**LINCOLN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**The Original School to College Pipeline®**

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**MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

**Hollywood Actor Jon Seda, to be Keynote Speaker at Lincoln Leadership Academy Charter School Graduation**

**EVENT: 6th Annual High School Commencement Ceremony**

**Keynote Speaker: Hollywood Actor Jon Seda**

Date & Time: Friday, June 1, 2018 @ 9:30 AM

Location: 1414 East Cedar Street, Allentown, PA 18109

**More on Graduation:** The Commencement will begin at the school’s campus on 9:30 A.M. This year, two more Lincoln Leadership Academy high school students have already graduated with an Associate Degree from Lehigh Carbon Community College. In total, 14 Lincoln high school students will have achieved this accomplishment in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

**More on Jon Seda:** Jon was born in Manhattan to parents of Puerto Rican descent. He was raised in Clifton, New Jersey. After graduating from high school, Mr. Seda became an amateur boxer and competed in the golden Gloves. He would finish his amateur career with a 20-1 record.

Jon’s movie career began in 1992 when he landed a role in Gladiator. Since then, Jon has starred or appeared in 23 movies and over 35 TV productions.

**See More Background Information on Lincoln and Jon Seda**

**Lincoln Highlights and Background Information:**

* Lincoln Leadership Academy Charter School was established in 2009
* Six Consecutive Graduating Classes:
* 100% high school Graduation, 100% college enrollment rate
* National Honor Society Chapter Member (72 students inducted since 2016)
* White House Initiative on Educational Excellence Award (2015-2016)
* PIAA District XI Sportsmanship of The Year Award (2015-2016)
* Awardee: Top 40 Work Places in the Lehigh Valley (2015-2016)
* PIAA District XI Boys Basketball Champions (2016-2017)
* Two-time U.S. News and World Report Bronze Star Winner 2016-17, 2017-2018 Top High Schools in the Nation

BACKGROUND:

**The Original School To College Pipeline®:**

In September, 2012, Lincoln’s “Original School to College Pipeline®, was created and designed to enroll first generation high school graduates in college courses as early as the ninth grade and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the 10th grade.

Traditionally, the notion would be that a Title I school would not have a college program. As a Title I school, Lincoln defies conventional wisdom. Welcome to Lincoln!!

The Dual Enrollment AP program was created by the school’s Founder/CEO/Principal, Mrs. Sandra Figueroa-Torres. “Our original Charter School application in 2009 was based on a K-14 design. From the beginning, our goal was to prepare our students for a college future through earned college credits and AP classes in high school.”

Mrs. Figueroa-Torres believes that “education is the greatest civil rights equalizer. Children from low income families must be provided with the opportunity to experience higher education in high school. Without that opportunity, the probability of future success diminishes greatly.”

In December 2012, Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill), held the first federal hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He said, “For many young people, our schools are increasingly a gateway to the criminal justice system.” Lincoln’s college “Pipeline” program may be the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

At this juncture, 14 Associate Degree students have now graduated from this program. An additional eight (8) students have earned 30 or more credits, and another 41 students have earned from 3 to 29 credits. In total, 51 of the 61 graduating Seniors in the Class of 2018 have earned college credits!

As a result of the program’s success, Lincoln added, *The Original School To College Pipeline®* to its name.

**How Equity Works**

Mrs. Figueroa-Torres sees getting students ready for the future as an equity issue. “Picture three kids trying to peer over a fence to see a baseball game while standing on the top of a crate. That one crate represents a regular high school education. One student is tall enough to look over the fence, but the others are not. In a regular school, the school works fine for some students but not others. While the one student can succeed, the others cannot, unless the school builds in additional crates (more innovative educational opportunities), which will allow the other students to see the game (close the gaps) quicker. This is what equity looks like at Lincoln,” Mrs. Figueroa-Torres said.

**More information about Jon Seda:**

## Jon Seda's film debut was in 1992, in the boxing film *Gladiator* in which he played the role of "Romano," a Cuban boxer. He has since worked in various films and TV series. In 1995, Seda was nominated Best Male Lead at the [Spirit Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spirit_Awards) for his role the 1994 movie [*I Like It Like That*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Like_It_Like_That_%28film%29) opposite [Rita Moreno](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Moreno) and [Lauren Vélez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_V%C3%A9lez).  In 1996, he was nominated for the [Palme d'Or](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palme_d%27Or) (Best Actor Award) for his role as "Blue" in the film [*The Sunchaser*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sunchaser)*,* opposite actor [Woody Harrelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woody_Harrelson) at the [Cannes Film Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannes_Film_Festival).

Seda became widely known to the [Hispanic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispanic) film audience when he portrayed [Chris Pérez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_P%C3%A9rez) alongside [Jennifer Lopez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Lopez) in [*Selena*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selena_%28film%29), a 1997 film based on the true story of the [Tejano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tejano) singer, [Selena Quintanilla-Perez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selena), who was murdered on her way to mainstream stardom. Seda played Selena's husband.

