



6611 Boeing Drive
El Paso, TX 79925
www.esc19.net

SANDRA VALLADOLID
Marketing & Media Coordinator
915.780.5074 • svalladolid@esc19.net



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER REGION 19 TEACHER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Dr. Nancy Torres, physical and health education teacher at Jose H. Damian Elementary School in the Canutillo Independent School District (CISD), has been named 2027 ESC19 Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Jacob Pineda, Dual Credit, English I & II, and ELC Teacher; Football, Track & Cross Country Coach at Ysleta High School in the Ysleta Independent School District 2027 ESC19 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

El Paso, Texas (August 14, 2026) – Twenty outstanding teachers from area districts and charter schools competed in a rigorous selection process for the honor of representing our region at the state level. These dedicated educators were first selected as campus Teachers of the Year, then chosen to represent their respective districts, and tonight competed for the title of Regional Teacher of the Year. As part of the competition, each teacher underwent panel interviews and submitted multiple essays detailing their teaching philosophies and achievements. The first-place winners of this prestigious regional competition will move on to compete for the title of Texas Teacher of the Year, with the announcement expected later this year. ESC19 is proud to have had nine state winners from our region who have gone on to compete at the national level.

The winners were revealed during the awards celebration and banquet at the Starlight Event Center on **Friday, August 14**. The public can relive the excitement of the celebration by watching the awards online, which were streamed live on the [ESCRegion19 YouTube channel](#). [Extra coverage on Facebook @ESC19](#).

Raiz Federal Credit Union co-sponsored this event and generously awarded cash prizes to all the teachers. The top winners in both the elementary and secondary school categories received \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for 3rd place.

All the district Teachers of the Year are exemplary educators, and judges have noted the difficulty in selecting the winners from such a highly qualified group. Raiz also recognized all the teachers with a monetary gift as well.

ESC19 Elementary Teacher of the Year Winners:

- 1st : Dr. Nancy Torres, Canutillo ISD
- 2nd: Laura Tullius-Medina, Clint ISD
- 3rd: Cristina Garcia, Socorro ISD

ESC19 Secondary Teacher of the Year Winners:

- 1st : Jacob Pineda, Ysleta ISD
- 2nd: John Matthews, El Paso ISD
- 3rd: Javier Esparza, Socorro ISD

We appreciate your support in highlighting the excellence in education within our region and in recognizing these dedicated teachers who make a difference in our community every day.

Attachments: 2024-2025 ESC19 Teacher of the Year Winners' Pictures & Event Program.