

For Immediate Use 10/6/08

Local Hispanic Youth to be Honored By QCC at Annual HACE Event

WORCESTER, Ma. – Quinsigamond Community College will celebrate the 23rd annual Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence (H.A.C.E.) awards reception and ceremony on Wednesday, October 8, at QCC’s Harrington Learning Center at 5:30pm.

Thirty-three Hispanic youth will be honored this year from ten different Worcester Public Schools Students. They were chosen for their outstanding efforts in one of the following areas: academics, the arts, athletics, community service, and leadership. Students are nominated by their school principals, guidance counselors, teachers, and community leaders and/or agencies. In addition to being recognized, each will receive a monetary award to help defray the costs of future educational needs.

The evening will feature guest speaker, State Representative Geraldo Alicea. A native of Southbridge, Alicea was elected to the MA House of Representatives in 2007. He is noted for continually fighting in his legislative position for funding that supports youth and teen outreach programs. In 2007 Alicea was awarded “Freshman Legislator of the Year by the Massachusetts Nursing Association, and in 2008 he was awarded “Legislator of the Year” by the MA Office of Victim Assistance. He has also been recognized by the Hispanic News Press and El Planeta Newspaper as one of the most influential individuals in the Hispanic community.

The H.A.C.E. was created in 1985 by faculty and staff at QCC, along with business and community leaders of Worcester, to raise community awareness of the richness of Hispanic culture. H.A.C.E. encourages youth to focus on education, recognizes achievements of young people of Hispanic heritage, and provides positive role models through inspirational speakers and exposure to community leaders.

High school student award winners are as follows:

Continued...

ACADEMICS

Ryan Alvarado _____ St. Peter Marian Central Catholic High School
Olga Marie Colon Mercado _____ Doherty Memorial High School
Ryan Cruz _____ Burncoat High School
Gabriel Diaz _____ Burncoat High School
Gabriel Marcano _____ University Park Campus School
Steisy Robles _____ The Claremont Academy
Valarie Sanchez _____ North High School
Vanessa Valladares _____ The Claremont Academy
Sonia Zepeda _____ South High Community School

ARTS

Maria Cantos _____ Worcester Technical High School
Iris Estrada _____ South High Community School
Samantha Oliveras _____ The Claremont Academy
Masielle Paulino _____ The Claremont Academy
Alfredo Porras _____ Holy Name High School
Yadilza Reyes _____ University Park Campus School
Elybeth Rodriguez _____ Doherty Memorial High School
Pablo Torres _____ North High School
Evelyn Vasquez _____ Notre Dame Academy

ATHLETICS

Jean Carlos Batista _____ Doherty Memorial High School
Casandra Crespo _____ North High School
Carlos Ortiz _____ The Claremont Academy
Nicole Otto _____ Notre Dame Academy
Deborah Silva _____ Worcester Technical High School
Jonathan Torres _____ University Park Campus School
Marifel Ullola _____ South High Community School

LEADERSHIP

Juan Aulet _____ Worcester Technical High School
Gimo Barrera _____ Doherty Memorial High School
Adriana Campoverde _____ Worcester Technical High School
Noel Ortiz _____ North High School
Esther Pacheco _____ University Park Campus School
Koranda Suarez _____ South High School

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Samantha DeLeon _____ North High School
Kayla Fonseca _____ The Claremont Academy

##