



El Monte Union High School District

Community Committed to College and Career

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2022 CONTACT: Maria Hernandez PHONE: (909) 447-2406

El Monte Union Celebrates Class of 2022, Hosts Commencement Ceremonies

EL MONTE – The El Monte Union High School District celebrated more than 1,850 seniors from the Class of 2022 during commencement ceremonies where parents, families, teachers, staff, community members and local officials joined in applauding graduates who proudly walked across the stage to receive their high school diplomas on June 2.

The ceremonies featured choir, orchestra and band performances, a special rendition of the National Anthem by Arroyo High School's salutatorian Melody Hake, speeches, fireworks, streamers, and a farewell video prepared by Mountain View High School's (MVHS) VISTA Academy to seniors and retiring MVHS principal Jose Marquez.

"I'm so proud and honored to be standing here before this extraordinary and resilient Class of 2022. In four years so much has happened and despite all the odds against us, we still managed to ensure we made it to graduation," said MVHS valedictorian Phuoy Ly Ngo, who is bound for USC. "Thank you, all of our teachers, staff and advisors, for making our education at MVHS meaningful and fulfilling. I also want to especially thank our parents, families and friends for always supporting and believing in us. I have no doubt that each and everyone of you are capable of being successful."

The District honored 450 graduates from Arroyo High School, 384 graduates from El Monte High School, 324 graduates from Mountain View High, 420 graduates from Rosemead High, 296 graduates from South El Monte High and 65 graduates from the District's alternative high school, Fernando R. Ledesma High School, during commencement ceremonies on June 2. The Class of 2022 also boasted South El Monte High School's first cohort of graduates from its Early College program, offered in partnership with Río Hondo College.

The five comprehensive high schools produced 67 valedictorians and 32 salutatorians with GPAs of 4.0 or higher.

El Monte Union Class of 2022 graduates will pursue higher education in fields such as business, science, technology, performing arts and engineering at prestigious four-year universities, including Cornell University, Georgetown University, Stanford University, UC Irvine, UC San Diego and UCLA, as well as at community colleges and vocational schools. Other graduates will enter the armed forces or join the workforce.

"This class has persevered through the longest four years any high school student has had to endure. I congratulate our graduates on all of their accomplishments because it wasn't easy and if you can make it through this you can make it through anything," EMUHSD Board President Carlos Salcedo said. "Many of our students return to the El Monte Union community as teachers, counselors, police officers or firefighters always wanting to find a way to give back. I know this class will do the same and I look forward to seeing what you have to offer to our future generations."

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El Monte Union's graduating class received numerous awards and scholarships, including the State Seal of Biliteracy Award, Gold Seal from the California Scholarship Federation Award, Community Based Instruction Certificate of Achievement Award, QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship, Chancellors Excellence Scholarship, Posse Foundation Scholarship and various community and alumni scholarships.

"Congratulations to the Class of 2022, I am so proud of the dedication you've put towards your high school experience," EMUHSD Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga said. "Although there were many challenges faced, in the end, you were triumphant. Thank you to our parents and families for their endless support and also our teachers, staff and administrators for their efforts in ensuring our students are ready to take on their next steps in life."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

EMUHSD GRADUATION 1: Arroyo High School graduates gather with excitement before the commencement ceremony on June 2.

EMUHSD GRADUATION 2: Rosemead High School graduates walk hand in hand across the track at the start of the commencement ceremony on June 2.

EMUHSD GRADUATION 3: A South El Monte High School graduate strolls to his seat, diploma in hand, during a June 2 commencement ceremony.

EMUHSD GRADUATION 4: A El Monte High School graduate is adorned with leis by her family after the school's commencement ceremony on June 2.

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The vision of the El Monte Union High School District is to empower and motivate our students to be resilient, college and career ready, lifelong learners and contributing members of our global society.