



## REL senior earns \$2,000 scholarship in cooking contest

Robert E. Lee High School senior Brenda Medellin earned a \$2,000 culinary school scholarship after placing second in a recent dessert competition in Austin.

The Le Cordon Bleu Pastry Market Basket Scholarship Competition is a rigorous, two-phased contest.

Participants must submit an application along with an essay that demonstrates their drive and passion to become a chef.

Ten finalists are then asked to prepare items using only the ingredients provided in a pastry market basket.

The chefs-to-be are given 90 minutes to create a dessert.

"We had to make a dessert and they gave us an ingredient list that we had to use such as flour, heavy cream, eggs, fruits, nuts and others," said Medellin.

"We each had to present our dessert to the judges and tell them a little about our dish like what ingredients we used, why we picked those special ingredients, and if we could have done anything different."

Medellin's made a fruit pizza out of fluffy sugar cookie dough, topped with a creamy cream cheese whipped cream filling and berries arranged on top.

Medellin's effort earned her second place in the competition.

Medellin, 18, says her aunt's love of cooking pastries and desserts inspired her to pursue a career in culinary arts.



**Brenda Medellin**

In fact, her first foray into cooking something special was with her aunt when they prepared buñuelos, a sugary cinnamon treat, for Christmas years ago.

"I enjoy baking and cooking and working with different ingredients," Medellin said.

"Brenda is an excellent student. She is a hard worker and is very bright," said Chef Tina Andrade, her culinary arts teacher at the John M. Stuart Career Center. "I believe that she will be extremely successful at culinary school and beyond."

After graduating from Robert E. Lee, Medellin, the daughter of Soledad and Aurelio Medellin, will begin attending Le Cordon Bleu in Austin in July.

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