

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FROM: WEST NEW YORK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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*******NEWS RELEASE*******

Mayor Vega Celebrates Outstanding Student Achievement at Ceremony

(West New York, NJ) – Mayor Silverio ‘Sal’ Vega, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Van Zanten and Principal Robert Sanchez were on hand to honor seven extraordinary students from West New York today at Memorial High School. All students received Medals of Merit from Mayor Vega for their hard work in athletics and academics. These young men and women represent some of the very best in the town and each has a bright future awaiting them.

Vega also presented Hudson County Spelling Champion Jonathon Casquejo with a check for \$300 from his Civic Association to cover travel expenses as the student moves on to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

“I am so proud of all of these young men and women, and it pleases me greatly to honor them today,” said Mayor Vega. “It is wonderful to see West New York students achieving great things in both academics and athletics.”

The students honored at the ceremony today were:

Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

Christian Turcios

- Will be attending Columbia University in the Fall. Named Salutatorian of the Class of 2009. Vice-President of the local chapter of the National Honor Society and member of the band, chorus and drama program.

Jusselia Molina

- Valedictorian of the Class of 2009. Undecided on college choice, accepted to seven highly regarded schools. President of National Honor Society and active in community service.

Nadya Pena

- Plans to attend The College of New Jersey next year with an academic scholarship. Involved in the Triple Threat Program and Performing Arts Academy.

All-State Soccer Players

Fernando Alvarez

- Member of the Junior class. Originally from Uruguay, immigrated to the United States when he was ten years old. Also excels in Tennis.

Ricardo Benitez

- Junior at Memorial. Emigrated from Mexico when he was eight years old. Also plays baseball.

Jan-Paul Nicolaide

- Graduating as a Senior this year, plans to attend New Jersey City University in the Fall. Has been playing soccer since he was ten years old. Immigrated to the United States from Ecuador at age 16.

Middle School student advancing to Scripps National Spelling Bee

Joshua Casquejo

- Currently in the seventh grade. First winner of the Hudson County Spelling Bee from West New York. Will be competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee from May 24th – 30th. Interested in technology, and plays the piano and baseball.

For any additional information, please contact Phil Swibinski at 201-864-0600 or Jessica Rosero at 201-553-4000 ext. 8015.

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