the vice president of National Honor Society, 5-year All-Region Orchestra, 3-year member of Satin Strings Orchestra, 3-year member of Symphony Orchestra, Permian High School Flag Crew, PHS Hall of Fame, 1st Division State Ensemble, 1st Chair Regional Orchestra, ranked in Top 10, and Outstanding Orchestra.

He enjoys being outdoors, working out, spending time with family, music and video games.

He will attend Texas Tech University with a goal of obtaining a degree in mechanical engineering and working in the aerospace industry.

Dylan's favorite teacher is Denise Escalante, his 5th grade teacher at Reagan Elementary. "Mrs. Escalante inspired the passion I have for learning today. While in her class I was pushed to excel. Mrs. Escalante was the first teacher I had that I felt truly cared about her students' success. She made learning fun and challenging at the same time. I can attribute my academic success to Mrs. Escalante. Her inspiration has led me to pursue a career in mechanical engineering."



Dylan Straw
Permian High School



Award for Excellence Science

Ana Trueba is the daughter of Adriana & Luis Trueba, Jr.

Ana is the captain of the robotics team, a member of National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon team, West Texas Astronomers, and sits on the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council. She was part of the robotics team that won the FIRST (For Inspiration & Recognition of Science and Technology) Hub City Regional Competition and qualified for the world games last spring.

She likes to read and write.

Her goal is to major in Atmospheric Science/Meteorology and work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NASA's Earth Science program.

Ana chose Jason Arzola as her favorite teacher. "Mr. Arzola pushes us to the limits of our mathematical abilities in class because he knows that even though we might struggle, we can meet the challenge. He challenges me not only in math, but also to differentiate other perspectives and integrate those with my own thinking in order to gain a broader perspective, and find the solution to complex problems in life. In the two years in which he has taught me, my knowledge of math has grown exponentially. Through calculus, he has taught me to appreciate math—and its derivative science—because with math, the sky is the limit to the problems we can solve.



Ana Trueba
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



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Odessa Regional
Medical Center



Award for Excellence Science

Angela Bacani is the daughter of Niempa & Ronald Bacani.

Angela is the secretary of National Honor Society, a member of the Medical Center Hospital Junior Volunteer Leadership Program, treasurer of Odessa High School's Junior Board, a member of Leo Club, OHS Tune Talk, and Grace Christian Fellowship.

She is ranked in the Top 10 of this year's senior class, she received the Optimist Club Young Texanne Award, is an AP/IB Scholar, and a UIL Writing Contestant.

Her hobbies are singing, gardening, reading, cooking, baking, drawing, writing, playing instruments, going to the gym, looking for good deals, overthinking, oversteering, and spending time with friends and family.

Her plan is to attend Texas Tech University to study medicine and business in hopes of becoming a surgeon and entrepreneur. She wants to go on mission trips and participate in other philanthropic work.

Angela's favorite teacher is Jodi Fernandez. "She pushed me to challenge myself and reminded me that I am capable of doing more than what I have done. Her class never fails to interest me every day."



Angela Bacani
Odessa High School



Category sponsored by: **ORMC**
Odessa Regional
Medical Center



Award for Excellence Science

John Robert Poindexter is the son of Lauren Poindexter.

John is captain of the UIL Academics and Academic Decathlon teams. He is also an AP Distinguished Scholar

He enjoys reading the news, attending church, doing mathematics, and learning.

He wants to attend Harvard College, the undergraduate liberal arts college of Harvard University, for a degree in Mathematics and become a quantitative analyst.

John Robert names Kathie Squyres his favorite teacher. "I have had Mrs. Squyres as my teacher for three years and we have gotten to know each other very well. She has helped me a lot by providing advice relating not only to school, but also to life."



John Robert Poindexter
Permian High School



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Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Nehal Kamel is the daughter of Ahmed Kamel and Sadya Metawea.

She is President of the New Tech National Honor Society, Historian of the New Tech Anchor Club, and Assistant Editor for the books “Researching the Writing Center,” “English Composition” and “Reading about Writing.” She is ranked in the top 5% of the senior class, an Optimist Club Award winner, and a Texas Scholar.

Her hobbies are reading, writing, and volunteering.

Nehal plans to attend the University of Texas, major in English, go to medical school, and become a pediatrician.

Nehal says Lauren Rieves is her favorite teacher. “There are not words that explain Ms. Rieves’ impact on me,” she said. “Not only do I have her to thank for my success in US History, but also for opening my eyes. She took it upon herself to make sure every learner was comfortable and felt safe in her room. In the turmoil that was junior year, and the chaos that is senior year, Ms. Rieves is a rock. She taught me how to stand for what I believe and speak up for what is right. Ms. Rieves, you’re a phenomenal person, and if I ever come close to being as strong as you are, I will be more than satisfied. Thank you.”

