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## **News Release**

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### **HPHS Junior Receives National Award For Achievement in Mathematics**

June 20, 2007 – Jhonny Alberto Ruiz Velasquez, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Hartford Public High School, is one of 16 students nationwide to receive an award for his exceptional achievements in mathematics. A native of Colombia, Jhonny came to the U.S. four years ago.

The Todos/Casio Mathematics Recognition Award was presented by Charlene Tate-Nichols, math consultant from the Connecticut State Department of Education and Sharon Heyman, senior coordinator of mathematics for the Hartford Public Schools.

TODOS: Mathematics for All is a national organization that advocates for an equitable and high quality mathematics education for all students, particularly Latino students.

Ms. Heyman said in her nomination of Jhonny, “(He) is a remarkable math student who is largely self-taught. I’ve never encountered a student who so thoroughly enjoys the challenge of mathematics and gets pleasure working out complex problems on his own.

“He proves theorems and then checks them on the internet. He reads books on quantum physics in his spare time. He keeps a notebook of extremely difficult problems that he’s solved and is especially drawn to the imaginary number system. Jhonny is a truly exceptional student, and a very personable young man.”

Even though English is Jhonny’s second language, he earned a “5” on the Math CAPT and reached Goal in the other subjects. He will take all AP classes as a Senior and hopes to go to MIT to study Quantum Physics.



(l-r) Charlene Tate-Nichols, Connecticut Dept. of Education; Jhonny Alberto Ruiz Velasquez, Sharon Heyman, sr. math coordinator, Hartford Schools; and Jose Feliz, Jhonny's math teacher at Hartford Public High School.