



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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COPLA Hosts 2nd Annual Hispanic Graduation Celebration

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 21, 2009) – COPLA, Comité de Padres Latinos/Committee of Latino Parents, will host the 2nd Annual Hispanic Student Graduation Celebration and Parent Recognition Event for the Class of 2009, Wednesday, May 27, at 7 p.m., at the Boone Business Building of Trevecca Nazarene University, 333 Murfreesboro Road, Nashville.

“As a district, we are very proud of these students, as we are all of our graduates” said Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools. “They have worked extremely hard, overcome many obstacles, and kept a tight focus on graduating. I have no doubt each will succeed in whatever it is they choose to do.”

Last year, the inaugural year for this celebration, the COPLA board voted to host this type of event each year under the theme ¡Lo Logramos! (We Made It!). “It’s a blessing to see that, for two years in a row, leaders and organizations within both the Hispanic and non-Hispanic communities have come together in a spirit of cooperation to celebrate the effort and dedication of our Metro School students,” said Ernestina González, COPLA chair. “The hard work and perseverance of more than 450 students graduating this year inspire us to celebrate together and as community to say ‘we made it,’ knowing this is just a big step on these graduates’ life-long pursuit of education.”

More than 450 MNPS Hispanic seniors will be recognized -- up from 250 last year -- along with their parents. The speakers who will address the students, parents and other guests include Mayor Karl Dean, MNPS Board Chairman David Fox, Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register, and President of Trevecca University Dr. Dan Boone. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Efrén O. Pérez, a Political Science professor at Vanderbilt University.

“The Hispanic community is an exciting, vital, growing part of Nashville,” said Trevecca President Dr. Dan Boone. “Trevecca is pleased to host the celebration for Hispanic parents and their graduates. It’s more than good public relations for the university; it’s what neighbors do. They eat together and celebrate accomplishments.”

Doors will be open at 5:30 p.m. for registration, followed by a tour of the university campus and a pre-event reception. Food, entertainment, and other forms of contributions have been provided to COPLA by local Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses and non-profit organizations. This event is by invitation only.

About COPLA

COPLA was organized three years ago to help build relationships with the parents of Hispanic students, who comprise more than 14% of the district's student population. The organization meets monthly to share information and resources available to Spanish-speaking families, as well as develop ways to educate families on the important role of parental involvement in student success. For more information about COPLA, contact coplaomite@aol.com.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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