



Class of **2019**

HOPE

ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

May 23, 2019



Class of 2019

Alpha Learning Academy

Director: *Celina Apodaca*

Hanna Ursula Borealis Beurman *
Raven Michea Carpenter
Jordan Jefferys Davis-Pacheco
Jack Anthony Decker *
Tyler Nathaniel Duhon
Dalton Gage Gallant *
Jacob Wayne Griffin
Antwoine Euriah Mancia *
Jason Andrew Martinez
Katelyn Spring Mason *
AJ Sotelo Pino
Mariya Lee Rosales
Johnathon Robert Sidebottom
Jonathan Gregory Swatzki *

Academics, Arts and Action

Representative: *Becky Thompson*

Gabriel John Preiss

Awaken Academy

Directors: *Dominic Trujillo and Joey Trujillo*

Tajuan Terrell Brown
Maryza Lilyanna Carrillo
Stacey Raye Castillo
Gabriel Anthony Garcia
Olivia Marie Garcia
Yamile Alejandra Garcia Guardado
Janell Mckenzie Morland
Adrian Ornelas Ruvalcaba *
Aylze Lorraine Pacheco
Anthony Devorae Rinna King
Juana Jazmin Rosales Rodriguez
Richard Louis Vigil II
Samantha Ann Wise

Brighton Leadership Academy

Directors: *Jaime and Kim Vega*

Luis Anthony Aguilar
Janiyah Elizabeth Chavez
Lesley Chavez
Jorge Joan Diaz
Brian Christopher Fierro
Catalina Marie Gilmore *
Kenneth Joseph Heller
Nevaeh Angel Jacquez
Deja Rose Loya
Laura Patricia Martinez Posada
Giselle Guadalupe Mendez-Corral
Stephanie Marie Miller *
Elyjah Jaymz Theodore Peck
Jordan Anthonee Sarco
Maria Guadalupe Tapia Mendez
Travis Micheal Tharp
Jordan Anthony Torres
Joseph Steven Trujillo III
Luis Alberto Valenzuela Valenzuela
Izaac Isidro Vallejo
Eduardo Gualberto Vega Sanchez
Elizabeth Villalba Soto
Alescia Ayriana Yslas

Front Range Academy

Director: *Lynne Dare*

Nicholas Alan Boyers
Christopher Rocco Brown Vigil
Destany Lynn Casillas
Noah James Cook
Dominik Joseph Daly
Emmalynn Louise Dyke
Spencer Kain Galvan
Catalina Zoe Gonzales

Front Range Academy (cont.)

Carter Elizabeth Hopkins
Luke Daniel Jurgensmeyer +
Gaige Laurent **
Ryan Jacob Martinez
Jazmarae Manuelita Moran
Mark Joseph Moran Jr.
Marilyn Faith Pearson
Ashley Taylor Pirtz
Isaac Valentine Poe
Harkirat Singh Randhawa
Halley Ann Riley *
Henry Josephson Smith
Andrea Beatriz Talavera
Mario Alberto Torres
Teyah Serenity Uptergrove
Pablo Armando Vilalte
Tyler Steven Wilkinson
Preston Clark Williams

Glenn R. Jones Academy

Director: *Kim Garcia*

Savannah Rene' Downey
Alexander Grant Forkenbrock
Dominick Anthony Forzani
Tanner Robert Schaefer
Miranda Kristine Wells +

I AM Academy

Director: *Anthony Watson*

Anthony Alexander Amado Palencia
Isaiah Matthew Garcia
Nadia Maricela Lucero
Ediebardo Lujan Saenz
Jaqueline Valle

Maranatha Learning Center

Director: *Victoria Aguilar*

Naomi Vania Almanza
Iliana Abigail Arciniiega Licon
Esynce Serenite J. Cruz
Trinity Marie Kasic
Jovanni Tinoco Valdez

Mountain View Academy

Director: *Amanda Cancino*

Melvin Raeshawn Bland
Giovanna Anahi Chavez Ortiz
Semaja Dena Oliver
Kaylee Michelle Peterson *

New Heights Academy

Director: *Nancy Valdez*

Citlali Guadalupe Hernandez Martinez
Jesus Loya
Abraham Mendez
Marc Anthony Peña
Jose Edenilson Pineda Marquez
Adrian Sotelo Chavez

New Hope Academy

Directors: *Shawna Beckett,
Christyn Holmes and Kerri Rink*

Francisco Javier Chaparro
Oliver Diaz Diez
Jose Guadalupe Flores-Alamo *
Celso Arturo Gonzalez *
Eliana Mae Gonzalez *
Adaly Hernandez
Deanna Christina King
Daman Junior Antonio Montoya *

Park Hill Academy

Directors: *Sharon Alexander-Holt,
Jerry Demmer and Amener Williams*

Arlyn Rio Alabastro
Tomi Shae Lynn Bracey
Emoni Renee Jones
Kevon Durrell Knox
Amir Davante Patterson

