

Class of **2017**

HOPE

ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY



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May 25, 2017



Class of 2017

Action Learning Center

Directors: David and Ana Gramajo

Baaqir Rasool Buckner
Reazjhana Monique De' Sha Davis
Anyela Fernandez Chavez*
Lesly Reyes
Stephanie Daniela Torres

Alpha Learning Academy

Director: Celina Apodaca

Anthony Michael Bergman*
Alec Connor Lebel
Samantha Jo Macchietto
Ruby Lynn Mills*
Christian Ernesto Montano
Tyron Isaiah Trujillo

Awaken Academy

Director: Dominic Trujillo

Gabriela Isabel Arebalo
Jose Guadalupe Mendoza
Jose Rodolfo Ornelas Ruvalcaba
Angeline Christine Saldana
Misty Rain Thompson
Amisty Chauntea Trujillo*

Brighton Leadership Academy

Directors: Jaime and Kim Vega

Angel Aguilar
Ruben Samuel Briones
Tanisha Nichole Bustamante
Alondra Natalie Correa
Dusty Lee Hoff
Stefanie Ibarra
Josiah Jacob Loya
Albert Reyes Romero*
Luis Ariel Triana*
Devean Taylor Trujillo*

Center of Hope Academy

Interim Director: Christyn Holmes

Bianca Pearlita Jimenez
Brandi Suki Nguyen
Destiny Rubio
Sarahi Vasquez Garcia

Front Range Academy

Director: Lynne Dare

Odyssey Jade Alvarenga
Timothy William Coolley
Roman Nathaniel Gonzales
Rain Charlotte Goodhouse
Gavin Lee Grant
Matthew Christian Lynd
Amanda Angelina Martinez-Dopheide
Devyn Michelle McKay

Front Range Academy (cont.)

Briana Rose Nielander
Rayvon Oblia
Dustin Lawrence Pedersen
Jason James Piccola
Brooklan Paige Sherwood
Gabrielle Suzette Shipman
Sydney Marie Spetter
Alec Nicholas Trivett
Hayley Area Uptergrove
Shane Michael Youmans
Nino Michael Kane Zielisko

HOPE at Home

Aiesha La'Nae Augustin*

Maranatha Learning Center

Director: Victoria Aguilar

Joel Elias Abundez
Nautica Marianna Ayaquica
Yazmin Sarai Espino Silva
Rodrigo Andres Hernandez Carrillo
Denia Jaquez Campos
Elijah Jason Sanchez

Mountain View Academy

Director: Amanda Cancino

Juan Andres Ayala III
Noah Mitchell Garner
Kelsey Marie Johnston
Jourdin Anthony Menzor Mora
Brandon Lee Peterson
Emilie Marie Tyrrell*
Haley Dawn Whitman

New Heights Academy

Director: Nancy Valdez

Selena Beatriz Castañeda

New Hope Academy

Director: Denise Duran

Alexandra Wanda Chaput*
Daniel Hernandez Jr.
Jules Lanay Maldonado
Frank Martin Mathew Montoya

Parkhill Academy

*Directors: Amener Williams
and Margo Butler*

Ariel Rio Alabastro
D'Ajanae Irise Cornell Cortez
Hector Galindo Gonzalez*
Charles Cornelius Green-Worshum III

Power Academy

*Directors: Zach Macaluso and
America Delgado*

Jose Luis Alamo-Marquez Jr.*
Samuel L Alvarez
David Borjas Chumacero
Sarahi Cabrales Martinez
Kassandra Alexis Cardenas Luna
Iridian Castillo Herrera
Jose Alberto Galaviz Sandoval
Samantha Gonzalez*
Eliam Hernandez Velasco
Adrian Martinez Rosas
Zuly Elisa Padilla Cerrato
Cesar Alejandro Parra Gutierrez
Carlos David Puente Moreno
Antonio Ruiz Solis
Mercedes Xaviera Salazar
Jorge Manuel Saldaña
Luiz Carlos Sandoval Marquez
Jaqueline Guadalupe Serna Avila
Jesus Andres Vazquez Rodriguez
Anthony Alexander Worysz

*Graduates with Academic Honors**



Valedictorian DEVEAN TRUJILLO



**Brighton Leadership
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As HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op wraps up their 12th school year, a member of the Class of 2017 will help us mark a historic occasion. A junior who is graduating a year early at Brighton Leadership Academy, Devean Trujillo, will be the first student in history to attend HOPE for her entire K-12 education. Devean has her sights set on being a lawyer, maybe one day serving on the Supreme Court.

