

Leaders that Inspire

ING. BERNARDO QUINTANA 2022 ARRIJOJA *Awards*

Enrique Soto

Upon presenting the "Ing. Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja" Award to students who have stood out for their academic excellence, patriotism, service, and courage, the Director General of the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), Arturo Reyes Sandoval, emphasized that the young award winners are leaders who

inspire those around them, are distinguished by their high social commitment and in the future will become successful and participative professionals, who will strengthen democracy and transform Mexico.



At the "Juan de Dios Bátiz" Historical and Cultural Center, located in the Casco de Santo Tomás, Reyes Sandoval assured the 95 nominated young people who received diplomas, seven who were awarded honorable mentions, and the five winners of the award, that they must work hard to leave a better Mexico for future generations, but also to leave better Mexicans and citizens who can transform the country and the world.

"Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja Award helps to promote democratic culture in young people, recognizing them as builders of a better future, with broad scientific and technological knowledge, leadership attitudes, social commitment, and the capacity to innovate and undertake, elements that will undoubtedly allow them to exercise responsible citizenship," he said.

The head of the Politécnico said that this recognition honors the memory of Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja, a notable Mexican civil engineer, who stood out for his important contributions to engineering science, founded the National Chamber of the Construction Industry, and directed his business activity with an avant-garde vision, social sense and direct impact for the benefit of the population.

"Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja has undoubtedly been one of the great benefactors of this country and an example for Mexican youth," said the IPN Director General to the family of this illustrious Mexican, to whom this tribute is being paid with the award of the medal that bears his name.

Reyes Sandoval expressed his pride because the medal has been awarded for 33 years and this edition had the participation of the 20 academic units of higher education. He thanked the Foundation for Youth Support and the Associated Civil Engineers Group (ICA) for their valuable work in the tribute.

Bernardo Quintana Kawage, representing the Quintana family, stated that his grandfather, with a generous heart, believed that with effort and dedication, goals are achieved. "He proposed and carried out energy, transportation, hydraulic, urbanization, and industrial projects of all kinds. In his dreams of making Mexico a better country, fairer, more developed, and with opportunities for all, from his trench he proposed to the government which infrastructure projects the country needed," he explained.

The director general of the ICA Foundation, Juan José Kochen Gómez, recalled a famous phrase of Mr. Quintana Arrijoja: "Relevant changes for the country happen in the classroom and during youth".



He said that for Ingenieros Civiles Asociados (ICA) the celebration is important since Quintana Arrijoja's legacy has consolidated the company as a leader in construction in Mexico.

The trustee of the Fundación de Apoyo a la Juventud I.A.P., Juan Carlos Machorro, said: "The young people who won the award are a living example for other generations. They are today for us new team members and agents of social change. This generation must privilege dialogue and listen". The winners of the "Ing. Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja" Award in the category of Academic Excellence are Perla Marysol Peña Reséndiz, a student at Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 16, for her outstanding educational career.

In the category of Courage, David Sebastián de la Cruz Torres, a student of CECyT 6, despite suffering from various health problems, has come through with the high academic performance. In the same category, Fernando Guerrero Ramirez, a student of CECyT 12, also received the award, and has succeeded even though he is visually impaired.

In the Patriotism category, the award went to José Icelo González, a student of CECyT 12, for his outstanding career as a high-performance athlete. In the Service category, the medal was awarded to Ana Teresa Méndez Ramírez, a student of CECyT 17, for her support for the environment and for promoting the dissemination of science and astronomy.



Perla Marysol Peña Reséndiz

Academic Excellence
Merit Winner

*"Water gave meaning and direction to the rivers
that have shaped my life"*

The student of the Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 16 "Hidalgo", Perla Marysol Peña Reséndiz considers that environmental education and civil mobilization must prevail in the water fight, a topic she leads in her community.

Originally from Hidalgo, she obtained good grades when she was a child. She has achieved awards and recognitions throughout her academic career, such as 2nd place in the 18th National Mathematics Olympiad, in 2018, 2nd place in 2019, and first place in 2020.

He represented Mexico in the International Chemistry Competition in Singapore and in the Lavoisier International Chemistry Olympiad where he won the bronze medal.

Her Microbial Fuel Cell prototype was recognized with a silver medal and as the fifth-best work at the World Applied Chemistry Olympiad in Indonesia, where she also won bronze in the International Science, Technology, and Engineering Competition.

She was a Mexican delegate at the Pre-Conferences of the World Water Forum in Tajikistan, organized by the International Youth Federation for Climate Change of the United Nations.

She is a member of the International Network of Promoters for the Sustainable Development Goals (ODS) and an academic in the Ibero ODS Network for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda.

She is a member of the International Youth Federation for Climate Change of the United Nations and is working on an inventory to be presented in 2023 at the UN International Water Conference in New York.

He has written scientific articles for the Innovation Hub World magazine in Poland and works on reports on Environmental Sciences for the Youth BioTech Journal in India. Contributions to the ODS for the monthly newsletter of the Ibero Network for monitoring the 2030 agenda in Madrid, Spain.



José Icelo González

Merit Patriotism
Winner

"Sports, my way of life"

From sports, he learned values such as respect, solidarity, empathy, honorability, and responsibility.

More than a passion, practicing sports is the lifestyle of José Icelo González, a student of the Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 12 "José María Morelos", winner of the "Ing. Bernardo Quintana Arrijoja" 2022 award in the Patriotism category.

Originally from Mexico City, the high-performance athlete with national results in the disciplines of judo, Olympic wrestling, and jiu-jitsu fighting, is in his sixth semester of studies in the career of Technical Administration, activities that harmonize with his job.

