

# San Benito Consolidated Independent School District EDUCATION Connection

Making and reinforcing strong connections!

## Congratulations, Retirees!



**This year's retirees dedicated a total of over 1,300 years to public education!**

Pictured, in no particular order, are 2016/2017 retirees James P. Cole - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Teacher; Gloria Cortez - Dr. C.M. Cash Elementary, Instructional Aide; Sylvia Espinoza - Riverside Middle School, Counselor; Christine Fuller - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Teacher; Theresa "Pinky" Galvan - Landrum Elementary, Teaching Assistant; Edna Garcia - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Instructional Aide; Sylvia L. Garcia - Special Services Department, Teacher, Homebound; Noelia Garza - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Teacher; Cathy Gilberto - San Benito High School, Teacher & Athletic Trainer; Kelly Hudson - San Benito High School, Teacher; Alicia Lopez - Judge Oscar De La Fuente Elementary, Instructional Aide; Jose Santos Montalvo - Dr. Raul Garza Jr. Elementary, Custodian; Carol Rado - Riverside Middle School, Teacher; Thelva Reza - Migrant Education Program, Teacher; Anna Ruiz - San Benito High School, Nurse; Rosa Ruiz - Dr. Raul Garza Jr. Elementary, Instructional Aide; Michael Stowe - Special Services Department, School Psychologist; Ada L. Villarreal - Dr. C.M. Cash Elementary, Teacher; and Linda Villarreal - San Benito High School, Librarian.

Retirees not pictured are the following: Arturo Alvarado - Child Nutrition Program, Warehouse Clerk; Kathryn Nora Dempsey - Special Services Department, Teacher, Homebound; Elisa Flores - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Assistant Principal; Adrian Garcia - Purchasing, Purchasing Agent; Elida Garcia - Special Services Department, Reading Interventionist; Guadalupe Isabel Garcia - San Benito High School, Library Assistant; Ida Garcia - San Benito High School, Gear Up Coordinator; Isabel Garcia-Kirk - Judge Oscar De La Fuente Elementary, Nurse; Manuel Gomez - Transportation Department, Bus Driver; Carlos Gonzales - Rangerville Elementary, Teacher; Juan E. Gonzales - Special Services Department, Teacher, Homebound; Ramiro Gonzalez - Maintenance & Operations, Paint Supervisor; Jeanne A. Johanns - Veterans Memorial Academy, Librarian; Simon Lopez - La Paloma Elementary, Custodian; Jose Montes - Construction & Energy, HVAC Administrator; Celia Reza - Berta Cabaza Middle School, Instructional Aide; Pablo Rojas - Construction & Energy, Draftsman; Amador Saldivar - Transportation Department, Mechanic; Thelma Sanchez - La Encantada Elementary, Teacher; Debra Smith - Central Office, Secretary; Elvira Stone - Dr. C.M. Cash Elementary, Teacher; Chand Taneja - Technology Department, E-Rate Administrator; Norma Linda Torres - Maintenance & Operations, Secretary; Blanca Sonia Weaver - Sullivan Elementary, Teacher; and Jovita Ybarra - Central Office, Accountant.



### A Message from our Superintendent of Schools ...



**Adrian Vega, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

Well, it's hard to believe that I have come to the conclusion of my time at San Benito CISD. It's equally hard to express to you my sincere gratitude and appreciation for making me and my family a part of this amazing school district and community. San Benito CISD and the City of San Benito will forever hold a special place in my heart and mind. I, too, now will join the other citizens from San Benito who live across the state, the United States, and abroad who still PROUDLY bleed purple and gold and who PROUDLY say, "I am from San Benito, Texas!"

For me, there is a specific example of this, which sticks with me. In October of 2015, when I was doing my research on San Benito, in preparation for the application process for the superintendent position of San Benito CISD, I stumbled across an old Texas Tornado concert, circa 1990-1991, from Austin, Texas. They were playing the Austin City Limits venue. In this video, San Benito's very own, Freddy Fender, was proudly wearing a San Benito Greyhounds T-shirt on live television for the whole world to see. That's when it hit me! San Benito must be a very special place. Having spent the last year and half in San Benito, serving as superintendent, attending mass at St. Joseph's and Our Lady Queen of the Universe, watching my daughter's softball games at Stookey Park, participating in the Texas Heritage Independence Celebration battle reenactment, cheering on the Mighty Greyhound football team, and walking along the resaca at Heaven Trail, I have come to experience first-hand the unique and special qualities that make San Benito San Benito. So, like Freddy Fender, I, too, will proudly wear my purple and gold Greyhound gear wherever my family and I go and live.

Lastly, I want to once again thank the Board of Trustees for their tremendous support and guidance in leading the district. I will forever be thankful to past and current board members for providing me the privilege and honor to serve you and our community. I also want to thank the Superintendent's Leadership Team for their commitment to striving to become the Gold Standard in all areas of public education day in and day out. In reflecting upon the last year and a half, there are countless success stories and accomplishments to share - all of which would not have been made possible without the hard-working and dedicated staff, students, and parents of the San Benito Consolidated Independent School District.

So, in closing, I would like to leave you with one of my favorite blessings: "May the Lord bless you (SBCISD) and keep you (SBCISD). May the Lord make his face to shine upon you (SBCISD), and be gracious to you (SBCISD). May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you (SBCISD) and give you (SBCISD) peace." Respectfully, sincerely, and lovingly, I say ... **Release the Hounds!**

**THE CONNECTION TEAM**

**Editors:**  
Celia Longoria  
Isabel González

**Contributing Writers:**  
Celia Longoria  
Isabel C. González

**Photographers:**  
Alondra Cardoza  
Celia Longoria  
David Cortez  
Dulce Quiroz  
Isabel C. González  
Jose Ramos

**Layout Design:**  
Alondra Cardoza  
Dulce Quiroz  
Isabel C. González  
Sergio Garcia

**SHARE YOUR NEWS**

News items for this publication should be submitted to the Communications Department via electronic mail to the following:  
clongoria@sbcisd.net or  
icgonzalez@sbcisd.net.