“This place has shaped me,” said Devean. “I will never forget being here.”

Devean came to Brighton Leadership Academy after learning about it through family. She can still remember the nerves she had on her first day of kindergarten.

“I started when the center first opened. We all had jitters,” said Devean.

People who have gotten to know Devean through the years know she is someone who “set the bar high” at an early age. She is a motivated student and very goal-oriented. Devean has also relied on the great support system at HOPE’s Brighton Leadership Academy.

“This is home. I like being here. They are my (extended) family,” said Devean. “I appreciate all their encouragement.”

Devean has also met her best friends at Brighton Leadership Academy and, together, this group inspires one another to keep reaching for their goals.

“It is important to be there for others no matter what,” said Devean.

Self-reliance is a skill that Devean is proud she possesses. This has helped her overcome obstacles in life and with her peers. Besides being valedictorian in the Class of 2017, Devean also never missed a day of school. She additionally put in countless hours at home, in between her job at a local restaurant, to make sure she was staying on track in her classes.

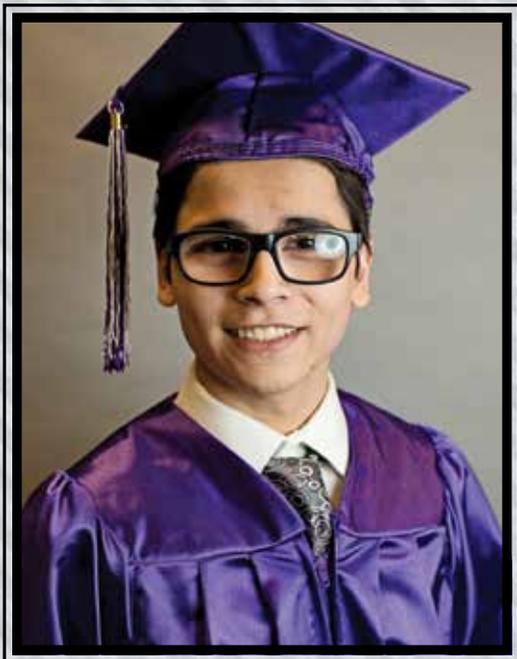
“Devean is always going above and beyond. Her work is always done with 100 percent effort no matter what. She has come a long way from her kindergarten days. I know there are big things yet to come for Devean. She is very determined and will achieve her dreams,” said Mr. Freddy Covarrubias, Brighton Leadership Academy Mentor.

HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op has worked for Devean. She likes the small environment and the attention she has received from the staff. Devean has also been involved in extracurricular activities at HOPE, including sports and the Talent Show. She also attended Prom this spring and was on the Prom Court. Both of her parents are college graduates. Her mother earned her degree while raising a family and working.

“It has been my goal to graduate from HOPE. I’ve attended HOPE graduations in the past, and I can’t wait for mine to celebrate my hard work,” said Devean.

Devean plans on attending the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

ANTHONY BERGMAN



Alpha Learning Academy

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Anthony Bergman entered HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Alpha Learning Academy in Pueblo when he was in 6th grade and battling insecurity and depression. He had been bullied in other schools, gotten into fights, was getting bad grades and even contemplated taking his own life.

"I didn't fit in anywhere. But the encouragement at HOPE helped me," said Anthony. "The staff here means everything to me. I appreciate all their help."

During his middle and high school years at HOPE, Anthony has grown into a leader at his center.

"His peers respect and look up to him," said Ms. Celina Apodaca, Director at Alpha Learning Academy. "He has a huge heart and has a lot of compassion for other students. He is a true example of an all-around good student. We are sad to say goodbye to him as he has been someone we've grown accustomed to having around."

Anthony is planning to attend Pueblo Community College to earn a degree in radiology. He is following his family's footsteps. Anthony's older sister attends the University of Wyoming and both of his parents hold master's degrees. He earned a scholarship from Comcast to help pay for college.

"I hope I can bring a light of happiness to people I treat (as a radiologist)," said Anthony.

Not only did Anthony excel in the classroom at HOPE, he also was very involved in Alpha Learning Academy's extracurricular activities. He served as Student Council President, a position voted on by the student body. He was also the Secretary for the Youth Empowerment Council in Pueblo, an organization that helped him and his Learning Center get involved in many community activities, such as the Chili Festival and Rodeo.

In February, Anthony and one of his classmates, Tyron, presented testimonials about their experiences at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op at the Colorado State Capitol during Cyberschools Day.

