

New Bedford High School Students Received the first annual Superintendent's Success Award

Superintendent Pia Durkin presented 45 students at New Bedford High School with the first annual Superintendent's Success Award this morning.

The award was presented to seniors based on nominations and selection by NBHS staff, based on a criteria of overcoming obstacles in school and in life, succeeding in school in spite of challenging odds on track to graduate next week prepared for college and career.

"It is my honor to give the very first Superintendent's Success Awards to students who are incredibly deserving of this recognition," said Dr. Durkin. "The Success Award is not about having the best grade point average, or playing the most sports, or being involved with the most clubs – it is about the determination and drive of these young men and women to focus on school and to thrive."

The diverse group of recipients represented New Bedford High, Dr. Durkin and Ms. Coelho said, and the students had unique challenges that they conquered – some arriving in the country not long ago with little or no knowledge of English, others working one or two jobs to help support their families, and some facing academic challenges that may have held other students back.

"We don't often have a chance to take a moment and recognize how hard our students work, and some of the impressive ways they have handled adversity in their lives," said Headmaster Coelho. "This is an opportunity for us as a school and a

community to demonstrate to our seniors just how proud we are, and to reflect on some of the burdens they've managed to carry in their young lives – and still succeeded here.”

Recipients gathered Tuesday morning for a breakfast with the Superintendent, Headmaster Bernadette Coelho, and school staff members including graduation facilitators Mark DeBritto and Valdir Silva, as well as Director of Registration and Pathways Tara Montembault.

The full list of 2016's Superintendent's Success Award recipients:

- Luis Alvarado
- Tiago Andrade
- Tyler Aviles
- Deyaneira Ayala
- Olivia Barnaby
- Francisco Barrera Grave
- Bryce Burke
- Niki Cac Toj
- Austin Calheta
- Chad Costa
- Gershom DaSilva Tavares
- Elton DeAndrade
- Laura DeBurgo
- Jamison DePina
- Liliana De Pina Correia
- Elton Fonseca
- Alecta Furtado
- Jenifer Garcia Riz
- Jacob Goldblatt
- Lizansuey Gonzalez
- Matilda Gonzalez Ponjoj
- Quintaysha Hinkle
- Destyni Lopes
- Luis Lopez
- Katelynn Martin

- Idalys Medina
 - Elsa Moraes
 - An Nguyen
 - Mario Ordonez
 - Nicholas Pacheco
 - Christian Perez Gonzalez
 - Quintin Ramos
 - Randall Ramos
 - Geovani Rivas
 - Vilma Rivas
 - Ebony Rodrigues
 - Eliezer Sanchez
 - Brandi Santos
 - Frankie Santos
 - Justyn Silva Bernardo
 - Tampson Tavares
 - Kevin Thompson
 - Ashlyn Tirado
 - Natasha Zambrana Rivera
 - Steven Zambrana Rivera
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