

Class of **2016**

HOPE

ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

Class of 2016

Action Learning Center

Directors: David and Ana Gramajo

Ruby Dir-Reed Champion
Maria Jose Gonzalez Hernandez*
Estrella Yolanda Mora
Alexus Kara Watson*

Alpha Learning Academy

Director: Celina Apodaca

Jamie Shanice Gonzales
Nicholas Bradley Naranjo
Raven Amor Van De Grift

Awaken Academy

Director: Joey Trujillo

Osbaldo Elmer Bautista Vargas
Jazmin Marie Carrillo
Juan Antonio Delgado, Jr.
Israel Michael Maderas
Eva Martinez*
Cody Lee Nolte
Justine Sarena Woolem

Bridges of Silence Educational Center

Director: Lisa Benjamin

Isaiah Jason Maldonado*
Orlando Eliazor Retana

Brighton Leadership Academy

Directors: Jaime and Kim Vega

Leonardo Castro, Jr.
Gildardo Chaparro, Jr.*
Marleny Chavez Jacobo
Teresa De Jesus Parra Castro
Isabel Francine Flores
Abigail Sandivel Ibarra
Samantha Alejandra Montelongo Zamora
Brayan Morales Diaz*
Gloria Arisol Ramos
Ashley Ann Regensberg*

Center of Hope Academy

Director: Melissa Trujillo

Mireya Duran Rivas*
Gerardo Espinoza Nuñez

Front Range Academy

Director: Lynne Dare

Tiffany Lynn Annan
Daniel Adam Beckler Riley
Cierra Joyce French
Savannah Isela Galvan
Jade Elizabeth Hlipala*
Dakota Hunter Johnson
Tiana Marie Marti
Christie Cheyenne Palmer
Brooke Chandler Robl
Madeleine Marie Shipman
Savannah Alexis Uptergrove
Courtney Marie Warren

HOPE

Kathryn Ann Gielas*

Hope at Tetra

Director: Amanda Cancino

Jonathan Mikael Vincent Gressett
Kaleb William Payne
Zachary Lawrence Sanchez

Maranatha Learning Center

Director: Victoria Aguilar

Anjelica Evangelina De Loera
Kelila Lael Durant
Oscar Espino
Damaris Villalobos

New Heights Academy

Director: Nancy Valdez

Maria Del Socorro Garcia Portillo
Liliana Mercedes Hernandez-Portillo

New Hope Academy

Director: Denise Duran

Marissa Alicia Chavez*
Nicholas Lorenzo Sepeda

Power Learning Academy

*Directors: America Delgado
and Zach Macaluso*

Christian Lane Bohnhoff
Alondra Abigail Calva*
Misheily Espinell
Alexis Bryanne Estrada
Alexis Linares*
Jesus Eduardo Medina Gutierrez
Francisco Aldair Ocampo Malpica
Nancy Ruby Sarinana
Elijah Mathew Taylor
Ulice Torres Del Rio*
Ivan Valdez Grajeda
Ricardo Valdez Grajeda

Re-Create Academy

*Directors: Aura "Yarih" Fonseca
and Aura Rodriguez*

Michael Joel Roberts

Rocky Mountain Integrative Academy

Director: Dave Larsen

Mason Michael Arnsperger

Victory at Hillcrest Learning Center

Directors: Ameer Williams and Margo Butler

JaMonika Denise Ilene Brooks
Jazmine Marie Flowers
Melchizedad Azariah Kibble

*Graduates with Academic Honors**



Valedictorian KATHRYN GIELAS



HOPE

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Reaching graduation day has been difficult for Kathryn (better known as “Kate”) Gielas.

In the winter of 2013, she and her family were in a car accident while on vacation in Missouri, and Kate suffered a brain injury. This has been hard on Kate and her family. In the fall of 2014, Kate enrolled in HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op to finish her high school education. This has allowed Kate to complete her courses, working hard to get great grades along the way, all while managing her health.

“My brain injury controls how much I’m able to do in school. But HOPE is so accommodating,” said Kate.

Kate describes herself as a “caring person.” In fact, she keeps food in her car to give to those in need she sees in her travels.

“I probably get that from my mom,” said Kate. “She is constantly giving, no matter what, and I strive to be like that each day.”

Art is another area that Kate enjoys. She loves making mixed media art. Kate was part of HOPE’s Art Show in October and won third place. Kate is planning to attend Cornell College in Iowa, majoring in Theater and Art.

