



Press Release

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Lynwood Unified Celebrates Graduates

87 percent of the Lynwood and Firebaugh graduates will attend college, universities or will enter the U.S. Armed Forces

Lynwood, Calif. – Lynwood Unified celebrated nearly 900 graduates from Firebaugh, Lynwood and Vista high schools during commencement ceremonies which took place from June 1 through June 5, representing the beginning of a new chapter in students' journeys into careers and higher education.

"We take such pride in the fact that so many of our students are advancing to the next level of education and fulfilling the goals they set forth when they entered our high schools," said LUSD Superintendent Paul Gothold. "These ceremonies serve as celebration not only for our graduates but for all those that worked to support them and their aspirations. We hope that they will continue to gain wisdom and return to be the business and civic leaders of our communities in the future."

Since 2011, the number of graduating seniors at Firebaugh High has skyrocketed nearly 20 percent, with 89.2 percent of seniors graduating in 2014-15. Similarly, Lynwood High has also seen a significant increase, with 80.9 percent of seniors graduating in 2014-15.

Lynwood Unified's two comprehensive high schools are sending more students than ever to institutes of higher education. More than 87 percent of the graduating classes at Firebaugh and Lynwood highs will advance to a university, college or enter the U.S. Armed Forces.

Lynwood High School

On June 1, Lynwood High held its graduation at University of Southern California's Galen Center, where nearly 400 students culminated their high school experience surrounded by the red brick USC's state-of-the-art sports arena.

Parents, friends, faculty and staff watched student speakers on the center-court scoreboards. Even Principal Carlos Zaragoza surprised the graduates and crowd in his speech when he took out his cell phone mounted on a "selfie-stick" and took a photo of himself in front of the class of 2015 on the stage.

Lynwood High's valedictorian was Rebeca Canche, whose 4.63 GPA landed her a spot on UCLA's fall roster, and the salutatorian was Luis Lara-Espinoza, who graduated with a 4.63 GPA and will attend St. Martin's University in Washington.

Firebaugh High School

On June 4, Firebaugh High School celebrated its more than 350 graduates during commencement ceremonies at Whittier College. They heard inspirational stories from Valedictorian Jesus Garcia, who is headed to Cornell University in New York, and Salutatorian Leonardo Vega, who will attend UCLA this fall.



Vista High School

On June 5, Vista High School and the Pathway Independent Study Program held commencement ceremonies at Lynwood's Bateman Hall to commemorate the achievements of 135 graduates. The school's valedictorian was Juan Muñoz.

"Graduations serve as a reminder to the members of our community that with hard work, success can be achieved," said Maria Lopez. "These young men and women will now continue their education to thrive and meet all the dreams and expectations they have set for themselves. We wish all of them well and will continue to support their efforts."

Captions:

Lynwood Grad: Lynwood High valedictorian Rebeca Canché (in white), Evelyn Salinas (center), and Luis Gonzalez (right) laugh during Principle Carlos Zaragoza's speech at the school's graduation ceremony at the University of Southern California's Galen Center arena on Monday, June 1.

Firebaugh Grad: Associated Student Body President Ana Lopez addresses the graduating class from Firebaugh High during the commencement ceremony at Whittier College on Thursday, June 4.

Vista Grad: Friends, family and supporters stand behind Lynwood Vista High and Pathway Independent Study students in Batemen Hall in Lynwood on Friday, June 5 during their commencement ceremonies.

The mission of **Lynwood Unified School District**, the cultivator of innovative thinkers, is to ensure each student fearlessly achieves his or her highest academic and personal aspirations while contributing to the greater society through a unique system distinguished by:

- ★ People of great character who inspire and lead by example
- ★ The instilling of courage to be creative
- ★ The transformative uses of technology
- ★ Safe and clean environments
- ★ The honoring of all voices of our community