



Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines

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Philippine Graduation in New York Honors Accomplished Young Filipino-Americans



The Class of 2018. Filipino and Filipino-American graduates of Bachelors and Masters degree celebrate as one community at the Philippine Graduation hosted by the Philippine Consulate General in New York.

NEW YORK, 11 June 2018 – The Philippine Consulate General in New York (PCGNY) hosted the 6th Annual Philippine Graduation (PGRAD) last 9 June 2018 at the Philippine Center Kalayaan Hall. The PGRAD is one of the PCGNY’s legacy projects for the Filipino-American youth.

31 graduates of bachelors and masters degrees were part of PGRAD Class of 2018, finishing academic programs in Social Studies, Law, Women’s Studies, Health and Medical Sciences, Media and Communications, Mathematics, and Information Technology.

In his welcome remarks, Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate congratulated the graduates and parents for their academic achievement, and wished them success in their professional and personal lives.

Opening Keynote Speaker Aries Dela Cruz, Manhattan Regional Representative for the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, impressed upon the graduates the value of education for Filipinos, and the responsibility of having knowledge in our world today. He shared that every influential man or woman had one thing in their hands that changed the course of history. He urged everyone in the audience to use their degrees for purposes that embody their values.

New York Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, represented at the event by Ms Erika Dioquino, relayed his congratulations to the celebrants, and recognized their contributions to New York, acknowledging that “a great state is only as good as its constituents.”

During the intermission, the City College of New York Baruch College's Fusion Modern Dance Group performed a pop number that energized the crowd.

New York University graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, Global Public Health, and Sociology Janelle Micaela Panganiban was awarded a Special Personal Letter by Governor Cuomo and a Special Citation by Assemblyman Barnwell, after earning Summa Cum Laude honors in all her programs. She is a member of the Gaddang indigeous tribe of Isabela, Philippines.

Sesame Workshop Licensing Manager Stephanie Mendoza capped the ceremony with her motivating story about growing up Filipino-American, encouraging the graduates to embrace their Filipino identity, no matter how different it might be from their peers. She shared her experience attending Miriam College in the Philippines as a pre-teen, and the life values she was taught taking up mandatory extra-curricular activities in school. Being in children's media, she shared endearing lessons from characters in her industry in her closing remarks. END



(L) Ms Janelle Panganiban receives a Special Letter from Governor Cuomo awarded by Manhattan Regional Representative Aries Dela Cruz. (R) Stephanie Mendoza shares her take on growing up Filipino-American during the Closing Keynote. (All photos by PCGNY)