



The Hope Online Class of 2010

The Class of 2010: Dreams, HOPE, Perseverance

Another jubilant celebration of hope and achievement marked the graduation milestone of 170 seniors, with an abundance of family and supporters on hand, at the Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op Class of 2010 commencement exercises held on May 27th at the Auraria Campus Event Center.

“It is absolutely amazing how lives are being changed through Hope Online,” reflected keynote speaker, Corey Coicchetti, author and University of Denver Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Business Ethics, after the inspiring ceremony. “This (graduation) is a rare and clear demonstration of unabashed pride and enthusiasm about the achievement of students.”

In his formal address, Professor Coicchetti reminded Hope Online graduates to move forward into a consistently authentic life founded upon positive relationships, an unwavering work ethic and the purposeful pursuit of goals—including college—with integrity.

“Congratulations on overcoming the odds to take this first step toward success,” he began. “In fifteen years, I hope you will look back, just as proud as you are this evening, on the life you have used your education to achieve. Be proud of your decisions and make a habit of acknowledging and appreciating the people whose support you have received along your way to each achievement.”

Many such supporters were part of the standing-room-only crowd. They were celebrating not only

the diplomas that were earned, but the learning sanctuary that the graduating students had found at Hope Online. Under the guidance of their Learning Center directors, mentors and teachers at Hope Online, the lives of many students from across the Front Range were transformed.

Two inspiring seniors and best friends, James Hubbard and Aaron Roston, who attended Hope Online’s Learning Center at Hillcrest Academy, delivered a passionate call to action. Standing side-by-side, they encouraged, “Class of 2010, pursue your dreams and don’t stop pursuing happiness until you find it. No matter where our dreams lead us, we will be forever grateful to Hope Online, our mentors and teachers for giving us the opportunities to dream, to hope and to persevere.”

Douglas County School District’s Board of Education President, John Carson, accepted Hope Online’s Class of 2010. Just prior to distributing each graduate’s hard-earned diploma, Mr. Carson lauded Hope Online Valedictorian, Nathan Pacheco from Pathway Learning Center, also the Hope Online 2010 Prom King.

The crowd of 2,000 people clamored with anticipation as Terry Rawls, Vice Chancellor of Jones International University (JIU), announced that two Hope Online graduates, Kyle Prickett, from New Hope Academy, and James Hubbard, would receive 50% tuition scholarships (valued at \$20,000) toward a degree at JIU. Both young men were selected for the award based on their

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Hope Online’s Valedictorian, Nathan Pacheco, receives his diploma from Douglas County School District Board of Education President, John Carson

“
There is nothing more
rewarding than the graduation
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”

*Heather O’Mara,
Hope Online Chief Executive Officer*



Greetings from the Chief Executive Officer

Hope is a decision to focus on the future. The recent Hope Online Class of 2010 graduation is an excellent time to consider the significant points of progress that preceded this celebration of new beginnings for our graduates.

As I beamed with pride witnessing high school diplomas bestowed upon our 170 outstanding seniors, I was also inspired as a member of the Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op team. Once again, it was our cooperative dedication as partners in the community that culminated in a ceremony reflecting our collective achievements.

Congratulating Hope Online seniors at their commencement is a privilege. With the same heartfelt thanks, I now offer congratulations to you on our graduation to the next level of excellence in the field of education. Here are some of our many achievements this year:

3rd Grade CSAP Gains

Hope Online continued to show improvement in 3rd grade CSAP reading scores. This year, 47% of Hope Online's 3rd grade students scored proficient or advanced in reading—a 12% INCREASE from 2008/09.

Charter Extension

The Douglas County School District approved a two-year renewal of Hope Online's charter. This extension provides Hope Online with a charter through the 2012-2013 school year.

Spelling Bee

Kindergarten through 6th grade students participated in a spelling bee at the Fox Theater. Hope Online students from Aurora Tech Academy, Eastwind Academy, Harrison Street Academy, Little Debbie's Dream Learning Center and Tubman Hilliard Global Academy competed. They had a wonderful time spelling words for family and friends.