"Speaking for my school and representing them now, after they changed me from where I was, is the least I could do to repay them for never giving up on me, even when I gave up on myself," a quote taken from Anthony's speech.

Another activity Anthony is proud of is his social enterprise team who developed a suicide prevention program last spring that competed at two events, including one in Denver with the Carson J. Spencer Foundation, and earned top honors. At the Pueblo Entrepreneurship Competition, Anthony earned a scholarship to Pueblo Community College.

"Never sell yourself short," said Anthony. "Even in the darkest times, you are taking steps towards your future."

MISTY THOMPSON



Awaken Academy

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Graduation day will be a special celebration for both Misty Thompson and her mother. Misty's mother, Kimberly, will celebrate her birthday the day she escorts her first child to earn a high school diploma at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Graduation Ceremony. The family is also marking completion of Kimberly's two year battle with breast cancer.

Misty has grown up a lot during her high school years as she had to help take care of her mother as she battled cancer. She drove her mother to doctors' appointments and was there during surgeries and treatments. Misty additionally helped manage the family through tasks such as cooking and cleaning while her father worked long days as a tow truck driver. She is the second youngest of seven children in her blended family.

"I've learned to appreciate family and to not take anything for granted," said Misty.

Since Misty was little, school and earning her diploma have always been important. Misty's older siblings and mother earned GEDs.

"I was always someone who never wanted to be late to school," said Misty. "School was something I was good at, and I commonly tutored other kids. I even taught my younger brother how to read."

Misty started high school at a traditional public school. However, she found it hard to get the help she needed in a large setting. Misty quickly got behind and sought out a different education environment at HOPE at Awaken Academy in Westminster to help her.

"I found it easier to learn in this environment. I learn by listening. I could see what they were teaching me and then try it out to make sure I understood the concepts," said Misty. "(At HOPE) They find you the help you need."

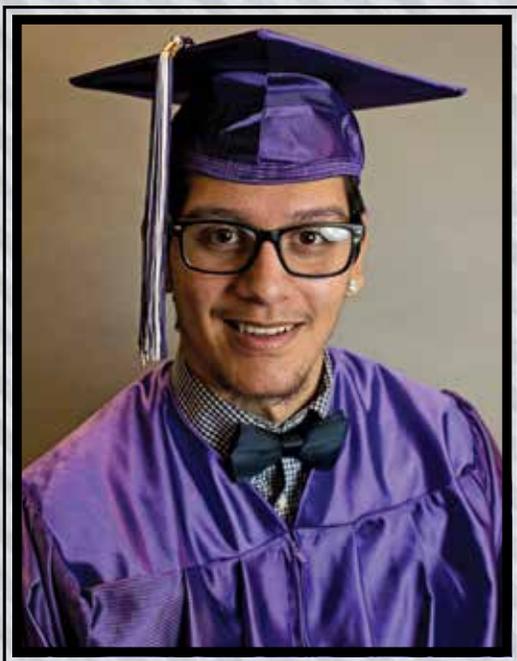
After graduation, Misty is planning to work for awhile before going to community college to study interior design.

"Misty has worked extra hard to graduate, despite the pressures at home. There were many times she felt like giving up in order to get a job and help support her family, but instead, she decided to put her best foot forward and go at it full force," said Ms. Andrea Whittle, Mentor at Awaken Academy.

Misty is proud of the example her mother has set for her.

"She's raised five kids, battled cancer, held down a job and put everyone before herself," said Misty.

LUIS TRIANA



**Brighton Leadership
Academy**

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It is the caring touch of Brighton Leadership Academy that made all the difference for Luis Triana and his family. Luis and his brother, Abien, an 8th grader at Brighton Leadership Academy, were raised by a single mother. His mother worked hard to provide for the family, but times, especially financially, were not always easy.

“Outside of school, they (Brighton Leadership Academy) cared about us and did everything they could to help us. It made us feel good and safe,” said Luis.

Luis has also made it a point through the years to give back to the organizations and individuals that have assisted him, which includes Brighton Leadership Academy. You would commonly find Luis helping out with center projects.

“Giving back helps not only others, but yourself. I want others to know they are cared for,” said Luis.

Luis is excited for the next chapter in his life. In the fall, he will be attending Colorado State University, being one of the first in his family to attend college. He is planning to study health and exercise science and one day wants to go into athletic training. He has been interning at Brighton Leadership Academy this spring and helping out in physical education classes.

