

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

## YOU Inc. CEO beams with pride over largest class

By Ashley Bishop CORRESPONDENT

**WORCESTER**— Maurice J. Boisvert was full of praise and gratitude last night as he addressed the YOU Inc. class of 2007.

“I am one very proud man,” said Mr. Boisvert, the president and CEO of YOU Inc. “This is the largest graduating class we’ve ever seen, and we also have the largest number of graduates ever going on to college next year.”

The 91 graduates from the Kathleen Burns Preparatory School, Mary Elizabeth McGrath Educational Center, Cottage Hill Academy, the Bruce Wells Scholars Program and the Education for Employment Program, which all fall under the YOU Inc. banner, packed Mechanics Hall for a special graduation and awards ceremony.



YOU Inc. graduate Kyle Padovano, right, casts a puzzled look toward fellow grad Henry Ireland, who wears unconventional commencement headgear, while James Solis looks on at Mechanics Hall last night. (T&G Staff/STEVE LANAVA)

The programs are designed to provide students who have left school with the opportunity to earn their diploma or GED certificate while learning skills that will help them reach their career goals.

Members of the class of 2007 walked across the stage to receive either their high school diploma or GED, while classmates, family members and friends provided thunderous cheering and applause.

“I’d like to make an educated guess,” said Laurance Morrison, chairman of the YOU Inc. board of directors. “I’d like to guess that each of you, for the first time in your lives, are about to do two things at once: graduating from who you are now and graduating to who you’re going to become.”

Gabriel Perez, a graduate from the Bruce Wells Scholars Program, thanked his peers and mentors for their support during his four years in the program.

“This program has opened our eyes to a whole new world,” he said. “Thanks to YOU Inc., many of us have become lifelong learners and will go on to achieve great things.”

The musical talents of students in the YOU Inc. program were also on display last night. Iris Rivera, a student from the Education for Employment Program, performed a song in Spanish that she wrote for the occasion titled “Sono di, que no,” which translates to “Only, Say No.”

Members of the Cottage Hill Academy Choir also performed during the ceremony.

Russell A. Sterling was presented the Jack Roberts Commitment to Community award for his more than 30 years of service to youth in Central Massachusetts through his work with the Fitchburg public school system.

“I got really bored last summer so I decided to do something different,” Mr. Sterling said. “I had a heart attack, and I was quite good at it, and after having surgery in November they told me I would have to stop working. ... Now, after 33 years of working in education, I have to clean out my desk and leave my office one last time. My hope for all of you is that in 33 years you can look back and say ‘I really made a difference.’ ”

YOU Inc.

Bruce Wells Scholars Program:

Worcester: Marisola Amankwah, North High; Emmanuel Ashmore, ALL School; Maria Carranza, North High; Bien Ha, University Park Campus School; James Hazzard, Doherty High School; Esther Hope-Sowah, South High; Willie Moore, Doherty High School; Van Nguyen, University Park Campus School; Darius Nixon, ALL School; Tatiana Ortiz, ALL School; Victoria Owusu, North High School; Gabriel Perez, North High School; Jorge Ramirez, University Park Campus School; Jennifer Roach, North High School; Channy Tran, University Park Campus School; Marcus Williams, Doherty High School; and Marisola Xhelili, University Park Campus School.

EFE Southbridge

Charlton: Jasmine Butts, Dave Desaulniers and Sarah Tougas.

Fiskdale: Kathryn Schmitt.

Holland: Katie Schlesener.

Southbridge: Michael Boisvert, Mae Ekstrom, Gregory Gallant, Henry Ireland, John Ivanits, Paul Johnson, Nicole Latti, Christian López, Jen Osowski, Joseph Partlow, Jonathan Ramos, Shayleen Reanaud, Kimberlie Santiago and Jimmy Solis.

EFE Uxbridge

Blackstone: Kenny Gallagher.

Linwood: Amanda Hawes.

Milford: Jennifer Demers.

North Uxbridge: Angela Allega.

Northbridge: Isaiah Thompson.

Upton: John Monahan.

Uxbridge: Corey Caughanowr, Josh Clark, Jesse Driscoll, Ambur Falcone, Lorraine Williamson and Emma Zimmerman.

Whitinsville: Vicky Laythe and Alycia Turke.

EFE Webster

Dudley: Daniel Field, Jr.

Oxford: Marlon Lazo, Jr.

Webster: Stefanie Le Page, Lukasz Zurawski, Salvatore Albanese, Cameron Bennett, Damon Bihl, Stephanie Murcia, Kyle Padovano, Joshua Palmieri, David Sinkis, Robert Watkins and Amanda Zamaites.

EFE

Boylston: Erica Berg.

Douglas: Barry Rochleau.

Millbury: Joseph Mercier, Josh Guillotte, Marque Potenti, Larry Bruno, Jonisha De Leon, Gabrielle De Loriea, Charlette Gonzalez, Charlie Kaiser, Rafal Krupa, Christopher Morgan, Iris Rivera, Krystal Rodriguez and Alicia Walsh.

Kathleen Burns Preparatory School

Fitchburg: Rosemarie Rivera.

Leicester: Michael Olivo.

Shrewsbury: Victor Mong.

Southbridge: Kyle Quinn.

Upton: Katherine Searles.

Winchendon: Kenneth Haddad, Tommy (Tuan) Vu, Shannon Ayer, George Guthro and Alf Santiago.

Mary Elizabeth Educational Center

Auburn: Angelo Zona.

Rochdale: Mark Ciccone, Darrel Blocker, Shawn Shinabery and Domenic Washington.