A New York City school teacher, Silvestre sets his students on a course for college with his high expectations, engaging lessons, and endless commitment to their success.

Public Service:
As a junior at Cornell, Silvestre participated in the Early Childhood Education Program in Sweden, a life-changing experience that inspired him to serve poor students in urban areas through education. He has taught in schools in Long Beach and Los Angeles before coming to New York City.

At Work:
Silvestre teaches math and Spanish at The Laboratory School for Finance and Technology, a middle school in the South Bronx. In 2010, 97 percent of his sixth and seventh grade students demonstrated proficiency on the New York State Math Test, compared to only 34 percent in the school district and 53 percent across New York City. Silvestre, who has a master’s degree in bilingual/bicultural education from Columbia University, founded the middle school’s unique dual language program, which has become a model for its promotion of cross-cultural learning and Spanish language development.

At Cornell:
Silvestre holds a bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Studies. He volunteers for the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network and has represented the university at college fairs and applicant interviews. Silvestre regularly promotes Cornell and other colleges in his classroom in order to inspire his students toward higher education. In May 2010, he led 45 students on a two-day visit to Cornell, where they were introduced to the college experience.

Awards:
Because of his students’ high achievement on state math exams, Intel named Silvestre’s school a 2010 School of Distinction in Mathematics, a great source of pride for the South Bronx community.