

## STAR TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATION



On Thursday February 5, 2009 the Spanish American Merchants Association held the first graduation ceremony for the **Star Training Program Pasaporte Computer** class in the city of Waterbury. The Star Training Program arrived in Waterbury in November 2008 and continued for ten weeks at the River Baldwin Recreation Center.

The Star Training Program is being funded by a grant from the **United States Small Business Administration** and is being offered in the cities of Waterbury, Danbury and East Hartford.

The first graduating class from Waterbury included a total of ten students who spent ten weeks learning how to properly use computers and the accounting software QuickBooks, to help operate their businesses more efficiently.

Joining the students and their guest at this festive event were representatives from the Small Business Administration, local and state government and SAMA board members.

**Mr. Bernard Sweeney District Director for the Small Business Administration in Hartford** offered his congratulations and support to both the students for their accomplishment and to SAMA for providing this very valuable program.

Mr. Sweeney also offered his continued support to SAMA as we move this program forward in Danbury. Also offering congratulations to the students was Waterbury Aldermen and President of the Waterbury Board of Aldermen Paul Vance, who also was very encouraged by the achievements of the students and also offered his support to SAMA for future classes in Waterbury. While Mayor Jarjura was unable attend, he was represented by Mr. Victor Diaz, Deputy City Clerk who also offered his and the Mayor's congratulations to the students.

**Representing our host location was Victor Cuevas, Executive Director of the River Baldwin Recreation Center**, who was pleased to have hosted SAMA for this training program and pledged to continued working with SAMA and Ed McCann, Superintendent of Recreation for the City of Waterbury.

**Mr. Angel Sierra, President Board of Directors for SAMA** and **Julio Mendoza, Executive Director of SAMA** also congratulated the students on their achievement and thanked the Small Business Administration and the Capital Workforce Partners for their sponsorship of this program and their support of SAMA.

Speaking on behalf of the students were **Maria Reyes** and **Johelis Reyes** who also thanked SAMA for bringing this program to Waterbury and they also thanked the program instructor **Jobana Maldonado** for her patience and understanding with all the students.

### Graduating Students:

**Hector Rivera**  
Entrepreneur

**Mariely Moreta**  
Entrepreneur

**Carmen Gomez**  
Day Care Waterbury Youth Service

**Maria Reyes**  
Divino Nino Day Care

**Arixsa Vargas**  
Maria's Hairstyling

**Francisca Perez**  
Entrepreneur

**Johelis Reyes**  
Kidzone Day Care

**Hugo Feregrino**  
Proficient Cleaning LLC

**Ambar Medina**  
World Multi Services & Cargo LLC





Maritza Antigua  
Cook St. Grocer

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