

Three Honored with Hispanic Heritage Award

As Marvin Garcia sees it, hard work and determination will bring him the success he's seeking. And earning the Hispanic Heritage Award for his exemplary grades and leadership qualities is great recognition for all his hard work. In short, Marvin is an excellent role model for his peers. At Whitman, Marvin is a member of Natural Helpers, the International Club, and Skills USA, of which he is president. Marvin is particularly proud to be a member of the BOCES program at Wilson Tech that recently took 1st place in the state of New York for agriculture. As a member of the Future Farmers of America, Marvin is interested in planting a lot more than food crops. "We're discovering new plants all the time that may hold the cure to many of the world's diseases," said Marvin. "I'm working hard, keeping my grades up, and I hope to be able to attend Farmingdale University, where they've recently introduced a new horticultural program. When I'm out in my neighborhood, I tell friends and younger kids 'Don't let anyone put you down by saying you can't do it.'"

For Jose H. Murillo, who moved to this country just two years ago, earning the Hispanic Heritage Award brings a great sense of accomplishment. "I know I'm smart, and I want to be successful," said Jose. "If you want to be successful, you need to work hard every day, to be a better person." And Jose does work hard every day, as a member of the Varsity Soccer Team, Natural Helpers, and the International Club. He's also looking to join the Whitman Robotics Club. In addition to his extracurricular activities, Jose is also very successful academically. "The teachers are my favorite part of Whitman," said Jose. "They take the time to explain things and help you if you don't understand."

Brittney Quinones, another Hispanic Heritage-awarded Whitman student, also believes in the value of hard work. She tell her peers, "Prevail over people who say that you can't do it. I've been working hard to get good grades and stay involved in school, and now that I'm a senior, my determination has made a big difference. It feels really good." Brittney has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. She is the senior class president, an officer in DECA, president of the Latino Club, and secretary of the National Honor Society. She is also a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Natural Helpers, Theater Honor Society, and AIDS Peer Educators. "To me, Whitman feels like a community," she said. "I love coming to school. The teachers all know their students, and there is awesome school spirit." Brittney is working hard to get into her first-choice college, the University of Richmond.



L-R: Marvin Garcia, Brittney Quinones, and Jose H. Murillo.

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