



Pictured left to right:

Los Mesteños/BCISD/CTC Completes 9th Annual Summer Youth Employment and Training Program

Friends and families gathered last week in the Falfurrias High School cafeteria to witness the accolades given to area students who completed this summer's employment and training program in building and industrial trades. Organized and funded by Los Mesteños Career Academy (LMCA) through a grant by the Ed Rachal Foundation, the program is co-sponsored by the Brooks County ISD and the Craft Training Center of Corpus Christi.

During six weeks of employment and training, the students, who were selected in a competitive process, earned a salary as they worked on construction projects and received training in safety and building and industrial trades. Under former BCISD Industrial Arts teacher Juan Galvan's direction, the participants built benches and picnic tables that were dedicated for the park in Premont and other public places. The park benches in downtown Falfurrias were also refinished, providing a nice enhancement for that part of town.

Upon completion of their initial training and hands-on experience acquiring building skills, the students were transported for a total of six days to Corpus Christi to acquire an orientation to industrial trades at the Craft Training Center, one of the country's premier facilities of its kind.

The students who completed the program were complimented by Mr. Galvan for their hard work and dedication and congratulated by BCISD Superintendant Maria Casa, Ph.D., for making the extra effort to better themselves and learn new skills. During their ceremonial introductions, students expressed individual interests in pursuing careers in diverse disciplines ranging from welding to engineering and nursing.

"These students have learned skills that can lead to a direct career path or just to use throughout everyday life", said Crystal Ramirez-Garcia, LMCA Program Director. "We are especially proud of the large number of females who participated", she added.

LMCA will be sponsoring other career training programs during the coming year for youth and adults. Information about these programs can be found at losmestenos.org.