

Letters of support for Grads



Teachers and Staff Look Back SEI will always support you

On behalf of Self Enhancement, Inc., we want to wish all of our seniors the absolute best as you move into this next phase of life.

Some of you are preparing to further your education by going to college close by or far away. Others are jumping into the workforce right away, with hopes to pursue passions they'd always dreamt of. Regardless of what you decide to do in this next phase of life, we want our seniors to always remember that SEI will always have your back.



We will always be there to support you, help you, and cheer you on. We love and miss you so much! We miss you coming into the office just to talk, ask for snacks, and we even miss telling you to go to class.

Words are hard to find when it comes to how proud we are of each of you! We're so honored to be your coordinators and wish you nothing but the best for this next phase of your life. No matter what, you'll always be part of the SEI family, we love you!

~Love, Ms. Ebony, Bubba, and Ms. Shy (inset)



You Made My Year

Dear 2020 Seniors,

Those of you who were in MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, the organization promoting Chicano unity and empowerment) gave me so much hope.

I was worried coming into Jefferson that I would not find students to be part of the programming, but within minutes you all came into my life. From then on I got to see you everyday in the classroom. I got to see you change and grow in just a few months.

I saw most of you prosper and your personalities be more present. You all made me think about what support I would have wanted at your age. From talking about school, to sharing all your hopes and dreams, you all made me so proud.

I am upset that I only got to be part of your lives at the end of your high school career, but just know you made my year. I will always be supporting you guys no matter what. Thank you for all the laughs, sarcasm and great music.

Love, Fabi Mascote

PCC Partnership was Inspirational

It's my honor to salute you

Dear Jefferson High School Class of 2020:

First, thank you for the honor of addressing you on this momentous occasion. It has been a source of great pride for me to see the partnership between Jefferson and PCC-Cascade grow and thrive over the years. Watching Jefferson transform from a struggling institution to being recognized for highest graduation rates in the state has been truly inspirational.

On behalf of the Middle College staff, Cascade faculty and administration, I offer congratu-

lations, best wishes, and sincere hope for a fantastic future.

This may not be the graduation you'd hoped for, or the conditions in which you'd wished to graduate, but I believe this singular moment in history provides you -- and your fellow graduates from around the nation and the world -- an opportunity to change the world for the better.

This moment in time is also symbolic. It symbolizes the end of one thing, but also the beginning of something new. You will have new opportunities, make new friends, and overcome new challenges in ways we're only beginning to conceive. Thanks to the Coronavirus, you will also have new ways of

studying and learning, interacting with others, and new leadership roles for you to assume.

You will help show us what this new world can look like. A world where everyone has the health care they need, the education they deserve, the income that human dignity demands. Where the presence of clean air and water aren't a luxury but a constant companion. Where the barriers that held some back while others prospered fade away. Where black lives matter. Where everyone, in every circumstance, has the freedom to fully enjoy the gift of life.

We'll be here to encourage and support you in this critically needed work, but we'll need your voice,



Dr. Karin Edwards

es, time and talent to lead the way.

We are proud of you, Demos! The future is yours to create. Go big.

Dr. Karin Edwards,
Portland Community College-
Cascade Campus president

At What Cost?

A forgotten letter to my future graduating self

BY SELAM GETU

When I have writer's block I often read my diaries. I've never found a perfect thesis statement in them and I don't believe it's caused any lightbulb moments, but I do it anyway. Unsure of what could possibly sum up all that I've been thinking and feeling during quarantine and my years at Jefferson, I pulled out



the diaries, picked some pages, and read. This time, however, I found something of actual use: A forgotten letter to my future graduating self.

Saturday, June 3, 2017 6:39 p.m. Dear Selam, I'm pretty sure the seniors are at their graduation ceremony right now so I thought I'd write this for you to read when you're in their shoes. You're probably in your cap and gown waiting to begin the end of this chapter of your life. Hopefully you have cords around your neck and maybe a speech in your pocket. Regardless, these past few years have been leading up to this moment, so take a deep breath because it'll be over soon.

Do you remember your first day of high school? The excitement, butterflies, fear? How do you feel now? Do you think it was worth it? I sure hope so.

Your journey hasn't been easy, but you've kept going. You've studied hard for every test, toiled over every essay, and I want you to know how much I love you for that, for all the stress you put yourself under to build a promising road ahead for us.

I hope you were able to keep straight A's and a 4.0 gpa during these past years and never let yourself doubt your intelligence. I hope you've gotten into your dream college and are leaving this small city. And I hope you've figured out what you're passionate about, what you want to spend your life doing. Mostly I just hope you're not afraid anymore.

At 15 years old, I also have a few questions. Who are your closest friends at the moment? Have you gone on a date? Did you ever run for student body president? I'm curious.

Dear Lulu, Emely, Sebastian, Yunior and Misael,

Felicidades! You made it! When I met all of you I saw young powerful leaders and you have all proved to be just that. I wish you the very best in all you do. Please remember to never give up even when life gets difficult. Push yourself till you reach your goals then push yourself a little more till you reach your next goal! Si se Puede!!

Sincerely,

Sofia Dominguez and the
Latino Network Familia