Power Academy

Directors: *America Delgado and
Zach Macaluso*

Eyslin Roman Adame Barrientos *
Carolina Rashel Alamo Marquez *
Johanna Karina Cruz Mercado
Jose Jr. Estevez Peña
Lisbeth Garcia-Cruz
Aylin Grajeda Gutierrez
Tomas Adrian Malpica Rincon
Michelle Martinez Alvarado *
Kevin Alberto Moreno
Jaqueline Ortega Lara
Jasmine Ortega Lara
Jon Ivan Ortiz Amaro
Judith Maribel Osorio Miranda *
Juan Carlos Polanco Marquez
Carolina Portillo

Titan Academy

Director: *Amy West*

Nicholas James Gallegos
Gavin Len Lancaster
Alexandria Shaylyn Leany
Skylor Christopher Evans McLain
Shane Jack Robinson Jr.

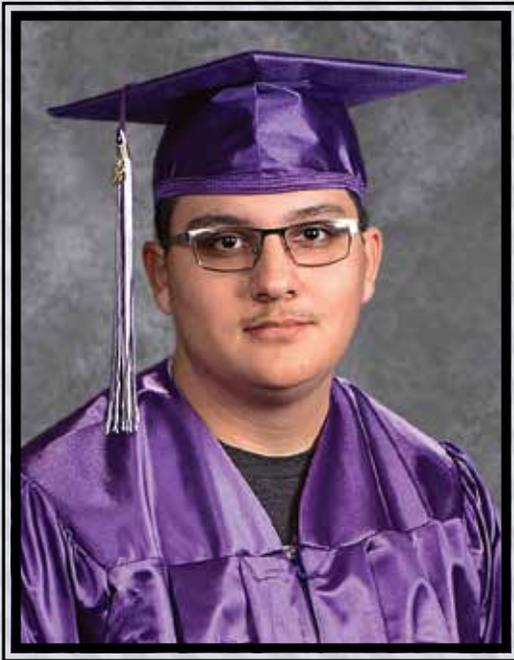
*Graduate with Academic Honors

+Gifted and Talented/High Performing Program Graduate

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

CELSO GONZALEZ & ELIANA GONZALEZ

New Hope Academy



Celso Gonzalez

This year's class is represented by the dynamic duo of Celso and Eliana Gonzalez from New Hope Academy in Greeley. This pair of twins joined the HOPE family at the beginning of their 6th grade year and have been dedicated to academic and social endeavors throughout their school years. Celso graduates as this year's Valedictorian in honor of maintaining the highest GPA in the class and Eliana as the Salutatorian with the 2nd highest GPA. Both have been active in the Student Council at their Learning Center and been positive role models for all New Hope Academy students. Celso embodies a strong work ethic, finished his classes at semester in December and went straight to a job in the family business. His future plans include continuing to help in the family business and attending college. Eliana has set her sights on a career in the medical field and made sure to take all the nursing courses available at HOPE, even when she did not need the credit, to ensure she was prepared for the next stage in her life. She plans on attending college in the fall. Celso and Eliana wish to remind their fellow graduates that sometimes life can be challenging, but, if you have the determination and right attitude, you can overcome anything. They also recognize that support from others is needed in life. Both students credit having a supportive family and strong relationships with the staff at New Hope Academy for helping them through personal struggles they have faced as high school students.



Eliana Gonzalez

ANTWOINE EURIAH MANCIA



Alpha Learning Academy

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Antwoine Mancia, better known as Euriah, has not let adversity stand in his way. He came to HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op in Pueblo in 5th grade, struggling to find an education environment where he could succeed. HOPE quickly helped him get back on track.

“I could concentrate at HOPE, and it helped me do better work,” said Euriah, who ended high school with a top GPA.

During his high school years at Alpha Learning Academy, Euriah became a leader in his Learning Center. He stepped up to volunteer in the middle school classroom, serving as a needed role model for his peers. Euriah also has become an avid artist and brought his passion to his HOPE Learning Center to share with other students. One of his favorite memories was a Comic Book Day he did at his Learning Center at the end of last year, encouraging the students to find their everyday ‘superpowers.’

“My younger brother and I both love comics. There are great life lessons in them, including how to be good to yourself and others,” said Euriah.

Euriah’s contributions to his HOPE Learning Center did not go unnoticed in the community. In the spring of 2019, Prudential awarded Euriah a Spirit of Community Award in honor of his volunteer service to Alpha Learning Academy.

“What I admire the most about Euriah is his heart and his patience. He is a natural born leader and an exceptional role model for our students, who all look up to him. Euriah has been a definite asset to our Learning Center,” said Ms. Jodene Muniz, HOPE Building Resource Coordinator/Teacher at Alpha Learning Academy.

Another setback for Euriah occurred in the 7th grade. A mishap during tonsil surgery left him with 50 percent lung capacity. Euriah was a competitive swimmer and had ambitions to compete in college and the Olympics.

“This helped me to take life more seriously and taught me to fight and work harder because tomorrow is not promised,” said Euriah.

