



2026

LA VILLA ISD
EDUCATIONAL HERO

A NIGHT OF LUMINARIES



VISION

Transforming Lives - Empowering Excellence

MISSION

We are empowering future generations of ethical, caring, critical thinkers who are willing to take the risks necessary to be successful citizens.



EDUCATIONAL HERO

An educational hero is someone who makes a significant positive impact on the lives of students, schools, or their communities through dedication, compassion, and a commitment to learning. This could be a teacher, counselor, administrator, support staff member, or even a friend who goes above and beyond to support and inspire others. Educational heroes empower students to reach their full potential, create a safe and encouraging environment, and serve as role models who lead by example. Their everyday actions help shape the future by making education meaningful and accessible for all.

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On behalf of the School Board, we congratulate the Top Ten students of La Villa Early College High School. Your hard work and dedication have made this achievement possible, and we are proud of you. We also thank your Educational Heroes for their support, guidance, and encouragement along the way.





CONGRATS!

I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Top Ten students on their outstanding academic achievements. Your hard work, dedication, and relentless pursuit of excellence have truly set you apart. May your future endeavors be as bright and promising as your achievements today. To the Educational Heroes, you have made such a profound impact on your students' lives. Thank you for helping them succeed!

Robert Muñoz
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Once a Cardinal - Always a Cardinal!



PRESENTING

A NIGHT OF LUMINARIES

HONORING THOSE WHO INSPIRE





LISA M. RODRIGUEZ

HONORS

Priscilla Olivarez

My educational hero is Priscilla Olivarez because she has consistently pushed me to become the best version of myself. Through long practices and stressful moments, my cheer coach has consistently pushed me to become the best version of myself. She never let me settle for doing just enough, and even when I felt tired or overwhelmed, she reminded me of what I was capable of. She saw potential in me that I did not always recognize, and because of that, she challenged me to work harder, stay disciplined, and keep improving. Her expectations were high, but they came from a place of genuine belief in me and my success. She taught me that success does not come from talent alone, but from consistency, effort, and the determination to keep going even when things get difficult. She was always supportive of all my accomplishments, big or small, and one of the first people I wanted to go to whenever something good happened in my life, because I knew she would truly be proud of me. Beyond cheer, she encouraged me to carry that same mindset into my academics and everyday life. Because of her, I have learned how to handle pressure, push past my limits, and hold myself to a higher standard. She did not just make me a better athlete; she helped shape who I am today and who I am continuing to become.



2



ALESSANDRA CETINA

HONORS

Analupe Reyes

Today, I'm going to speak about someone who isn't just my best friend, but someone I truly consider family, Lupe. I've known Analupe Reyes since 2nd grade, from when we both rode the same bus, and from that moment on, she just became part of my life in a way that never changed. Multiple friendships come and go, but ours stayed. She wasn't just someone I sat next to in class; she became someone I leaned on, someone who understood me, and someone who helped shape who I am today. Growing up, her house felt like a second home to me. After school, almost every day, I'd go over, and we'd spend hours together, talking, laughing, and getting our work done side by side. Those moments might seem simple, but they meant everything to me. That's where our bond grew stronger, where we pushed each other, and where I learned what real support looks like. Lupe has always been the kind of person who sees more in you than you sometimes see in yourself. When I doubted myself, she didn't let me stay there. She encouraged me to aim higher, to try harder, and to believe that I was capable of more. She's one of the biggest reasons I pushed myself toward becoming myself. She believed I could do more than I thought, even before I fully believed it myself. That's who she is. She lifts people up before considering herself. She motivates. She cares deeply. And she doesn't just say she's there for you, she proves it, over and over again. She's been there through the everyday moments and the big ones, through the stress and the laughter, and through all the years that shaped us into who we are today. Lupe, I thank you for being my constant, my motivation, and my family. I wouldn't be the person I am today without you. This hero banquet isn't just about recognizing what you've done but about celebrating who you are. And I'm so lucky I've gotten to grow up with you by my side.



3



JOSELYNN ESTRADA

HONORS

Senovia Lomas

It was the conclusion of my junior year award assembly, and I was walking past her classroom when she suddenly stopped me. She said to me, "Congratulations on your awards, remember you're deserving of every single one of them." She didn't know the major impact those words had on me. I knew right then, and there she was, my educational hero. From being my student council sponsor to my freshman English teacher, Mrs. Senovia Lomas has paved the way throughout my academic journey. She has witnessed me grow and fail as a student, whether that was crying at UIL meets or stressing out about student council drama, she never doubted me. Ms. Lomas also had a major impact on my college journey by always taking the time to write letters of recommendation for my college and scholarship applications. As I stand up here, Mrs. Lomas, I want you to know that I cherish all the moments we've spent together. Your words are something I will carry with me as I navigate through a new chapter of my life. That's exactly why you will always be my educational hero.



