



ORANGE COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

Orange County Bar Foundation Higher Education Mentoring Program

NEWSLETTER: May 2007

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Higher Education Mentoring Program 2007 Graduation

On Wednesday, May 16th the Orange County Bar Foundation Higher Education Mentoring Program celebrated its 6th Annual Graduation. Seniors were honored for their 24-month commitment to the Higher Education Mentoring Program. All eleven graduating seniors will be attending a four-year university in the fall. The campuses our seniors will attend include: Stanford, UCI, CSUF, UCSD, Cal Poly Pomona, UCSB, UCR and UCSC. The ceremony honoring the Class of 2007 was held at the lovely Bowers Museum courtyard, courtesy of the Hispanic Arts Council.

Yolanda de la Paz, OCBF Board of Directors and Vice President of First National Bank was the Mistress of Ceremonies. This successful event was attended by family, friends, OCBF Board members and Community Representatives. Each graduate received certificates from Santa Ana City Mayor, Miguel A. Pulido, Congresswoman, Loretta Sanchez, and OCBF Board President, Jim Skorheim.

This year's graduating class was honored with an inspirational address by Guest Speaker Lilia Tanakayowma, Dean, Student Affairs, GEAR UP Program Director, and Enlace Program Director at Santa Ana College. Ms. Tanakayowma is currently working towards an Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership through a joint program with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She holds an M.S. in Educational Administration from California State University, Fullerton and a B.A. in Spanish Literature from the University of California, Irvine. Ms. Tanakayowma, like our sponsor speaker, Angie Rowe, President Jr. League of O.C, highlighted their struggles as immigrants and first in their families to attend college. Ms. Tanakayowma's



2007 Mentors with Program Coordinator, Susana Espinoza, and Program Assistant Mariela Cadena.



Congratulations Class of 2007: Top (L-R): Jenny Osegueda, Jeanette Gutierrez, Kareen Flores, Amalia Mejia, Jeanette Vega. Bottom (L-R): Ruth Gonzalez, Gina Leon, Mayra Chacon, Athenas Peron, Maria Garcia.

father instilled a desire in her to keep focused on pursuing freedom and an education. Ms. Rowe highlighted the importance of determination as the key to success and to always give back to your community, stating "You too can make a difference".

Graduating seniors received "College Readiness Kits," made possible by the Junior League of Orange County, OCBF law firms, and individuals.

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