



## **Press Release**

### **Mrs. Cecilia Morel, First Lady of the Republic of Chile visits the Gabriela Mistral Campus in Corona, New York**

*New York, October 9, 2018*—On Saturday, September 22, 2018—Mrs. Cecilia Morel, the First Lady of the Republic of Chile paid a special visit to the Gabriela Mistral Campus in Corona, Queens County, New York. Mrs. Morel's visit celebrated the second anniversary of the inauguration of the Gabriela Mistral Campus and the closing event of the 10th anniversary event of the founding of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation.

Over 200 guests, comprised of students, parents, authorities of the Board of Education of the City of New York—Mr. Lawrence Pendergast, Executive Superintendent Queens North of the NY City Board of Education; Mrs. Madelene Chan, District Superintendent; local authorities and representatives of Chile—Ambassador Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN; Hon. Francisco del Campo, Consul General of Chile in New York; Ms. Fernanda Bachelet, Trade Commissioner of Chile in New York—representatives of the Borough of Queens and special guests attended this special event in honor of the First Lady and the great Chilean poet and humanitarian.

The First Lady was received by the Principal of the Campus, Mrs. Beth Hert, representatives of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation, local authorities, and a group of student ambassadors. Upon arrival, a couple of Chilean “huasos” greeted her with an esquinazo—a cueca [the Chilean National Dance]—. The student ambassadors proceeded to give Mrs. Morel a guided tour of the Campus including the Gabriela Mistral Library, Art Room, Music Room, a few classroom and the general facilities of the Campus. The school was built in 2016 at a cost of \$60 million dollars and it serves approximately 800 students.

After the tour, the First Lady and the student ambassadors proceeded to the Auditorium for a special program prepared by the students and teachers. The program included a special presentation of the School Band; poetry reading in English and Spanish; remarks by Mrs. Cecilia Morel; Ms. Beth Hert; Ms. Madelene Chan, and Gloria Garafulich-Grabois, President of the Gabriela Mistral Foundation.

On behalf of the students of the Campus, three students created a piece of artwork entitled “The Jewel of Corona,” which was presented to Mrs. Morel as a gift to the Republic of Chile. The Gabriela Mistral Foundation presented to the First Lady with a plaque with the

text of Mistral's "The Pleasure of Serving,"—a text that is central to the work of the Foundation. The plaque was presented by Ms. Beatriz Marinello, member of the honorary board of the Foundation and Gloria Garafulich-Grabois. The excellent artwork by the students and the plaque will be placed in the "Gabriela Mistral Salon" at La Moneda Presidential Palace.

The Gabriela Mistral Foundation also presented the most recent project, done in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady, consisting in the donation of 33 iPads that will be donated to six schools in vulnerable areas of Chile. The physical donation will be done at a later time in Chile.

Mrs. Morel remarked: " Gabriela Mistral is very important to us but more than a great figure she is an inspiration to us all. She was someone who always had her feet firmly planted on the earth and her gaze directed to the heavens. She represented hope for those in need and for future generations and I am very happy to see her and her values represented in this school. I congratulate the school for their work and for continuing to form students not only in academics but in their values who are the brand of the school: Perseverance, Leadership and respect."

The Gabriela Mistral Foundation is most grateful to Ms. Beth Hert and the entire staff and school community for their great work and to the First Lady of Chile Mrs. Cecilia Morel for her interest and support for the promotion of the life and work of Gabriela Mistral and support of the work of our Foundation.

For more information and photos of this event we invite you visit:  
<http://mistralnobel45.wixsite.com/website-1>