4



HERLINDA E. RIVERA

HONORS

Glendelia Chapa

My educational hero is Ms. Glendelia Chapa, my CCMA teacher, because she came into my life at a time when I truly needed guidance and change. She arrived during the second semester of this year, when our class was struggling and not being given the education or opportunities we deserved. Before she came, we didn't have scrubs, hands-on training, or proper instruction, which made it hard to stay motivated in a class meant to prepare us for our future careers. However, Ms. Chapa completely transformed our experience. She stood up for us, advocated for what we needed, and wasn't afraid to speak up—even if it meant stepping on toes. Because of her, we were finally given real opportunities to learn, practice, and grow.

Ms. Chapa didn't just teach lessons—she reminded me why I chose this path in the first place. I knew I wanted to succeed and earn my certification to move forward in the medical field, and she pushed me to stay focused and believe in myself even when things felt overwhelming. Her dedication and determination made a lasting impact on me. Because of her support, I passed my CCMA exam and earned my certification, something that once felt out of reach. Ms. Chapa didn't just change a classroom—she changed my mindset and helped shape my future. That is why she is truly my educational hero.



5



BRIANNA DE LA CRUZ

HONORS

Belinda De La Cruz

My mom, Belinda De La Cruz, has been my educational hero my whole life, even if she would probably laugh if I told her that. Growing up, school was never just my responsibility; it was ours. Every time I had homework, she was right there with me, even when I was frustrated, tired, or acting dramatic because I didn't understand something. She would tell me to keep going and somehow made me laugh even when I wanted to give up. Spanish classes were probably the funniest and most frustrating part. I have taken like four classes and somehow still feel like I learned nothing, especially when it comes to things like what a diphthong is. I would sit there, confused, and she would try to help me, even when we were both kind of lost, turning it into something we could laugh about instead of stressing over. As I got older and started taking harder classes, especially college classes, she never stopped supporting me. What makes it bittersweet is realizing how much she sacrificed. She chose not to work so she could be there for me, and at the time, I thought it was just normal, but now I see how big that really was. She even let me focus only on school instead of worrying about chores, which I used to think was just me being lucky, but it was actually her carrying more, so I wouldn't have to. Another thing that always stayed with me was her faith. Whenever I felt overwhelmed or scared about school, we would pray together. It was not always long or perfect, but it brought me peace and reminded me that I was not alone. Looking back, it makes me feel grateful, a little sad, and honestly kind of guilty because I did not always notice everything she was doing for me. Still, everything I have achieved in school is because she never gave up on me, even when I was close to giving up on myself. I love you, Mom.



6



LAYSHA A. ROJAS-GOMEZ

HONORS

Jose Alberto Rojas Navarro

Mi héroe educativo es mi papá, José Alberto Rojas Navarro, porque siempre ha sido una gran motivación para mí en toda mi vida escolar. Él es un trabajador increíble que siempre da más del cien por ciento, aunque esté cansado o tenga muchas responsabilidades, y ver todo lo que hace por nuestra familia me ha enseñado a no rendirme y a esforzarme en todo lo que hago. Siempre ha estado ahí apoyándome y motivándome, recordándome que soy capaz y que puedo lograr mis metas si le echo ganas, y eso me ha ayudado mucho cuando me siento estresada o dudo de mí misma. Mi papá me inspira porque algún día quiero ser como él: alguien responsable, fuerte y que nunca se rinde, sin importar qué tan difíciles se pongan las cosas. Gracias a su ejemplo, he aprendido a creer más en mí y a seguir adelante. También mi mamá ha sido una parte súper importante en mi educación porque siempre ha estado conmigo, ayudándome con las tareas y los estudios, y también cuando tengo problemas con amistades, dándome consejos y apoyándome en todo momento. A veces hasta los dos se juntaban para ayudarme, y eso significaba mucho para mí porque sabía que no estaba sola. Todo lo que he logrado y el lugar en el que estoy hoy se deben a ellos: a sus sacrificios, a su esfuerzo y a todo el amor que me han dado. Han trabajado duro para darme oportunidades y nunca han dejado que me falte su apoyo, algo que valoro muchísimo. Por eso, aunque mi papá es mi héroe educativo por todo lo que me motiva y por el ejemplo que me da, el apoyo de mi mamá también ha sido clave en todo lo que he logrado y en la persona que soy hoy.





