



From left to right Derek Duarte, Joe D. Garza, Lester Zuniga, Chase Roberts, Julian Gutierrez, Alejandro De la Fuente, Antonio Becerra, Gerardo Rodriguez, Jermaine Aguilar, Homer Garza, Mando Ramos, Juan Chavera, Mathew Garza, Jon Ray Pulido, Oscar Salinas, Crystal Ramirez-Garcia and Oscar Galindo

## High School Students Tour Corpus Christi Area Employers

Los Mesteños Career Academy Program Director Crystal Ramirez has provided information about a recent trip taken by Falfurrias High School (FHS) students to introduce them to major employers and career opportunities in the Coastal Bend region. The trip was jointly sponsored by her organization and the Brooks County Independent School District (BCISD) and was led by FHS instructor Oscar Galindo, in conjunction with Corpus Christi-based HELP, Inc. Ms. Ramirez-Garcia thanked both BCISD and La Rucia Ranch for providing the funding and other resources necessary to make the trip happen.

HELP Inc. works with area employers to generate interest among students so that they will consider pursuing the training necessary to land well-paying and high-demand jobs locally. HELP Inc. founder and CEO Ridge Hammond Ph.D., himself a retired school superintendent, gave the following report to Ms. Ramirez-Garcia about FHS's recent visit to the Corpus Christi area:

"The LOS MESTEÑOS trip yesterday was fabulous! The students were excited and the hosting businesses were impressed! One of the places we visited invited ALL of the kids to come back after graduating and that MMR would offer them a job for the summer and beyond!

Our visit to **Turners' International** was equally promising. We went by several great welding displays, and looked at some of the great projects TURNERS' was doing across the country and the world! Again, the boys were urged to work hard and then come enjoy a wonderful lifestyle combining hard work and great rewards.

The kids we really impressed, and more than one remarked, 'This is a great opportunity; thank you, Mr. Galindo and Dr. Hammons'. They were not just impressed, they were impressive. Perfect manners and respect for each other and themselves."