Persuasive Argument Competition

Teachers, mentors, directors, family and friends gathered to watch over 30 6th-12th grade students from Fort Collins to Pueblo participate in the first annual Hope Online Persuasive Argument Competition. Students demonstrated thoughtfulness and poise as they delivered their presentations.

Love and Logic Training

Parents and mentors participated in a fantastic program about building relationships between adults and children. The training provided simple and practical techniques to help adults reduce stress and increase fun while raising and mentoring responsible kids.

Health Services

Hope Online staff volunteers coordinated with Learning Center staff to exceed vision and hearing screening requirements. Every student who could be reached was screened, aiding in the preparation of our students for learning.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Thirty-four Learning Centers joined the National School Lunch Program—25 of them utilizing the fresh and healthy lunch options of Revolution Foods, Inc. As a result, Hope Online saw large increases in the number of lunches served each day to students.

Prom

Eighty-five students from ten Learning Centers attended Hope Online's Academy Awards-themed second annual prom. Students enjoyed a formal dinner and received awards before dancing the night away.

May the summer be a time of reflection and renewal as we prepare to greet the graduating class of 2011 in the fall!



Sincerely,
Heather O'Mara
Chief Executive Officer

Worldwide Academy: Extending the Borders of Learning

Creating a world of vibrant interest and excitement about education, a world where opportunities are visible to all students, is a purpose clearly demonstrated at Hope Online's Learning Center, Worldwide Academy.

Focused on 21st century priorities, Learning Center Director Eric Clinkscales is steadfast in cultivating a multi-faceted educational organization. Together with Laura Smallwood, a business partner and Worldwide Academy mentor, Mr. Clinkscales opened a Hope Online Learning Center. Equipped to utilize technology and international learning values, they are making inroads with a spectrum of eager and reluctant learners, even those who are discouraged and on the verge of dropping out of school.

In only its first year, Worldwide Academy infused

15 high school students with hope that revitalized their motivation to excel academically. Each student received effective instruction from their Hope

Online teacher, Aurora Gonzalez, paired with caring support from highly trained mentors. Exceedingly proud of his four seniors, all now having earned their high school diplomas despite considerable challenges, (see *A Triumphant Trio*) "Mr. C.," as he is affectionately known by his students, is duly inspired by Worldwide Academy's achievements.

"All of Worldwide's Hope Online students know that we are here to meet them 'where they are' with no conditions except that they put forth effort. We help them prioritize their own education and, for some, this is a huge accomplishment. Whether their need is a ride, a flexible assignment schedule



From left to right, Hope Online teacher, Aurora Gonzalez, with Hope Online students, Ana de Dios and Bethany Marmaro, and Worldwide Academy Director, Eric Clinkscales

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The Pact to Achieve



This is a story about two Hope Online students who formed an alliance, vowing to beat the odds—together.

James Hubbard and Aaron Roston met each other two years ago at Hillcrest Academy, a Hope Online Learning Center in the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver. James was 16, a sophomore, and Aaron was 14, a freshman. Before enrolling, neither was motivated in school.

Everything changed at Hope Online.

Their new Learning Center had fewer distractions, helping Aaron to achieve eligibility for early graduation consideration. Meanwhile, James, who liked his teachers and mentors and thrived with their unconditional support, still lagged behind in credits and worried that he would not graduate.

Then in spring 2007, the boys attended a school assembly that left a tremendous impression. The authors of the NY Times best-selling book, *The Pact*, Drs. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt, came to Denver. All three grew up under tough economic and social conditions in Newark, NJ, but, nonetheless, they honored a commitment to stick together, go to college and become doctors, all the while reminding each other to:

- Never underestimate the power of self-reliance and strength,
- Always have a timeline and strategy for achieving your goals, and
- Surround yourself with people who support your goals.