“I’ve learned that Kate’s brilliance reaches far outside of the traditional academic realm,” said Ms. Christyn Holmes, Director of Academic Services for HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op. “She hasn’t let anything stop her from becoming the woman she is destined to be.”

Education is important to Kate and her family. Both of her parents earned college degrees.

“It gives us power to move forward,” said Kate.

Kate is very appreciative for all that HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op has done for her.

“We are individuals, and the teachers and staff actually care about us and how we do,” said Kate. “I would recommend HOPE to anyone who doesn’t want to get lost in the crowd.”

Kate is honored to be Valedictorian for the HOPE Class of 2016. Her words of advice to her fellow graduates are simple.

“Do the hard thing now, and have a better life later. Do the right thing, no matter how hard it may be. And on those occasions that you fail, get back up, apologize if necessary, and keep on truckin’!”



ESTRELLA MORA



Action Learning Center

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Estrella Mora speaks highly of her experience at HOPE's Action Learning Center this year.

"Ms. G has really helped me, and taught me some new things. I appreciate how much she cares," said Estrella, who said she hated Math until Ms. Gentry helped her understand it.

This has been a hard year for Estrella. She learned she had a lot of hard work ahead of her as she was behind on credits.

"Don't mess around early on," said Estrella. "I've learned to never give up and to always keep moving forward."

Estrella's entire immediate family have high school diplomas and /or GEDs, and they are very proud that she's graduating. This fall, Estrella is planning to attend the Community College of Aurora (CCA) to study nursing. She plans to transfer to the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus after she completes a year at CCA. She hopes to one day work for Children's Hospital Colorado. In fact, she is hoping to start a job at Children's Hospital Colorado this summer, an opportunity HOPE's School Counselor, Ms. Kristie Richardson, is helping her secure.

"I want to help the children. I don't like to see anyone sick," said Estrella.

Pursuing a higher education has been encouraged by Estrella's sister-in-law who is a phlebotomist.

"She's been honest with me that studying to be a nurse will be hard," said Estrella. "I appreciate her always being there for me."

Estrella is glad she spent her high school years with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op. This year, she served as secretary of her Learning Center's Student Council. She enjoys the school subjects of History and Science. Estrella also attended HOPE dances and participated in Learning Center activities, such as the neighborhood trash clean-up day and going to the Colorado Symphony, her first time ever, earlier this year. Overall, Estrella feels she made the right education choice.

"I like the attention they pay to each student," said Estrella. "I learn something new every day."

The staff at HOPE's Action Learning Center has seen Estrella contribute in many positive ways.

"Estrella is one of the most genuine, kind-hearted people I know," said Ms. Matisse Gentry, Mentor at Action Learning Center. "She always supports her peers and adds a little magic to Action. I am so proud of Estrella!"

JAMIE GONZALES



Alpha Learning Academy

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Last school year, Jamie Gonzales had a difficult time. Obstacles led to her not graduating, and she almost dropped out.

“Ms. Apodaca stuck with me, and encouraged me to finish,” said Jamie. “This school year I’ve never missed a day, and I’ve always been on time. I am proud of this accomplishment. Not everyone reaches graduation.”

Jamie gave birth to a baby boy in November. After graduation, she plans to take the summer off, and then will be working at Alpha Learning Academy in the fall. Jamie has been helping out around the Learning Center this year in her spare time, and this has become an asset to the staff.

“I’ve really learned to rely on her, and she has become my right-hand person. This dedication speaks to who Jamie is as a person, and I appreciate her going above and beyond,” said Ms. Celina Apodaca, Director of Alpha Learning Academy.

In a year, Jamie plans to attend college to study nursing or cosmetology. She is the first in her family to graduate from high school. Her father never attended high school. Christiana, Jamie’s younger sister who is 16, is also a student at HOPE’s Alpha Learning Academy. Jamie looks up to her mother and respects the strong person she is despite the obstacles she’s overcome in life.

“She is always there for others,” said Jamie.

HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op has worked for Jamie. She started right before middle school at HOPE’s Cornerstone Learning Academy in Pueblo. Her favorite subject in school is Math. She also liked that she could work at her own pace at HOPE. She found that the staff paid attention to what the students needed to succeed.

“Here they don’t move forward until you understand a concept,” said Jamie. “I got one-on-one support.”

