

Gallup Central High School: Class of 2015

Written by Story and Photos by Tom Hartsock
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Seventy-one hard-working students at Gallup Central High received diplomas on May 14 after a happy celebration, and a few speeches. There were also diplomas for 26 adult graduates of Gallup's only alternative school for those students who, for a variety of reasons, found the mainstream schools too harsh or incompatible to their needs or educations.

The large crowd that filed into the Miyamura gymnasium were present to support these students for their continued effort, and the hugs and applause were as genuine, if not more so, than the other public high schools in town.

The processional was followed by a tri-lingual Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of America, recited by Justina John in English, Anna Kaufman in Spanish and Rose Tom in Navajo. Principal John Overheim II welcomed the crowd and made the introductions. Shannon Yellowhorse read Graduation Words of Wisdom, Makaylie Tsosie did the same with Graduation, and Brandy Grenier read Our Day Has Arrived before Overheim took the reins again and presented the Honor Graduates to the audience.

Shenqwauna McCray earned the Paul Hanson Memorial Scholarship, Renee Martinez the UNM-G Lobo Scholarship and Nicholas Watchman the GCHS Wildcat Scholarship. The Sunrise Kiwanis Seniors of the Month were: Makaylie Tsosie-January; Christopher Martinez-February; Isaac Garcia-March; Nicholas Watchman-April; and Brandy Grenier-May. Recognized seperately were Isaac Garcia and Sean Yazzie, who have committed to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Overheim then introduced the guest speaker, newly elected City Councilor Fran Palochak.

The rest of the program proceeded as expected with Board of Education President Joseph Menini delivering the Confirmation of the graduates while Christopher Adams presented the diplomas to the high school students and Robert Ray Spencer presented diplomas to the graduates of the Adult Program.

And then, with the turning of the tassels and the recessional, the program was finished for another year.