



August 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Elvia Martinez in her nomination for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award in the Education in the Community category. As an entrepreneur deeply committed to both educational excellence and community service, Elvia has made an extraordinary impact through her founding and leadership at the Texas Technical Trade School.

Elvia's dedication to empowering students and advancing workforce opportunities makes her an exemplary candidate for this prestigious award. She has established an exceptional training program that not only equips students with the technical skills needed to excel but also prepares them for successful careers. We started our partnership with Elvia and the Texas Technical Trade School in 2023 when eight of our students attended her electrical training and all eight graduated with their certification. This summer, we have more than doubled our partnership and eighteen students are now on track to receive their certification. These students have been able to launch their careers at a young age as a result of the high-quality education and hands-on training they received.

Elvia's commitment goes beyond mere instruction; she embodies a genuine dedication to her students' success. She invests her time and resources into ensuring that each student receives personalized support and the additional holistic resources she brings to the table through her partnerships with nonprofits and employers. Her work has been instrumental in filling critical workforce gaps and providing our community with skilled professionals who contribute positively to our economy and society.

It is without reservation that I endorse Elvia for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award. Her contributions to education and workforce development are invaluable, and her impact on the lives of countless students speaks volumes about her dedication and passion. Elvia's recognition would be a fitting acknowledgment of her enduring commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Chen', is displayed on a light gray background.

Victoria Chen  
BridgeYear Co-Founder and Executive Director