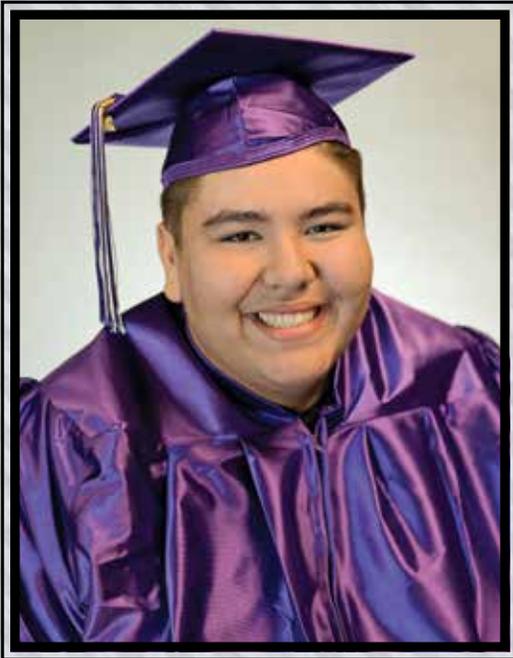
Jamie found her peers at Alpha Learning Academy “nice and friendly.” She had the opportunity to attend the 2015 Winter Formal Dance held at the Learning Center in December.

“This is a good environment, and I like it here,” said Jamie.

The day after HOPE’s graduation, Jamie will turn 19. As she reflects on her time leading up to graduation, she has this advice for her peers.

“It might get hard and frustrating, but it will be worth it. Don’t ever give up!”

JUAN DELGADO, JR.



Awaken Academy

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Juan Delgado, Jr. is experiencing a lot of nerves and excitement as graduation day approaches. Though this is Juan's first year at HOPE's Awaken Academy, he has made the most of his time and has many memories.

"This year has been full of a lot of firsts for me. I've been getting involved in everything, and I've enjoyed it," said Juan. "I never had the opportunity to play football or basketball at my other school. Playing at the Pepsi Center (for the Court of Dreams Basketball Tournament) is something I will always remember."

Juan says he's seen himself get out of his comfort zone and open up more at Awaken Academy. Overcoming shyness has been a struggle for Juan since he was little.

"Awaken Academy is like family," said Juan.

In addition to playing sports, Juan was part of HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's SLAM Poetry competition and attended Prom. His younger sisters are also students at Awaken Academy. Juan's family and the directors of Awaken Academy have been friends for some time. His family made the switch to HOPE when Awaken Academy moved to Westminster last summer, which was closer to Juan's home.

"I wish I had attended here longer," said Juan.

Juan has found academic success at HOPE. He likes the online lessons as he can work fast on concepts he understands, and more slowly when he needs help. In fact, Juan says there isn't one part of the school day that he doesn't enjoy.

"If you take notes and pay attention to your lessons, you can get good grades," said Juan.

He is very interested in music. In his free time, Juan sings, plays the piano and is learning guitar. He is interested in possibly becoming a music producer. Juan will be attending Front Range Community College this fall.

"Juan is helpful, cooperative, respectful, positive and has a heart for people. He is true greatness," said Mr. Joey Trujillo, Director at Awaken Academy. "I picture him doing amazing things in his life."

Juan looks up to his father, who earned a college degree, because of his work ethic. Hard work is something Juan says can get you to graduation day.

"Keep pushing and don't give up. It will be stressful near the end, but it will be worth it!" said Juan.

ISAIAH MALDONADO



Bridges of Silence Educational Center

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HOPE
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When Isaiah Maldonado started 7th grade, he was in need of a new learning environment. A big school environment wasn't working for Isaiah, who struggles with anxiety. After research, his family found HOPE's Bridges of Silence Educational Center in Commerce City.

"This worked for me," said Isaiah. "I'm a fast learner, and working at my own pace has been helpful. I've been able to advance quickly in my studies at HOPE."

"School and life can be hard," continued Isaiah. "Don't ever give up. Keep working. It will be worth it."

Success in middle and high school has helped Isaiah look towards his future. He is planning to enroll in Front Range Community College in the fall and study to become a detective.

"I am good at solving mysteries and enjoy critical thinking and helping people," said Isaiah.

Isaiah likes reading, writing and meeting new people. He says he is "friendly and fun-loving." This school year, Isaiah also started a job at JCPenney in Westminster.

"He is very smart and conscientious," said Ms. Lori Shruga, HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op Teacher. "I know he will accomplish all his goals and dreams and become an awesome contributing adult in our society. I am honored to have worked with Isaiah."

Additionally through the years, Isaiah has found time to get involved in HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's extracurricular activities, including attending Prom and entering the Science Fair.

"It's great HOPE offers activities. The kids like it! It makes it feel like other schools," said Isaiah.

Education is important to Isaiah and his family. Both of his parents are high school graduates and his father earned a college degree in criminal justice. His father is someone who Isaiah admires.

