

Motivation, Commitment, Desire Poder Celebrates Student Accomplishments



Poder celebrated its fifth annual graduation on July 27. The graduation was well attended and 33 students graduated from the different programs. During the ceremony students from the Spanish Literacy, English as a Second Language, Computer Applications and A+ certification classes received their certificate. Furthermore, during the graduation two volunteers received a special recognition for their time and dedication to our students. Also, one of our supporters, First American Bank was recognized at the graduation for their contribution to the different programs that Poder offers.



Poder celebró su quinta graduación el pasado 27 de Julio. La graduación fue muy concurrida y este año fueron 33 los estudiantes que recibieron su certificado por haber terminado cursos en los diferentes programas tales como Alfabetización, Inglés como segundo idioma y Computación. Además, durante la ceremonia dos voluntarios fueron reconocidos por su gran labor y dedicación con los estudiantes. También se aprovechó esta oportunidad para darle un reconocimiento especial a First American Bank quien es uno de nuestros patrocinadores.



A few words from our graduates/Algunas palabras de los graduados

"Poder has helped me gain many skills but definitely learning the different computer programs is one that will help me to be more successful."
Carmen Arciga, *Computer Applications Graduate*

"I am very proud about all the things I have accomplished. Poder has given me the tools and confidence to learn English and I hope to continue studying and graduate from college."
Marco A. Gutierrez, *ESL Graduate*

"Ahora que ya estoy en inglés me siento mucho mejor porque estoy aprendiendo un nuevo idioma el cual me va a dar muchas oportunidades en este país. Me he propuesto seguir adelante y no desaprovechar esta oportunidad que tengo de aprender inglés. Mi meta es terminar hasta el quinto nivel de inglés y después seguir a la clase de computación. Estoy conciente que no será fácil pero sé que con empeño, tiempo y dedicación lograré mi meta."
Faustino Juárez, *Graduado de Alfabetización*

For Volunteers: Commitment + Time = Results

Investing time helping others is not usually what people put on their list of priorities but here at Poder we have had a great number of volunteers willing to commit in the helping with the education and growth of our students. Jim Goodridge is a great example of what it is to be a volunteer. His great service and commitment has contribute to our student success. Jim has written a few words of what it is to be a part of Poder and to give his time to the education of the students that he tutors.



Level 1 students



Students ask for help

A Few Words from Jim Goodridge (volunteer):

The first thing I noticed about Poder Learning Center was that students come first. One-on-one, small group sessions, full-size classes- the entire Poder program is student-centered. This is a simple model all too often forgotten, but not at Poder. This has made my two and a half years as a Poder volunteer a true joy. In addition, this student first approach engenders respect: student respect both volunteers and their fellow students. The Poder environment encourages students to help one another as together they

face the challenging task of learning English as a Second language. Keep the student first, teachers and staff of Poder have show me how to do my job, how to foster in each student an attitude of "Si, se puede". As a volunteer tutor and teacher I have always felt that I am an integral part of the Poder mission. Each day I have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our students. One word at a time. One step at a time. Knowing these things to be vital and true, I genuinely look forward to each new day as a Poder volunteer.

Nuestro Retrato



Poder students listen to others present their work

El pasado 20 de octubre en la secundaria Cristo Rey, Poder Learning Center participó como en años anteriores en el evento de Nuestro Retrato con otras organizaciones comunitarias; las cuales forman el Consejo Hispano de Alfabetización. Durante el evento hubo exposiciones mostrando el trabajo de los estudiantes de las diferentes organizaciones. Estuvieron presentes más de 300 personas entre ellos estudiantes, directores, maestros y voluntarios. Los estudiantes de Poder hicieron un excelente trabajo para la exposición. Ya como tradición después la misma exposición fue traída a la escuela. También hubo un programa en donde los estudiantes participaron con canciones, poemas y lecturas. De igual manera durante el programa el grupo del primer nivel de las 6:30 presentó una canción en inglés e hicieron un excelente trabajo. Muchas gracias a todos los estudiantes y a los maestros por su participación en este evento.



Reading the student essays

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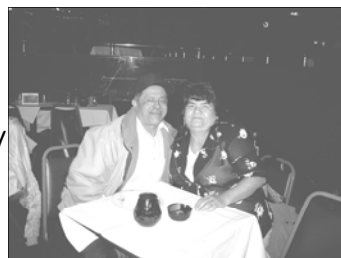
2005 Winter Dance/Baile de invierno



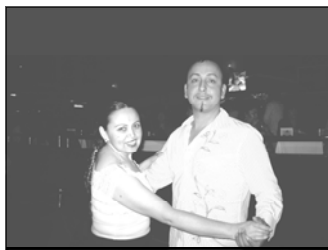
Ines and Luis dancing to salsa.

Poder Learning Center held its annual winter dance on December 2, 2005. The event took place on a chilly evening at the Apollo's 2000 theater. The dance was a fun way to celebrate the final weeks of the fall trimester and the beginning of winter.

At 7:00 p.m. guests of all ages began to arrive and the festivities continued until midnight. The dance was well attended by Poder students, instructors and friends from the Pilsen community. There was a wonderful, energized atmosphere. All the tables were full and everyone danced! Over 350 dance attendees had the opportunity to take part in a raffle for great prizes: a new computer, DVD player, a digital camera and more! Poder students volunteered and sold raffle tickets, took pictures and filmed the event. Another great part of the dance was seeing that everyone was dancing and having a good time—even the Poder instructors! The DJ played many different kinds of music that gave everyone the opportunity to dance to music that they enjoyed. Several instructors were spotted learning dance moves from their students and kicking up their heels. The dance was a great time for Poder students to meet each other's friends and families and share their memories from the fun fall semester of ESL classes.



Carmen enjoying the music.



Arcelia smiling pretty.

Students are excited for next year. They had a great time dancing, and spending time with each other outside of the classroom. The Poder winter dance was a great way to start off the holiday season and everyone looks forward to attending next year!

Over all this event was a great success! We thank all the businesses who sponsored our dance and believe in the quality of education that Poder provides its students and the community.

Thank you! ¡Gracias!

We would like to thank all of the sponsors for our 2005 Winter Dance!

It was great to have you as part of this event.

Pizza Nova	Bombon	Best Buy	Joyería Chavez
Ara Hair Salon	Dr. Antonio Ramos	Prospectus Gallery	Café Jumping Bean
Los Comales	Apollo's 2000	La Casa de Samuel	Katz Law Office
Del Campo Pizzeria	Pilsen Photo Studio	C. Galluci Realty, Inc	
Jazmín Flowers & Balloons		Jerry and Brothers Landscaping, Inc.	

¡Gracias a todos los patrocinadores a este evento que fue todo un éxito!

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