



CSSD Chronicle



A regular publication of information and news about Court Support Services Division

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July 23, 2009

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CARITAS CONFERENCE AT ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE HONORS THE FIRST CLASS OF LATINO COMMUNITY FELLOWS

"A different language is a different vision of life."
---Federico Fellini

Saint Joseph College in West Hartford recently hosted the 2009 *Caritas Conference*, part of the community outreach initiative of the college's Department of Social Work & Latino Community Practice. The conference goal is to strengthen relationships between the College and local communities and provide professional development opportunities for social workers and human services providers. It also provides an opportunity to honor volunteers, paraprofessionals, and social workers who have advanced women, culture, and society through community service by highlighting programs and resources in local communities.

BRANCH RECOGNITION

At the conference, the Judicial Branch/Court Support Services Division received the 2009 *Caritas Award*. The award recognized Judicial support of CSSD staff who were graduates of a brand new course of study developed by St. Joseph. Called the Latino Community Practice (LCP), the curriculum was designed to help bilingual (Spanish/English) professionals working in human/social service fields to become more expert in reaching the Latino populations in their communities. The LCP is a 12 credit program of graduate study and the award of a Graduate Certificate. The Certificate is the region's only specialized credential for bilingual professionals in health, education, management and human services. CSSD Executive Director Bill Carbone accepted the award on behalf of Judicial and noted "I am so proud of the hard work done by our CSSD staff graduates. Their skills will help to reinforce basic principles of cultural competency and they will be role models for others. This initiative is also one of the action steps being taken to address the goal of increasing cultural competency in the strategic plans of both the Branch and CSSD."



Pictured at the Caritas Conference from left to right upper: Hilda Castillo, Entizaida Rodriguez, Reina Cabrera, Maria Roman. From left to right bottom: Sonia Contreras, Rena Goldwasser, Hilda Nieves, Bill Carbone, Janet Tarallo, Michaelangelo Palmieri

LATINO GRADUATE PROGRAM

The LCP program was first brought to CSSD's attention by South Central Adult Probation Regional Manager Hilda Nieves who noted, "I see the Saint Joseph's program as a way to enhance our staff expertise in addressing the needs of the growing Latino segment of our client population." It was presented to the Chief Court Administrator and a program was approved that offered Judicial tuition reimbursement for the first 07-09 class. Seven CSSD employees applied and were accepted. The primary goals for a Latino Community Fellow are to advance their proficiency in their second language, (Spanish or English); gain knowledge and understanding of diverse Latino cultures; participate in a bilingual clinical internship or employment experience; prepare bilingual community education materials; and conduct community-based research.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Attendees of the *Caritas Conference* honored the first class of Latino Community Fellows for excellence in Latino Community Research and Practice. The graduates included CSSD employees:

SUGGESTIONS? QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS? CONTACT US!

Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov



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Michaelangelo Palmieri (*JPO, New Haven*)
Sonia Contreras (*Court Planner, CSSD Administration*)
Reina Cabrera (*APO, New London*)
Entizaida Rodriguez (*JPO, Hartford*)
Janet Tarallo (*APO, Middletown*)
Eroilda Castillo (*APO, Bridgeport*)
Maria Roman (*JDO, Hartford*)

Other students in this first LCP program represented agencies including the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Public Defender, the Village of Children and Families and the Department of Social Services. A second group of judicial students began the program in September 2008 and are expected to complete next year and participate in the 2010 Conference.

FROM STUDENTS TO RESEARCHERS

As part of the coursework, each student in the Graduate program was required to develop, implement and present on a relevant research project. Our CSSD graduates were conference presenters this year with topics that included “*Culturally Responsive Intervention for Latina Girls*” (Sonia Contreras) which produced an enhanced toolkit for delivering a juvenile intervention in Spanish; “*Effectiveness of Motivational Interviewing with the Spanish-speaking Community*” (Eroilda Castillo) where a “MI game” was created to teach probation officers the skills in Spanish; “*Youth, Self-Esteem and Parental Involvement*” (Michaelangelo Palmieri) which developed a series of posters to enhance parental involvement in an after school program; “*Self Image & Media Literacy for Young Latina Girls* (Reina Cabrera and Entizaida Rodriguez) which examined the need for increased media literacy to combat negative advertising and stereotypes; a web based *Bilingual Dictionary Glossary of Social Science Terminology for Adult Probation Staff* (Janet Tarallo); and an intervention for *Latina/os with HIV/AIDS and Medication Adherence: Integrating Cultural Traditions* (Maria Roman) which used traditional cultural images to convey a message targeted to this population.

Juvenile Probation Officer Michaelangelo Palmieri, one of the LCP graduates, described the value of the certificate training: “During the course of our research we studied the cultural constructs that resonate with the Latino Community. For my project, I chose the constructs of Family (Familia), Respect (Respeto), and Trust (Confianza). In order to do more effective work with the Latino community it is extremely important to understand these different constructs. Having a better understanding of the culture may give you better insight into the behavior of your clients and their families and their reactions to your involvement.”

For more information on the graduate certificate program, go to the college’s website www.sjc.edu/graduate, or contact Hilda Nieves at Hilda.Nieves@jud.ct.gov. Saint Joseph College also has other undergraduate professional degree offerings through their Weekend Program for Adult Learners and a new Bilingual Career Development Certificate program; you can access information at weekend@sjc.edu.

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