

# The Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership

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Recognition Ceremony  
Scholastic Auditorium  
Scholastic, Inc.  
New York, NY  
November 24th, 2009



## Schedule of Events

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### *Welcome*

Anthony Tassi, Executive Director,  
Mayor's Office of Adult Education

Jennifer Herrera-Andujar, Learner Leadership Coordinator,  
Future Now at Bronx Community College,  
Founding Member, Adult Education Alumni Alliance

### *Honoring Calvin Miles*

John Gordon, Assistant Vice President, The Fortune Society

Diane Francis, Transition to College Intern,  
Office of the Mayor

Courtney Miles

*Remarks by Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott*

### *Presentation of Awards*

*Celebration*

# The 2009 Award Winners

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L to R: Guadalupe Delgado, Lidia Rojas, Paul Anderson, Biming Long, Eneas Soares, Leslie Campbell, Francisco Gonzalez. Missing: Steven Narvaez and Johnny Gordon

L to R: Sonia Portugal, Maria Mizhquiri, Alberta Rivera, Nodira Makhmudova, Michael Gross, Daniel Carlucci, Ricardo Castang. Missing: Marlon George



**Today we recognize eighteen outstanding student and alumni leaders from every corner of the adult education system with the Calvin Miles Award.**

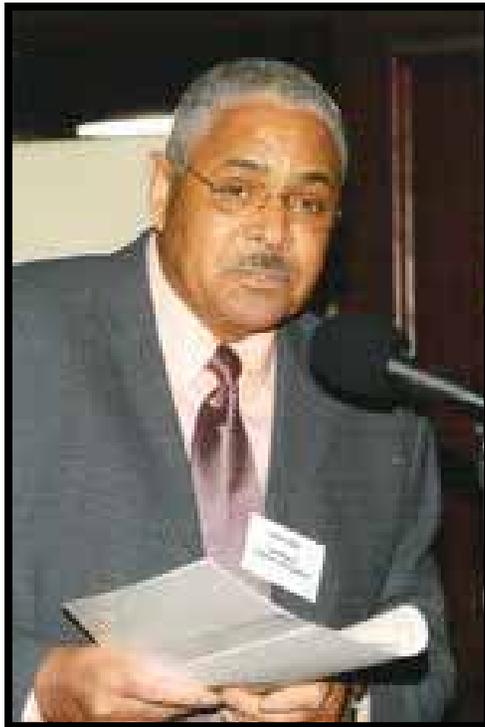
Adult learners are vital partners in their own education. The more involved they are in their education, the better they will do. Adult learners can help other students do well, too. Some students take this role seriously and do important things to help other students and to make their programs go well. They may be peer mentors, tutors or counselors. Some learners may also help organize other students to advocate for themselves, for their programs and for the adult education system as a whole. They may help out in other ways, too.

We call these adult learners “student leaders.” Student leaders help their fellow students and make the adult education system work better for everyone. They can be found in every part of the adult education system including ESOL, ABE, ASE, GED, BENL, and in college.

# Calvin Miles

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The Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership recognizes and promotes the outstanding leadership of adult students. This award honors Calvin Miles, an organizer and advocate for adult learners everywhere. He fought for a student-centered education system and urged all learners to raise their voice and be heard.



Calvin Miles was a leader in the fight for literacy and adult education for over 25 years. He grew up in North Carolina, sharecropping with his family. His life on the farm limited his formal education, but he learned to read and write at the age of 39 in New York City.

Calvin became an ardent advocate for the voices of adult learners and for their rights to equal participation in American society. In particular, he argued, consistently and cogently, for students' right to play a significant role in shaping their own education.

Calvin played a major role in the founding of local and national adult student organizations, spoke at the United Nations, and initiated an Adult Education Bill of Rights. Calvin believed that all voices are important and that listening and learning from others is essential. Calvin never forgot that literacy is the key to changing lives and recognized that adult education and social justice are intertwined.

Calvin was a friend and mentor to many people in the field of adult education. He passed away in January 2009.

# Biming Long

Hamilton Madison House ESOL program, Manhattan

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Biming is a role model inside and outside of the classroom for other ESOL students in the Chinatown Community. She studied diligently until she became a grammar expert. She was then hired as an assistant ESOL instructor and even saved a classmate's life by helping them get medical assistance. Today she is a

teacher and works with New York Cares volunteers using the We Are New York TV series to improve life for other immigrants. Biming always wanted to be a teacher and is an example of how students can empower themselves and others by taking advantage of every opportunity to fulfill their dreams at any age.

# Alberta Rivera

CAMBA Adult Literacy Program at PS 25, Brooklyn

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Alberta is always ready to help her fellow classmates as a tutor, motivator, and model. She often arrives early or stays after class to help others with their homework. As part of Family Read Night at her school, she teaches parents how to bring literacy into the home.

The school leadership team and Parent Teacher Associating have excelled due to her participation. Though she faces many obstacles, Alberta is dedicated to pursuing her studies to improve life for herself and her family, especially her granddaughter and her community.

