

IT'S GRADUATION SEASON IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH AND DETENTION SERVICE OFFICERS HONORED IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

It's graduation season, and the Los Angeles County Probation Department is celebrating new beginnings and achievements in various areas. On June 17th and 18th, the Department partnered with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and hosted two high school graduation ceremonies honoring 25 youth. Senior Probation Director of Educational Services, Jesus Corral, shared, "I'm excited to be here with everyone and to celebrate two special days for the young men here at Barry J. Nidorf. This really proves that the skies the limit." During the ceremonies, congratulatory messages were presented from several dignitaries, including Chief Deputy Probation Officer Dr. Adolfo Gonzales. Additionally, Author and Motivational Speaker K-Rahn Vallatine gave the Keynote address.

Families, staff, and support teams attended and witnessed the youth's educational milestone. "This is a great day at Barry J. We applaud the graduates for sticking to it though not the best of circumstances. We are also very proud of our collaboration with LACOE. Today is a success story," proclaimed Superintendent Scott Sanders.

Spirits were high, and cheers filled the air as each young man received his diploma. "I never even thought about completing high school, and now I'm interested in pursuing a bachelor's and master's degree," stated a graduate. After the ceremony, the youth and families were provided with a catered lunch and allowed to fellowship and celebrate. It was a day to remember. Congratulations to the Barry J. Nidorf class of 2021 graduates!



Family and guests at the ceremony honoring the Barry J. Nidorf graduating class of 2021



Chief Deputy Probation Officer Dr. Adolfo Gonzales shares a message



School pride!

On June 24th, the Department welcomed 25 new Detention Services Officers into our Los Angeles County Probation family. The graduation was held at the Probation Training Facility in Pico Rivera. Family members and friends joined the celebration virtually. Chief of Probation Dr. Adolfo Gonzales swore in the new Officers. He also offered heartfelt words of encouragement to the DSO's as they embark on this new season of life as Peace Officers and agents of change in the Los Angeles communities. Congratulations, JCOC Class of 2021-01!



JCOC Class of 2021 - 01

IT'S GRADUATION SEASON IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CONT)

YOUTH AND DETENTION SERVICE OFFICERS HONORED IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES



Director Michael Varela, Assistant Director Cesar Mayorquin, Supervisor Frederick Young DKC

On June 25th, the LA County Probation Department and LACOE, again, collaborated to celebrate young scholars at Dorothy Kirby Center. They hosted a graduation ceremony for four youth who received their High School Diplomas. The youth's parents, Therapists, and support teams were present to celebrate the young people on their well-earned achievement. DPO II T&C Janice Harris eloquently presented the Langston Hughes poem "Mother to Son," and Assistant Principal Dr. Donna Baker and Probation Director Michael Varela offered congratulatory words of inspiration to the graduates.

The graduates also spoke during the ceremony. "I would like to thank my teachers for helping me accomplish my goal, which was to finish high school. I also want to thank my Probation Officer for helping me through school even when I was having rough days... I have all that you have taught me stored safely in my mind and heart," expressed a graduate. One youth brought attendees to tears as he expressed genuine and sincere gratitude to his mother, "I would like to thank my mom for everything. For you, I am forever grateful. Thank you for always pushing me to become a better person. Even at my worst, you did not hesitate to pick me up and put me in the right direction. To you, I dedicate my high school diploma and many more degrees to come. I will succeed in life for you and my family."

Commencement is defined as a beginning or start, and June 2021 presented many new beginnings for Los Angeles County Probation Department's youth and professional staff. Congratulations to all the graduates. Much success to you in all your future endeavors. Go forth. Be great and continue striving to impact the community positively.



DPO II C&T Janice Harris DKC