

~MEDIA RELEASE~



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 23, 2012

Contact: Sarah Hartmann
Office: 631.854.1400

Calarco Addresses Young Latinos in Summer Cultural Program *LILTA Sponsored Program Educates Local Youths to Participate and Assimilate*



Photo Left (left to right): Jillian Garcia, membership chair for 'Life Through My Eyes' Program; Paul Bressler, LILTA member; Joselo Lucero; Leg. Rob Calarco; Regina Casale, first vice president of LILTA; Ed Roldan, public relations chair of LILTA.

Photo Right: Leg. Rob Calarco (left) presents LILTA's Regina Casale and Ed Roldan a Play for Peace Soccer Tournament official team shirt and certificate of appreciation for LILTA's team and sponsorship participation in the 2012 games.

Patchogue, LI—Thursday, August 23: Leg. Rob Calarco was pleased to speak to local Latino youths at a luncheon held at J&R's Steakhouse. The youths, all part of the Patchogue community and the Patchogue-Medford School District, are participants in the 'Life Through My Eyes Program' sponsored by LILTA (Long Island Latino Teachers Association). The program is funded through a three-year grant secured from the W.K.Kellogg Foundation after the Marcello Lucero tragedy as part of the foundation's Racial Healing Initiative.

The program involves participation of the youths' parents and works to promote the skills, knowledge and experiences helpful in learning how to function positively and effectively within the community as well as to empower Latino youth in the Patchogue community to share their cultures and foster understanding.

Participants attend workshops on conflict resolution, critical thinking, human rights, peace education and cultural events. Students are encouraged to produce short films depicting life through their eyes. The films are then incorporated into lesson plans.

The luncheon, a closing activity to the two-week summer-program component, allowed youths the opportunity to meet and ask questions of the leaders and business people within the Patchogue community.

"I enjoyed speaking with these young people. They asked me all kinds of questions about becoming and being a legislator. They were bright, engaged, and eager to learn," said Leg. Calarco.