"He didn't have the best childhood and had to grow up a lot," said Isaiah. "But he is hard working and went to college while supporting a family."

Isaiah likes English and Social Studies. He is also good at Math. Isaiah has embraced the HOPE learning model and sees the benefits it brings kids.

"This really works for kids. Every kid is unique and has different learning capabilities," said Isaiah. "This school can help students like me find power in our strengths. I like learning new things and gained a lot of new knowledge while at HOPE," said Isaiah.

ASHLEY REGENSBURG



**Brighton Leadership
Academy**

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Ashley Regensberg is finishing her second year at HOPE's Brighton Leadership Academy. She started after a move from New Mexico. She was looking for a smaller education setting.

"I'm thankful for everything I have had the opportunity to do here at Brighton Leadership Academy," said Ashley.

Being able to work at her own pace was one of Ashley's favorite parts of the HOPE learning model. Her favorite subject in school is Art History. Ashley has served as a teacher's assistant and coach to middle school students at Brighton Leadership Academy. She has also taken advantage of HOPE's extracurricular activities. Ashley played volleyball in the fall, something she had done at her school in New Mexico, and attended the Back to School Dance in September.

"I enjoyed playing volleyball and was glad I could have this experience in my last year," said Ashley.

Ashley has made lifelong friends at Brighton Leadership Academy. In her free time, she spends a lot of time with her peers. Making these connections has helped Ashley transition to Colorado.

"It was hard to leave family and friends behind when I moved," said Ashley. "I have made my best friends at Brighton Leadership Academy."

Working hard and maintaining focus, while having fun, was Ashley's mantra throughout her senior year. She says she has grown in her independence during her time at HOPE.

"Finish everything you need to do and keep your head on straight," commented Ashley.

After high school, Ashley is planning to become a dental hygienist. She had previously thought about becoming a doctor or veterinarian.

"I recently visited a dental practice and learned about their work," said Ashley. "I feel this line of work will allow me time to spend with family, in addition to making a good living."

Family is important to Ashley. She makes frequent visits to New Mexico to see family and looks up to her older cousin, Janelle, who earned a college degree.

"She has a good heart and always helps others," said Ashley.

Ashley has made an impression on the staff at Brighton Leadership Academy.

"Ashley is smart, determined, mature, and goes above and beyond the expectations. She is a natural born leader, and we appreciate the example she has set for other students," said Ms. Kim Vega, Co-Director of Brighton Leadership Academy.



JADE HLIPALA



Front Range Academy

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Jade Hlipala is described as a person who always wants to put her best foot forward.

“She is super focused and dedicated to succeed in school, putting in extra time if needed. She doesn’t like to fail,” said Mr. Scott Dare, Mentor at HOPE’s Front Range Academy.

Through hard work, Jade graduated in December, a semester early. She now works full-time at King Soopers as a Deli Clerk, which is her first job, and plans to save money to attend college. She wants to become a marine biologist.

“Staying focused helped me finish early,” said Jade. “I want to help the environment and love the ocean.”

Jade attended HOPE at Front Range Academy for her entire high school career. She spent two years on Front Range’s Arvada campus, before coming to Broomfield when Front Range’s campuses consolidated.

“It was an adjustment to move to Broomfield and get used to the staff,” said Jade. “The staff here is great. There is always someone to go to if you need help.”

“HOPE worked better for me,” continued Jade. “This atmosphere and online courses supported my learning style. I like that I could work at my own pace.”

Martial arts is a hobby Jade pursues outside of the classroom. She has studied Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for about a year and Kung Fu, with the assistance of her father, since she was a child.

“I am really passionate about martial arts. It is good knowledge to attain. It could help with self-defense,” said Jade.

Jade also is an artist and likes to paint and draw. She is the youngest in her family and follows a tradition of high school graduates, with some attaining a college degree. Her mother works for UPS and her father is a mill wright.

It should come as no surprise that Jade enjoyed Science. She particularly liked doing experiments and this helped spark her interest in marine biology. Jade also is a fan of Language Arts as she likes to read and write.

Jade looks up to her cousin, who she describes as self-sufficient. Her cousin has built her own business in massage and sound therapy. She also travels to Hawaii frequently.

“I hope to travel one day too,” said Jade.

DAMARIS VILLALOBOS



Maranatha Learning Center

Class of 2016

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Damaris Villalobos has been a part of the audience at several HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op graduation ceremonies.

“I didn’t think I would ever make it to graduation,” said Damaris. “I underestimated what I was capable of achieving.”

