



Pictured (left to right) Ms. Adela Acosta, recipient of the Educator of the Year Award, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and Ms. Acosta's nominator, Ms. Carmen Camacho

Our Educator of the Year Award

Ms. Adela Acosta

Nominated by Carmen Camacho

Ms. Carmen Camacho wrote:

Entering first grade in Spanish Harlem, New York, Adela was placed in special education classes because she was unable to speak English. As a child she lived in a three-bedroom apartment that housed ten family members and where she spent many hours nursing her father who was a heroin addict.

Despite it all, Adela Acosta excelled in school earned scholarships and received a Master's Degree in education. Adela became the principal of Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Hyattsville in 1999. It is Prince George's county only school with a Spanish immersion program. Under her guidance the Maryland State Assessment scores increased this year in all categories this in a school where 97% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Half of the student body in her school is Hispanic the other half is African-American.

Adela Acosta spends countless hours dealing with immigrant parents and acting as translator for her teachers. She is an energetic and relentless liaison between schools programs/administration and the Hispanic and African-American community. She is passionate about No Child Being Left Behind due to her personal childhood experience. She is a member of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education. Adela was involved in helping to draft the No Child Left Behind Law. She is the first Hispanic member of the Board of Regents.

Her passion for her work has rewarded her with an increase in parent participation at Cesar Chavez Elementary.