



Attending local graduation celebration: Pictured sitting left to right: Mario Perez, Andrea Flores, Satori Castillo, Jaymilee Lopez, & Prisilla Martinez. Back standing left to right: John R. Galvan*, Andy Garza*, Cassandra Ramos, Crystal Ramirez-Garcia*, Amy Regalado, Barbara Nino, Tina Narvaez, Lavoyger Durham*, Raul M. Ramirez*, Christina Montalvo, Roel Saenz*, & Susie Saenz*. * Denotes LMCA staff & Board.



Attending graduation ceremonies at Del Mar College: Left to right: John R. Galvan*, Raul M. Ramirez*, Crystal Ramirez-Garcia*, Mark Montalvo, Andrea Flores, Nadia Garza, Satori Castillo, Susie Saenz* & Roel Saenz*. Not pictured Diana Carrera, Dominique Rodriguez & Vincente Romeo

Bucking State-Wide Trends, Area Students Achieve High School Graduation

“My life is set. I’ve been accepted into the Navy”. Those were the words of Satori Castillo, who recently received her high school diploma equivalency, thanks to a flexible program jointly sponsored by Los Mesteños Career Academy (LMCA) and Del Mar College. The program, commonly referred to as “GED”, allows students to accelerate their degree process if they are in a hurry to get on with the next phase of their lives or if they need flexible scheduling arrangements to complete their course work. The program provides excellent instructors, retired school teachers Susie and Roel Saenz, and career navigation counseling by Juan Galvan, also a retired school teacher.

Ms. Saenz has been especially inspirational to the students, reminding them always that, “You are the captain of your ship”. State-wide trends have been lower high school completion, including these types of programs, but the number of area students who have been successful is a testament to the local efforts that are beyond the norm in other parts of the state. “We are very glad that Los Mesteños’ involvement has made a difference in the lives of our students”, said LMCA Director Crystal Ramirez-Garcia. In the words of graduate Mark Montalvo, “I did it. I got it done”!