A strong work ethic is what propelled Euriah to earn his high school diploma. He took great satisfaction at the end of each school day in seeing what he had accomplished and learned that day. One of his favorite classes in school was science. He loved the hands-on experiments he performed with classmates. Additionally, working on the computer at HOPE helped him build skills to enter the workforce when he completed coursework early in December.

“I didn’t know how to use a computer and all the applications before HOPE and now I am able to use these applications at my internship at Trane Manufacturing and Mission Foods,” said Euriah.

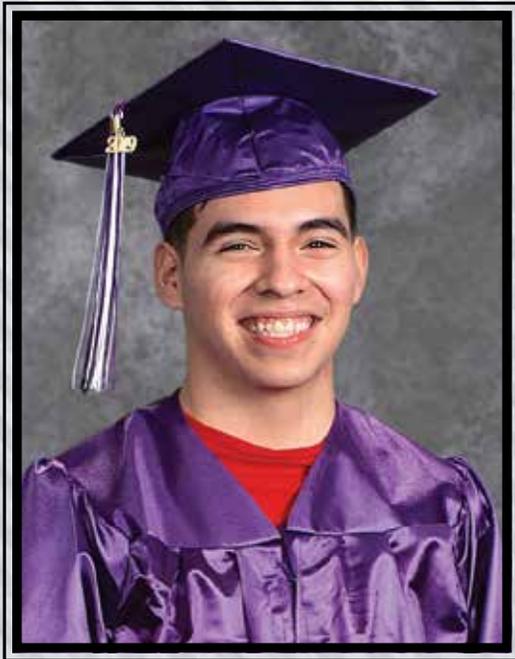
This summer, Euriah is planning to move to California where he used to live and has family. Euriah has a love for helping others and is planning to pursue a degree to work as a SWAT.

“Education can take you far in life. No matter the challenges, you can do it,” said Euriah.

Euriah has two younger siblings, Tobee and William, who are middle school students at HOPE’s Alpha Learning Academy. He is close to his father, Antoine Sr., and mother, Desirae, who teaches at Alpha Learning Academy. He currently works at Mission LLC in Pueblo. During his time at Alpha Learning Academy, he assisted middle school students, served on the Student Council and helped with school activities, such as the dance decoration committee. Euriah also contributes his success to Ms. Celina Apodaca, Alpha Learning Academy’s Director.

“She took a step of faith in opening Alpha Learning Academy and providing a learning environment that worked for students like me,” said Euriah. “The entire staff at Alpha played a part in my education, and I am thankful for all of them. I now have the rest of my life to fulfill my dreams because of the solid foundation I built at HOPE.”

ADRIAN ORNELAS RUVALCABA



Awaken Academy

Class of **2019**

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

There were former educators in Adrian Ornelas Ruvalcaba's life who told him, as a second language learner, he would have it tough. Once he started with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op in 5th grade, he began to realize his potential and wanted to prove people wrong.

"After seeing how much they cared, it helped me push forward," said Adrian. "I wanted to show I could not only do it, but I did it for them."

Earlier this spring, Adrian learned he has been accepted to begin college at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU) this fall. He plans to pursue a degree in computer science and engineering. For his freshman year, he will live on campus.

"I have always enjoyed researching technology. I would spend hours online afterschool learning more. My dream is to build a company to compete with Microsoft and Apple," said Adrian. "I am thankful to my HOPE school counselor who worked with me on my application to CU. Without that help, I may have been going to a community college."

Adrian is focused on doing well in college. His parents have always made education a priority for him as they never graduated from high school. Adrian will in fact be the first in his family to attend college. His brother, Jose, who had fallen into the wrong crowd before coming to HOPE, graduated from HOPE's Awaken Academy in 2018.

"I've been to (the CU) campus and toured. I am excited," said Adrian. He has received several scholarships and grants to make his college dreams a reality.

While in high school, Adrian was involved in many activities. He played sports, participated in the HOPE Art Show and ACE Challenge, as well as attended HOPEcomings and Proms. He really enjoyed the close friendships he built with his peers at Awaken Academy.

"The activities helped connect you to the school and build a (community) family base," said Adrian.

Adrian finished up his high school coursework in December. Currently, he is working at McDonald's. In his free time, he enjoys spending time at the gym. Adrian said he has found a lot of drive in himself to keep reaching for his dreams. But he knows HOPE was a critical milestone to help him take the next step in life.

"HOPE really works around your needs. They try to understand and provide encouragement," said Adrian. "The first two years in high school are critical. There will be many outside pressures, but it is smart to work at school so you are never playing catch up."

His achievements and acceptance into an elite Colorado university set him apart in the HOPE Class of 2019.

"Adrian does not let the limitations in his life hold him back from where he wants to go," said Ms. Jessica Trujillo, HOPE at Awaken Academy Mentor.

"Watching Adrian grow throughout his time here at Awaken has been one of the most rewarding experiences. We see greatness in all of our students, and we are honored to have helped him reach a milestone on his journey. Adrian will continue to strive and achieve so much. Thank you, Adrian, for teaching us so much too. Love ya, kid," said Ms. Erica Carrillo, HOPE at Awaken Academy Administrative Assistant.

