

San Benito NJROTC cadets win scholarship honors

By SBCISD STAFF

Harlingen Family Dentistry hosted its twelfth annual The Way to Happiness Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) Scholarship Competition, during which two San Benito Navy JROTC cadets received select honors.

High schools from throughout the entire Rio Grande Valley participate in the values-based scholarship competition sponsored by Dr. Juan D. Villarreal, DDS and his Harlingen, Texas dental practice. The scholarship competition showcased student projects that incorporated "The Way to Happiness" book precepts and the services JROTC core values.

For the competition, members of high school JROTC programs throughout the Valley presented activities and/or projects that they had personally completed. The common goal was to help make the world a better place.

This year, San Benito NJROTC Cadet/Lieutenant Commander Stephanie Cantu won second place. Cantu's project was the NJROTC battalion's support for the San Benito CISD Motor Activity Training Program (MATP) Special Olympics event which helps to develop young participants' motor skills through fun-filled tasks and recreation activities geared to participants' ability levels.

The result was that every child was able to participate in multiple activities such as pushing or kicking a ball, jumping in a colorful ball pit, or stepping across a low bar. Cadets were able to participate in the event by interacting with the

students and assisting them in the activities.

Cantu applied the Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment as well as The Way to Happiness precepts of love and help children and set a good example.

Runner-up honoree Jimmy Gonzalez' project was leading his fellow NJROTC cadets in a canned food drive that benefit the San Benito Food Pantry in preparation for the Winter 2018 holidays. The cadets were able to provide the San Benito Food Pantry with a total of 1,020 non-perishable food items and \$307 in monetary donations.

Gonzalez applied the Navy Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment as well as The Way to Happiness precepts of setting a good example and fulfilling your obligations.

"We are very proud of these winners," said Dr. Villarreal.

"We are also proud and grateful for all the contestants who worked so hard with their instructors contributing to their community. As far as we are concerned, they are all winners," he added.

To qualify for the competition itself, JROTC cadets are required to present a portfolio containing a JROTC service criteria resume, cover letter, certificates of achievement, and references.

During the competition, each candidate presented a portfolio summation of results achieved in implementing "The Way to Happiness" precepts and services JROTC core values. They also made an oral and visual presentation to the judges, supplementing their project documentation.



COURTESY PHOTOS

San Benito Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Cadet/Lieutenant Commander Stephanie Cantu won second place in the twelfth annual The Way to Happiness JROTC Scholarship Competition sponsored by Dr. Juan D. Villarreal, DDS and Harlingen Family Dentistry. Pictured during the award presentation are Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, United States Army (Retired); Cadet/Captain Ethan Rogers of Edinburg; Cadet/Captain Angelika Gaure of Harlingen; Cadet/LCDR Stephanie Cantu; and Dr. Juan D. Villarreal.



San Benito Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) Cadet/Commander Jimmy Gonzalez received a runner-up award at the twelfth annual The Way to Happiness JROTC Scholarship Competition sponsored by Dr. Juan D. Villarreal, DDS and Harlingen Family Dentistry. Pictured are Dr. Juan D. Villarreal, Cadet/CDR Jimmy Gonzalez, and Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, United States Army (Retired).



Congrats athletes

Last week, San Benito CISD Special Olympics athletes participated in the Special Olympics Texas Rio Grande Valley Area Competition, the "Katstrong Games," in Raymondville, Texas.

"The track and field competition was both enjoyable and successful. Our athletes demonstrated great effort and commitment during the competition," said Rick Tamez, Special Olympics/Adaptive Physical Education Coordinator.

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