



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Release # 187-2009
www.queensda.org

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009

CONTACT: QDA PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN HONORS
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT
DR. EDUARDO J. MARTÍ WITH FOURTH ANNUAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARD

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that Dr. Eduardo J. Martí, President of Queensborough Community College, has been named as the recipient of the District Attorney's 2009 Hispanic Heritage Award for his outstanding leadership and service in the field of education over the last twenty-five years.

“As a native of Cuba who came to this country as a young man, Dr. Martí embodies both the American and immigrant spirit,” said District Attorney Brown. “Driven from his homeland by the diaspora created by the Cuban Revolution Dr. Martí used our educational system to better himself. In the process, he became the first in his family to achieve a college degree. Understanding the value of higher education, Dr. Martí dedicated his life's work to education and to his students. He is truly deserving of the honor that we bestow on him today.”

Dr. Martí was appointed President of Queensborough Community College on July 1, 2000, after having served in similar roles at both SUNY's Corning and Tomkins Cortland Community Colleges. He also has served as Executive Dean and Chief Administrator of Tunxis Community College in Connecticut and as Acting President of Middlesex Community College, also located in Connecticut.

In addition, Dr. Martí serves on the Board of Trustees of Teachers College at Columbia University and the Board of Trustees of Excelsior College. He is also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Community College Research Center at Columbia University, the Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System, the Council for Aid to Education and the California Community College Collaborative at the University of California, Riverside. Recently, he was appointed to the College Board's Commission on Community Colleges. He has served as past President of the Association of Presidents of Public Community Colleges of the State of New York and was appointed to the American Council on Education's Commission on International Education for a three-year term. Dr. Martí was recently appointed to serve on the New York State Commission on Higher Education.

Within the Queens community, he is presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Queens Chamber of Commerce and past member of the Board of Directors of the Queens Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Martí serves on the Board of the Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc., Queensborough's primary fund-raising organization that opens its Bayside campus to the community by sponsoring numerous educational and cultural events and programs.

(MORE)

Dr. Martí relocated from Cuba to New York in 1960 and enrolled in New York University, where he earned B.A., M.S. and Ph.D degrees in biology.

In presenting the Hispanic Heritage award at a reception yesterday afternoon in his Kew Gardens offices, District Attorney Brown said, "Queens County's greatest strength is our diversity, with each ethnicity adding its own set of values, culture and experiences to the mix. In my office we are particularly proud of our capable and experienced complement of minority Executive Assistants, Bureau Chiefs, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, Supervisors and Assistants as well as our talented and hard working minority support staff members. It is important in public service to have a diversity which reflects the makeup of the community that we serve. It helps to enhance credibility, confidence and trust. Queens County has a large Latino population that continues to grow, and having members of my staff with a background in this culture and a familiarity with the Spanish language enhances our ability to better serve our community."

National Hispanic Heritage Month began as a week-long celebration in 1968. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15). During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

Last year's Hispanic Heritage Award was bestowed on the Hon. Fernando Camacho, Administrative Judge of the State Supreme Court, Queens County, Criminal Term, for his long and distinguished career as a jurist and prosecutor. In 2007, New York State Assemblyman Jose R. Peralta, of the 39th Assembly District, was honored for his dedication, commitment and service to the Latino communities of Queens County and New York State. In 2006, the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County received the inaugural Hispanic Heritage award for providing a forum in which hardworking and dedicated Latino attorneys could acknowledge their cultural roots and serve their communities.

#

Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda