



# MCALLEN AFT NEWS



1500 Dove, McAllen, TX 78504

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## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



a member of McAllen AFT Local 6329 for six years.

Xenia was a student at McAllen Memorial High School and completed the International Baccalaureate Program at Lamar Academy. She is attending the University of Texas at Austin and her major is in biology as a premed student. She is participating in an undergraduate research through the Freshmen

Research Initiative program and plans to spend a summer abroad through UT's study abroad program.

Inspired by her father, she wants to incorporate travel in her career so she can visit the different countries he's described to her, such as India, Venezuela, and Morocco. Her goal is to be an Infectious Disease Specialist.

We are proud to announce that **Xenia Brianna Gonzalez of McAllen is a winner of a Texas AFL-CIO Continuing Scholarship.** Brianna attends UT-Austin. Brianna has volunteered at St. David's Medical Center, comforting families of patients who are in surgery, and has participated in UTeach, in which college students offer science lessons to elementary and middle school students.

Brianna is the daughter of Rafael and Veronica Gonzalez (counselor at Jackson Elementary) in McAllen, Texas. Veronica has been

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**Erika Krause (winner of the Rio Grande Valley AFL-CIO Central Labor Council Scholarship) ranked in the top 5% percent of her class at McAllen High School, is attending Texas A & M Kingsville.**

Erica is a Texas Scholar and a TexPrep Scholar. She graduated from South Texas College before she graduated from high school with a diploma for Digital Intermedia. She was also awarded a tennis scholarship, an avid scholarship, the Texas Grant and Federal Pell Grant and scholarship for being in the top 10% of her class.

She also participated HOSA and the National Honor Society. Erika is the daughter of Frank and Maria Krause (paraprofessional at Jackson Elementary) in McAllen, Texas. Maria is a member of McAllen AFT Local 6329 for four years.

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN HUMANITIES

Each year, Humanities Texas presents awards recognizing and encouraging excellence in teaching the humanities in Texas schools. In 2015, a total of fifteen awards will be presented.

The Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Awards recognize exemplary K–12 humanities teachers. Each year, eleven teachers are selected to receive a \$5,000 cash award and an additional \$500 for their respective schools to purchase humanities-based instructional materials.

One additional teacher, chosen from among the applicants for the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award, will receive the James F. Veninga Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. This award was established to honor James F. Veninga, Humanities Texas Executive Director Emeritus, for his twenty-three years of extraordinary contributions to the state council and to the public humanities in Texas and the U.S. This winning teacher receives a \$5,000 cash award, with an additional \$500 for his or her school to purchase humanities-based instructional materials.

Nominations for the 2015 Outstanding Teaching Awards are now being accepted! To nominate a teacher, please complete the [online nomination form](http://www.humanitiestexas.org/education/teacher-awards) at [www.humanitiestexas.org/education/teacher-awards](http://www.humanitiestexas.org/education/teacher-awards) by **Friday, December 12, 2014.**