



SALEM-KEIZER PUBLIC

As the 2015-16 school year closes, Salem-Keizer Public schools would like to say, "Thank you!" to our community for supporting student achievement.

It takes the commitment of many adults to guide a student all the way to graduation. The efforts of

Diana Marquez Guerrero

is going to be the first person in her family to attend college. She was born in Silverton and moved to Salem when she was in first grade and began attending Scott Elementary School.

She recently graduated from McKay High School and has built a reputation as a hard worker and service-oriented student leader. Diana leads music worship at her church and participates in McKay's student



GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLAR
Diana Marquez Guerrero
McKay High School

leadership program.

Diana is also the only student from Salem to be named a 2016 Gates Millennium Scholar. Diana was recognized with this award for minority students because of her outstanding academic record and proven leadership in the school and community.

Diana will receive a full scholarship to attend any college of her choice. She will also be provided with personal and professional development programs along with academic support throughout her college career.

Diana applied to the University of Chicago, where she was placed on a waiting list and has been accepted at Willamette University. She plans on majoring in anthropology for her undergraduate degree. She hopes to work with nonprofits advocating for human rights.

"My parents always worked hard and in tough conditions, and that inspired me to get a good education. I want to use my education to give back to my parents and community."

Lorena Reyes-Gutierrez

is proud to tell about the growth she has experienced in her high school career. In her own words, "I was very shy when I first started, and this program has helped me open up and become someone I never thought I could be."

She gives credit to her teachers and the programs at North Salem High School and at the district's Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) for helping her open up both personally and professionally.

When she started at North, she got involved in the woodworking program right away. She says of her choice to enroll in the class, "I have always enjoyed drawing, and working with wood is one way to bring my designs to life."

She saw the construction program at CTEC as an opportunity to expand her knowledge and skills.

CTEC has also helped her discover a purpose and meaning for her future. She has a very clear roadmap for the next few years: attend Chemeketa Community College for two years, then transfer to Oregon State University, ultimately graduating and going to work for the machining company that is helping her attend school with scholarships. "A lot of companies are looking at Lorena," said CTEC Office Manager, Dinah Walsh. "She's in high demand."

She has had some struggles along the way. If it hadn't been for the influence of a caring teacher at North Salem, Lorena thinks she wouldn't be on the path she is on today.

"At my lowest point, a teacher noticed I was struggling and told me I have potential. He told me there are opportunities for me, for a future, and to keep going. This made all the difference to my future."



CAREER-READY
Lorena Reyes-Gutierrez
North Salem High School and CTEC



ACADEMIC ACHIEVER
Connor Evans,
South Salem High School

Performing well in school has always been Connor Evans' top priority, even since he was young. "I've never procrastinated when it comes to my studies," Connor said. "You've got to get things done and take care of everything first, before thinking about recreation."

Considering this commitment to academics, it may not be surprising that Connor graduated from South Salem High School with an impressive 4.0 GPA. Add to this the fact that Connor graduated from South's rigorous International Baccalaureate (IB) program, and this accomplishment is even more extraordinary.

Only students with top grades can participate in the IB program, which sets rigorous academic standards, promotes leadership, and offers students a chance to earn college credits while in high school.

Although Connor has a schoolwork first policy, he still has fun. He played on the basketball team his freshman year, played on the tennis team this year, and was on the soccer team all four years in high school. He was also a member of the school's student leadership team for three years, and was a member of the National Honor Society his senior year.

Looking ahead, Connor plans to become a pediatric neurosurgeon. He will attend Pacific University in Forest Grove beginning this fall. Along with playing on the soccer team, he will major in biology before going to medical school after completing his undergraduate degree.

"I've always wanted to do something in the medical field. Becoming a doctor has always interested me. I love kids, and have an interest in the brain. I want to help young children who have diseases get well."

Volunteering is just part of the week for student Angelica Hernandez. She is very involved with a program at school known as the Teacher Cadet Program. The program is a class that helps students decide and discover what teaching is all about, and if they want to become a teacher in the future. Part of the program has Angelica volunteering four hours a week with the Head Start Preschool program, which fits nicely with her class Teaching Young Children.

Angelica is an Honor Roll student, with one of the best attendance rates in school. She was a Student of the Month in the fall. Her teachers say that she has a great work ethic, determination, a strong skill set and continues to impress by managing her numerous life demands.

Angelica is a role model for other students in the school with her academic achievements, working and being able to accomplish all that she does. She is very well-liked and respected by her peers, who often look to her for guidance and support.



FUTURE EDUCATOR
Angelica Hernandez,
Alternative Education Programs

She also works part-time and participates with an organization called Young Lives which works with teens to empower them to make positive choices, and set and achieve goals.

Graduating from high school and attending college is a choice Angelica made for herself. She passed all of her essential skills classes and graduated from Roberts High School – Teen Parent Program on June 9th. She is headed to Chemeketa Community College for undergraduate work and will attend Western Oregon University afterwards.