“We are very proud of the young man Luis has become. He has a bright future ahead of him,” said Ms. Kim Vega, Director of Brighton Leadership Academy.

At HOPE, Luis has played on the flag football and basketball teams, as well as attended Prom.

“I looked forward to the energy surrounding the sports,” said Luis, who says his favorite sport is football.

HOPE’s curriculum was challenging for Luis. His favorite courses were math-related. Besides the connections he made with staff, Luis made many friends at Brighton Leadership Academy and enjoyed spending time with them at lunch.

“It took time to get used to the online curriculum, but, with time, I found my comfort zone and it got easier,” said Luis.

Luis has found inspiration in his life from his family. He knows the kind of person he wants to be and works each day to put his best foot forward.

“Do your best, and give everything you can. Giving up is not worth it. Keep going and don’t let anyone stop you,” said Luis.

BIANCA JIMENEZ



Center of Hope Academy

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Bianca Jimenez is feeling a sense of relief to finally be graduating from high school.

“It is a huge weight off my shoulders,” said Bianca “It was important to graduate and set an example for my daughter.”

In January 2016, Bianca gave birth to her daughter, Xandria. Balancing school and being a mother wasn’t always easy. She credits HOPE’s Center of Hope Academy for working with her to make sure she earned her diploma. Bianca has attended HOPE since 7th grade.

“Never say you can’t do something,” said Bianca. “I went from being an F student to an A and B student. I am proud of myself.”

The learning environment at HOPE was something that worked for Bianca. Working online was a benefit to her learning style.

“I struggled with taking notes when listening to a teacher speak in front of class,” said Bianca. “But online the words were there that I could listen to, read and write for later review.”

She liked the small class sizes and the one-on-one attention she received from instructors. Bianca said their caring touch made all the difference.

“One of the main reasons I am at Center of Hope this year is because I have been inspired by the hard work of Bianca. She developed a strong sense of self as she’s worked towards graduation,” said Ms. Christyn Holmes, Interim Director at Center of Hope Academy.

Bianca is the third of her seven siblings to graduate from high school, something her parents never did. Her aunt is someone she looks up to.

“She had to grow up on her own from a young age. But she has a good job, her own apartment and car. This is motivating to me,” said Bianca.

After high school, Bianca is planning to work part-time and eventually go to an online college. She wants to earn a degree in Psychology.

“I took a class in this last year and found it interesting to study the mind,” said Bianca. “I want to work with criminals.” Bianca is a fan of criminology TV shows.

Even though it took Bianca an extra year to graduate from high school, she is happy she stuck with it.

“I’ve learned to focus and stay on top of my school work. This has made all the difference,” said Bianca.

RAIN GOODHOUSE



Front Range Academy

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Going to a large, traditional public school didn't work for Rain Goodhouse. In 10th grade, she found HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Front Range Academy in Broomfield. Their smaller environment helped her thrive.

"It is one big family. Everyone is supportive. They want to find a way for you to graduate," said Rain.

Rain knows none of this would be possible without the Learning Center's leadership team, including Ms. Lynne Dare and Ms. Jennifer Stengel.

"They are the ones that make this feel like home. You get close to the people here, and it is nice. When you can be yourself, that is when you can grow and not be stressed out about school," said Rain.

Learning has been a struggle for Rain much of her life. In 4th grade, she was diagnosed with dyslexia. She attended a program at Children's Hospital Colorado to help her.

"I have never witnessed such pure generosity from a student like I have Rain. She would brighten up any room with a simple smile and was such a joy to be around. Her work ethic was admired not only by the teachers, but also her peers. We are so proud of her accomplishments and will truly cherish the time we spent with her!" said Ms. Jennifer Stengel, one of the Front Range Academy staff members.

Science, social studies and writing were Rain's favorite subjects in school. She appreciated both the mix of online and offline curriculum at HOPE. Overall, Rain says HOPE at Front Range Academy helped her grow as a person.

"Working at your own pace is time consuming. But it is not as hard as you think it is," said Rain. "You learn to challenge yourself and set daily goals. Success shouldn't come easy."

Currently, Rain is working at Stonebrook Manor Event Center and Gardens in Thornton. She is applying to college and wants to major in broadcasting. Rain wants a career in radio. She plans to attend community college first to complete her basic coursework.

Rain's younger sister, Kaily, is a current Front Range Academy student. She hopes her graduation sets an example for Kaily.

"I learned this was up to me, not my peers. It became easier once I found this determination," said Rain.



