1975

Honorary Degree Citation: Hector-Neri Castaneda

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HECTOR-NERI CASTANEDA

Dr. Hector-Neri Castaneda has shown excellence in the fields of philosophy, mathematics, journalism and education. He has a total of more than 77 journal publications and seven textbooks. His contributions to the academic world have won him the distinction of "Outstanding Educator of America" for the 1974-75 year.

He reflects the goals of Governors State University as an institution geared to provide educational opportunities to minorities and those in the low economic brackets.

Dr. Castaneda was born of humble parents in a town in Guatemala (Central America). He belonged to a socioeconomic group where education was limited to the sixth grade. Dr. Castaneda had to overcome great obstacles to attend high school, only to be expelled from the "Escuela Normal" (normal high school) because of his social ideas of equal opportunity to the lower class. He finished high school in Costa Rica and saw his way to Oxford and ultimately to the United States where he obtained his Ph.D. in philosophy (minor in mathematics) from the University of Minnesota (1954).

He has been chairperson of the Philosophy Department at Wayne State University, and he presently holds the Mahlon Powell Professorship at Indiana University.

He is an outstanding role model for GSU students as one who broke through traditional socioeconomic barriers.

He is also a good example for members of our Latino Community who must struggle (as Dr. Castaneda has) to overcome language and cultural difficulties.

Dr. Castaneda is indeed a worthy recipient of Governors State University's first honorary doctoral degree.