A year later, James and Aaron decided to make a pact to faithfully motivate each other, finish school and become doctors. Aaron says, "Every day, I would make sure James got caught up on his credits. I hounded him, but it paid off." James too, kept Aaron focused. He says, "I pushed him to graduate a year early. I knew he could do it. We studied together, solved problems together and never gave up hope."



Aaron Roston



James Hubbard

James and Aaron, chosen to deliver a graduation speech together, reminded the Class of 2010, "Hope keeps dreams in flight... Many of the great accomplishments of the world were accomplished by tired and discouraged men who kept on working," noting that each graduate had to persevere to earn a diploma.

Both graduates will attend college and both are planning to get their doctorates – James is aiming for a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Aaron, a Ph. D. in Biochemistry.



James Hubbard and Aaron Roston deliver their speech at Hope Online's Class of 2010 Graduation Ceremony

A Triumphant Trio: Reaching the Finish Line Together

Many successful Hope Online graduates, because they have overcome chaotic life circumstances on their own, have an engrained sense of independence. Nevertheless, an especially triumphant trio forged together this year, with the care and compassion of their Hope Online teacher, Learning Center director and mentors, to courageously step out of their comfort zones.

Bethany Marmaro, Ana de Dios and Fahm Saechao, Hope Online graduates from WorldwideAcademy, portray the unique camaraderie and achievement that is possible when students unite in pursuit of their dreams.



Bethany Marmaro



Ana de Dios



Fahm Saechao

As a freshman at Gateway High School in Aurora, Bethany was ahead of the pack, entering high school having already earned credits. She progressed steadily for three years. But, one English credit short of early graduation, Bethany's aspirations were squashed by an unexpected move to Greeley and subsequent transcript delays that prevented her timely enrollment. For the resilient senior, it was

just one more obstacle along a road of tragedy marked by the loss of loved ones.

Ana, meanwhile, was struggling to choose between a good time and a good education. Her formative years in school had yielded

considerable confusion when she was mistakenly kept in classes for native Spanish speakers despite not knowing the language. Behind in essential reading skills as she grew older, Ana fell into a routine of ditching classes at New America High School. Finally, Ana realized, "If I went to New America, I wouldn't graduate until I was twenty-one."

Fahm grappled with an excruciating schedule of exhausting work as her hopes of a high school diploma slowly evaporated. Working the midnight shift at a grocery to help her father support her seven brothers and sisters after her mother moved away, Fahm found waking for school an impossible task. With no one in her life to support her dreams, Fahm simply survived and helped her father pay bills.

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Teen Tutor Brings Hope to Students



Ceara Ramirez

Hope Online graduate Ceara Ramirez is college bound and loves tutoring. She tutors students from preschool to high school, and they would never guess that she, herself, was “supposed to fail.” She did not.

In her senior year, Ceara assisted classmates at Hope Online’s Roca Fuerte Learning Center before heading to her job at Kumon Math and Reading Center in Aurora. Through the Bridge Program, Ceara plans to tutor disadvantaged youth for a full year in exchange for college tuition assistance.

Raised by her mother and Roca Fuerte



Ceara helps a students at Roca Fuerte Learning Center

mentor, Beverly Tanguma, Ceara avoided the obstacles that cost many others their education. Her father’s departure when she was just three could have sabotaged her education but, with the help of others, her mother remained committed to her children’s success. Under Ms. Tanguma’s firm guidance and her grandparents’ roof, Ceara navigated past common pitfalls on the road to graduation.

“We tried several school options, all supportive in different ways and with varying degrees of success,” explains Ms. Tanguma. “I am well aware that Ceara could easily have become another dropout statistic and know that we have been very fortunate.”

Over the years, Ms. Tanguma vigilantly sought schools that would help advance her daughter’s academic and developmental progress.

Whether working in exchange for her daughter’s tuition at a private school or experimenting with a home school alternative, Ms. Tanguma responded to her daughter’s educational needs. This past year, Roca Fuerte provided Ceara with a learning environment where she could

overcome previous obstacles to her achievement. At Hope Online, where she was able to review lessons and progress at her own pace, Ceara graduated prepared for college.

