

# 6 LAS ESCUELAS DE LAREDO ISD

## U.S Border Patrol & IBC honor “Head of the Class” for November

Three outstanding LISD students were honored recently at Alexander High School for their achievements in education and community endeavors. The students serve as role models for their respective student body at their campuses. They have exemplified and have gone above and beyond what is expected of them in extracurricular activities.



The students are Maria Erendira of Martin High School, Gabriel Recio Jr. of Cigarroa High School, and Melissa Trevino of Nixon High School.



Robyn Lee Colin was named youth of the month for October. Colin is pictured with Border Patrol representatives, Veronica F. Guerra, Superintendent of Schools and Guadalupe Cortez, Nixon High School Principal.

## Laredo ISD Maintains State’s Highest Fiscal Accountability

The Laredo Independent School District has received a rating of “Superior Achievement” for the fifth time under Texas’ school finance accountability rating system.

This is the fifth year of Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas), a financial accountability system for Texas school districts developed by the Texas Education Agency in response to Senate Bill 875 of the 76th Texas Legislature in 1999 and Senate Bill 218 of the 77th Legislature in 2001.

“Laredo ISD was one of 944 school districts in the state of Texas that received a “Superior Rating,” said LISD Interim Chief Financial Officer Alvaro Perez. “The primary goal of Schools FIRST is to achieve quality performance in the management of LISD’s financial resources. This is a significant goal when you consider the complexity of accounting associated with Texas’ school finance system.”

The Schools FIRST accountability rating system assigns one of four financial accountability ratings to Texas school districts, with the highest being “Superior Achievement,” followed by “Above- Standard Achievement,” “Standard Achievement,” and “Substandard Achievement.” Districts with serious data quality problems may receive the additional rating of “Suspend – Data Quality.” Districts that receive the “Substandard Achievement” or “Suspended – Data Quality” ratings under Schools FIRST must file a corrective action plan with the Texas Education Agency.

In addition to the Superior FIRST rating, Laredo ISD has previously been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting, Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, and Distinguished Budget Presentation awards from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).



Among the members of LISD’s award-winning Finance Department staff are, from left, Sarita Saenz, Edith Paez, Judy Dovalina, Sandra Perez, Interim Director Alvaro Perez, Director of Tax Collections Rudy Sanchez, Director of Financial Management Flor Ayala, Rebecca Zarazua, Procurement Director Gustavo Alcantar, Gloria Vargas and Nancy Martinez.