She is excited that this year the stands at Graduation will be filled with her family and friends celebrating this huge milestone in her life. The road to graduation wasn’t easy for Damaris. Family and friend struggles had her moving around schools and even had her thinking about dropping out.

“Despite it all, she persevered and was persistent,” said Maranatha Learning Center Director Ms. Victoria Aguilar, who has known Damaris since she was young and a student of hers in Denver Public Schools. “Her classmates look up to her and realize if she can do it, so can they.”

Damaris currently lives with her boyfriend, Francisco, who also is a HOPE graduate. She credits Francisco with helping her find self-confidence. Damaris’ was kicked out of her home by her mother, and her father passed away when she was a child. Even though she has had a rocky relationship with her mother, they’ve worked to make amends, and Damaris has found inspiration in her accomplishments.

“She took care of two kids by herself and still managed to earn her CNA (nurse),” said Damaris. “Now she is a mechanic and is an awesome friend.”

After high school, Damaris will attend Emily Griffith Technical College to earn her CNA. She plans to go on for her LPN once she has a job as a CNA.

“I want to help those going through a bad time feel good,” said Damaris on why she wants to be a nurse.

Damaris has an infectious personality. She prides herself in rising above negativity by keeping a smile on her face and staying positive.

“I’m truly overjoyed about everything,” said Damaris.

Damaris says she’s grown up a lot during her time at HOPE’s Maranatha Learning Center. She had previously struggled in school with staying focused.

“I learned about myself through all the obstacles I faced,” said Damaris. “I found the person I didn’t know I was. I had a better time here understanding what I was learning. There were less distractions, and I got one-on-one attention. I don’t think I would have made it if it wasn’t for Maranatha and the staff. They are miracle workers and have big hearts.”



LILIANA HERNANDEZ-PORTILLO



New Heights Academy

Class of 2016

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Even as a senior, Liliana Hernandez-Portillo loves coming to school. HOPE's New Heights Academy has helped Liliana meet her goal of graduating and starting college. Having Liliana earn her high school diploma has been her family's dream, especially for her parents.

"I've lived through a lot of struggles in life, but I've conquered them, one at a time, with some help, and learned responsibility," said Liliana.

Several years ago, Liliana's mother passed away. She had to miss a month of school because she and her siblings had to raise money for her mother's funeral. Liliana struggled with her attendance after coming back to school and, eventually, had to find another schooling option.

Liliana spent three years attending Colorado Connections Academy, where she completed online coursework from home. When her younger siblings decided to attend HOPE's New Heights Academy, she decided to make the switch as well.

"I like that we have time face-to-face with teachers and activities we can do with peers. I like the opportunity to regularly interact with other students as compared to working from home," said Liliana.

Liliana has quickly gotten involved in HOPE's extracurriculars. She was on her Learning Center's volleyball team in the fall and attended Prom in April. She is a singer in the Choir at Graduation.

"I made a lot of new friends playing volleyball. I had never played sports before as I thought I would be judged," said Liliana. "I really liked volleyball and still play it at home."

The staff at New Heights Academy see Liliana as a role model for other students.

"She is always willing to help out and brightens everyone's day," said Ms. Adela Madrid, Mentor at New Heights Academy. "She meets deadlines and is always involved in side projects with her peers."

Liliana's escort at Graduation is her grandmother, who is battling cancer.

"No matter what obstacle she faces, she still fights and never gives up," said Liliana, who reported there were a lot of tears shed during the conversation.

Liliana is planning to start at Concorde Career College in Aurora this June and will study to be a surgical technician.

MARISSA CHAVEZ



New Hope Academy

Class of 2016

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Since starting at HOPE's New Hope Academy in 6th grade, Marissa Chavez has embraced the HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op education model.

"You can learn on your level. I like the one-on-one, smaller setting," said Marissa. "The online environment helped me focus and set goals. I really liked working at my own pace and that there was support there when I didn't understand something."

Marissa finished her coursework a semester early, in December, and has been living and working in Alamosa since that time. She will be attending Adams State College in Alamosa this fall to study nursing. Marissa has had to learn to split her time between Alamosa and Greeley after her parents divorced. She plans to spend the summer in Greeley working.

"You should always believe in yourself, even if others don't," said Marissa.

The staff at HOPE's New Hope Academy earned Marissa's praise. She is particularly fond of her mentor, Ms. Ashleigh Singh, who always supported her and pushed her to do her best.

