

ANOTHER TALENTED DECISION-MAKER SIGNS HER SDMA

We've celebrated SDMA signings with Decision-Makers who are artists, basketball players, singers and video producers, to name just a few, but last week was our very first Flamenco dancer!

Claudia is a Transitions student at Cooke Academy who has been taking dance lessons at New York's own Ballet Hispanico since she was very young, but has seriously taken up studying Flamenco over the past five years. (too bad we don't have a picture of her with castenets!) But that's not her only talent: she also loves golfing with her dad, a former golf pro. And to top it off, after many years of going to summer camp, which she loves, this past summer she had the opportunity to be part of the working crew as well as being a "happy camper"!



Claudia with Dad Richard in the background and, top to bottom, SDMNY's Joan, Facilitator Christina, Mom Carrie, and Mentor Gina

We're so proud of Claudia, but also of her facilitator Christina, who was a graduate student at the Hunter School of Education, mentored by our own Professor Gina Riley, and who has taken her experience with Claudia and SDMNY into her new life as a special education teacher at the Urban Assembly School of Business for Young Women.

At the signing ceremony, Claudia's mom shared a sentiment with which we heartily agree. She said : "I've always told you, you make your own decisions but we're here to support you in every way...this agreement just says what we've always told you but that it's now your right.." Claudia's hard work, and that of her supporters, Christina and Gina reaffirm what is so important--the **right** of everyone to make their own decisions, regardless of disability!

¡BRAVA CLAUDIA!