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Former U.S. Surgeon General Speaks at Touro College Commencement

Dr. Antonia Coello Novello, the New York State Commissioner of Health and former Surgeon General of the United States, delivered the keynote address at Touro College's School of Health Sciences commencement on Thursday, September 14th. At the ceremony, which took place at the Tillis Center for the Performing Arts, 324 candidates were presented for graduation, including doctoral, master's, bachelor's, and associate degrees. The School of Health Sciences, established in 1986, currently offers multiple educational programs at four locations. Its degree programs include physician assistant studies; occupational therapy; speech-language pathology and audiology; forensic examination; health care administration; acupuncture and oriental medicine; public health; nursing, forensic science; and physical therapy.

As NY Health Commissioner, Dr. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., heads one of the leading public health agencies in the nation, with responsibility for a \$49.4 billion budget – the largest of any New York State agency and over one-third the total of the entire New York State budget. A graduate of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine at San Juan, Dr. Novello had the distinction of being the first Hispanic woman to serve as Surgeon



From left: Dr. Joseph Weisberg, dean of the School of Health Sciences; Dr. Novello; Dr. Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College; and Rabbi Moshe D. Krupka, senior vice-president for college affairs.

General of the U.S., an appointment she received from President Bush in 1990.

"We are very pleased that someone of Dr. Novello's caliber and experience will be joining us to help celebrate the achievements of our graduates," said Dr. Joseph Weisberg, dean of the School of Health Sciences. "She epitomizes the good sense that is the core of good medicine."

Touro College has experienced phenomenal growth since its opening in 1971, and is currently educating more than 23,000 students at locations in New York, California, Florida, Nevada, Jerusalem, Moscow and Berlin. Touro College continues to have a profound impact on the lives of its students and on the Jewish and general communities.