“Hope Online was Ceara’s final school, and Roca Fuerte is proud to have helped her complete her studies feeling empowered to tutor others now that she is so aware of her true capability,” says Roca Fuerte Learning Center Director, Dr. Marvin Linares. “I have seen her concentration, comprehension and esteem grow as she has been allowed to pause and analyze her lessons. Hope Online’s learning model facilitates her independent nature in a smaller and more supportive setting.”

Ceara is elated to help students in areas that were once stumbling blocks for her. “It feels great to help others and to pass along some of the support that was given to me as I help struggling kids see their potential, just like I finally have realized my own.”



From left to right, friends Ana de Dios, Bethany Marmaro and Fahm Saechao

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When the three girls met through mutual friends, they discovered the key to their success. Believing that they could accomplish together what had eluded them individually, they began a determined journey toward graduation. Bethany contacted Hope Online and coaxed Ana to visit Worldwide Academy with her.

Learning Center Director Eric Clinkscales, “Mr. C.,” had encouraging words for both girls, explaining what was required to achieve their dreams. Enthusiastic about the opportunity to succeed, Bethany and Ana included Fahm in their master plan. Today, Fahm thanks her friends for introducing her to the online school and for waking her to attend her classes.

Maximizing the many advantages of studying at an individual pace, the girls held impromptu study sessions to prepare for their online quizzes, ever reminding themselves of their progress. At the same time, they were also motivated by Mr. C., who was always listening to their concerns, answering their many questions, and facilitating their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

At mid-year, Bethany and Ana accepted a challenge to apply for a special training program to prepare them for a potential career in the broadband industry. Not only were they selected as Broadband Opportunity Learning Development (BOLD) Program honorees, Ana and Bethany maintained the highest records of pacing and completion of the BOLD program participants and earned three college credits.

Fahm prevailed in her many household responsibilities while maintaining her coursework as well. Reflecting now on how she conquered math even when she thought she could not, Fahm is ready to take on the next “impossible” task on her way to a successful and fulfilling future.

Of their first days at Worldwide Academy, Ana recalls, “It was like the sun arose from behind the clouds when Mr. C. was so welcoming and full of excitement. He made us feel like a part of a family; he was the first adult to come into our lives with encouragement of our goals to graduate.”

Lights! Camera! Prom!

With the cameras of paparazzi flashing, eighty-five glamorously transformed Hope Online students walked the red carpet as the doors to the second annual prom flung open at the Courtyard Marriott in Cherry Creek for a star-studded "Academy Awards Night" on May 8th.

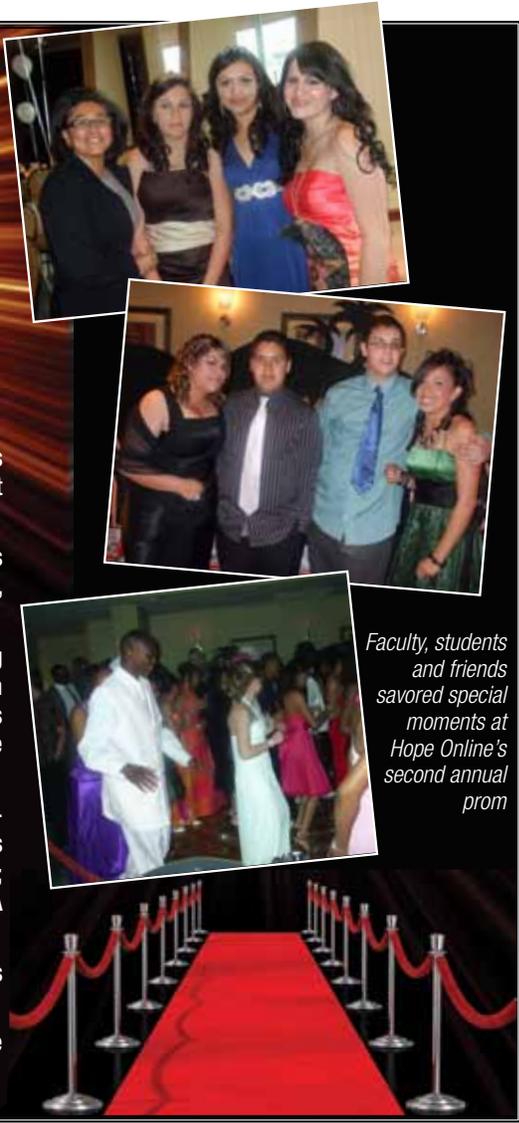
First enjoying a sumptuous formal banquet, Hope Online students joined their classmates, dates and friends for a celebration that commemorated the end of a very special season with fine food, commendations and dancing.

