

FORMER DHS SHELTER RESIDENT PUBLISHES MEMOIR, VISITS DHS TO SPEAK TO CURRENT RESIDENTS ABOUT HIS EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCES

Dr. Dan-el Padilla Peralta visits DHS to discuss his childhood as an undocumented immigrant in shelter and overcoming the obstacles that arose on his way to success

AUGUST 26, 2015 – Today, 30 youth and parents from DHS shelters attended a discussion with Dr. Dan-El Padilla Peralta, a former homeless shelter resident who now holds a doctorate in classics after graduating from three of the most elite academic institutions in the world. Dr. Padilla Peralta visited DHS to share his experiences with current shelter residents.



“Undocumented: A Dominican Boy’s Odyssey From a Homeless Shelter to the Ivy League” is a memoir chronicling Dr. Padilla Peralta’s journey from childhood in the Dominican Republic, to living as an undocumented immigrant in the New York City homeless shelter system, to holding three advanced degrees and a postdoctoral fellowship. While living in shelter, he was drawn to classic literature and spent his days in the library. Then a volunteer art teacher at a shelter realized Padilla Peralta’s incredible ability and talent and helped place him in the prestigious all-boys Collegiate School.

He completed his undergraduate degree at Princeton University, received a master’s in philosophy from Oxford University, and earned a doctorate in classics from Stanford University. Dr. Padilla Peralta is currently completing a teaching fellowship at Columbia University, before beginning an associate professorship at Princeton University in 2016.



Following his presentation, there was a Q&A session, book signing, and reception. Penguin Random House also donated copies of the book to those in attendance.

###

Media Contact: Nicole Cueto (212) 361-7973