NAUTICA AYAQUICA



Maranatha Learning Center

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When Nautica Ayaquica started at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Maranatha Learning Center in Denver three years ago, she had not earned any high school credits. The other online school she was attending was not working for her.

"She worked really hard to turn that all around," said Ms. Victoria Aguilar, Director at Maranatha Learning Center. "I am proud of her dedication."

Nautica is glad she made the switch as it was important to her to earn her diploma. After high school, Nautica is planning to get into event planning, something she has been doing with her family since 7th grade.

"We help families who have lost a loved one do fundraisers, like car shows, so they can pay for funerals and other expenses," said Nautica.

Nautica is planning to be the first one in her family to go to college. She wants to attend Metro State University of Denver after taking a year off to work. She is currently working at U Lucky Dog Daycare where she has made many friends who serve as her role models.

"I love dogs especially," said Nautica.

During high school, Nautica played on HOPE's soccer team, as well as attended other events like school dances and Prom. She says this was an opportunity for her to meet students from other Learning Centers.

Nautica's twin brother, Adrian, also attends Maranatha Learning Center. Both Nautica and her brother have enjoyed the atmosphere at HOPE.

"Ms. Aguilar really pushes us to do our best," said Nautica. "If you really want it, you have to work for it."

Graduation is something Nautica is proud she has reached.

"Having an education gives you more opportunities," said Nautica.

Nautica's favorite subject in school was history as she liked seeing how things became what they are today. In her spare time, Nautica likes to sketch and paint. Maranatha Learning Center also offered an art class, which Nautica enjoyed.

"I felt like I was working towards something at Maranatha," said Nautica, who spent time at home working on classes as well. "I liked I could advance quickly and earn credits I needed to get on track."

SELENA CASTAÑEDA



New Heights Academy

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School was a struggle for Selena Castañeda prior to starting at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's New Heights Academy in Federal Heights two years ago.

"I had bad grades," said Selena. "It got better here. Teachers in a larger school don't have time to explain what they are teaching over and over again. But in the online courses at HOPE I could go back and listen to lessons until I understood. I also liked I could take pre-tests to prepare for the final exams."

The smaller class sizes and the attention she received from staff were keys to Selena's success. This fit her learning style. Selena's academic team has seen her advance quickly in her coursework at New Heights Academy. She came in behind, but is graduating on time.

"She found her groove in online education. Selena finished eight courses this year," said Mr. John Rinker, HOPE Teacher at New Heights Academy.

Education is important to Selena's family. She will be the second of her siblings to graduate. Her parents didn't finish school, but always encouraged their children to earn their diploma and go to college.

"You have a better life with education," said Selena.

Selena is close to her family and spends a lot of time with them outside of school hours. They are proud of her achievements.

Graduating is also an exciting milestone for Selena. She plans to work for a year before going to college to study criminology or anesthesiology. Selena enjoys science and math as she likes to solve problems.

"Work hard even if you don't like school," said Selena. "It is important to focus on finishing."

Selena's two younger sisters, Jennifer and Jessica, also attended New Heights Academy this year. Going to the same school as her sisters was important to her family.

She encourages other youth having trouble in school to consider HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op.

"You get the help that you need. If you are behind, they will assist you," said Selena.

JULES MALDONADO



New Hope Academy

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Jules Maldonado wants to work with children. She is planning to enter Aims Community College to earn an advanced degree to help her live out her dreams.

“It is what I love to do. It makes me happy,” said Jules.

For the past several years, she has been working at an afterschool program, Rodarte, in Greeley where she works with students and helps them with homework. This is a program she got into through STEP, which helps youth under 18 find their first job.

Jules’ path to earning a diploma and entering college was not always easy. She wasn’t a good student until she came to HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op’s New Hope Academy in Greeley.

“I was an F student,” said Jules. “My grades got better (at New Hope).”

At New Hope Academy, Jules liked the fact that she had one instructor who got to know her well and could work with her one-on-one when she needed help. She also saw herself grow as a student during the four years she attended New Hope Academy.

“I learned independence. You have to have determination and want to finish. It is on us to stay focused and keep up with school work,” said Jules.

Jules was involved at New Hope Academy outside of the classroom as well. She was on Student Council and also attended HOPE’s Prom in Denver.

“Jules has a ‘no quit attitude.’ This helped her persevere at New Hope Academy,” said Ms. Denise Duran, Director at New Hope Academy.