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## RE-IMAGINE 2021 San Benito Schools



### Longtime trustee honored for dedicating 24 years of service

Hector G. Leal, left, who has served on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees since 1993, accepts special awards presented by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrian Vega. Leal, a self-employed photographer, graduated from San Benito High School in 1975, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in 1979 from East Texas State University, and he majored in photography and business. He is married to Elydia G. Leal. Their son, Hector Leal, Jr., is married to Jessica M. Leal; they have three children, Hector, Oscar, and Harley, who attend school in San Benito. Their daughter, Erica Ann Garcia, is married to Dr. Ricardo Garcia.



### District Teachers of the Year announced

San Benito CISD proudly announced the 2017 Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year during a special luncheon honoring the district's 18 Campus Teachers of the Year. Natalia Montez, a Fine Arts teacher and Campus Teacher of the Year at Fred Booth Elementary, was named the District Elementary Teacher of the Year, and Jose Angel Villarreal, an eighth grade Math teacher at Miller Jordan Middle School, was named the District Secondary Teacher of the Year. Both will now advance to the Region One Teacher of the Year competition. Each top winner received \$250 from First Community Bank, with Vice-President of Lending Norma Boland on hand to present the checks to the honorees. Also present to congratulate the district Teachers of the Year were Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrian Vega as well as School Board President Michael A. Vargas, Secretary Mary Lou Garcia, and Trustee Victor Rosas.

**REMINDER**

**NOTICE OF EARLY RELEASE**  
Thursday, June 1, 2017

On June 1, all students will be dismissed early according to the following schedule:

- 12:10 PM  
Elementary Schools
- 1:10 PM  
Middle Schools
- 1:45 PM  
Secondary Schools

Classes for the next academic year will begin on Monday, August 28.



### Medrano honored for dedicated service

Oscar Medrano, left, who proudly served on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2005 and 2008 to 2017, accepts an award of appreciation from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrian Vega.



### Padilla honored for dedicated service

Arnold Padilla, right, who proudly served on the San Benito CISD Board of Trustees from 2014 to 2017, accepts an award of appreciation from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrian Vega.



### Leadership Prep Academy graduates earn certificates

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrian Vega and members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team congratulate graduates of the district's first Leadership Prep Academy class. The class for aspiring leaders consisted of campus assistant principals, deans, and first year principals. Members read books on leadership and presented their elementary and middle school entry plans, which outlined student and staff demographics, finances, discipline, and other areas. Dr. Vega presented each LPA class member with a certificate of completion. LPA graduates include Cynthia Avelar, JoAnn Fernandez, Rosie Garcia, Guadalupe Garza, Emma Gonzalez, Elsa Haman, Scott Hausler, Manuela Lopez, Juan Martinez, Nora Martinez, Samuel Mendez, Gina Ortiz, Fred Perez, Amy Rodriguez, Virginia Romero, and Octavio Salazar. Members of the Superintendent's Leadership Team include Executive Directors Julie Treviño, Raul Treviño, Margot Torres and Hilda Rendon and Director of Communications Celia Longoria.



### Welcome back, Officer Gonzalez!

San Benito CISD's newest police officer Erasmo Gonzalez, left, is administered the Law Enforcement Oath of Honor by the district's Chief of Police Santiago R. Garcia. Officer Gonzalez recently returned to the district. He has a total of 19 years of experience as an officer, working with other school districts such as Weslaco and Brownsville.



### Celebrating a one-year partnership

Region One SubHub coordinator Dolores Hernandez, on right, presented San Benito CISD Executive Director for Human Resources Margot Torres with a cake to celebrate the one-year partnership between SBCISD and Region One SubHub. SubHub is a service provided by the Region One Education Service Center (ESC) Office of Personnel Support Services to help schools recruit and retain a qualified pool of certified substitute teachers to fill existing vacancies within schools.



### Awards presented to Superintendent's Advisory Council members

Members of the San Benito CISD Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) having completed their two-year terms received plaques of appreciation. Shown at the recent presentation are sitting from left, Ermelinda Silva, Ed Downs Elementary teacher; Edith Medrano, San Benito Veterans Memorial Academy teacher; Laura Noriega, Gateway to Graduation Academy teacher; Connie Cruz, La Paloma Elementary teacher; standing, Theresa Servellon and Isabel Gomez, district-level non-teaching professionals; Dr. Adrian Vega, Superintendent of Schools; Susana Mendieta, La Encantada Elementary teacher; Rudi Ann Fonseca, Rangerville Elementary teacher; and Mayra Rodriguez, Angela G. Leal Elementary teacher. Not shown are outgoing council members Beverly Salinas, Dr. C.M. Cash Elementary teacher; Clarissa Ladner, Joe Callandret Positive Redirection Center teacher; Manuel Cruz, campus-level non-teaching professional; Elizabeth Maldonado and Rebecca Vega, parent representatives; Mary Lou Saldaña and Minnie Quintanilla, community representatives; and Jesse Saucedo and LeRoy Gomez, business representatives. The Superintendent's Advisory Council is a committee comprised of teachers, non-teaching professionals, parents, and community and business members. The forum allows members of the council to share a two-way dialogue of ideas and concerns with the Superintendent of Schools and members of his administrative staff.