

THE ASPIRANTE

Official Newsletter of ASPIRA of Florida, Inc. - Broward Division

October 2008



Aspirantes & Community Leaders

"Aspiramos Mas" Broward Division Strives for More

Miramar, FL. On Tuesday, September 30th, 2008 DeVry University sponsored *Aspiramos Mas* (we strive for more) an ASPIRA Community Breakfast Event welcoming the new ASPIRA Broward

County Director, **Sandra Sanchez**. This was no ordinary networking event; it was a warm, refreshing atmosphere encompassing the participation of 20 students/Aspirantes displaying their leadership skills acquired through participation in the ASPIRA Program. In addition, over 50 Broward Community Leaders including **Miramar Mayor Lorie Moseley** came together to support the event. It was impressive to see how the Aspirantes utilized their networking skills with the professionals present. **Ruth Pacheco**, Group Director of Student Finance, East Region DeVry University, and Chair of ASPIRA Broward Local Advisory Council kicked off the event. Ms. Pacheco served as Mistress of Ceremony and introduced **Julio Torres**, President of DeVry University Miramar Campus, who gave the official welcome. He related an inspiring story of how ASPIRA impacted the life of his esteemed colleague, Ruth Pacheco.



Gilbert Colon, Miream Sierra, Mayor Lorie Moseley, Julio Torres, Ruth Pacheco, and Sandra Sanchez

Miream Sierra, Director of Customer Relations for the Memorial Healthcare System and former ASPIRA of Florida Board of Director's Chair, said a few words on behalf of the Board and the ASPIRA President/CEO, and introduced Ms. Sanchez. As a former Aspirante, Ms. Sierra shared her positive experience with much excitement and pride. Ms. Sierra proclaimed that Sandra Sanchez is "the perfect match to lead ASPIRA Broward in the direction of new heights."

Ms. Sanchez then thanked all attendees including Mayor Moseley for both their support and the spirit of camaraderie that manifested that morning. She gave a brief overview on ASPIRA's history and vowed along with staff, to exploit ASPIRA's mission in developing and preparing the youth of today for their future roles as our leaders of tomorrow. This mission was most evident as several of our Broward Aspirantes to shared their emotional testimonies; the Aspirantes were representative of Middle, High School and College students. Ms. Sanchez opened the floor to any other Aspirantes in the room; testimonies from the adult Aspirantes present were equally emotional. One of these testimonies came from **Attorney Yesenia Collazo**, who shared her experience as an ASPIRANTE from the area of Wynwood, Miami. Spoken several times around the room throughout this event were the words: ***Once an Aspirante, always an Aspirante!***



Ms. Sanchez concluded her presentation by stressing the true meaning behind *Aspiramos Mas*. She shared her plan to work with each of the Broward Community Leaders, Community Services Agencies, Broward County Schools and Private Organizations to better promote ASPIRA's programs. Ms. Ruth Pacheco wrapped up the event by showing a video that explained the origin of the ASPIRA insignia. The success of the event was readily apparent based on the comments and discussions generated afterwards by the participants.



Pembroke Pines, FL Also this month, ASPIRA Board of Directors and the ASPIRA Broward Local Advisory Council, as part of Hispanic Heritage Month, sponsored a reception honoring Dr. Lourdes Oroza. Broward Division Aspirantes and Staff took part in the celebration.

Throughout her career, Dr. Oroza has been a passionate advocate for minority students and has spearheaded programs that enable them to gain skills to help them succeed in their studies and enhance their quality of life.

Dra Lourdes Oroza has been an educator in South Florida for the past 25 years. Currently, she is the Provost of the Judson A. Samuels Campus, Broward College; a thriving campus of 10,000 students serving the communities of Hollywood, Pembroke Pines, Miramar and Weston.



ASPIRA Broward Dancers

Hollywood, FL ASPIRA Broward also participated in **El Festival Ibero Americano** hosted by the city of Hollywood, Hispanic Affairs Council. Several local Hispanic artists and performers along with some community leaders came out to this special night. Our own Aspirantes performed a skit on Christopher Columbus, highlighting his



ASPIRA Broward Actors

impact to world discovery and trade, and also performed a Cumbia dance to finish off the night in style! The applause and buzz around the room really had our Aspirantes and their families smiling and proud to show off their talents.