

Student of the Year FY2014-15

Yamileth Padilla left her native country, Honduras, fifteen years ago to pursue a better life. At that time there were very few job opportunities because of gangs and not enough police to deal with them. She made the decision to leave in order to change her life and it was not an easy decision. Traveling through many cities through heat and cold, never having enough food and not knowing where she would sleep or if she would be safe Yamileth finally arrived in the United States.

She had heard lots of stories of life in the US but many of them weren't true. Everything was different except her desire for a better life and that is what drove her to find a job. The employers of her first jobs would only pay her 5 or 6 dollars an hour because she did not speak English and they knew they could get away with it.

After she had been working a couple of years at these jobs she started to go to St. Rose's. There she met many nice people and they told her about their English classes. There is a famous quote that says, "When the student is ready, the teacher appears", and this was Yamileth. She was ready to improve her English and she met the tutors at St. Rose. She started at the beginning level in the classes and still worked at her low paying jobs. Then her English began to improve and she started to look for better jobs but always she kept going to English classes.

The next change in her life was getting married and having her first child. Now she has added the responsibilities of a family and job but she never stops going to English classes. Yami currently runs her own business and she is able to employ three other people. She knows that anyone can make a better life for themselves but they have to work hard to get there.

Yamileth exemplifies the hard working immigrant students that come to LVMC. She is dedicated to her English classes and wants to help herself and her family succeed in her new country.

We are proud to award Yamileth Padilla with our ESL Student of the Year Award for 2014-2015.