"She is a wonderful student and friend to her fellow classmates. As long as I have known her, she has been a leader and a role model," said Ms. Singh. "Marissa is a bright, beautiful young woman who is going to do amazing things with her life. I can't wait to see her blossom in college!"

This last school year, Marissa served as President of New Hope's Student Council, which organized fundraisers and also completed service projects in the community, such as feeding the less fortunate. She also was on the New Hope's newspaper staff and served as a teacher's assistant. Additionally, Marissa earned academic honors.

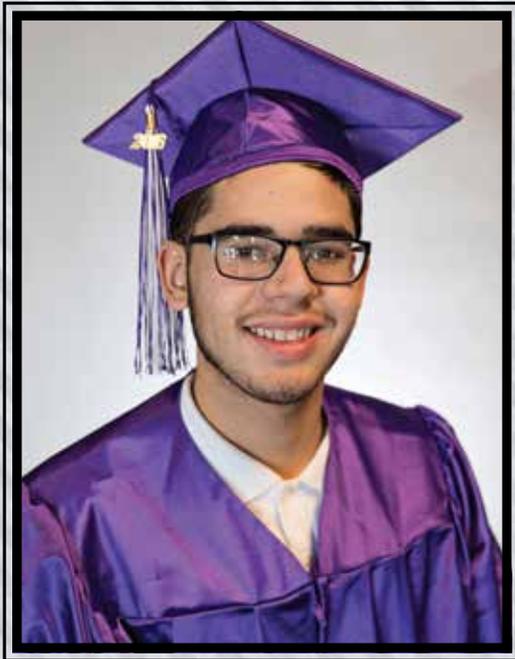
"I really like the socializing part of school," said Marissa. "New Hope felt like a family."

Marissa's father earned his high school diploma, as did many of her siblings. Her favorite subjects in school were English, Social Studies and History. Marissa describes herself as a patient person and knows that will help her in her future profession.

"It will help me deal with people and kids. I'm looking forward to working with the sick. I hope to work at a children's hospital," said Marissa.

Outside of work and school, Marissa enjoys cooking. She likes preparing many dishes, but desserts are her favorite.

ALEXIS LINARES



Power Learning Academy

Class of 2016

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Attending HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op has made an impact on Alexis Linares. He started with HOPE in 8th grade and is truly thankful for his current Learning Center's Directors, Mr. Zach Macaluso and Ms. America Delgado, whom he credits in making his high school years memorable.

"Zach brought (HOPE) activities to us, and pushed us to join. If he was going, and could get me there, I was there," said Alexis. "People are put into your life to help, and it can benefit you."

Alexis has been very involved in HOPE extracurricular activities, including sports, clinics, dances, and career and college fairs. Before attending HOPE, Alexis had never had the opportunity to do these types of things.

"It helped us become more social, grow and learn to get along with one another," said Alexis. "It feels like a family at HOPE."

HOPE's Power Learning Academy will complete its first school year on May 27. Alexis is extremely proud of this Learning Center and the work that he has gotten to do to build this learning environment for future generations.

"It is so cool what they have done here. You can see the hard work they've put in," said Alexis. "I'm always willing to help them make this place better. It is only the beginning. It feels good knowing I am a part of making this great."

Alexis enjoys problem solving and building things. He is planning to attend Pickens Technical College to study engineering after earning his high school diploma.

"He always knows what's next and never hesitates to finish. Alexis is a great student, and I wish him all the best," said Mr. Zach Macaluso.

The smaller learning environment at HOPE is something Alexis saw as beneficial to him and his classmates.

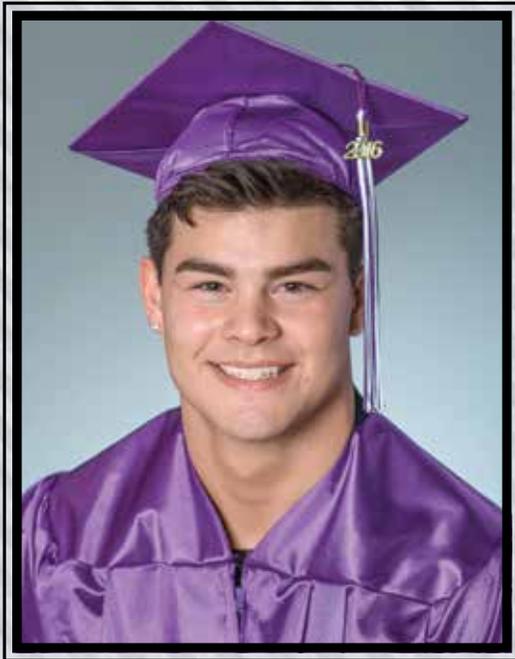
"You get to know everyone here," said Alexis. "They can focus on each kid and help them understand."

