

---

# The Standard-Times

Serving the communities of SouthCoast Massachusetts

Copyright ©

The Standard-Times

New Bedford, MA

®



May 31, 2006, p. A04

## 7 Graduate from New College Course

By JOAO FERREIRA, *Standard-Times* staff writer

NEW BEDFORD — It may have taken Lori Ann Santos a long time to find out what she wants to do at this point in her life as a 46-year-old, disabled, single mother.

But after attending the eight-month New Bedford Clemente Course in the Humanities, Ms. Santos discovered she wants to pursue social work or become a guidance counselor.

"This course helped me decide that social work and working with people was important in my life," Ms. Santos said last night as the first seven local students graduated from the national program. "I have learned so much. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

At a ceremony at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, families and friends joined the students who participated in the free, one-year, college-level course for low-income residents.

Graduates earned six college credits through participation.

Ms. Santos of Fairhaven has attended Bristol Community College and will now return there to further her studies.

Deborah Ramos, a 56-year-old graduate from New Bedford, just finished her general studies degree at BCC. She will apply the six credits to UMass Dartmouth.

"I feel like I've grown years academically," she said.

The New Bedford program is sponsored by Bard College in partnership with People Acting in Community Endeavors, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and UMass Dartmouth.

Students studied literature and poetry, philosophy, painting, sculpture and architecture, meeting twice a week at PACE's office.

Last night's event included addresses by Mark Santow, academic director, Kristen O'Connol, from the MFH, Dean William Hogan from UMass and Bruce Morrell from PACE.

The keynote speaker was Jabreel Kazhan — one of the four who took part in a February 1960 sit-in at the Greensboro, N.C., Woolworth counter to protest racial segregation across the South — who gave a colorful, anecdote-filled talk about the search for wisdom.