In 1997, Seda landed the role of Detective Paul Falsone on [NBC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBC)'s: *Homicide: Life on the Street*. The writers took advantage of his boxing background, writing a shirtless practice bout into an episode which established his character's attractiveness to fellow detective [Laura Ballard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laura_Ballard). He also boxed opposite [Jimmy Smits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Smits) in the 2000 film *Price of Glory*.

His first leading role on the large screen was as the protagonist in 2002's *King Rikki*, a re-imagining of [Shakespeare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakespeare)'s [*Richard III*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_III_%28play%29) in [East L.A](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles). Seda has appeared in more than two dozen movies, including [*Bad Boys II*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Boys_II) (2003) as "Roberto," as well as numerous television appearances. Aside from *Homicide*, he has had notable roles as [Dino Ortolani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dino_Ortolani) in [*Oz*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oz_%28TV_series%29), Matty Caffey in [*Third Watch*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Watch), Paul Falsone (in a Homicide crossover with [*Law & Order*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_%26_Order)), [*House*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_%28TV_series%29), and [*CSI: Miami*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSI%3A_Miami). He is featured as one of the three leads in the [HBO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HBO) [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) mini-series [*The Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pacific_%28miniseries%29) released on March 14, 2010, playing the part of Marine [John Basilone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Basilone).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Seda#cite_note-Veterans_Day_interview-2) Seda appeared as a guest star in an episode of [*Burn Notice*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burn_Notice). In 2007, Seda also made a cameo in [Ludacris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ludacris)' song [*Runaway Love*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runaway_Love_%28Ludacris_song%29), as an abusive, alcoholic stepfather.

Seda appeared in the second season of [*Treme*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treme_%28TV_series%29) as Nelson Hidalgo, a politically connected land developer from [Dallas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dallas) who helps out with the relief efforts in post-[Katrina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina) [New Orleans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Orleans). He appeared in the 2011 film [*Larry Crowne*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Crowne), which starred, and was co-written and directed by, [Tom Hanks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Hanks). Hanks served as an executive producer on *The Pacific*, in which Seda starred. in 2013 he starred alongside Hollywood superstar [Sylvester Stallone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylvester_Stallone), [Christian Slater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Slater) and [Jason Momoa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Momoa) in the [Walter Hill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Hill_%28director%29) action thriller [*Bullet to the Head*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullet_to_the_Head).

In 2012, Seda began portraying Detective Antonio Dawson in [Dick Wolf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Wolf)’s [*Chicago* franchise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_%28franchise%29), first starring on [*Chicago Fire*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Fire_%28TV_series%29) in a recurring role and then, in 2014, as part of the main cast of the spin-off [*Chicago P.D.*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_P.D._%28TV_series%29) In 2017, he carried his role over into another spin-off, [*Chicago Justice*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Justice), which was canceled after its first season. His daughter Haley made a guest appearance on *Chicago P.D.*as a key witness in a bombing. In July 2017, it was announced that Seda would return to *Chicago P.D.* following the cancellation of *Chicago Justice*.

## Personal life

## Jon married his long-time girlfriend, Lisa Gomez, in 2000. Jon and Lisa have four children: Haley Seda, Madison Seda, Jonathan Seda, and Jessica Seda Pinto

## Filmography

### Films

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Title** | **Role** |
| 1992 | [*Gladiator*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gladiator_%281992_film%29) | Romano |
| [*Zebrahead*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zebrahead_%28film%29) | Vinnie |
| 1993 | [*Carlito's Way*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlito%27s_Way) | Dominican |
| *New York Cop* | Mario |
| 1994 | [*I Like It Like That*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Like_It_Like_That_%28film%29) | Chino Linares |
| 1995 | [*12 Monkeys*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12_Monkeys) | Jose |
| [*Boys on the Side*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boys_on_the_Side) | Pete |
| 1996 | [*Dear God*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dear_God_%28film%29) | Handsome |
| [*Sunchaser*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunchaser) | Brandon 'Blue' Monroe |
| [*Primal Fear*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primal_Fear_%28film%29) | Alex |
| 1997 | [*The Price Of Kissing*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Price_Of_Kissing&action=edit&redlink=1) | Billy |
| [*Selena*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Selena_%28film%29) | [Chris Pérez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_P%C3%A9rez) |
| 2000 | [*Price of Glory*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Price_of_Glory) | Sonny Ortega |
| *Little Pieces* | Kyle |
| 2001 | [*Double Bang*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double_Bang) | Sally 'Fish' Pescatore |
| [*Love the Hard Way*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_the_Hard_Way) | Charlie |
| 2002 | [*Undisputed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undisputed_%28film%29) | Jesus 'Chuy' Campos |
| [*King Rikki*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Rikki) | Rikki Ortega |
| 2003 | [*Bad Boys II*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Boys_II) | Roberto |
| 2007 | *One Long Night* | Richard |
| 2011 | [*Larry Crowne*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_Crowne) | Officer Diamond |
| 2012 | [*Bullet to the Head*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullet_to_the_Head) | Louis Blanchard |
| 2018 | *Canal Street* | Detective Mike Watts |