Alexis volunteered on several occasions to help his younger peers at the Learning Center in areas where they were struggling. His favorite subjects in school are Math and Science.

"Zach and America want you to graduate and do something good with your life," said Alexis. "Do what they ask of you, try your hardest and ask them for help when you need it."



MICHAEL ROBERTS



Re-Create Academy

Class of **2016**

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Michael Roberts came to HOPE's Re-Create Academy this year behind on credits, which threatened his goal of attaining a high school diploma.

"With dedication and the right mindset, HOPE can get you where you want to go," said Michael. "This is a really good school."

Michael is excited about graduating. He is planning to move to Greeley and attend the University of Northern Colorado or Aims Community College. Michael intends to major in business and hopes to one day open his own gym.

"I'm so thankful they worked with me. In this setting, you can get done faster, and also catch up where needed. I prefer this setting," said Michael. "I'm now trying to convince my two younger brothers who are struggling to graduate to come to HOPE."

Michael is intrigued with education. His favorite subjects are Math and Science.

"You can never know too much. I like to learn new things to help myself and others," said Michael. "Knowledge is power. You learn about the world around you and it leads to answers, instead of wondering about it."

The academic team at Re-Create Academy was impressed with Michael's perseverance.

"Michael is an amazing young man who has overcome many obstacles. His advanced academic and life knowledge will make him a positive addition to any college classroom and/or business boardroom he enters," said Ms. Jodene Brannan, HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op Teacher.

HOPE's online learning format is something that helped Michael build his skill sets. He is particularly fond of two computer classes he took at HOPE where he learned the basics of Microsoft Word and Excel.

"Nowadays everything is based on technology. Getting to work on those platforms daily is a benefit," said Michael.

Michael also says that HOPE helped him learn to meet deadlines.

"In a self-paced environment you always know if you are on track or behind, and you find motivation in that," said Michael.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys working on his car. He is also into physical fitness. Michael will be the second in his immediate family to graduate from high school. He is proud of the example he is setting by earning his high school diploma.

MASON ARNSPIGER



**Rocky Mountain
Integrative Academy**

Class of 2016

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ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

Mason Arnspiger has been looking forward to graduating from high school for some time.

“I’ve been working hard for it,” said Mason. “It is really nice to be moving on to the next point in life.”

This is Mason’s first year with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op. He attended a private school in Lafayette last year and a traditional public school for his freshman and sophomore year. He made the switch to HOPE after his school closed.

“I like that you have the freedom to pursue your passions here and learn on your terms,” said Mason.

Mason loves being a Coloradoan. He likes mountain biking, fishing, hiking and being outdoors. He also enjoys reading and is fond of his English class. Throughout his high school career he has had to learn to focus on school and take it seriously, something he says will get his peers to graduation day as well. For Mason, the online environment was engaging and helped him advance in his studies.

“Education is important because it will get you the job you want, instead of limiting your employment choices,” said Mason.

After high school, Mason is planning to attend Front Range Community College, where his older brother attends. He is not sure what he wants to study, but plans to get core classes out of the way as he explores his options.

“I may do criminology. I’ve always found crime shows interesting,” said Mason.

His peers at Rocky Mountain Integrative Academy are the reason he enjoys school. Mason’s been quick to make friends and likes spending time with fellow students.

“Lunch is definitely one of my favorite times of the day,” said Mason.

Mason admires his mother as she always pushes him to achieve more.

“She has taught me that anything is possible if you go after it,” said Mason.

Mason has overcome challenges in his life. The staff who have worked with him at HOPE’s Rocky Mountain Integrative Academy have seen this build his character, and they know he is on a path to future success.

“He has been a great example of consistency. He shows up every day, works hard and always has a positive attitude,” said Mr. Dave Larsen, Director of Rocky Mountain Integrative Academy.

JONATHAN GRESSETT



Hope at Tetra Academy

Class of **2016**

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

Jonathan Gressett is best known for his creative mind. He enjoys drawing, sculpting, writing, reading, constructing LEGO figurines and playing video games. In June, Jonathan is planning to enter Job Corps to become a computer networker.

“He is very tenacious and has benefited from the Hope at Tetra environment,” said Hope at Tetra Academy Director Ms. Amanda Cancino.

“Jonathan’s individuality has been able to flourish in this environment,” added Ms. Valerie Nichol, a Hope at Tetra Academy Mentor.

