

The Dallas Morning News

DCET/Believe in Yourself presents awards at holiday dinner



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Silent Hero Award winners left to right, Paul and Delfina Lerma accepting on behalf of the late Platon Lerma (in painting at left), Dallas County Commissioner Elba Garcia and Juan Miguel Lopez. [Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Text Box Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

DCET/Believe in Yourself Inc. held a holiday party at the Central Library that included the presentation of its **Silent Hero Awards**. The Irving nonprofit, which provides literacy programs, education offerings and more for Hispanic youth and their families, presents the award to honor those who contribute to its mission and help the community.

Sharon Barbosa-Crain served as master of ceremonies and introduced several speakers, including DCET director **Elvia Wallace-Martinez** and Irving City Council member **John Danish**. Danish and previous Silent Hero Award recipient **Anthony Bond** talked about **Platon Lerma**, who received a Silent Hero Award posthumously. Lerma, a beloved member of the community, died in October. His wife, **Delfina Lerma**, accepted the award and a painting of her husband done by **Zakehia Uscanga**. Two other Silent Hero Award recipients were Dallas County Commissioner **Elba Garcia** and **Juan Miguel Lopez**. Garcia belongs to many groups in Irving and supports DCET's literacy and health programs. Lopez, a business owner, has helped many Hispanic businesses and also supports DCET programs.

To learn more about DCET, call 972-871-8285 or visit dcenti.org.