



Warren County Board of Education

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Centertown Elementary Student Surprised With All-Expenses-Paid Trip to Super Bowl LX

McMinnville, Tenn. January 22, 2026 - What began as a routine school day turned unforgettable Thursday when Centertown Elementary eighth grader Eduardo Mendez was surprised as the winner of a national competition awarding an all-expenses-paid trip to Super Bowl LX.

Mendez received the surprise during a schoolwide celebration, where classmates, teachers, administrators, and community partners gathered to recognize his achievement. The celebration marked the culmination of months of hard work and dedication through Mendez's participation in the Tennessee Tech GEAR UP program.

He was selected from more than 150 students nationwide as the winner of the Super Bowl Dream Experience, a recognition created by Student Success Agency. The opportunity rewards students who demonstrate consistent engagement, academic growth, perseverance, and goal-setting through SSA's virtual academic and mentorship services.

As the winner, Mendez will receive a once-in-a-lifetime experience that includes travel to San Francisco, Ca., tickets to Super Bowl LX, lodging, and exclusive events surrounding the game.

"Eduardo's achievement is a powerful reminder of what can happen when students are given opportunity, support, and encouragement," said Dr. Grant Swallows, Director of Schools for Warren County Schools. "We are incredibly proud of Eduardo and grateful for the partnerships that help open doors for our students and show them that their dreams truly are within reach."

The Super Bowl Dream Experience highlights the impact of structured mentorship, academic support, and encouragement offered through programs like GEAR UP, which aim to expand college and career readiness for students in rural and underserved communities.

"Eduardo is an exceptional student who leads by example every day," said Ms. Pam Cowan, Centertown Elementary School Principal. "He is actively involved in student organizations, demonstrates natural leadership, and consistently shows kindness and responsibility. This recognition is well earned, and our entire school community is incredibly proud of him."

Mendez's achievement serves as an inspiration to students across Warren County Schools, reinforcing the message that commitment, resilience, and belief in oneself can lead to extraordinary opportunities.

"Eduardo's story is exactly why we created the SSA Super Bowl Dream Experience," said Héctor García De León, SSA Super Bowl Dream Experience Project Manager and Communications Director of Student Success Agency. "He represents determination, consistency, and what's possible when students are supported and believe in themselves. We are incredibly proud to reward his hard work with an experience that he and his family will remember forever."

"This is more than just a trip to the Super Bowl," added García De León. "It's about showing students, especially those from small towns, that their hard work matters and that incredible opportunities are within reach."

Warren County Schools extends its congratulations to Eduardo Mendez and his family and thanks Student Success Agency and Tennessee Tech GEAR UP for their continued partnership in supporting student success beyond the classroom.

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