

Lawrence Honors Class of 2007 Graduates

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On Friday, June 1st, the Lawrence Regional Center held its third annual Celebration of Achievement. The ceremony took place in the Bell Tower Square Courtyard at 60 Island Street, the first event held in this area, which was transformed into a beautiful garden for the ceremony.

“This garden is a good analogy of the many flowers of Cambridge College students,” said Lawrence Regional Center Director Dolores Calaf. “After many hours of hard work, hope, vision and teamwork, the students are smiling and proudly saying, ‘Wow, I did it,’ despite the challenges. We honor you for your dreams and achievements,” she added.

During the celebration, Ms. Calaf highlighted the achievements of one student in particular by presenting the Cambridge College Distinguished Student Award to Yolanda Peguero. Ms. Peguero delivered a moving speech in which she shared her experiences at Cambridge College. Peguero, a member of an affluent family in the Dominican Republic, came to the United States to further her education. Upon her arrival, she realized that she would have to start over because of the language barrier and problems in transferring credits for many of the courses she had already taken in her native country. “I had given up hope, but then I found Cambridge College,” she said. Ms. Peguero was able to transfer 71 of her credits and is now graduating as a member of the Class of 2007 with her degree.

Ms. Peguero urged the audience and her fellow graduates to keep an open mind when meeting international students. “Just because they can not communicate yet in English does not mean that they are not knowledgeable,” she said, remembering how tough it was for her to participate in classes in the beginning. Ms. Peguero highlighted Cambridge College’s diverse student body, and said it made her feel more comfortable and like a member of a giant family, whose members all shared the same goals to succeed and prosper academically.

“We may have our degrees now, but we will never stop learning,” said Ms. Peguero. “Never give up and never stop fighting for your dreams. The light of hope is always on, and it is always shining because of you.”

Ms. Calaf gave each of the graduates from the group a Cambridge College Ambassador packet. “I hope you will now tell others about your experience at Cambridge College,” she said. “Now you can encourage them to come learn with the best of the best.”

The ceremony also featured a presentation of certificates to the Ladder to Language students who completed the program this spring. Since its beginning, the program has graduated 140 students, some of whom have moved on to further their education at Cambridge College.