

Arcadia father finally achieves college degree at 50

According to some of his professors, Cal State L.A.'s business management major William (Bill) Morales should be given the title of "father of the year."

Morales chose to put his higher education on hold, so he can support his family financially and educationally.

At the time, he had only graduated from South Gate High School, but Morales did indeed understand the value of a higher education and encouraged others around him to go to college.

Both his daughters have since graduated from CSU Fullerton and UC Davis, respectively. His wife earned her bachelor's degree in political science and subsequently a Master of Science in Public Administration from Cal State L.A. Now, his son is completing his first year at Pitzer College.

Over the years, he has been building upon his professional career, having been employed in various positions with Lockheed

Aeronautical, Art Center College of Design, Avid Technology and Panasonic.

Morales eventually decided to go back to school and pursue a career in management.

But, it was not a simple task. His previous academic credits were so outdated that they were not acceptable.

However, with the moral support of his family as well as his personal efforts, Morales began the pursuit of his dream, a college degree at East Los Angeles City College, where he earned an associate degree in liberal arts before transferring to Cal State L.A.

Eight years later, while working full-time, he is finally graduating this spring at age 50 with a bachelor's degree in business administration with an option in operations management.

He said, "Amazingly, the plan worked out as I was just promoted to executive director of post production at Fox NE&O. Having the degree was



-Courtesy Photo

most definitely a major benefit in being considered for this position as the company requires candidates to have experience with high level of business knowledge and education."

An Arcadia resident, he graduated with magna cum laude honors during the CSULA's 66th annual Commencement this past Saturday.

San Gabriel Dance Studio's is a new home for dancers to develop their spirit



-Courtesy Photo

SGDS has developed a comprehensive dance program in order to build effective dance skills & provide good quality training to youth of all ages. Offering valuable skills in different styles of dance, the school gives the students an opportunity to learn & apply their training to school productions, perform at SGDS dance school productions and or compete at various venues on a national & international level.

San Gabriel Dance Studio's (SGDS) mission is to provide quality, professional

Story."

After a successful run, he received a full scholarship to Princeton Ballet, New Jersey, & accepted a principal position to dance with Joffrey II, Los Angeles Classical Ballet, Ballet MET and other notable dance companies. He was appointed as the Co-Artistic Director in the South Bay area for 7 years teaching, rehearsing & coaching a regional company that was a member of the Regional Dance Festival, taking them to the highest "Honors" status within the region. Li has trained dancers

and in their SAT tests; they develop the creative side of the brain through the use of their body." Li concluded.

As the school continues to grow, for the serious ballet students; they will have the opportunity to participate in major ballet competitions locally, nationally & internationally. This will give them a chance to experience & learn what other student's are like & inspire them to work even harder to achieve their goals. Eventually a resident ballet company will be established with a non for profit status.



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