

CITATION IN NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE'S 2018 COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM ON DR. RICHARD R. GUZMAN RECEIVING PROFESSOR EMERITUS STATUS

Over the course of his 41 years at the College, Richard Guzman has shown himself a wildly resourceful and creative teacher. His students have noted that the published poet and composer had a lecture style “like jazz.” He has won both a Dissinger Award for Outstanding Teaching and a Sears Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching and Leadership.

A widely published writer, Guzman also developed and directed master's programs in liberal studies, leadership studies, and writing-editing-publishing, as well as founding the master's program in social entrepreneurship. He chaired the English department from 2001-2004, and was president of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs from 2000-2002.

Guzman helped create a vast array of programs that shaped virtually every facet of the campus community. He led in establishing the Cultural Events Program; College Scholars Program; NCC Review; Film Central; CELLULOID; CODE (Coalition on Diversity in Education); and Gospel Extravaganza. He also modeled social responsibility through his extensive community service, including working in homeless shelters, being active in Emmanuel House—the organization founded by Rick and Desiree Guzman in memory of his late son, Bryan Guzman '08—and working with Naperville schools to develop diversity plans and integrate foreign language programs.

Guzman earned his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley (1971); his M.A. from California State University, Hayward (1973); and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia (1977), where he founded the institution's first writing center.