Graduating from high school is a momentous occasion for Jules’ family. She is the first in her family to earn her diploma. Jules is the oldest of six siblings.

“My mom is very proud of me,” said Jules. “She set high expectations for me, and she wanted me to have a better future.”

Jules looks up to her mother and appreciates all she has done for her through the years.

“Her life wasn’t always easy,” said Jules. “I appreciate her guidance and support.”

In school, Jules enjoyed many subjects, including environmental science, world history and sociology.

“I found it interesting to learn what was happening around me,” said Jules.

Another key to Jules’ success at HOPE’s New Hope Academy was that she could work at her own pace.

“It was hard at first (at New Hope Academy), but it is important to never give up. It is worth it in the end,” said Jules.

ARIEL ALABASTRO



Parkhill Academy

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Learning to be comfortable in his own skin is the accomplishment Ariel Alabastro is most proud of from his time at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Parkhill Academy in Denver.

Ariel has attended HOPE since 6th grade. When he started, he was quiet and had a hard time fitting in at school.

"I was bullied at previous schools. But I've learned to ignore what others think. I am comfortable with who I am," said Ariel.

There have been many who have influenced Ariel's life at HOPE.

"They've taught me to focus on what I can control," said Ariel. "I am motivated by challenges. If something is hard, it boosts my energy to conquer and overcome it."

Ariel and his family moved to Colorado in 2006 from the Philippines. His sister, Arlyn, is a 9th grader at Parkhill Academy. Ariel came to the United States not knowing any English. He has improved his English language abilities immensely and now has learned to sing in three other languages, including Korean, Japanese and Mandarin. He has a deep interest in connecting with other cultures.

"Ariel has worked so hard to graduate and has persevered despite challenges," said Ms. Amener Williams, Director at Parkhill Academy. "Ariel is talented in many ways that you don't see on the surface. He is a delightful young man, and we wish him success in future endeavors."

After high school, Ariel is planning to attend community college. He is very interested in entering the entertainment industry. Ariel's interest in the arts was sparked while participating in HOPE's Arts Across Cultures program. Through this program, he met and worked with local, national and international artists in a variety of mediums from dancing to singing and visual arts.

"I love showing creativity to others and inspiring them," said Ariel.

As Ariel reflects on his time at Parkhill, he is grateful for finding an education option that met his needs.

"I liked the one classroom setting. And the curriculum online made more sense to me," said Ariel.

He has also appreciated the connections he has made with both students and staff at HOPE and Parkhill Academy.

"It is important to keep moving forward, be persistent, be determined and to never give up," said Ariel.

Ariel is currently working as a dietary aide at HCR ManorCare in Denver. His hobbies include cooking, martial arts, video gaming and Aname.

JORGE SALDAÑA



Power Academy

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Coming to HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's Power Academy in Aurora turned Jorge Saldaña's (better known as "Twinkie") view of school completely around.

"I ditched a lot of classes, and I had thought about dropping out," said Jorge. "My grandmother pushed me, and I am glad to be earning my diploma in her honor."

Earlier this year, Jorge's maternal grandmother passed away. It was his Learning Center family who rallied around him to provide support, even organizing a garage sale to help earn funds for her funeral. Jorge has given a lot to his Learning Center through the years. Many of them see him as their community's motivator.

"He has been involved in everything. Jorge is a huge part of our Learning Center. It will be hard not having him around next year," said Mr. Zach Macaluso, Director of Power Academy.

Jorge has been a student with HOPE since 6th grade, but attended a traditional public school in 10th grade. After academic and social struggles, including bullying, Jorge came back to HOPE. He said the curriculum and the people at HOPE helped him get back on track.

"I wouldn't have graduated without HOPE. The teachers care, and they help you. It is like a family at HOPE," said Jorge. "I liked that I didn't have to go at the same pace as my classmates."

There are not many HOPE events that Jorge was not a part of throughout his high school years. He played soccer, basketball and flag football. Jorge also helped coach the elementary and middle school sports teams for his Learning Center. He also was a regular Prom attendee and participated in High School Fun Day and other college and career events. In fact, Jorge said one of his favorite parts of school was being with his friends.

"I like that HOPE works hard to plan fun activities for us. I enjoyed it," said Jorge.

Jorge's parents never earned a high school diploma. He is inspired by the work of his father and plans to work for him in construction after graduation. Jorge plans to attend Pickens Technical College after a year to earn an automotive degree.

"I am proving I can do something good in my life (by graduating). The work I put in over the last 12 years is finally paying off," said Jorge.

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