Since childhood, his parents instilled in him physical activity and motivated him to take up a sporting discipline. In 2012, with only one week of training in a Judo dojo, he highlighted his great talent.

"In my first tournament I was victorious in 3 bouts, and since that day I have not stopped competing and dreaming big, always taking the sport and my education hand in hand."

In judo, Jose Icelo has 3 medals in the National Olympics (gold, silver, and bronze); fourth place in Pan American and South American, and third place in an international cup. He has been stating champion for nine consecutive years and is undefeated in his category; two-time national university champion; 20 times national champion; six times national runner-up and four times national third place.

In Olympic wrestling, he is a three-time state champion in both Greco-Roman and freestyle. Twice regional third place and national runner-up. In jiu-jitsu fighting he was the national champion and runner-up; in 2017 he was crowned in the National Olympics, which qualified him for the Pan American and South American championships held in Peru, where he placed fourth. He is currently waiting to finish high school to be selected nationally.



Ana Teresa Méndez Ramírez

Merit Service
Winner

"Never stop sharing your magic, you never know who you inspire"

"Many small people, in small places, doing small things, can change the world", Eduardo Galeano.

This is how Ana Teresa Méndez describes herself, who studies at the Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 17 "Zacatecas", when she was a child she discovered her great love for nature and awakened her spirit of service, of helping her classmates and her community in different areas.

Originally from Leon, Guanajuato, throughout her life she has received recognition for academic excellence and excelled in various extracurricular activities.

She represented her school in the virtual tournament "Habitat Design in Space 2022", within the framework of the "Ideas GTO" Forum organized by SpacePort MX, where she developed a sketch of habitat in Mercury, in collaboration with students from Guanajuato, a project that won second place in the competition.

Since his first semesters at the Polotécnico he has participated in the Classroom Project with the initiative "Prevention of addictions", which earned him second place.

She was the leader of her group in this contest in the fourth, fifth, and sixth semesters, where she stood out for the project "Design, Construction and Implementation of a Battery Bank".

Ana Teresa was part of the Leader Training Network, a platform that allowed her to give talks to students of a public high school, to give talks on leadership, and the importance of pursuing higher education.

Her actions and solidarity led her to be selected to be the state director of Guanajuato by Youth Interconnected (JUVICO), where she encouraged the participation of her peers in the Network in projects on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The young politécnico has participated in non-profit institutions such as the "We are the Change" Organization; she collaborated in the organization of the rehabilitation, cleaning, and reforestation of the San Carlos Park, as well as a mural with the phrase "Never stop sharing your magic, you never know who you inspire", among other actions.



David Sebastián de la Cruz Torres

Merit Courage
Winner

"If my parents didn't give in to every negative prognosis the doctors gave them, I won't either"

He was a premature baby diagnosed with hypoxia, and insufficient blood supply, which resulted in cerebral palsy. Within a year he suffered hearing loss in his left ear and was able to walk until he was four years old.

The specialists who attended him at the National Rehabilitation Institute confirmed that his disability was physical, but not intellectual; he even had an IQ of 113, higher than average. This is how he began his academic training.

When he was 9 years old, he underwent a tenotomy, surgery to cut a tendon that was too tense to achieve a greater range of motion. A year later he underwent abductor release surgery.

His mother's support for him to continue his studies was decisive because for David Sebastian not to miss the school year, she requested permission from the school to accompany him daily and assist him during classes.

Although in high school he was diagnosed with neuromuscular scoliosis, his spiritual strength was of such magnitude that he kept going and never hesitated to continue his school preparation.

His interest in science, especially chemistry and biology, made him decide to attend the Instituto Politécnico Nacional specifically the Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 6 "Miguel Othón de Mendizábal", for his high school studies.

As a polytechnic student, on February 6, 2020, he suffered the loss of his father. His father's heroism inspires David Sebastian every day to do his best.

The young Polytechnic student is about to finish high school in a career as Clinical Laboratory Technician and aspires to enter the biology degree at the National School of Biological Sciences (ENCB) of the IPN.

The winner of the "Ing. Bernardo Quintana Arrijoa" award is determined to fight for his dreams, despite the obstacles he faces.

"We should not let anyone limit us but look for ways to break those limitations. If my parents did not let themselves be defeated by every negative prognosis the doctors gave them, I will not give up either."



Fernando Guerrero Ramírez

Merit Courage
Winner

"My goal: To be a person who helps others, when I can do so"

At the age of nine, Fernando Guerrero Ramírez began having difficulties in his short life. His father suffered a stroke that kept him hospitalized for six months and his mother began using substances that were toxic to her health.

In those days, his mother took him to a friend's house, never to return for him. His world came crashing down; however, two of his uncles took care of Fernando, who supported him, just as his father always did. When his father died, his uncle Luis took over the guardianship of the future student at the National Polytechnic Institute.

However, Fernando would face new vicissitudes. While he was in high school, he lost 95 percent of the visual capacity of his left eye, with a diagnosis of panuveitis, which led him to use an ocular prosthesis. Faced with this situation, his family supported him and did not allow him to give up. On the contrary, they encouraged him to continue his studies.

He finished high school as part of his school's escort and entered the C Centro de Estudios Científicos y Tecnológicos (CECyT) 6 "Miguel Othón de Mendizábal", where he has stood out as a student of excellence.

Fernando Guerrero has faced many difficulties, and even discrimination from his classmates because of the physical condition of his left eye, which sometimes made him think that he would not be able to succeed.

Fernando's spirit has been stronger than all the problems he has experienced during these years, starting with his father's illness, which led him to get up again and again whenever he had a problem.

Now, he wants to prove that life is not easy, but it is not impossible either. With the right support from people who care about him, he can get through it. Helping others who are going through difficult situations and teaching them that it is not the end is one of his purposes in life.

