BORICUA COLLEGE CHALLENGES NEW YORK POST’S MISLEADING INTERPRETATION REGARDING OUR EDUCATION STUDENTS PASSING RATE OF NEW YORK STATE ACADEMIC LITERACY SKILLS TEST

On Monday, December 8, 2014, New York Post carried an article written by Mr. Carl Campanile stating that none of Boricua College students passed the “literacy” exam given by New York State. The literacy exam is a new test which Childhood Education majors are required to take (along with three other tests) in order to be certified as a teacher in New York. Officially, the literacy test is called the ALST (Academic Literacy Skills Test).

The New York Post distorted the facts of our students failing to pass the test. Let us explain.

The New York State Education Department determines a college’s success rate in the State Certification exams only on the basis of Program Completers in Education, and not on the basis of any student taking the exams. Program Completers are those students who take and complete the entire academic program, - in this case, the Childhood Education program.

Of the 13 students who took the above mentioned literacy test, only three were Program Completers from the past years. The other ten are not completers of the education program. And since this literacy exam was given for the first time ever last July, none of our students got the chance to prepare or practice for this test.

The College has prepared a Corrective Action Plan, and is working according to a definite strategy for students to pass these exams in the coming years.

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