"I am extremely proud of Adrian! His hard work, dedication and leadership will pave the way for a successful academic career in college," said Ms. Christina Doyle, HOPE School Counselor.

NEVAEH JACQUEZ



**Brighton Leadership
Academy**

Class of 2019

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

Nevaeh Jacquez is thankful to the HOPE at Brighton Leadership Academy community for providing her the support to graduate high school. She began at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op in 10th grade after struggling in her old high school and learning about HOPE through friends.

“The staff has helped me so much. They stick with us, no matter what. I appreciated the freedom to express myself and for their acceptance of everyone,” said Nevaeh.

At one point, Nevaeh’s family was homeless. The Brighton Leadership Academy community, particularly Director Ms. Kim Vega, stepped up to help by providing blankets when her family was without electricity.

“She is a very bright and positive individual, despite the obstacles she has had to overcome outside of school. We are proud of all Nevaeh has accomplished. Her talents and abilities will lead her to a bright future,” said Ms. Vega.

Nevaeh has had to grow up quickly in her life. Her father is currently in prison, and she has helped care for her younger siblings. She currently lives with her older sister and works at Chipotle. She hopes to go to college. Nevaeh loves art and has placed high in the annual HOPE Art Show several times.

“I haven’t done anything big (with art) yet, but I know I could do something,” said Nevaeh, who fondly remembers art supplies that her father sent from prison once.

While at HOPE’s Brighton Leadership Academy, Nevaeh also played sports, including soccer and volleyball. Nevaeh enjoyed competing against other HOPE centers and area schools. She worked hard during high school to stay on track and graduated early in December.

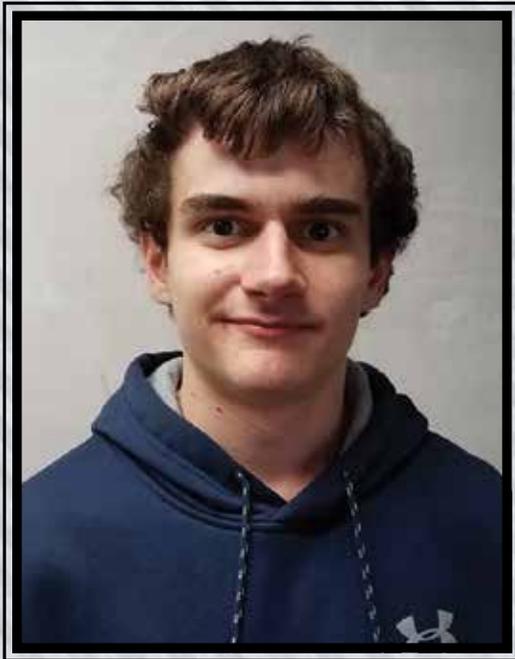
“It is important to not get behind,” said Nevaeh. “HOPE staff really help. A few times I got off track as I was more interested in art than school work. But they found a way to motivate me and find a way I could still enjoy drawing.”

Nevaeh’s older sister and mother both are high school graduates. Her favorite subject in school was science, especially astronomy. Nevaeh’s Spanish class in high school has helped her communicate with customers at her job. She additionally appreciated the connections she has made with peers at Brighton Leadership Academy. Nevaeh had deep conversations with many who helped her get through life’s rough patches.

“I liked that I could go at my own pace (at HOPE). This was more comfortable for me,” said Nevaeh. “This place was so good to me and for me. They inspired my creativity. I appreciated the different way of learning.”

Though life might not have always been easy for Nevaeh, and there were not many role models in her family around her, she learned to rise above and work towards a positive future.

LUKE JURGENSMEYER



Front Range Academy

Class of 2019

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School was a struggle for Luke Jurgensmeyer when his family enrolled him in HOPE's Front Range Academy. He started there as a freshman four years ago. The transition was not easy, either, and Luke continued to have trouble as an underclassman. But now he is proud to say that his senior year has been one of the smoothest, and he is thankful HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op stuck with him.

"They went out of their way to help me. I wasn't doing my work and was a disruption. I would have given up on me if I were them," said Luke. "I finally realized that if I didn't do work, it created more work. You can't get out of a hole without a ladder."

Luke thinks very highly of all the staff at Front Range Academy, particularly Mentor Mr. Scott Dare. This school year, as part of a school project, the two of them built a computer. Luke looked forward to his daily interactions with Mr. Dare. He appreciates the friendship they have built.

"I like that Scott is always available to talk. He is easy to relate to, and he knows what he is talking about. He stays up-to-date," said Luke.

Front Range Academy became a second home for Luke. HOPE's online learning component gave him the ability to go back and listen to concepts again, instead of hoping a teacher repeated a topic area.

"There is flexibility at HOPE, and you can work at your own pace," said Luke.

Luke wants to go into the IT field one day, like his father. Both of his parents are college graduates. His older sister is attending law school. As Luke approaches graduation, he is reflecting on the growth he has had during his time at Front Range Academy. He feels he has matured and learned to embrace responsibility.

