

"SUCCESS IS OUR FUTURE" PERSEVERES AT DRIVE THROUGH EVENT

PROBATION DEPARTMENT HONORS YOUNG SCHOLARS AT GRADUATION

May 20, 2021, was a day of celebration and achievement in the city of Alhambra as the Los Angeles County Probation Department hosted the "29th Annual Success Is Our Future" event, honoring probation foster youth. While this year's festivities looked a little different, the joyful spirit of pride and accomplishment still filled the air. Vehicles drove through the beautifully decorated Almansor Court parking lot, forming a long parade of cars filled with young academic scholars and their supporters. Director Jedediah Minoff shared, "This year's event is being hosted in an unprecedented format. Our team of Transition Coordinators and STRTP's (Short Term Residential Treatment Programs), who have come together for decades, were able to adjust, pivot, and adapt. They assured a safe environment. The kids were excited, and it was a great afternoon."

This year's theme was Perseverance. And all the young honorees have wholeheartedly demonstrated steadfastness despite difficulties or delays in achieving success. Forty-five high school graduates were honored, fifteen of which received college scholarships. Three former foster youth also received a continuing education scholarship. "I'm so excited," yelled a youth as he exited his car and observed the clapping supporters and heard his name being amplified over the speakers by Probation Supervisor Gregory Linsey.

After receiving their certificates of graduation and scholarship recognition, the youth were invited to take a professional graduation photo. After that, they advanced through the procession and were gifted with a sweatshirt bearing the word "Perseverance" on the front. They were also provided a complimentary pre-packaged hot lunch and given backpacks filled with school supplies and information on Probation's Independent Living Program. "I feel good. I have never been to something like this, and many people I'm around that are graduating have never been to anything like this. So, I feel good being here and for all the support. After graduating, I plan to go to college and play sports," a graduate expressed.



Vehicles drove through the beautifully decorated Almansor Court parking lot, forming a long parade of cars filled with young academic scholars and their supporters.



Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Gregory Lindsey

"SUCCESS IS OUR FUTURE" PERSEVERES AT DRIVE THROUGH EVENT (CONT)

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As an inspiration to strive for academic excellence, 11th-grade students were also invited to attend and support their peers. You could see the excitement in their eyes as they witnessed their friends being celebrated for their academic achievement.

The event also featured the "Success Is Our Future Art Contest," which displayed the artwork of youth from various Short Term Residential Treatment Programs. "The artwork is phenomenal. The youth were extremely creative this year. They incorporated the Mars Rover with the theme of Perseverance, and the young people that decided not to participate were motivated to enter next year as they viewed the finished pieces. They were in awe of how professional the artwork looked," shared Independent Living Program Coordinator Katrina Wade. The first-place winner of the art contest won \$100.00, second place \$75.00, and third place \$50.00. The youth's art was beautifully displayed in a gallery-style setting as each car exited the drive-through.

It was a joyful day as the youth were acknowledged for their Perseverance and commitment to academic excellence. You could feel the joy in the air the entire afternoon. Thank you to the Probation staff, community partners, and STRTP staff for coordinating and assuring that the youth attended this inspirational event. Graduating high school is the first milestone in their academic careers. The sky is the limit for these young people. Congratulations to the graduates of the class of 2021! Success is definitely in your future!

Probation News



The "Success Is Our Future Art Contest," displayed artwork by youth from various Short Term Residential Treatment Programs.



(L to R) DPOII Daryl Singleton, Director Jedediah Minoff, DPOII Glenn Simonton