



Graduations

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Apollo High grads complete 'long journey'

By Anne Kallas
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Some of the 55 graduating seniors were young mothers who went through the school's Minor Parent Program, which allowed them to complete their high school education.

Others had overcome disinterest in academics or a lack of discipline to be able to stand in front of classmates and friends in blue gowns and mortarboards at the school's quad, as their counselors read a short statement outlining each student's accomplishments before he or she was given a diploma.

"It's been a long journey for you students at this point," Principal Dean May said.

Amanda Conte, 18, said she was delighted about graduating. "I'm scared. I'm finally done being a kid. Now I've got to go to college. But I'm very excited," she said.

Conte said she had trouble with high school before going to Apollo High School. "I had trouble getting up in the morning," she said. "But the teachers here actually care and help out. They want you to do the best you can."

Conte said she plans to go to Moorpark College to begin studying psychology so she can return some day to Apollo High School to become a counselor.

Before the graduation ceremony, the students were given blue and white carnations. "After the ceremony, give them to someone who's important to you. It can be a teacher or a family member, or you can keep one yourself," counselor Jackie Hardie said.

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Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise President Mel Vines awarded a number of scholarships, including a \$750 vocational scholarship to Victoria Harbaugh. Vines also gave a \$2,000 scholarship to Chelsie Rogers. The Simi Valley Education Foundation awarded Danielle Harding a \$1,000 scholarship. The Kiwanis Club awarded two \$500 scholarships to Chris DeLapp and Isabel Galindo. Galindo also received an Emblem Club \$500 scholarship, along with Kayde Landeros.

Brandon Meyers, 20, said he doesn't think he would have graduated from high school without Apollo High School.

"The teachers don't judge you by what you look like. They treat you as a friend," Meyers said, adding that he plans to go to West Valley Occupational Center where he will study automotive classes.

Danny Williams, 17, said he is ready to enlist in the Army.

"I'm pretty excited to get out in the world on time," he said.



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