



## SWD Contracting Hero of the Month

### Southwestern Division's first employee to earn contracting certification under new program

By Khristina Sandoval  
SWD Contracting Office

The Southwestern Division Regional Chief of Contracting, Mr. David Curry, recognizes Ms. Maria Valadez-Lopez as the SWD's "Hero of the Month" for delivering excellent acquisition and team support to the Fort Worth District's Regional Planning and Environmental Center, Real Estate & Agreements Branch, and for being the first SWD employee to pass the CON 3990V Contracting Certification Exam and earn a Contracting Certification under the new DAWIA Back-to-Basics (B2B) Certification Program!



Ms. Valadez-Lopez joined our team in March 2021 during the transition to the new certification program and was subsequently fast-tracked through all Level I Contracting Certification Courses. She narrowly missed the 12-month experience requirement by 30 days when the B2B Certification Program took effect. Despite this minor setback, Ms. Valadez-Lopez charged ahead and successfully completed all required courses and comprehensive exams under the new program.

Like many, she could have been deflated and lost motivation after missing the cutoff. Instead, she dug in, and her determination and hard work paid off!

Your achievements have been noticed and we salute you, Ms. Valadez-Lopez, for a job well done! Thank you for your commitment and follow-through, it matters! We are so thankful for you and glad to know we have top notch professionals such as yourself on our team!