



Back row left to right: Carson Gates, Andy Garza, Paul Rodriguez, Raul Chapa, RSIZ Director Michael Gonzalez, Rick Ruiz, Oscar Galindo, Premont ISD Superintendent Steve VanMatre, LMCA Director Crystal Ramirez-Garcia & Raul M. Ramirez. Front row left to right: Premont High School Principal Claudette Garcia, Nina Everett, Falfurrias High School Principal Connie Herrera & Megan Kolbe



Front row is left to right: Dylan Rodriguez, Francisco Davila, Joey Naranjo & Jordan Gonzalez. Back row left to right: Kaiden Longoria, Zachary Perez, Jesus Gonzalez, Santiago DeLeon, Madison Castillo, Joseph Weeks, Matthew Pena, Michael Gonzalez, Julian Amaro, Luis Chavera, Darrian Rogers & Gus Esquivel. Not pictured Akasha Hinojosa & Sergio Tijerina

## **Los Mesteños Career Academy and the Rural Innovation Zone Complete Summer Program**

Los Mesteños Career Academy and the Rural Innovation Zone Complete Summer Program Los Mesteños Career Academy (LMCA) partnered with Rural Schools Innovation Zone (RSIZ) to complete a very successful summer apprenticeship program. The five-week program provided intense training in safety skills and construction techniques. They then used that knowledge to construct an array of beautiful, durable, and intricate projects. Those items were then distributed to people in the community for their use and enjoyment. The young men and women participants all received their National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) core cards while gaining valuable skills that will last a lifetime. The participants also learned general job skills and habits, with the total of 17 students from both Premont and Falfurrias during the five-week period. In the process, the participants earned a stipend for their work. “We are so proud of these students for having the courage to come to work and learn a new trade even during a pandemic. We proved that with some social distancing and smaller group settings, we still were able to have a very successful program”, said LMCA Program Director Crystal Ramirez-Garcia. “We are looking forward to creating more partnerships in the future with RISZ and LMCA”, added Michael Gonzalez, Director of RISZ.