



Commissioner Hernandez and Dr. Jane Katz present graduate certificates to residents with Assistant Commissioner Aledort, Assistant Commissioner Prussack and NSD/SEEDS Executive Director Marva Chevalier at John Jay College.

Graduation Ceremony for Girls at John Jay College

On Saturday, June 16th, approximately 30 young women from the Department’s SEEDS/Non-Secure Detention group homes attended a graduation ceremony at John Jay College to honor their completion of the Aqua Water Swimming Clinic’s six-week program conducted by 1964 Synchronized Swimming Olympiad and John Jay College Professor, Dr. Jane Katz.

The graduation ceremony was attended by several of the Department’s Commissioners who were on hand to show their support and enthusiasm in the achievements of the graduates. In attendance were, Commissioner Neil Hernandez, Assistant Commissioner for SEEDS/Non-Secure Detention, Stephanie Prussack, Assistant Commissioner for Program Services, Nina Aledort, and Executive Director SEEDS/Non-Secure Detention, Marva Chevalier. The Commissioners along with Dr. Katz presented the graduates with American Red Cross Level I Adjustment to Water and Beginning Swim Skills certification of completion cards.

The ceremony concluded with the graduates getting into the water to display aerobic swim drills and skills they learned during the six-week program for the Commissioners and staff members present. As Dr. Katz lead the young women through the drills, she reminded them, “You are learning lessons of life here and, as you achieved your goals here, you shall continue to achieve your goals in the future.” Assistant Commissioner for Program Services Nina Aledort added, “The opportunity afforded to these young ladies by Dr. Katz is tremendous, as it allows kids to be kids. It also gave the girls the experience of positive physical activity, where they were successful, better yet, champions!”

The Aqua Swim Clinic is part of the Department’s continuing commitment to provide developmental and inspirational pro-social programming to its youth.

