

Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards recognize outstanding Fil-Am youth in D.C.

Written by Philippine Embassy DC
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Philippine ambassador to the U.S. Jose Manuel G. Romualdez (2nd from left), Mr. Ramon Paterno (left-most) and Atty. Ed Logan (2nd from right) with the awardees of the 26th Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards held at the Philippine Embassy Chancery Annex in Washington on Feb. 9, 2019.

WASHINGTON — Eight outstanding Filipino-American students from the DMV area were recognized at the annual Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards held at the Philippine Chancery Annex on Feb. 9, 2019.

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The annual youth awards, organized by the Philippine American Foundation for Charities (PAFC) and in partnership for the first time with Sentro Rizal Washington DC, aims to recognize Fil-Am students for their academic excellence, leadership and volunteerism within their communities.

For the selection process, all candidates were asked to submit a video reflection and a personally written poem on Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal's poem "Mi Ultimo Adios" or My Last Farewell.

They were also asked to put themselves in the shoes of the national hero and give one last advice to their fellow countrymen.

The top 8 awardees are: (Elementary) Ashley Lea Cabanayan Shrestha; (Middle School) Katherine Gillen, Arabella Palor and Benedict Hilario; (High School) Patrick Aguda and Sarah Menchaves; and (College) Natalia Fernandez and Franz Jeremy Sandil.

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Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez delivers his remarks at the 26th Dr. Jose Rizal

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Rizal Youth Awards, featuring a Philippine flag and the start of the 2019 program