TEXAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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## TSTA: Laredo teacher featured in TV spot

Laredo is the face of the emerging Texas, and Stacy Rogerio is helping prepare the emerging Texas for the future.

As a second grade teacher at Don Jose Gallego Elementary School in Laredo ISD, Rogerio feels fortunate to be teaching in the same school she attended as a second-grader.

Now, she plays a critical role in giving Hispanic children the strong foundation they will need to succeed in school, and, in the not-too-distant future, receive the college education that was out of reach for many of their parents.

"Their minds are just like sponges. You can make a big difference early in their lives," she said.

Rogerio chose to become a teacher because she knows that education is essential to improving the lives of the next generation and assuring a strong future for the generations that will follow. That is why parents work tirelessly to make higher education possible for their children.

And, that is why Rogerio was happy to be featured in a Spanish-language TV spot now airing in the Laredo area. The ad, sponsored by the Texas State Teachers Association, emphasizes the partnership and hard work shared by parents and teachers and the eventual rewards for their children and students.

Rogerio, 33, a native of Laredo and a graduate of Texas A&M International University in her hometown, makes it clear to her young students that higher education also can be within their grasp.

"I am happy to give back to my community and let my students see that you can be successful, even if you come from a poor family," she said. "I let them understand they can get to college. You have to believe in yourself and pursue your dreams. There's no limit to what you can do."