

Dr. Maria G. Arias
Board Chair

Laura Ponce
Executive Director



For Immediate Release

Adult Students Overcome Hardships to Attain Diplomas

Contact: Roy Ortega, Community Relations Manager – 915-562-4100 or 261-5922 (cell)

(EL PASO, TEXAS – July 7, 2011) – For Maribi Cepeda, growing up poor in a small public housing apartment provided obstacles that at times seemed insurmountable. The young woman struggled in high school amid difficult family circumstances and eventually dropped out of school. She became a single mother and raised four children, but she never gave up her dream of someday becoming a health professional.

Next Friday, Maribi Cepeda will be among 37-graduates of Project BRAVO's Adult Basic Education Program who will formally receive their General Educational Development (GED) certificates.

But Maribi's story does not end there. While working on her diploma - and with the help of Project BRAVO's ARRA-Education Program - she enrolled at International Business College where she recently obtained her degree as a Certified Medical Assistant. Maribi graduated with honors and made the Dean's list. She was also named a member of IBC's Medical Honor Society.

Maribi's success was made possible through the various adult education and job placement services available at no cost to students at Project BRAVO.

Project BRAVO's Adult Basic Education Program and its Employment Department work closely together to find jobs for students who successfully obtain their GED diplomas.

Project BRAVO Adult Education Program 2011 Graduation Ceremony

When: Friday, July 15, 2011

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: El Paso Community College Auditorium at 9050 Viscount, Administrative Building A.

Additional information may be found on the agency's Web site at www.projectbravo.org.

###

PROJECT BRAVO was established in 1965 as a private IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt Corporation and is the designated Community Action Agency (CAA) for all of El Paso County. Project Bravo is funded by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) through the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) and various other funding sources.

Dr. Maria G. Arias
Board Chair

Laura Ponce
Executive Director



Maribi Cepeda's Story

Maribi Cepeda dropped out of high school and became a single mother who raised four children on her own. But she never gave up her dreams of success in education. She pushed herself daily to excel academically and, despite strong odds, she obtained her General Educational Development (GED) certificate through Project BRAVO's Adult Basic Education Program. As her family's sole source of income, Maribi often struggled to attend classes while working to feed her children. Through her own persistence and with the help of Project BRAVO's ARRA-Education Program – which helped pay for her education classes at International Business College – Maribi thrived and eventually achieved success.

Maribi has now received her GED diploma and her Certification as a Medical Assistant. She graduated with honors, made the Dean's list and was selected as a member of the Medical Honor Society from International Business College.

Maribi has become a hero to her four children. They have been inspired to achieve their own higher education goals. Maribi exceeded everyone's expectations and is well on her way to self-sufficiency and economic independence as a Certified Medical Assistant.