The awards ceremony marked the evening as a time for affirmation. Hillcrest Academy Learning Center Director Terri Roston asserted, "We wanted to recognize each student, making them feel special for being the stars that they are." Indeed, numerous trophies, signifying awards ranging from "Most Improved" to "Most Athletic," were ceremoniously distributed. Basking in the limelight, students posed for pictures as they accepted their coveted statuettes.

For their excellent academic performance, Nathan Pacheco of Pathway Learning Center and T'ah-Dai Dunn of Hillcrest Academy were crowned Prom King and Queen, respectively. Other members of the prom court included Elise Brandvold, Marcayla Kitch and Zachariah Abad of Tetra Academy; Adrian Wolder, James Hubbard and Aaron Roston of Hillcrest Academy; Darian Duran of LARASA Learning Center and Terilyn Smith of Pathway Learning Center.

Volunteers from Hope Online and participating Learning Centers came together with donations and imagination to create a memorable occasion for Hope Online high school students.

Special thanks to Hillcrest Academy and Hope Online Administrative Services Manager Melanie Stone for their planning of this special evening.



Faculty, students and friends savored special moments at Hope Online's second annual prom

Hope Online Students are Masters of Persuasion

A distinct buzz of excitement permeated the Hope Online central office on May 13th during the first annual Persuasive Argument Competition. Arriving from as far away as Fort Collins and Pueblo, with many metro-Denver Hope Online Learning Centers also represented, teachers, mentors, directors, family and friends rallied in support of the poised and enthusiastic students who competed with passion, demonstrating their expertise on a variety of themes and topics.

"The opportunity to develop core skills in language arts was our primary aim, but this event was beyond any singular accomplishment," an exuberant Dr. Janet Filbin, Director of Student Achievement, remarked after the winners were announced. "Hope Online students, representing the spectrum of Learning Centers across Colorado, connected on an intellectual and relational level. Many of them savored the richly diverse environment and the challenge of critical thinking that this contest presented. It was the first of many (competitions) that will boost and give voice to our dedicated students and their obvious potential."



From left to right, essay competition winners, Aaron Roston, Sumayia Hussain, Tiye Garrett Mills, Tyler Humphries, Tessciela Rouse and Antonio DeLeon

In addition to their visual materials and presentations, students' written persuasive essays were also judged by Hope Online teachers and staff members who agreed on the importance of the event and the high caliber of entries.

"The bar has been set extremely high for quality achievement for our winners," commented judge Michael Udlock from the Hope Online student services team. "I look forward to seeing future students meet, and even exceed, this bar next year."

Reading Specialist Jessica Springs agreed, adding, "This was an amazing event not only for students, but for teachers and mentors alike. Students were able to showcase their efforts in an academic project while expressing their thoughts, points of view and writing skills. I enjoyed meeting and visiting with students from across the state and look forward to our next competition!"

