



*Crossroads Juvenile Center resident and class salutatorian Dana speaks to classmates during Passages Academy graduation ceremony.*

## **Passages Academy Celebrates Student Achievement During Promotional Ceremonies**

On Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, the NYC Department of Education held promotional ceremonies for students enrolled in Passages Academy at the Crossroads, Horizon and Bridges Juvenile Centers, and Non-Secure/SEEDS residents from the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice.

Students were dressed in traditional purple caps and gowns at formal ceremonies featuring a United States Army color guard, a singer of the National Anthem and songs of inspiration, keynote addresses by special guests, and a post-graduation cake and refreshment reception. Parents and grandparents of students participating in the ceremony were invited to attend and family turnout and support was overwhelming.

Achievement awards were presented to students who displayed exceptional aptitude in key areas. In addition, the valedictorian and salutatorian for each class made remarks before the gathered students, families, staff members and guests.

In all, 65 students were recognized for their academic accomplishments and promoted to advance from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. The students will begin 9<sup>th</sup> grade when school resumes in the fall.

The promotional ceremonies were moving experiences for the students as well as their families. Crossroads Salutatorian Dana said, "I didn't know I was that smart." One parent remarked, "I didn't know my son could do this."

Passages Academy Principal Sydney Blair said, "'The Passages Promotional Ceremony highlights the accomplishments of youth who have experienced roadblocks in their education, but who have succeeded in Passages. We celebrate their achievement and share their parent's joy on this momentous occasion."

Passages Academy provides education and academic services to juveniles in the care and custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The schools are operated by the NYC Department of Education under the supervision of Principal Sydney Blair.

