



Juan Cerezo
Distinguished Lasallian-Administrator
2016-2017

It is a truly distinct honor for me to recognize Juan Cerezo as this year's distinguished Lasallian administrator. Juan has been an important member of our Lasallian family for 20 years, and so I decided to collect the thoughts of those that work with him most closely in Student Life about Juan's many contributions to our community.

Peter DeCaro

Juan clearly fits the criteria for a Distinguished Lasallian. Although many folks may not think initially towards the public safety department regarding Lasallian hallmarks, all of these traits are qualities so crucial and desirable in individuals charged with the safety and protection of others.

Juan has been doing this every day at MC for the past 20 years, much of the though with his efforts behind the scenes and not highly visible to most of the college community. He is completely committed to the students and employees of Manhattan College. Many times his interaction with them comes during a time of crises in their lives, and his concern and desire to help them is unparalleled and comes so naturally to him.

Prior to MC, let us remember that Juan served proudly for 26 years as a member of the New York City Police Department, in many capacities. Here he was able to help and comfort countless residents of NYC during their darkest times of crises and need with compassion and sensitivity.

Andrew Weingarten

Juan is a supportive colleague. Only a few of us can say that we have spoken with Juan in the middle of the night. We all have a giant responsibility with 3000+ students entrusted to our care by day and 2000+ overnight. That can be stressful but it is nice for me personally to know that Juan is always available for assistance, guidance, and support.

Sonny Ago

Juan has always been extremely supportive of the Multicultural Center and the Manhattan College Diversity Committee. He has contributed greatly to planning our Hispanic Heritage Month events. One year he was able to get the former First Deputy Commissioner of the NYPD, Rafael Pinero -- the highest ranking Hispanic police officer in the department's history -- to speak with the students. Despite having an incredibly demanding schedule, First Deputy Commissioner Pinero told us that he would do anything for Juan. This shows how much Juan has positively impacted people's lives and the undying friendships he has made throughout his career. We will always be grateful to Juan for his dedication to promoting diversity at Manhattan College.

Rachel Cirelli

For many of us, when we have to work closely with Juan on something, it could involve an offense, danger, or any type of situation that demands a certain 'toughness.' As soon as you relay the information, he kicks into full gear and you can feel assured that the situation will be dealt with. But what compliments this part of his role at the college, is the fact that he is clearly a kind, family-oriented person, who takes the time to get to know his colleagues. You get a sense from Juan that he can bring a perpetrator to justice, but can also remember important details about your child....This is no easy feat.

John Bennett

On the personal level, I know Juan LOVED his granddaughters and the park and rec basketball team they played on. He asked for some leftover Madness shirts a few years ago to give the team, and always would talk to me about it.

I am really pleased to be able to acknowledge that 2 of Juan's granddaughters, Sarah (9) and Ella (11) were able to join us today.

Terry Hannigan

My impressions of Juan include his quiet and thoughtful demeanor. He does not have a lot to say at meetings where he and I are present, but the quality of his responses is consistently helpful in resolving concerns and offering important perspectives. Juan has what must be a complicated and complex position. He consistently brings a level headed and calming approach to problems. I have been in the room with him with agitated students and he demonstrates respect for students who may be angry or disoriented. In this sense, he practices Lasallian virtue. What a prized colleague to work with!

Closing remark

Those who know me well know how much I value humor in the work place and so I have one final anecdote to relay about Juan which demonstrates his wry and understated sense of humor. When I first arrived at Manhattan (I believe it was at Christmas) Juan gave me a PBA card—which explained could be presented to any New York City police officer in the event that I got pulled over for a traffic violation and that they were supposed to let me off without a ticket. "Now Dr. Satterlee," Juan explained, "if this doesn't work...you are on your own."

In all seriousness, I cannot think of a truer representative of servant leadership than Juan Cerezo and I pleased to introduce him as this years Distinguished Lasallian Educator.