



NEWS RELEASE

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SCCOE celebrates graduates in Alternative Education and Special Education programs

SAN JOSE, CA – Throughout the end of May and into June, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) honors its student graduates from both the Special Education and Alternative Education programs.

“These graduation ceremonies are a highlight of the year for everyone here at the County Office of Education,” said Jon R. Gundry, County Superintendent of Schools. “I greatly appreciate being able to welcome our kids and their families and to see firsthand how happy and proud they are at having accomplished this significant academic and personal milestone.”

On June 1, 82 students graduated from the SCCOE’s Alternative Schools, including Blue Ridge, Odyssey, Osborne, Terra Bella Academy, Snell Community and Edge Community schools and the independent study program. Superintendent Gundry and Judge Patrick Tondreau provided the keynote remarks for the event, with three student speakers also addressing their peers, families and friends. Both the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) awarded a total of seven scholarships to students in the graduating class. Graduates participated in a rose ceremony, during which they were given the opportunity to share their rose with someone that had helped them to achieve their personal goals.

Last week, 29 students graduated from the Special Education’s Connect Post-Secondary Program during a ceremony held at the Quinlan Center in Cupertino. Superintendent Gundry and Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Chief Schools Officer, assisted in the presentation of graduation certificates to the students, who had completed their participation in a post-secondary transition program preparing them for their adult options. Ten students in the graduating class have been directly hired into jobs, with the rest of the students enrolled in a variety of adult programs.

This month, 13 students will also be graduating from the SCCOE’s Special Education Centers at the McCollam, Della Maggiore and Gateway schools, and going on to adult programs. Additionally, two students in the Special Education program graduated from the SCCOE’s Foothill Program with their High School Diplomas, 12 students graduated from Erikson Center

and two students from the County Jail received their High School diplomas through the SCCOE's Special Education home study program.

The SCCOE's Alternative Education provides educational programs for students under court supervision, and who are expelled or who are deficient in credits and have experienced challenges in matriculation in the traditional school settings.

The SCCOE's Special Education Department partners with the county's school districts to serve students with disabilities from birth to age 22. A variety of services for children and students with severe or low-incidence disabilities are provided through instructional programs divided into Early Education (birth to age 3), preschool, elementary, secondary and post-senior.

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