He began with HOPE in 7th grade. At this time, he was looking for a place to better manage his learning style. Jonathan is autistic, but through HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op and other programming, like Brain Balance, he has a better handle on his tendencies.

“Hope at Tetra has been a place where I have been able to adjust. I work better in a smaller setting,” said Jonathan, who takes the bus two hours each way daily to attend Hope at Tetra.

Jonathan enjoys organizing student activities at his Learning Center. He uses his lunch hour to manage a Minecraft Club and organize card games. In fact, Jonathan says lunch is one of his favorite parts of the school day as he likes the food, but also gets to spend time with his peers. He volunteers with many of his classmates for Ferocious Fighters, which is a non-profit organization started by one of HOPE’s teachers to support youth fighting CRPS.

“I have made true friends here,” said Jonathan.

Science is Jonathan’s favorite school subject. However, he feels he has been provided a challenging academic environment in all of his curriculum. He has the highest respect for the Hope at Tetra and HOPE staff who work with him.

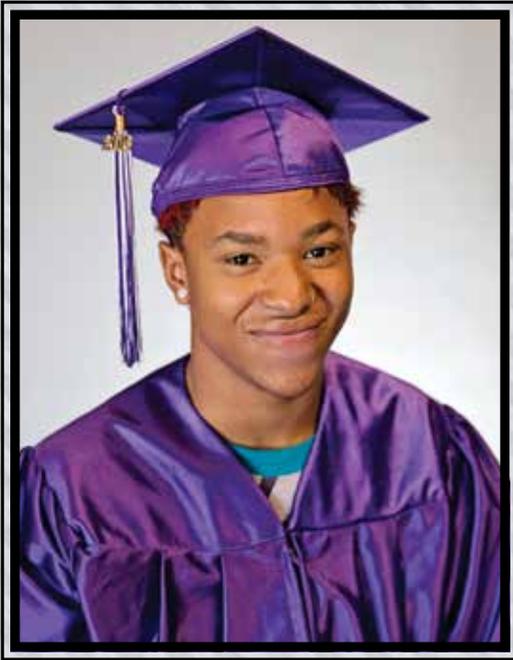
“They are good at what they do and they help you,” said Jonathan.

Jonathan’s creative side exhibits an interest in dragons; be it writing, reading, art or video games. He said he might consider one day publishing a book or selling a video game concept.

As he looks forward to graduation, his best piece of advice for his peers is to “stay on track.”

Jonathan is looking forward to starting Job Corps this summer. The program is fully paid for, and he should complete it within a year. They will place him in a job and provide some startup living expenses.

MELCHAZEDAZ KIBBLE



**Victory at Hillcrest
Learning Center**

Class of 2016

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

A student who Victory at Hillcrest Learning Center won't soon forget is Melchazedaz (better known as "Mel") Kibble.

"He's a friend to everyone," said Ms. Amener Williams, HOPE's Victory at Hillcrest Learning Center Co-Director. "There were a number of circumstances which could have prevented him from graduating. But he has worked hard and persevered."

Mel started at HOPE's Victory at Hillcrest in 6th grade. The option came as a recommendation from a friend of his family.

"I decided to try online. I like working at my own pace," said Mel.

Mel has seen the HOPE learning model help him manage anger and focus on school more. He has also improved his reading and math skills.

"I found where I fit in," said Mel.

Mel comes from a very supportive family. His parents had him very young. He will be the second grandson on his paternal side and the first on his maternal side to graduate from high school. Today Mel lives with his paternal grandmother. In 2014, his great-grandfather, who he refers to as grandpa, passed away. This was a hard life transition for Mel.

"He was my role model," said Mel. His grandmother is also someone who Mel looks up to and appreciates all that she does for her family, just like his "grandpa" did.

Mel has become an integral part of the Victory at Hillcrest community. He has made many friends and is well liked by many of the Learning Center and HOPE staff. Mel attends many of HOPE's activities, with Prom being his favorite, and is a frequent spectator at HOPE sporting events.

"I tell my friends all the time about HOPE," said Mel. "You don't get lost here. People know where I am at, and I know where I should be with my studies."

This summer, Mel is planning to move to Atlanta with his family where he will attend Paul Mitchell to train to do hair, makeup and nails. Mel is known for his sense of style. A group of teachers at HOPE's Victory at Hillcrest Learning Center took him to the Goodwill Fashion Show in 2015.

Mel's classmates hope that his summer move won't be the last they will see of him.

"They tell me they are going to miss me and to come back and visit. I will definitely be there for the future HOPE graduations of my friends," said Mel.

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