

PRESS RELEASE



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Laredo Chamber of Commerce Announces: School Bell Awards Competition and Spirit of Laredo

Ms. Gabriela Morales, President & CEO of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Michael Gonzalez, Chairman of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, officially launched the 2022 School Bell Awards Competition and 2022 Spirit of Laredo Scholarship Competition at a press conference held in the Laredo Chamber of Commerce Board Room earlier today.

In making the announcement, Mr. Gonzalez stated: "We are delighted to honor exemplary students who intend to utilize their education and give back to their community through the Spirit of Laredo Awards." He added: "We are also proud to honor outstanding educators through our School Bell Awards program." A special recognition – the School Bell Award – is presented to those educators that are selected by their peers for their performance in and out of the classroom, he said. The event is annually cosponsored by Sames Chevrolet / Sames Nissan and Killam Development, LTD. Outstanding teachers, from the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as well as higher education, will receive the Chamber's School Bell Award. Twelve awards will be presented as follows:

Elementary School	1 Teacher LISD & 1 Teacher UISD
Middle School	1 Teacher LISD & 1 Teacher UISD
High School	1 Teacher LISD & 1 Teacher UISD
Private Schools - Elementary	1 Teacher
Private Schools - Secondary	1 Teacher
Charter Schools - Elementary	1 Teacher
Charter Schools - Secondary	1 Teacher
Laredo Comm. College / Technical Schools	1 Instructor/Professor
Texas A&M International University	1 Professor

Candidates from any field or discipline may apply and be nominated. To qualify for the School Bell Award competition, candidates must have a minimum 5-years' experience, and carry the support of the school principal or administrator (signature on application form). Deadline for submitting applications is Friday, April, 1st 2022, 5:30 pm. General information on competition rules will be mailed to the principals at local private and public schools or can be obtained at the Laredo Chamber of Commerce.

For student applicants to the Sprit of Laredo Scholarship Competition, they are asked to submit a 90-second video detailing: 1) What inspires them to pursue a college education and how will they apply that to make Laredo a better place? 2) What would they like Laredo to be known for? 3) What is the Laredo Chamber of Commerce's role in Laredo's development? and 4) given that many students leave Laredo after graduation, what would it take for them and other future college graduates to build their future in Laredo versus somewhere else?

All applications will be reviewed by the Laredo Chamber Education Committee which will select winners of the 2022 competition. Winners will then be formally announced and presented with the coveted School Bell Award and Spirit of Laredo ceremony to be announced at a later date. For information on how to obtain an application contact the Laredo Chamber of Commerce at (956)722-9895.

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