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'District of the year'

Memorial High School Advanced Placement students rank high nationally

by Santo Sanabria

Reporter staff writer

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Memorial High School in West New York has proven to the nation that it represents a district that prepares its students well for college and the real world.

The College Board "AP District of the Year Award" in the small schools category was given to Memorial High for expanding their enrollment of students in the program as well as improving advanced placement scores.



The award was made by College Board representatives at a school assembly Tuesday, May 24 in front of students, school staff, administrators, Hudson County and West New York government officials, and state higher education representatives.



'It is the students and staff that make this district so wonderful.' – Superintendent of Schools John Fauta

The College Board is not-for-profit organization that supports expanded access to higher education, with a world-wide membership of 5,900 education institutions.

'It's the students and staff'

"I stand here with great pride as a former graduate of Memorial High School," said school Principal Scott Cannao. "You guys are us 25 years ago. You guys are

successful because the staff takes great pride in this school. Make no mistake," he added, "this is not about us but the AP teachers and students."

Superintendent of Schools John Fauta said, "It is the students and staff that make this district so wonderful."

State Commissioner of Education Christopher Cerf praised the profession of teaching. "I taught high school a long time ago. No job is harder than a teacher's. It is an extraordinary craft. You are American heroes."

Advanced placement has steadily expanded

"In the mid-1980s, Memorial High School offered its first AP literature course followed a few years later by AP Spanish and AP calculus," said Teacher of the Year Robert Rodriguez. "In the early 1990s, a grant led to new offerings of AP language, AP biology and AP history being added to the program. This year Spanish literature was offered for the first time. We have surely taken steps to accommodate West New York, which allows us to compete national but act locally."

Newly-elected Mayor Felix Roque quoted his father: "They can take your belongings, but not your knowledge. Knowledge is power."

A delegation of students, teachers and administrators from West New York will participate in a conference with the other winning districts in San Francisco on July 22. In front of an audience of AP educators, the West New York delegation will be presented a \$10,000 scholarship to continue building the AP program in the school.

These kids really excelled

The achievements by the students of Memorial High School have been progressing for the past two years.

"Over 12,000 districts are represented in the country," said Eric Cantor, College Board senior vice-president for college readiness. "You are one of four being recognized. You are champions of what matters in your schools. You took the leap of faith to challenge yourself. By taking AP classes, you have bettered your chances to graduate from college."

Santo Sanabria may be reached at SSanabria@hudsonreporter.com.