Guadalupe Delgado, Luisa Sosa and Natalia Cardenas –Winners of the 2015 Letter to My Parents[™] Contest in Chicago.

The Final Presentation and Reception for the 2015 Letter to My Parents[™] Contest in Chicago was held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the Pilsen Wellness Center where nine finalists recited their letters dedicated to their parents.

For this year's contest, the winners were Guadalupe Delgado and Luisa Sosa! Both winners will receive a Trip to Japan sponsored by Pilsen Wellness Center and Reiyukai America. They will have the opportunity to serve as delegate members of the 22nd annual "Youth Cultural Exchange US-Mexico-Japan" from April 13th to the 22nd. The third prize was awarded to Natalia Cardenas. She received a \$500 scholarship sponsored by Evelin Freytas from New York Life Insurance Company. Linda Alvarez and John Gorman received a special recognition by the judges for sharing their stories filled with emotions, struggles, and overcoming the challenges they have had to endure in their pursuit of happiness.

Other finalists included Eric Cuevas, Adriana Izquierdo, Alejandra Izquierdo and Luis Enrique Velasquez. Each finalist received a small gift in recognition for sharing their heart warmth stories. In addition, each finalist also received a certificate for a "1 Year BenchPrep TestPrep Course Subscription" courtesy of BenchPrep.

The Letter to My Parents[™] Contest is organized by <u>Confederacion de Federaciones Mexicanas</u> (CONFEMEX), <u>Durango Unido en Chicago</u> and <u>Reiyukai America</u>.

The Sponsors are <u>Pilsen Wellness Center</u>, <u>BenchPrep</u>, <u>Evelin Freytas from New York Life Insurance</u> <u>Company</u> and Dejay Kim.

The Judges were Dr. Monica Masana, Ph.D (Pilsen Wellness Center), Maria Pizarro (Senior Social Worker). Maya Fukuda (Psychotherapist and Social Worker in New York), Annaliza Villamin (REACT-Reiyukai Active Care Team) and Rome Sotelo (Middle School Teacher, LAUSD)

"We are happy to see that every year we have participants from different educational institutions. This year, the nine finalists were representing respectively nine different schools," said, Marcia Soto on behalf of Durango Unido en Chicago.

"We will continue with this noble project because we are convinced that filial piety is what brings a positive change to our community. Writing a letter is the first step for the change!" said Tomoko Obara, Representative of Reiyukai America in Chicago.

For more details and photos of the event, please visit www.lettertomyparents.com

Click <u>HERE</u> to download the two 1st Prize Winning Letters by Luisa Sosa and Guadalupe Delgado Click <u>HERE</u> for the photos of the event (You will be jumping to Facebook Photo Album).