### Television

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Title** | **Role** | **Notes** |
| 1993 | [*Daybreak*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daybreak_%281993_film%29) | Payne | TV Movie |
| 1994 | [*NYPD Blue*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NYPD_Blue) | Sal Molina | Episode: "[You Bet Your Life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_NYPD_Blue_episodes)" |
| 1995 | *Under Fire* |  |  |
| [*New York Undercover*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Undercover) | Bobby Lunas | Episode: "[Knock You Out](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_York_Undercover_episodes)" |
| 1996 | [*Mistrial*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrial_%281996_film%29) | Eddie Rios | TV Movie |
| 1997 | [*Law & Order*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_%26_Order) | [Det. Paul Falsone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Falsone) | Episode: "[Baby, It's You](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Law_%26_Order_episodes)" |
| 1997 | ”[Oz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oz_%28TV_series%29)” | Dino Ortolani |  |
| 1997–1999 | [*Homicide: Life on the Street*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homicide%3A_Life_on_the_Street) | [Det. Paul Falsone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Falsone) | 46 episodes |
| 1999–2000 | [*Third Watch*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Watch) | Matty Caffey | 7 episodes |
| 2000 | [*Thin Air*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thin_Air_%282000_film%29) | Luis DeLeon | TV Movie |
| [*Homicide: The Movie*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homicide%3A_Life_on_the_Street) | [Det. Paul Falsone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Falsone) | TV Movie |
| *Good Guys/Bad Guys* |  | TV Movie |
| 2001–2002 | [*UC: Undercover*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UC%3A_Undercover) | Jake Shaw | 13 episodes |
| 2003 | [*Hack*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hack_%28TV_series%29) | Nick Duarte | Episode: "Dial 'O' for Murder" |
| [*Oz*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oz_%28TV_series%29) | Dino Ortolani | 3 episodes |
| 2004 | [*Las Vegas*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas_%28TV_series%29) | Junior Gomez | Episode: "[Die Fast, Die Furious"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Las_Vegas_episodes) |
| [*The Jury*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jury_%28TV_series%29) | Victor Torres | Episode: "Last Rites" |
| 2004–2005 | [*Kevin Hill*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Hill) | Damian 'Dame' Ruiz | 22 episodes |
| 2006 | [*Ghost Whisperer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_Whisperer) | John Gregory | 2 episodes |
| 2006–2007 | [*Close to Home*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_to_Home_%282005_TV_series%29) | Ray Blackwell | 20 episodes |
| 2008 | [*CSI: Miami*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSI%3A_Miami) | Hector Salazar | Episode: "[Tipping Point](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_CSI%3A_Miami_episodes)" |
| 2009 | [*House*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_%28TV_series%29) | Donny | Episode: "[Brave Heart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_House_episodes)" |
| *One Hot Summer* | Ariel Silva | TV Movie |
| 2010 | *Cutthroat* | Frankie | TV Movie |
| [*Numb3rs*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbers_%28TV_series%29) | Lonnie Moses | Episode: "[Arm in Arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Numbers_episodes)" |
| *Legally Mad* | Joe Matty | TV Movie |
| [*The Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pacific_%28miniseries%29) | Sgt. [John Basilone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Basilone) | TV Mini-series |
| [*Burn Notice*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burn_Notice) | Cole | Episode: "[Center of the Storm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Burn_Notice_episodes)" |
| [*The Closer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Closer) | Detective Frank Verico | Episode: "[Off the Hook](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_The_Closer_episodes)" |
| [*Hawaii Five-0*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Five-0_%282010_TV_series%29) | Sergeant Cage | Episode: "[Mana'o](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hawaii_Five-0_%282010_TV_series%29_episodes)" |
| 2011–2013 | [*Treme*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treme_%28TV_series%29) | Nelson Hidalgo | 26 episodes |
| 2012–present | [*Chicago Fire*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Fire_%28TV_series%29) | [Antonio Dawson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonio_Dawson) | Recurring |
| 2014–present | [*Chicago P.D.*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_P.D._%28TV_series%29) | Main |
| 2016 | [*Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_%26_Order%3A_Special_Victims_Unit) | Episode: "Nationwide Manhunt" |
| 2017 | [*Chicago Justice*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago_Justice) | Main |