JAE P. RIVERA

HONORS

Abelardo Sanchez

My education hero is my math teacher and UIL coach, Mr. Abelardo Sanchez. He has had a strong impact on my growth since my sophomore year. He has helped me improve my understanding of math by teaching strategies that made solving problems easier and boosted my confidence. Beyond academics, he encouraged me to stay calm, trust my abilities, and not compare myself to others.

He was always willing to help, explain mistakes, and make sure I truly understood my assignments. I have also built a personal connection with him through conversations, especially when it comes to movies, and most importantly, playing chess, which has helped me think more strategically. Having only won three games against me, he has still managed to put me on my toes, always making me think ahead. Throughout high school, he has supported me both academically and personally, motivating me during challenges and helping me succeed. Overall, Mr. Sanchez played an important role in shaping me into the more confident, capable student I am today.



8



ANALUPE REYES

HONORS

Randall Snyder

My educational hero is Randall Snyder, my former law enforcement teacher, because he pushed me hardest to achieve the highest academic standards possible and was there for me when I needed him. As a freshman, I had Snyder for four straight periods. At first, I thought it was boring, but soon it became my favorite class. From talking about grades to my personal interests or even when I needed someone to vent to, he was always there for me. He was always there to listen when I needed him, and he soon became the person I could turn to for advice or for someone to advocate for me. Snyder was there for me at every moment from freshman year until my junior year, when he unfortunately had to leave. Since then, I haven't had anyone advocate for me, vent to, or push me to get a better grade in his class, but that doesn't mean I don't push myself. Thank you, Snyder. I was finally able to advocate for myself and push myself without help from others. That is something I truly appreciate since I could not do it beforehand. Snyder pushed me out of my shell, and I am finally the person I hoped to become. He never failed to remind me to push myself until I couldn't or to do my best at everything. Thanks to him, I was finally able to graduate with an associate degree from TSC. I have received every single cord for graduation and even achieved top 10. Never did my freshman self think I would make it this far, nor did I imagine it. Snyder was the first teacher whom I truly felt I had connected with, and now I have several like Steen, Villareal, Muedano, De León, and Neeley. Thanks to Snyder, I was not only able to grow as a person, but also to achieve my highest level of education, and he genuinely cared about me, which makes him more than my favorite teacher, but my educational hero.



9



JUNE A. CAUSOR

HONORS

Clarissa De Leon

Mrs. Clarissa De Leon is my educational hero because she has made such a positive impact on me during my senior year. Being in her class and seeing her bright, positive attitude every morning helped me get through many stressful days. She always creates a welcoming and supportive environment where I feel comfortable asking questions and doing my best. Even when things felt overwhelming, her encouragement and patience made a big difference. Because of her, I've grown more confident in myself and feel more prepared for what's ahead. Her energy and genuine care for her students truly make her an educational hero to me.



10



EDMUNDO E. GARCIA

HONORS

Joseph Garcia

My educational hero is Mr. Joseph Garcia, my coach. Although he was a coach, he was also one of my teachers. He was someone I could go to whenever I needed help—whether it was with an assignment, someone to talk to, or advice about a situation. No matter the problem, he was always there for me. Coach Garcia is one of the reasons I am where I am today. He supported me on the field, in my studies, and during my struggles. Balancing both college and high school work was stressful and difficult, but whenever I needed help, my coach was there to answer my questions and help me relax by cracking jokes. He was always supportive of everything I did and stood by me through both the toughest and the best times. Thanks to his dedication, support, and encouragement, I have grown into the person I am today and have become more confident in my abilities for the future. Coach Garcia's support and care make him not only a coach, friend, and teacher but also a true educational hero.





THANK YOU

TO THE EDUCATIONAL HEROES OF OUR TOP TEN STUDENTS

Your commitment to teaching, mentoring, and believing in these students has made a lasting impact. Through your patience, wisdom, and support, you have helped inspire excellence, nurture confidence, and open doors to bright futures. The achievements of these outstanding students are, in many ways, a reflection of the care and effort you have poured into their journey.

Congratulations on this special recognition, and thank you for being true educational heroes.

