

Members of the Hudson County business community came together with nonprofit organizations and high school students this afternoon for an annual luncheon that celebrates efforts to create "a positive, inclusive society."



The Business and Youth Leadership Luncheon, at Puccini's Restaurant in Jersey City, was sponsored by the Hudson County chapter of the American Conference on Diversity, which aims to educate and empower the next generation of leaders.

Honored with Humanitarian Awards were: Fredric Pocci, executive director of the North Hudson Sewerage Authority; TD Bank; the West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson (Lions Club), represented by its president, Adolfo Gonzalez; and WomenRising Inc. of Jersey City, represented by its executive director, Sister Roseann Mazzeo.

Also honored were the winners of the Jersey City Public Schools' 2011 Secondary Schools Poster Contest, for which students were asked to create a poster and incorporate the slogan "We're All Different, But the Same."



Among art majors at the Jersey City ARTS High School Program, Tinhinane Khelifi took first place, Sarah Barcelos took second, and Chris Ann Lindo placed third.

In the general art category, Hina Malik of Dickinson High School placed first, Sofia D'Rozario of Liberty High School came in second, and Johnesse Collins of Liberty placed third.



"The coexistence of different races and cultures brings our society together as one," Sofia wrote in describing her entry, "which allows us to understand the diversity around us."