

Port Chester residents celebrated for passing U.S. Citizenship exam

Carver Center Citizenship Program continues to aid immigrants

By Victoria Bresnahan

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Fabiola Montoya said her son once heard her reciting questions from the U.S. Citizenship exam in her sleep.

Montoya, the Carver Center's learning team citizenship coordinator, has been teaching the Citizenship Program, which helps immigrants pass the naturalization exam, since 2005.

In that time, she said she has guided people from across the world in how to become U.S. citizens.

"We need this program in any town because in any town, in any place in the United States, we have immigrants," she said.

Eleven Port Chester residents, all graduates of the program, recently passed the exam and have been granted citizenship. The new U.S. citizens were awarded certificates of achievement on Friday, July 12 at the 400 Westchester Ave. community center. The graduates include: Adderly Leiva, Sonia Duchimaza, Narcisca Morales, Luz Panama, Gladys Montero, Julia Valladares, Giancomo Vernillo, Leonel Gudino, William Garcia, Brenda Martinez and Hugo Rivas.

According to Carver Center CEO Anne Bradner, the program has helped prepare over 200 adults to take the test and obtain citizenship since its inception.

"I've also had the opportunity to come to class and to see how hard all of the students are working; how hard they are dedicated to learning the material," Carver Center's Chief Learning



Students in the Carver Center's Citizenship Program, which helps immigrants prepare for the naturalization exam, smile along with guests during the Citizenship Celebration. Eleven Port Chester residents were honored at the celebration on Friday, July 12, for their recently granted citizenship. Victoria Bresnahan/Westmore News



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