# Daniel Carlucci

Borough of Manhattan Community College, Manhattan

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Daniel inspires adult learners of all ages to persist and achieve their goals. He revisits his GED program and motivates students to complete the program by sharing his experience of getting his GED in his mid-thirties and then going on to college. He goes above and beyond what is ex-

pected of him and really enjoys helping others. Daniel is a member of the Human Services Club—a group of students that organizes events and charity activities to inform other students about health care and other resources that will make continuing their education easier.

# Eneas Soares

Goldwater LPN Training Program  
NYC Department of Education, Manhattan

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Eneas shows his leadership skills in many ways. He is a point of reference for the class, including finding supplementary materials for presentations. He is a participant of “Host Hospital’s Program” and joined a chorus group to perform for patients during Christmas. Eneas

provides computer and graphic materials to class, helping those who are less computer savvy. He is a great assistant to both students and teachers. Eneas adds a special dynamic to class by providing multicultural viewpoints. He generates good will and positive energy to the benefit of everyone and has made the program richer, more joyous, and more accessible.

# Guadalupe Delgado

Community Empowerment Program  
Lutheran Family Health Center, Brooklyn

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Guadalupe is dedicated to seeing that everything around her goes well. Her “Getting to Know You” project brought together Lutheran’s school community by strengthening relationships between students and staff. She raises her voice via the

student newspaper and as a research assistant in a program evaluation Student Feedback project. Guadalupe helped mobilize a food drive for the greater community and a student leadership project that raises money for a school in South Africa. In all these efforts, Guadalupe has improved her English skills along with her self-confidence. Her leadership brings people together and inspires others to achieve the very best.

# Francisco Gonzalez

The Fortune Society, Queens

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Francisco leads by example. He came to the Fortune Society after being incarcerated for drug use and was homeless, unemployed, and lacking a high school diploma. He made full use of the resources at Fortune Society and studied for his GED. When he didn’t pass the

essay portion on his first attempt, Francisco studied harder and passed the next time. Even then, he continued to work with a volunteer tutor on his writing so he would have strong enough skills for college and sought the assistance of College Initiative to help him plan for college. Francisco acts as a peer counselor, revisits Fortune Society GED classes, and speaks publicly about his experience. In a testimony speech given at a City Council hearing, Francisco announced that once he had his GED he knew he wanted to attend college. “Why stop here?” he said, “The sky’s the limit!”

# Johnny Gordon

CUNY Catch LaGuardia Community College, Queens

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Johnny is a mentor to young adults, friend to his peers, supports program staff, and is a leader in his community. As an intern at Jacob Riis Settlement House he was a group leader for the youth, ages 7-10. At LaGuardia, he was part of a team focused on law and social awareness called

Youth Legal Education Program. Johnny has helped welcome new students into CUNY Catch and still supports his peers as he pursues vocational training in technology sciences. Johnny is conscience of his responsibilities to others and is a person you can depend on.

# Leslie Campbell

College and Community Fellowship, Manhattan NY

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Leslie is formerly incarcerated and has reclaimed her life through education. After being released from prison, she joined the College and Community Fellowship. After that, Leslie earned an A.A. from BMCC and a B.A. in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal

Justice and is now back in school to get her Masters degree in Mental Health Counseling. While she pursues her long-term goals, Leslie works full time at CCF doing outreach, counseling and tutoring her peers. She is an active public speaker who encourages and motivates other adult learners to move beyond their criminal record. She has received numerous academic awards and has been inducted into two academic societies. Leslie is also an engaged parent for her 13 year old daughter and advocates for her to get the best education possible.

# Maria Mizhquiri

Queens Library Family Literacy Program, Queens NY

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Maria's commitment to her own family and her own learning has set an example for the other participants in the program to follow. She enrolled in the QPL family literacy program in 2004 and a year later she became a teacher's aide. Due to Maria's leadership skills, she became a

full-time employee in 2007. She has helped families enroll in the QPL program to access information on healthcare, social services, and housing. She takes pride in being able to help others in the program because it has helped her so much. She explains, "Now I am stronger and feel better about myself. I know who I am and what I want for my children's future." She continues to strive to complete her GED and beyond.

# Lidia Rojas

Fifth Avenue Committee, Brooklyn

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Lidia goes above and beyond what is expected of her everyday. She represents the needs and questions of her class as a whole. Lidia makes herself available to her fellow students by letting them call her at home for homework help. Motivated by her peers, she even led the way to

work with her teacher and change the structure of the class. Lidia leads by example and, after gaining valuable information on HIV/AIDS at a health workshop, she motivated a group of students to attend one on their own. She has strengthened connections between school and Spanish speaking parents. Her teachers say, "Lidia's hard work, compassion and call to action inspire us all."