Category sponsored by:



Nehal Kamel
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Isaac Dominguez is the son of Angie & Jesse Dominguez.

Issac works as an office assistant and special agent at Medical Center Hospital, is a member of National Honor Society, a member of Model United Nations, a leader at Crossroads Fellowship, and part of the Odessa High School Chapter of Amnesty International.

At Bowie Junior High he won the President's Award, at MCH he won the I.C.A.R.E (Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence) Values Award and the Most Improved Award.

He likes playing tennis, playing the violin, reading, learning history, and volunteering.

He will go to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and plans to become a doctor.

Isaac named Lee Jordan as his favorite teacher. "I selected Mr. Jordan to be my favorite teacher due to his fun, yet vigorous teaching methods which would allow my interest in history to grow. Mr. Jordan's way of teaching, similar to an exciting retell of a witnessed event, gave many facts and opinions told from both sides of historical views, allowing me to have a broad view on the vision of history and what it holds. Mr. Jordan showed me the importance of history in our society today and its important lessons that must never be forgotten to allow the further development of our knowledge and mind."



Isaac Dominguez
Odessa High School



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Award for Excellence

Social Studies

Jaime Garza, Jr. is the son of Priscilla & Jaime Garza.

Jaime is president of National Honor Society, a Texas Scholar, a member of Young Catholics of St. Mary's, and a member of Business Professionals of America. Last summer he was chosen to be part of the JASON Learning Student Argonaut research camp in Alaska.

He is the Permian High School Valedictorian, an AP Scholar, PHS Hall of Fame inductee, winner of an Optimist Club Young Texan award, and placed 3rd in State BPA for Economic Research.

He loves to read, play and watch sports, and watch movies.

He is considering attending the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas. He is interested in business and would consider getting a job in marketing or the financial sector. He has also thought about going to law school after getting his undergraduate degree. He also loves science and might consider a degree in Biology or Astronomy.

Jaime's favorite teacher is Angela Love-Jackson. "Ms. Love-Jackson was like no other teacher I ever had. She told me what was on her mind and that was that. Whatever she said to me was truly how she felt, and as a misguided youth, her bluntness was refreshing. It was as if I was one of her children, and I believe she does think I am her child. Since that time she would always tell me that I had the potential to be somebody great and that 'we' need you to be someone great. I just want to thank you for that, and I hope I'm living up to the hype."

Category sponsored by:



Jaime Garza, Jr.
Permian High School



Award for Excellence

Special Programs

Adrian Paz is the son of Nuvia and Noberto Paz.

Adrian has been the Odessa High School varsity baseball manager and captain since 2013.

His hobbies are playing baseball, playing videogames, hanging with friends, watching football & baseball, playing basketball and family time.

His plans include the University of Texas of the Permian basin to study education and kinesiology. After college he wants to be a high school baseball coach at OHS.

Adrian chose Pablo Davilla as his favorite teacher. "I selected him because he is a great teacher. He is a great, great source of encouragement. He knows how to make people laugh with his jokes. He has really helped me when I needed help the most. Anyone who is his student in the future will be lucky to have him."



Adrian Paz
George H.W. Bush New Tech Odessa



Award for Excellence Special Programs

Marlene Campos is the daughter of Maryann Hernandez.

Marlene is in Odessa High School's Mariachi Broncho, and though she is undecided on what college she will attend she will look into getting a degree in music.

Her favorite teacher is AVID teacher Naomi Fuentes because "She always knows the right things to say when I lose motivation for school."



Marlene Campos
Odessa High School



Award for Excellence

Special Programs

Luz Loya Barraza is the daughter of Luz Barraza and Celso Loya.

Luz is a member of National Honor Society, Tobacco Twisters, AVID, Spanish Club, and Mission Odessa.

She enjoys drawing, cooking, painting, working, make up, nails, baby-sitting, dancing, and playing guitar.

She is considering Odessa College, the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and Sul Ross State for college. She wants to earn a degree in Spanish and teach.

Her favorite teacher is AVID/ESL teacher Robyn Hernandez. "Mrs. Hernandez is my favorite teacher because I've known her for three years. When I feel bad she listens to me, when I have problems she stays by my side. I identify with her because we have things in common and we are Mexicans. She teaches me a lot of things. Mrs. Hernandez is a great person. She is respectful, she has humor, she helps students, and she is a good teacher and friend."



Luz Loya Barraza
Permian High School