"Do it today, and do it right the first time. Otherwise it will haunt you," said Luke.

The academic team at Front Range Academy agrees that Luke has come a long way since he began as a freshman.

"As a staff, we are very proud of Luke's achievements. It was a difficult journey for him, but he has developed into a remarkable young adult," said Mr. Dare.

In his free time, Luke enjoys video games. He has also taken up sword fighting, a hobby he developed in partnership with Mr. Dare. He has studied sword fighting at a local professional studio where they learn about the history of this martial art.

SAVANNAH DOWNEY



Glenn R. Jones Academy

Class of **2019**

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Savannah Downey was ready to quit high school unless she found a learning environment that better met her needs. She had attended Douglas County High School in Castle Rock for two years, but did not feel like she was growing academically. Savannah also struggled with peer relationships and was overwhelmed by the large size of the high school.

"I had anxiety being around all of the people," said Savannah, who said she always came in a side door at school to avoid the crowds. "I also felt like the teachers were pushing me through subjects. I was bored."

At the beginning of her junior year, Savannah started with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op, which she found out about through a friend. Later in the year, she moved with her father to Washington where she began at a new school.

"This didn't work for me either, and I told my dad I was packing up and moving back to Colorado," said Savannah. She arrived back in Colorado with two suitcases of personal belongings.

Last fall, Savannah re-enrolled in HOPE at Glenn R. Jones Academy as she felt it was her only chance to earn her diploma.

"I liked the smaller environment and the people, especially the staff. They were here for me. I didn't feel like I was doing this on my own," said Savannah.

When Savannah moved back to Colorado, she was living with friends and in other places. She eventually repaired an estranged relationship with her mother and moved back in with her and her step-father in Littleton. Savannah spent last summer with her father in Washington and eventually wants to move back there after she saves up enough money for her own place.

"Savannah is a special young woman. She had to learn how to advocate for herself early on and take care of herself by working throughout high school. I am proud of her perseverance. Savannah never let anything get in her way of graduating," said Ms. Kim Garcia, HOPE at Glenn R. Jones Academy Teacher and Director.

Savannah points to her father, who never earned his high school diploma, and his encouragement for why she stuck with school. Her mother never earned her diploma either.

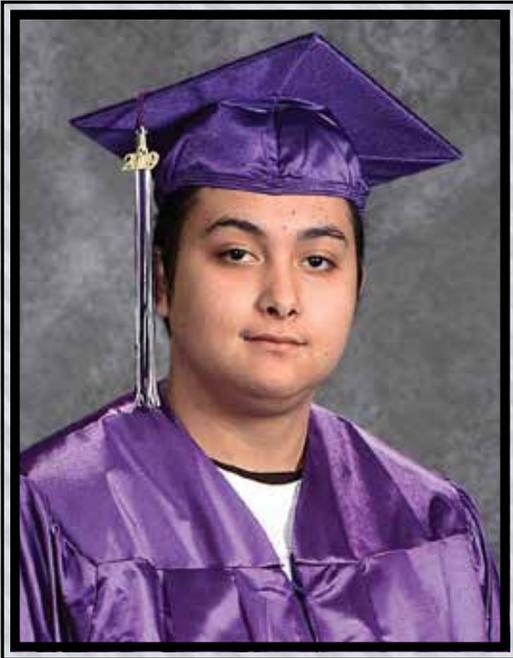
"It was his (my father's) number one priority to see me graduate," said Savannah, who is excited to have her father escort her at HOPE's Graduation Ceremony in May. "With a high school diploma, I can earn more money."

As Savannah progressed through her coursework at HOPE, she felt a sense of pride in what she was accomplishing. She was able to advance quickly and graduated a semester early in December. After finishing, she picked up more hours at her job at Wendy's.

"HOPE is a great school for kids who are struggling. It is a nice balance between online and regular school. I appreciated all the resources available to me as well," said Savannah.

Savannah has qualified for grants to attend college but hasn't decided on her major or when she will begin. She appreciated the career and college days and counseling offered at HOPE as it has given her a lot to think about as she begins the next step in her life.

ISAIAH GARCIA



I AM Academy

Class of 2019

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

Isaiah Garcia has been with HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op since 1st grade. He went to a traditional public school in kindergarten but, after a lot of behavioral issues, was asked not to return. When he earns his high school diploma this May, he will be the first in his immediate family.

“He is a very hardworking and dedicated young man. Isaiah has responded positively to every hurdle thrown at him and has exceeded our expectations. I am so very proud of him, and I am excited to see where his life takes him,” said Ms. Philancy Monck, HOPE Moderate Needs Teacher at I AM Academy.

For the last three years, Isaiah has been an apprentice electrician, balancing school, much of which he had to do in his free time, and working 35 hours a week. He helps support his daughter, who is three years old, girlfriend and younger brother, Jonathon, also a HOPE high school student at I AM Academy. Isaiah’s girlfriend, Bianca, graduated from HOPE in 2017.

