MACR valedictorian, lifeguard stresses hard work

By Rachel Shurin  Scholastic Staff Writer

MACR — There are some students who graduate from high schools with a focus on social sciences, and there are those who specialize, and Mishell Sanchez is one of them. The Class of 2017 valedictorian at Cape May Regional High School plans to study engineering at the University of Delaware in the fall. But before not finishing her speech as planned, she said, "I hope you all understand that I'm not going to say everything in my speech."

Patricia Sanchez was representing the Cape May Regional High School's Challenge Program, which was geared toward students with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) interest, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students.

This challenge included going on a 1.2 mile run, followed by a half- mile paddleboard race and then another run down the beach before finishing with a half-mile swim. "Thirty-minute breaks were taken between the activities given to them," she said.

Sanchez started her education at Cape May City Elementary School. While attending high school, she was strongly influenced by her math teachers. "My family thought it was a good idea to go into engineering because we thought it was a job where you can help people in need and be mathematically involved," she said.

Sanchez became friends with someone who was accepted by the University of Delaware, so with a future career in engineering, she can focus on helping people at the same level. "I've been swimming for three years," she said. "I've improved from one school, we all take what we learn and share it with others," she said.

"I used to think that improving society means working on large projects, helping people at the same level," Sanchez said. "I've learned that you have to work to stay in school. I think that engineering entails. The chance to experience new locations helps people in need and be helpful.

"I always had great teachers who were really dedicated to the students," she said. "For Sanchez, being a lifeguard was a different experience. "I've been swimming for three years," she said. "I've improved from one school, we all take what we learn and share it with others," she said.

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