



For information, contact:  
Peggy Bush  
AVANCE-Houston  
713.812.0033, ext. 132  
[pbush@avancehouston.org](mailto:pbush@avancehouston.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—May 25, 2007 (Houston)**—A total of 112 parents saw their dreams come true as they graduated with their children from AVANCE's county-wide parent-child education program at the agency's Family Education Day, May 23, 2007, at the Sheraton Houston Brookhollow Hotel.

Families, dignitaries and program supporters gathered to see parents, accompanied by their children in caps-and-gowns, receive *Ambassador of Education* medallions from Consul General of Mexico, Carlos I. Gonzales, who also served as keynote speaker.

The Consul General, a pro-active supporter of family education, shared how essential parental involvement was to the achievement of his goals and urged parents to continue to inspire their children, even in the face of obstacles.

Determination of this sort motivated graduate Mayra Bosques, who moved to Houston from Honduras, to enroll her family in a program operated collaboratively by AVANCE and Pasadena ISD, which includes Early Head Start for her children and basic education and parenting classes for herself. She and her husband also enrolled in AVANCE's Healthy Marriage Program.

The couple completed their classes, and their oldest son will progress to Head Start next year. Mayra sees a bright future for her family and has set new goals for herself.

"My children will know how important it is to finish school because they saw me graduate today," exclaimed Mayra. "I also plan to study for a child development certification and become a teacher."

Following the graduation, guests toured classrooms and enjoyed lunch and performances by AVANCE's children's choir, "Los Angelitos," along with Houston's Psophonia Dance Company.

AVANCE (A-vahn-ceh), from the Spanish word "advance," has served the educational needs of at-risk, primarily Hispanic, families since its founding in San Antonio in 1973 and replication in Houston in 1988. In centers throughout Harris County, parents attend classes in healthy marriage, parenting, fatherhood, adult basic education, ESL, and GED, which are conducted along side learning activities for their children.

Event sponsors were Bowen, Mickette & Britt, Wal-Mart, ICON Information Consultants LP, and a recent Johnson & Johnson acquisition, e.p.t.®, the latter of which supports AVANCE through its "*Empowerment through Knowledge*" campaign. ICON and e.p.t. representatives also announced corporate financial pledges to AVANCE's new computer literacy lab to open in September 2007.

- end -