



Standing left to right: Raul M. Ramirez, Susan Kibbe, Oscar Galindo, Andy Garza, Anthony Derrick Perez, Horacio Morante, Lavoyger Durham, Esteban Pena, Jesus Castillo, Robert Benavides, Connie Herrera, Crystal Ramirez-Garcia, Justin Zelaya & Sheriff Benny Martinez. Sitting left to right: Francisco Davila, Alyssa Villarreal, Allison Martinez, Estella Anzualda & Oscar Coronel. Not pictured: Jordyn Perez, Dylan Vasquez, Ayden Cavazos, Damian Jaramillo, & Megan Kolbe.

## **Los Mesteños Career Academy/ Brooks County ISD Complete 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Youth Training Program**

Los Mesteños Career Academy (LMCA) and the Brooks County Independent School District (BCISD) recently celebrated another in a long line of successful summer youth career training programs. “We are very thankful and proud of our partnership with BCISD in presenting these career training opportunities for many years”, said Crystal Ramirez-Garcia, LMCA executive director. We especially want to thank Dr. Casas, Connie Herrera, and Oscar Galindo for their support at the administrative level and the dedication of Megan Kolbe in providing daily instruction to the students”, added Ms. Ramirez-Garcia. She also gave thanks to the private donors who helped finance program costs and the programmatic contributions of the Craft Training Center (CTC) of the Coastal Bend.

This year’s program sponsored 13 participants from both Falfurrias and Premont who worked for four weeks and created many large woodworking projects that were donated for public spaces and sold to private individuals to recoup material costs. Students were also taught financial literacy and spent time at CTC in Corpus Christi gaining hands-on experiences in various jobs of industry.

The students were compensated for their efforts with paid salaries. They were also awarded NCCER certifications for completing core industrial safety instruction, financial literacy certificates from Texas A&M University at Kingsville, and certificates of commendation from U.S. Senator Ted Cruz.