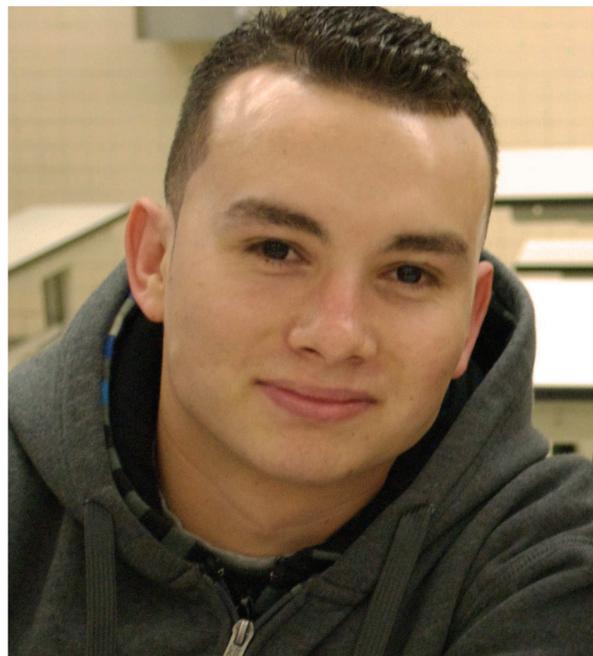


# DREAM, BELIEVE, SUCCEED!

Meet the Office of English Language Learners'  
Star Graduates



**Helio Alvarez**  
W. H. Maxwell Career and  
Technical Education High School

Nominated by Julisa Cunalata,  
Teacher

**Helio's advice to students**

The fact that I am graduating with an accredited diploma makes me very proud of myself, especially because I am the first person from my family to graduate from high school...If you're going to do something, do it for yourselves. Don't do it for anyone else because those that love you will be proud of you whatever you decide to do, as long as you follow through with it and you're happy doing what you want to do.

**Ms. Cunalata on Helio**

Among the awards he will receive at graduation are The Hackett Medal for Leadership, The Lead Teacher Award for Overall Excellence, The Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Computer and Technology Applications, The State of New York Office of the State Comptroller Award for Academic Excellence and Civic Commitment, The Excellence in Writing Award, and The English as a Second Language Award. Helio is certainly a young man to be emulated.

**Jiayan Chen** (8th grade)  
I.S. 162 - The Willoughby

Nominated by Tom Carty,  
Assistant Principal

**Jiayan's advice to students**

The one bit of advice that someone else gave to me is to communicate with other people as much as possible because that's the best way to learn a language.

**Mr. Carty on Jiayan**

Jiayan Chen arrived from Fujian, China at the beginning of 5th grade speaking only Mandarin Chinese. By the end of 6th grade she had achieved proficiency on the NYSESLAT exam... In the past four years, Jiayan has been absent only four times and has maintained perfect attendance in 7th and 8th grade. She is also an active member of her school newspaper. As she prepares to graduate from I.S. 162 she will do so as her class's valedictorian.

**Eliseo Perez**  
Hillcrest High School

Nominated by Judy Cancel-Valerio,  
Guidance Counselor

**Eliseo's advice to students**

One bit of advice I would like to give to current ELL students like myself attending any public school in New York City is the same advice I was given: "Never give up on your studies and goals. Continue your education no matter the obstacles you may face. Your future depends on your education."

**Ms. Cancel-Valerio on Eliseo**

Eliseo was illiterate in his native language, Spanish, and has managed to meet all graduation requirements within the four years he has been with us...I cannot think of anyone more resilient, hardworking, and deserving of recognition for such an accomplishment!



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