“I feel very supported at HOPE,” said Isaiah. “The teachers have kind hearts. They check in on us and make sure we have food and clothes, and our family is ok. It is comforting.”

Isaiah’s mother passed away when he was 14 years old. That is the year he began working. He lived with his grandparents for awhile, but now lives with his girlfriend’s family. His brother, Jonathon, currently does not have a steady place to live. One of Isaiah’s favorite staff members at his HOPE Learning Center was former Learning Center Director Ms. Melissa Trujillo, who lost her battle with cancer earlier this year. Though his family support system is small, there is a legacy of strength Isaiah carries with him.

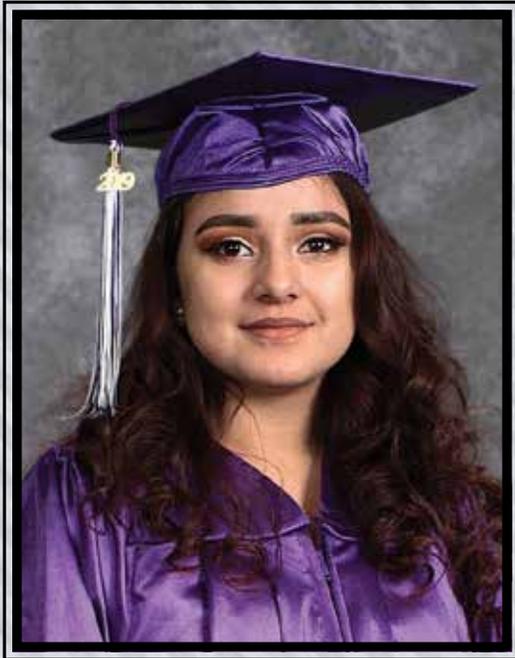
“My mom inspires me,” said Isaiah, who admired his mother’s strong work ethic.

The coursework at HOPE was also easier for Isaiah. He liked the fact that in online work he could go back and listen to key points made by instructors. Isaiah played basketball one year in a HOPE league and enjoyed getting to know his peers. As he reaches graduation, his advice to his peers working towards the same goal is simple.

“Work hard. It’s not cool to mess around. It is not hard until you try,” said Isaiah.

Isaiah appreciated the respect he received at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op. He believes the helping hand they give is the reason why students find success. After high school, Isaiah will be attending Red Rocks Community College to earn his electrician’s license.

ESYNCE CRUZ



**Maranatha
Learning Center**

Class of 2019

HOPE
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Esynce Cruz points to the support and encouragement from HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op for helping her earn her diploma and pinpoint what she wants to do with her life.

“There was a lot to think about,” said Esynce, who is planning to attend Community College of Denver in the fall to pursue a degree in psychology or business management. “HOPE sees the potential in their students and believes in our talents. I appreciate they don’t give up on us.”

HOPE at Maranatha Learning Center in Denver became a second home for Esynce. When Esynce made the switch to HOPE in 7th grade, she was seeking an educational environment where she would be accepted. Esynce had faced bullying in her former school and it hurt her self-esteem.

“I looked forward to coming to school (at HOPE), especially when I was facing hard times,” said Esynce. “They always made me feel better.”

Esynce thinks the world of the staff at HOPE’s Maranatha Learning Center. She is particularly fond of Ms. Victoria Aguilar, the Director of HOPE at Maranatha Learning Center, who has walked in similar shoes to her students.

“Ms. Aguilar didn’t get good grades in high school. Her parents hadn’t received a formal education, and she worked during her high school years,” said Esynce. “But, later in life, she went to college and earned a degree in education. She understands our struggles and knows the resources to help. There are not many schools that would do what the staff at Maranatha does for their students.”

The environment at Maranatha Learning Center helped Esynce blossom as a leader. She served on the HOPE-wide Student Council and shared her story of success frequently in the community. Esynce completed the requirements to graduate in December. She has worked during her high school years and currently holds a job at a local movie theater.

“HOPE doesn’t do everything ‘by the book’,” said Esynce. “But that is why it is successful. Not every student is the same, and what is offered in other schools might not work, especially for students who are struggling.”

In school, Esynce enjoyed English, particularly writing, and math. Esynce was also fond of her HOPE’s Learning Center elective, boxing. In fact, she plans to continue the sport after graduation.

“I like the discipline of boxing. It is a good way to stay healthy too,” said Esynce.

Helping others is another area Esynce has grown in during her time at HOPE. When she first started, she thought asking for assistance was a sign of weakness. Outside of school, Esynce enjoys writing music lyrics. She is working on getting several of her lyrics copyrighted. She has additionally picked up photography as a hobby and hopes to explore it more in college.

“Esynce is a hard worker and very responsible. She is always willing to help and mentor other students who struggle. Esynce cares for her community,” said Ms. Aguilar.

Through all the ups and downs in her life, Esynce has been inspired by the hard work and tenacity of her family. Her parents are strong believers in education and have been there every step of the way as she worked towards graduation.

