



NEW YORK CITY EDITION Update

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Two New York City Students Honored with Achievement Awards and Scholarships

On October 22, 2009, Noor Rahman, recent graduate of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, and Rosemary Osadebe, recent graduate of Hillcrest High School in Queens, were presented with 2009 Overcoming Obstacles Student Achievement Awards and \$10,000 college scholarships. By transferring the life skills they learned in the classroom to their academic and personal lives, each student has overcome significant challenges and achieved many meaningful goals.



Left to Right: Joann Porto, retired College Counselor, Fort Hamilton High School; Noor Rahman, 2009 honoree and Jack L. Siegal Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Noor Rahman of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn received a 2009 Achievement Award and a \$10,000 Jack L. Siegal Memorial Scholarship.

Noor was selected as an honoree for his commitment to excelling at school and his dedication to challenging and improving himself. During his academic career, Noor was able to transition from Special Education courses to the standard education track, graduating at the top of his class in June 2009. As a high school freshman, Noor was introduced to the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program. The lessons on communication, goal setting, and self-confidence helped him realize that he needed to learn these life skills, in addition to achieving good grades, in order to be successful in life.

Noor has completed his first semester at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City and he is on track for a successful college career and future in criminal justice.



Left to Right: Rosemary Osadebe, 2009 honoree and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Scholarship recipient; John Binet, English Honors Teacher, Hillcrest High School.

Rosemary Osadebe of Hillcrest High School in Queens received a 2009 Achievement Award and a \$10,000 American Heart Association/American Stroke Association scholarship.

Rosemary was selected as an honoree for her academic success and for her peer leadership as a member of All Sisters Evolving Together (ASET), which helps female high school students who live in temporary housing develop strong academic and social skills. Rosemary was introduced to the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program through the ASET program. Rosemary also played on her school's Varsity soccer team.

Rosemary recently completed her first semester at Sullivan County Community College in upstate New York. Her intelligence, work ethic, and motivation will help her achieve her goal of entering the medical profession and becoming a Nurse Practitioner.



Special Offer – Overcoming Obstacles High School Curriculum Now Only \$120!

Order now to receive this 20% discount and enjoy free shipping! Orders can be placed online or by phone, fax or mail. Call us toll-free at 877-840-9606 or visit us at www.overcomingobstacles.org for online ordering and additional contact information. Now is the time to prepare your students with Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Curriculum!

Introducing Overcoming Obstacles Buddy Mentoring Peer Leadership Program

The Overcoming Obstacles Buddy Mentoring Peer Leadership Program trains middle school seventh and eighth graders and high school juniors and seniors to facilitate character-building activities with younger students in their school community. By focusing on lesson themes relevant to the needs and interests of young people, the Buddy Mentoring program addresses school issues through the unique guidance offered by building peer-to-peer relationships within the school community.

Buddy Mentors Gain Hands-On Leadership Experience.

Development of leadership skills is at the core of the Overcoming Obstacles Buddy Mentoring Program. During weekly classroom sessions, buddy mentors draw from their own life experiences to lead younger peers through important activity-based life skills lessons and teach them the techniques needed to reach their goals.

To become a mentor, students apply for the program and complete training workshops where they learn to adapt their own skill sets to their new role as a mentor. They learn about the structure of lesson plans, team teaching, material preparation, classroom management, and peer mediation.

Mentoring offers students the opportunity to develop core life skills in a role that further improves leadership qualities they may regularly demonstrate. Students who are strong in core academic subjects and have effective communication, decision making, and goal setting skills set a solid example for their peers and the younger students they teach. For students who may struggle to fulfill their academic responsibilities or who need behavioral improvement, their accomplishments as a mentor can help raise their self-confidence and help them learn how to identify, set, and achieve goals.

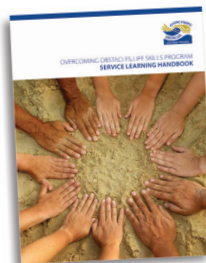
How-To Workbooks Make Program Implementation Easy.

The Buddy Mentoring Program includes lessons and step-by-step implementation instructions organized into specific workbooks for program advisors, student mentors, and student mentees. The Program Advisor Workbook addresses advisor responsibilities, mentor, mentee, and school/community benefits, selection of student mentors and mentees, mentor training, session scheduling, pre/post student and educator program assessment surveys. The Student Mentor Workbook includes all activity-based lessons they will be teaching along with a "Tips for Teaching" section. The Activity Sheets Workbook contains all lesson activity sheet templates that will be used by the mentees during the program.

For more information on Overcoming Obstacles Buddy Mentoring Program, contact us at 1-877-840-9606.



Buddy Mentors from PS 109 in Brooklyn served as Student Ambassadors during the Overcoming Obstacles 2009 Achievement Awards dinner at Chelsea Piers in New York City. During weekly classroom sessions, buddy mentors utilize their own life experiences to walk younger peers through important life skills lessons and inspire them to set and reach their own goals.



**Now Available
Service Learning Handbook
Only \$45!**

The Overcoming Obstacles Service Learning Handbook helps students identify community service projects that they can make enthusiastic and meaningful contributions to. This comprehensive handbook encourages students to explore their communities, enhance and adapt their skill sets and engage others in service opportunities.

The handbook includes a teacher's guide, lesson plans and reproducible activity sheets to help educators create an environment where students can learn valuable lessons and strengthen important skills such as communication, goal setting and time management. *The Service Learning Handbook* is perfect for classroom projects, pre and post school programs, and summer programs!

To order, visit us at overcomingobstacles.org or call us at 1-877-840-9606.

Our Mission: To ensure that all young people learn the communication, decision making, and goal setting skills they need to be successful in life.



Overcoming Obstacles

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