

City of Laredo



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

July 20, 2023 / Vol 1

ESMERALDA ESTRADA FINANCIAL SERVICES

Tell us about your career journey and what lead you to work for the City of Laredo?

In spite of the difficulty of pursuing a career in business, I have always felt compelled to do it. It might have something to do with the fact that I have always loved numbers. In my early 20s, I started my first job with the International Bank of Commerce as a teller, which only fueled my desire to learn more about business and finances. My career with the City of Laredo began two years later when I was offered a position in their Accounts Payable division and I immediately knew that this was my calling. It has been a pleasure to work for the City of Laredo for the last seven years, not only have I been able to sharpen my skills, but I have also been able to join several programs within the organization that have helped me further my professional development. As of right now, I'm a member of the Employee Committee as well as the Leadership program being offered by the city. By participating in these programs, I am able to gain more knowledge and develop a leadership mindset that I can apply to my future endeavors.

What's one song you have completely memorized or one song you cannot get out of your head because you just "love it" so much?

Rodney Atkins - *If You're Going Through Hell*

Tell us about your family.

I have a magnificent family that I'm grateful for every day. Throughout my life, my parents have always encouraged me to pursue my dreams and never give up. Having only one sister has forced me to depend on her in a variety of ways: she's my best friend, my life counselor, and most importantly, my partner in crime. Thanks to my parents, we have grown into independent and financially stable individuals. Five years ago, I married a wonderful man who loves me unconditionally and believes in me and my dreams. As a couple, we've raised two spoiled dogs named Jack and Johnnie who have added that extra spark to our lives. Living life with someone has never been easier as we share the same visions and family values. The ultimate goal of our lives is to create as many wonderful memories with our families as possible.

Who is your "role model" and what have you learned from them?

My role model is my mother. As a breast cancer survivor, she has taught me that only you can determine your own faith. Her courage, persistence, and determination to never give up regardless of how hard it got amazed me. Cancer may have started the fight but she finished it and has now been a survivor for 7 years ♥ .

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

·Trustworthy·Hardworking·Visionary



ESMERALDA ESTRADA

Name you like to go by: Esmer

Department you work in: Financial Services

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"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game"

— Babe Ruth

JONATHAN GUANTOS

Utilities - Engineering

Tell us about your career journey and what lead you to work for the City of Laredo?

I started off in 2017 with Building Development Services. I graduated with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 2016. I have taken other jobs unrelated to my degree until finding a position with the City in 2022.

What's one song you have completely memorized or one song you cannot get out of your head because you just "love it" so much?

Eurhythmics: *Sweet Dreams (Are made of this)*

What's something surprising that not many people know about you?

I have written and self-published a book.

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

- Determined
- Dedicated
- Decisive

Who is your "role model" and what have you learned from them?

My role model is my mother, I have learned when obstacles appear, we can overcome them & achieve our goals.

What is a quote that you find yourself using or referring to often?

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. -Socrates



JONATHAN J. GUANTOS

Name you like to go by: Jonathan

Department you work in: Utilities: Engineering

Your job title: Engineering Associate II

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MARGARITA BOSQUEZ

Name you like to go by: Margie

Department you work in: Finance - Purchasing

Your job title: Senior Administrative Assistant

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MARGARITA BOSQUEZ FINANCE - PURCHASING

Tell us about your career journey and what lead you to work for the City of Laredo?

Back in 2008, I started as a temp with the Laredo Police Department, with no pay increase or benefits for 3 years, I decided to look for a more secure job that will benefit me and my family. I applied at the Finance Department, where I worked for 4 years. When a position opened with Purchasing Division, I decided to apply and I been here for 8 years.

Tell us about your family

We are a household of 6, my 4 amazing children and my husband and myself. My two older daughters already graduated from University with their bachelor's (so proud of them) and my other two are in high school.

What's something surprising that not many people know about you?

I have no patience.

What three words would your friends use to describe you?

-FRIENDLY
-SMART
-FUNNY

Who is your "role model" and what have you learned from them?

I don't have a role model, I learn from acquaintance who have worked so hard and have accomplished a lot.

What is a quote that you find yourself using or referring to often?

"Things happen for a reason whether its good or bad."