“It is important to always be moving forward,” said Esynce. “Nothing comes easy in life, but there are no limits on how high you can soar.”

ABRAHAM MENDEZ



New Heights Academy

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Abraham Mendez had made negative decisions, including skipping classes, before making the switch in 10th grade to HOPE's New Heights Academy. In the smaller environment at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op, Abraham could concentrate and stay on track with his school work.

"HOPE is not the right environment for everyone. People learn differently. Some need hands-on, others can read something and understand. For me, HOPE worked. I liked how I was treated. I had better interactions and no bad influences," said Abraham.

Though he came in far behind from graduating this school year, Abraham buckled down and enjoyed the strong relationships he made with the staff he got to work with this school year. They, in turn, thought highly of him, particularly the HOPE teacher assigned to his Learning Center.

"Abraham made it clear that his goal was to catch up and graduate this year. We worked together to create a custom schedule so that he could reach this goal. He remained focused both in and out of school to get back on track," said Ms. Stephanie Long, HOPE Building Resource Teacher at New Heights Academy. "Through all of this, Abraham has remained positive and helpful, participating in work study and helping as a teacher's assistant. He is mature and cares about others. Abraham is not only a great student, he is a wonderful human being."

While at HOPE, Abraham played soccer and was an assistant coach of one of the middle school teams from his Learning Center. He enjoyed the school subjects of social studies and reading. Abraham has faced judgement by many around him throughout his life. He has weak hair follicles and is bald.

"People are not used to seeing someone my age in this condition," said Abraham.

Abraham has held jobs at UPS and Noodles and Company over the last school year. His father owns his own roofing company, and Abraham has been an assistant for him over the last six years. Abraham has future ambitions to earn a college degree in business. His hobbies include working out and playing video games. Abraham is excited about his next steps in life. As he prepares for graduation, he has these words of advice for his peers working towards their diploma.

"Try your hardest and do your work. Find a school that works for you," said Abraham.

JOSE FLORES-ALAMO



New Hope Academy

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When Jose Flores-Alamo was starting high school, he was in need of a new school option. Bad behavior had caused him to be expelled from his middle school. During his four years at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op's New Hope Academy in Greeley, Jose turned his life around.

"New Hope shaped me into a better person. I now realize who I am," said Jose.

One of the attributes Jose feels he has gained through his time at New Hope Academy is responsibility. In his former school, Jose was lost. But with the guidance of a smaller learning environment at HOPE, Jose built his character and gained discipline. HOPE's blended learning model, especially the online component, helped Jose grow academically.

"I have terrible handwriting. In my former school, teachers didn't understand what I was saying," said Jose. "Through online work, I was able to build my vocabulary and improve my writing skills."

Outside of school, Jose enjoys writing as a way of self-expression. He frequently writes poetry. Jose is also an avid reader, with one of his favorite books being *The Catcher in the Rye*. He additionally has an interest in music. Jose's favorite genre is folk because he likes the stories being told through the songs. At his HOPE Learning Center, he is commonly called "Goku," which is taken from a character in Anime.

"Goku is known as a warrior, who is humble, and doesn't use fighting when angry. He has a playful spirit," said Jose.

Jose has had to fight mental health challenges in his life, including anxiety and depression. A way he copes is through enjoying the "simple things in life." Jose frequently listens to idol John Lennon's song *Hold On* to provide him strength in the rough patches.

"Life is hard. It is important to focus on the good, and not just be working to get ahead. Otherwise you may get where you are going and be unsatisfied. Enjoy the process," said Jose.

After high school, Jose is planning to take a year off and wants to travel the world. He wants to visit Paris to see the grave of Jim Morrison. Jose is following in the footsteps of his older brother who is a high school graduate. In school, Jose enjoyed the subjects of language arts, human anatomy and art history. He said he can get lost in the work of Monet. Jose has been involved in New Hope Academy's Student Council and Yearbook staff. He has also attended the HOPE Prom. Jose's friends and educators at New Hope Academy have meant the world to him and were his favorite part of the school day.

"Jose is such a cool kid! He symbolizes the HOPE learning model," said Ms. Shawna Beckett, HOPE Building Resource Teacher at New Hope Academy. "While his former schools were not a good fit for him, he found a home at HOPE. Jose could have been done in December, but elected to stay in school and graduate with extra credits."

EMONI JONES



Park Hill Academy

Class of 2019

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

For Emoni Jones, going to HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op was a family affair. She began in 1st grade with her older and younger brothers and following in the footsteps of cousins and other family members who were enjoying their HOPE experience.

“There is no other place I would want to go. They were always there for me,” said Emoni.

Growing up, Emoni looked up to her older brother, Tercell Davis, who graduated from HOPE in 2012. Math was a subject Emoni always had trouble in, but with help from her teachers and her older brother, she finally overcame her struggles. Emoni’s brother has recently gotten into trouble, but it hasn’t taken away the guidance he provided.

“He taught me a lot and was an inspiration,” said Emoni.