Congratulations to all of the participants, especially our winners:

6th-8th grade		Essay Topic
1st place	Sumayia Hussain	Public Transportation vs. Individual Cars
2nd place	Tiye Garrett Mills	Healthcare Reform Law
3rd place	Tyler Humphries	Returning to the Moon
9th-12th grade		Essay Topic
1st place	Tessciela Rouse	Education at Risk
2nd place	Antonio DeLeon	Educational Budget Cuts 2010/2011
3rd place	Aaron Roston	CyberBullying: No Retreat, No Surrender

First place winners received \$100; second place winners received \$50 and third place winners received \$25. Special thanks to the Douglas County Education Foundation for awarding a ticket to Elitch Gardens to each participant.

Worldwide Academy *(Continued from page 2)*

or fundamental comprehension, we nurture a determined mindset in our students and draw from our partnerships and resources to address whatever stands between the students and their academic potential,” shares Mr. Clinkscales confidently.

A respected educator in his own right, Mr. Clinkscales has created curriculum, standards, protocols and business plans for an education foundation and helped establish New America College. He has advised on government and college partnerships that have opened doors to educational opportunities. This enthusiastic director works closely with Ms. Gonzalez to facilitate the learning process for Hope Online students at Worldwide Academy.

Meanwhile, Ms. Smallwood, who has taught in settings as varied as tutoring children and adults in Germany to colleges and institutes regionally, is equally committed to making a difference in the world of education. As Project Director and GED instructor with Community Educational Outreach, she added life skills instruction to her experience teaching philosophy and numerous languages. As an ESL expert, Ms. Smallwood offers a variety of learning tools to her many students.

With anticipation of expanded and unique offerings for younger students in the 2010-2011 school year, Worldwide Academy continues to raise the bar of exciting alternatives for students whose lives, circumstances or gifts find them under-served in mainstream education.

“Our Learning Center proves that there are many fulfilling options in pursuing an education that may be right for an individual student. The gift of learning truly comes wrapped in a variety of venues, and we want to reach as many students as possible who will benefit from the array of possibilities we offer at Worldwide.”



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The Class of 2010 *(Continued from page 1)*

overall academic performance, GPA, attendance, extracurricular activities and exemplary citizenship.

“There is nothing more rewarding than the graduation of our students,” acknowledged Hope Online CEO Heather O’Mara. “Each year that we witness our students’ rite of passage, we are reminded of their right to a diploma and potential for continued learning and achieving. Our graduates are our inspiration for Hope.”

Hope Online Learning Centers

Below is a list of all 2010-2011 Hope Online Learning Centers. Learning Center visits are a hands-on way to learn about Hope Online’s unique model, allowing community members to see first-hand how online learning is helping Colorado’s student population. To arrange a Learning Center tour, please call 303-989-3539.

A Brand New Start
Action Learning Center
All Nations Academy
All Peoples Learning Center
Alvarado Place Academy
Bridges of Silence
Center of Hope Academy
Cherry Creek Hope Learning Center
Common Ground Learning Center
Cornerstone Learning Center
Crescent View Academy
Dinosaur Community Learning Center
Eastwind Academy
E-cademy
El Renuevo Learning Center
Faith Prep Learning Academy
Front Range Academy - Arvada
Front Range Academy - Broomfield
Front Range Academy - Lakewood

Front Range Academy - Westminster
Harrison Street Academy
Healing Waters Learning Center
Hillcrest Academy
JMJA Learning Center
Lampkin – Guyton Learning Center
LARASA Central Learning Center
LARASA Learning Center at
Westminster
Life Preparatory Academy
Little Debbie’s Dream Learning Center
Little Learners Learning Center
Love Educational Center
Marantha Learning Center
New Beginnings Learning Center
New Hope Academy
Oleta Crain Enrichment Academy
Pathway Learning Center
Redeemer 1-8 Learning Center

Redeemer K Learning Center
Revolution Global Academy
Road Called STRATE
Roca Fuerte Learning Academy
Rock Creek Academy
Rocky Mountain SDA
Solid Rock Academy
Tetra Academy
Trinity Learning Center
Tubman Hilliard Global Academy
Urban League Child Development
Center
Victory Academy
Vision Academy
Westside Learning Center
Woodlands Academy
Worldwide Academy (k-3)
Worldwide Academy (9-12)