# Maria Owens

Queens Library Adult Learner Program, Queens

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Maria is an invaluable link between the students and the program. She began as a literacy student and now is a Student Associate. She motivates students to achieve their goals and assists them with their lessons. Her main focus is providing a student-centered perspective for the

program. Students and teachers alike have benefitted from her creative ideas and willingness to offer input and assistance. She prepares new materials for conferences, workshops, and Adult Learning Centers. Maria also is an advocate, leading large groups of students at rallies in support of Library and Adult Education funding.

# Marlon George

CUNY Catch LaGuardia Community College, Queens

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Marlon is dedicated to success for himself and others. After being released from Rikers Correctional Facility, he was determined to succeed and contribute to his community and enrolled in CUNY Catch to get his GED. His professionalism as an intern sales associate with

the Young Adult Internship Program at Burlington Coat Factory led to an offer of full time employment. Marlon is a role model for the other students by always being on time and completing his work. He inspires other students to believe they can dream big and achieve their goals.

# Paul Anderson

LaGuardia Community College, Queens

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Paul is a leader, mentor, and an inspiration for other students. No matter what class he is in, Paul is the “social glue” that brings the class together. He has organized study groups for students to work together outside of class in preparation for exams. Paul dropped out of school in middle school

and took the GED test four times before passing it. He never gave up or became bitter. Instead he studied harder and was more determined to pass the next time. Brooklyn College hired Paul as a peer mentor through the Black Male Initiative. He also serves as a promotional speaker at both LaGuardia College and Brooklyn College.

# Michael Gross

Future Now Bronx Community College, Bronx

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Michael has taken the steps to not only educate himself, but also help others educate themselves along the way. While he was incarcerated, he pursued his education at Island Academy. There he tutored other students in Math and still scored high on his own GED exam. His efforts have helped

other students pass their GED test. Michael is a determined and motivated individual and a role model for his peers. This is clear from his productive behavior while he was in jail. After being released, with the help of Future Now, he attends Bronx Community College and maintains a 3.0 grade point average.

# Nodira Makhmudova

Borough of Manhattan Community College, Manhattan

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Nodira is an inspiration for all students. She made the journey from being a recent immigrant in a GED program to becoming a college student. Today, she returns to the GED class to share her story with others who need inspiration for the difficult but manageable

journey ahead of them. In addition to being a leader in her studies, Nodira volunteers for the Sisterhood Society at the Women's Resources Center at BMCC and helps organize workshops that empower women. As a leader, she helps her peers—especially women—recognize their own leadership qualities.

# Sonia Portugal

City College of New York, Manhattan

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Sonia demonstrates the value of education and persuades those around her to seek knowledge and skills. She returns to her ESOL program and speaks to current students about her experience. Sonia remembers, “when loneliness was part of my daily routine, studying ESOL at CUNY seemed

to be the only door open to improve my life. I understood that in order to make real changes in society, I would have to start with myself, so I did.” Sonia recently graduated from New York University with a Master's degree in social work.

# Steven Narvaez

CUNY Catch LaGuardia Community College, Queens

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Steven is a model student who empowers other students through volunteer programs. He is an active member of the LaGuardia College law focus group, where he speaks incarcerated youth in an attempt to prevent recidivism. Steven serves on the CUNY Catch Student Council. He takes

his responsibilities seriously and was hired full time after an internship with the Young Adult Internship Program and Henkles and McCoy. He goes above and beyond what is expected of him by mentoring incarcerated youth and tutoring in a pre-GED program.

# Ricardo Trevor Castang

Medger Evers College Continuing Education, Brooklyn

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Ricardo works as a tutor and mentor helping students in his GED program. He shadows the ESOL and math instructors in order to become a better tutor and even has served as a personal assistant to the program's Director. Ricardo supports the program and teachers by

recruiting new students and by helping to grade exams. He assists students to learn English and improve their computer skills. He is trustworthy, capable and a wonderful resource for other adult learners.

## Mayor's Office of Adult Education

The Mayor's Office of Adult Education (MOAE) works to improve the quality of life of New Yorkers by promoting a state-of-the-art adult education system that serves more people with greater results. MOAE works with Adult Literacy programs that teach English as a Second Language (ESOL) and GED and promotes best practices to help learners—primarily immigrants and people over 16 without a high school degree—to reach their goals. MOAE partners with adult learners, educators, and government agencies to achieve this vision.



Please visit us at:

[www.nyc.gov/AdultEducation](http://www.nyc.gov/AdultEducation)

Or

[www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish)



Whereas:

The New York City Mayor's Office of Adult Education recognizes that Calvin Miles' vision lives on every day in the outstanding leadership of students and alumni from every corner of adult education. For this reason, the *Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership* has been established.

The purpose of the Calvin Miles Award is to support and promote adult student leadership. This award honors the life of Calvin Miles. It also honors adult learners who are empowered partners in adult education. Student leaders help their fellow students and make the adult education system work better for everyone.

Now, therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in recognition of the life and legacy of Calvin Miles as reflected in Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as:

“Calvin Miles Student Leadership Day”

A handwritten signature of Michael R. Bloomberg in black ink.