Emoni has a strong peer group at HOPE at Park Hill Academy. Many have been together for years. They have been a source of strength as well.

“My favorite part of school is my friends,” said Emoni. “We have had a lot of fun!”

After graduation, Emoni is planning to attend Metropolitan State University of Denver. She wants to become a midwife.

“I was there for the birth my (older) sister’s baby. It was an amazing experience. This sparked my interest,” said Emoni.

Not everyone in Emoni’s family has graduated from high school. Her mother earned her GED. Emoni has always pushed to complete high school on time to make her mother and the rest of her family proud.

“It is important to not give up. Keep working hard and stay focused. There is a sense of pride to know you did it. It will all be worth it,” said Emoni.

Emoni describes herself as someone who has passion and determination. Currently, she is striving towards earning a college degree so she can have a good career. Less than a year ago she began a job as a cosmetics cashier at Walmart. Emoni plans to continue working in college while living at home.

“My cousin goes to Metro. It is a good school. I am looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing new things,” said Emoni.

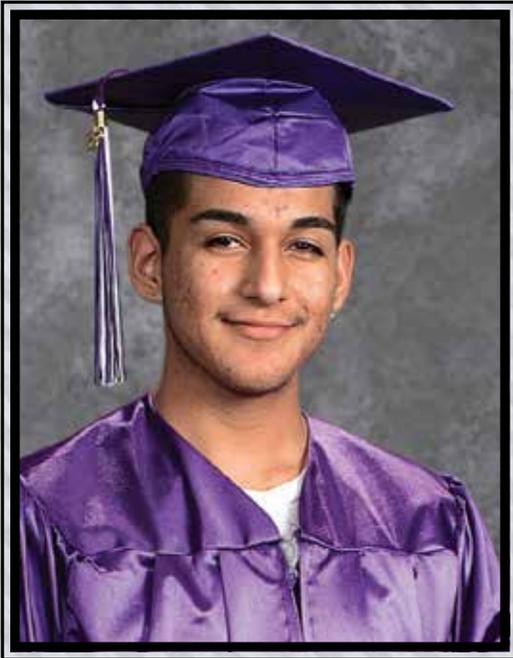
Though she is looking towards her future, she is thankful for the attention she received during her time at HOPE. Emoni was particularly appreciative of the patience of her instructors.

“They didn’t just tell us what to do. The teachers sat down with us when we didn’t understand,” said Emoni.

Emoni was involved in the HOPE community. She participated in many of the events and activities as it was important to her to represent her school well. For her Learning Center, Park Hill, Emoni is leaving behind a legacy of leadership that will continue to inspire future generations.

“I met Emoni in 2008 and was immediately impressed with her kind and caring manner,” said Ms. Amener Williams, a Director of Park Hill Academy. “She has gone above and beyond and made it her personal responsibility to help many in our learning community. I appreciate Emoni’s continued commitment to HOPE and Park Hill Academy!”

JUAN CARLOS POLANCO MARQUEZ



Power Academy

Class of 2019

HOPE
ONLINE LEARNING ACADEMY

For Juan Carlos Polanco Marquez, his four years of high school at HOPE's Power Academy have been a journey of personal growth. He started at HOPE Online Learning Academy Co-Op as a shy, reserved individual. This put him behind when he first started as he was not advocating for himself.

"The staff, especially Mr. Zach, helped motivate me to get back on track and catch up," said Juan Carlos.

Juan Carlos' transformation also came through his involvement in Learning Center activities. Before coming to HOPE, he had never been involved in extracurricular activities. Juan Carlos played many HOPE sports, including soccer, volleyball and flag football. He attended Prom for the first time this spring.

"I didn't expect a small school like HOPE to have all of this," said Juan Carlos. "I learned to work in a team, and it helped me get to know others better."

In his family, Juan Carlos will be the first to graduate from high school. He has three other siblings who attend HOPE at Power Academy. Juan Carlos has a sibling who attends another online school as well. His parents provide inspiration for his life.

"When we moved here, my parents didn't have jobs. But they never gave up," said Juan Carlos. "My mom has been harsh on me over the years but I realized she was pushing me to be better."

Juan Carlos took an interest in the subjects of English, biology and math. While math got tedious, he enjoyed the connections that could be made to everyday life. Juan Carlos found the HOPE learning model more challenging at first, but quickly saw he was gaining technology skills that could help him in life. However, relationships became key to Juan Carlos' success at HOPE's Power Academy.

"He came out of his shell by connecting to our learning environment and all we have to offer. This benefited him, and he was able to accomplish what he came to do," said Mr. Zach Macaluso, a Director of Power Academy.

After high school, Juan Carlos is interested in pursuing a career in interior design. He spends a lot of free time decorating his own room and surfing the internet for ideas. Juan Carlos has worked at McDonald's for two years. He also has interests in painting, drawing and soccer. Looking back, Juan Carlos sees the value of his HOPE experience.

"Not everyone learns the same. You can move at your own pace at HOPE and not feel rushed. HOPE will help you reach your goals and graduate," said Juan Carlos.

