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“A STRONG WORK ETHIC WILL TAKE YOU FAR.”

JENNIFER CARDENAS

... HONOR STUDENT

... EARLY COLLEGE SENIOR

... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

This honor student will be the first in her family to attend college, thanks to her hard work and persistence.

STELLAR STUDENT: Michigan City High School senior Jennifer Cardenas has always been an overachiever. She balances a part-time job with challenging AP and dual credit classes, and is involved in Student Council, Steering Committee and the Early College Club – all while maintaining a 4.3 GPA. But it hasn't been easy.

TRUE GRIT: Last August, Jennifer's family suffered a house fire, forcing them to temporarily relocate to a hotel. Then, both of her parents were hospitalized with serious illnesses. Jennifer took on a *second* part-time job to help with expenses until her parents were healthy again. “It got so hard, there were times I wanted to give up. But my Early College teachers and counselors at City would not let me. They pushed me to stay in my honors classes, and cared about me and supported me every step of the way.”

GO GETTER: Jennifer has had a job since age 15, working at Panda Express, Galveston Steakhouse, Carlson's, and the Van Heusen outlet. She is bilingual and has won academic awards for English and poetry; she plans to major in Public Relations or Business Management at either Valparaiso University or Purdue Northwest. “I want to run a business some day. I like to stay busy and I like to take charge!”

KEY TO SUCCESS: “A strong work ethic is so important! It's something my parents instilled in me. You can't slack off when things get tough.”



Did you know?

The first 51 students enrolled in the MCHS Early College program graduated last June.

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