

ESPERANZA CELEBRA LA "CLASE 2025"

"ESPERANZA CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2025"

Haydeé Rosario

The Esperanza College graduation took place on Friday, May 16th at the Teatro Esperanza. On this occasion, 35 students completed their studies in one of the college's eight programs: Business, eSports, Community and Human Services, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Health Sciences, Medical Assisting, and Media and Technology.

The ceremony celebrated the history and traditions of Esperanza College of Eastern University with meaningful elements, such as the reading of scripture in both English and Spanish, the singing of the institutional anthem by an ensemble of faculty, students, and alumni, and the responsive reading of the litany.

Additionally, the speeches from the Valedictorian, Vanahi Díaz Fernández, and the Salutatorian,

Valentina Arroyave Díaz, were deeply moving and inspiring. Dr. Ronald Matthews, President of Eastern University, conferred the academic degrees, and Rev. Luis Cortés concluded the ceremony with the charge, commission, and blessing, challenging the students to go out into the world and fulfill Esperanza's mission: to serve the most in need.

Afterwards, a reception was held to celebrate this important achievement alongside family, friends, and members of the educational community.

Among the graduates, a group of eleven distinguished students was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on Thursday,

May 1st at Esperanza College. This prestigious honor society recognizes and promotes the academic excellence of students in two-year programs.

In this ceremony, 24 students were officially invited into the Beta Upsilon Sigma chapter, in an emotional event attended by many family members and friends. Danny Cortés, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Esperanza, delivered words of encouragement and motivation to the new members.

On another note, five graduates from the Health Sciences program attended the HOSA Future Health Professionals State Leadership Conference, which took place

from March 26-28 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

These graduates earned gold medals in their respective competitions and are now preparing to attend the International Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, in June. During the event, students had the opportunity to compete, learn, network, and interact with other students and professionals in the healthcare field. As a result of their outstanding performance, the team received 15 gold medals and 4 silver medals, reflecting the commitment and preparation of our students.

Before graduation, six students from the Media and Technology

program at Esperanza College completed their field experience at Philly Cam. On their final day, they held a screening of their capstone projects, which was attended by faculty and staff members of the college. Five of these graduates will continue their studies to earn their bachelor's degree at another institution.

In addition, they are pleased to announce in *Impacto* that three Medical Assisting graduates passed their certification exam, becoming Certified Clinical Medical Assistants (CCMA). They are currently working actively in local health clinics, applying their knowledge in service to the community.

Finally, they would like to highlight that two graduates from the Early Childhood Education program have been hired by the new Esperanza Academy Elementary School.

If you want to be part of the Esperanza academic community, learn about the programs at www.esperanza.us.

Message from Principal Melissa Molina

The Class of 2025 represents perseverance, resilience, and ambition in its truest form. These students have faced academic and personal challenges head-on, rising each time with the support of their families, teachers, counselors, and the entire ECCS community. They've earned acceptances to universities such as Temple, La Salle, Holy Family, Jefferson, Eastern University, Arcadia, Penn State, and Embry-Riddle. Others are pursuing meaningful careers

in healthcare, education, aeronautics, cosmetology, business, the military, and entrepreneurship. Their leadership has been evident in programs like early college, the National Honor Society, student government, and theater club.

We are especially proud that six seniors are graduating with both a high school diploma and an associate degree through the early college partnership with Esperanza College. These accomplishments reflect not only their hard work but also their

unwavering commitment to growth and excellence.

I hope they leave ECCS with a deep belief in their own po-

tential and the understanding that success comes from resilience, dedication, and community. I hope they remember that no dream is out of reach when pursued with purpose and that ECCS will always be a place they can call home. As they take their next steps into college, careers, and new adventures, I encourage them to continue dreaming big, to lead with compassion, and to remain proud of where they come from. The journey ahead won't always be easy, but they have already proven they have what it takes. The best is yet to come—and we can't wait to see what they do next.

Esperanza Cyber Charter School Class of 2025: Graduation Tribute

Ciara Richardson

Ciara is a graduating senior and a distinguished member of the National Honor Society and Student Government. She will graduate not only with her high school diploma but also with an associate's degree in health sciences through the Early College/Dual Enrollment Program at Esperanza College.

Ciara is being recognized with the Principal's Award at her graduation ceremony and is a proud member of the High Honors

/ 4.0 Club, maintaining a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

My name is Ciara Richardson, and I'm a senior at ECCS. What brought me here was the sense of community. I used to be an in-person student in Norristown, but after the pandemic, I developed severe anxiety. Starting high school and returning to in-person learning was overwhelming, and I knew I needed a different environment. Around that time, my family was moving, and my mom suggested we look into Esperanza's Cyber Charter School.

Joining ECCS turned out to be the best decision for me. The cyber school gave me opportunities to build confidence, join clubs, and participate in activities—just like any traditional high school. More importantly, it helped me overcome my fear of social interaction, which had become a real struggle after the pandemic.

The support I received at ECCS equipped me with the tools I need to succeed—not just academically, but also in preparing for the future. I've developed job-seeking skills and built rela-



tionships that helped me grow socially and emotionally.

What kept me motivated to graduate was my community, my family, my teachers, the ECCS staff, and especially my grandmother, who has always encouraged me to do my best. I truly believe that who you surround yourself with matters. Being surrounded by people who uplift and support me made all the difference. ECCS became more than a school; it became a foundation for my growth and success.



Esperanza Academy Charter School



CLASS OF 2025

To the remarkable Esperanza Academy Charter School Class of 2025, congratulations! We celebrate not only your achievements but the journey, determination, and hope that brought you here. With 177 graduates, this class has demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and brilliance. You've earned a staggering \$1.7 million in scholarship offers, and 20 of you are heading into the future on full-ride scholarships, an incredible accomplishment that reflects your hard work and the support of your families, teachers, and community.

Your dreams are taking you to prestigious institutions like the University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Temple, LaSalle, Drexel, and beyond. Some of you will serve our country in the Air Force, while others will pursue

Esperanza Academy Charter School

Message from Dr. Evelyn Nuñez, CEO/Superintendent

POST-SECONDARY PLANS: COLLEGE, CAREER & SERVICE

Temple University
LaSalle University
Thomas Jefferson University
Community College of Philadelphia
Drexel University
Holy Family University

University of Pittsburgh
Air Force
Manor College
University of Pennsylvania
Universal Technical Institute
Widener University
Arcadia University
Automotive Training Center
East Stroudsburg University
Esperanza College

Final Touch Barber Academy
Messiah University
Moravian University
Pennco Tech
Pennsylvania State University
Philadelphia Technical Training Institute
Swarthmore College
Villanova University
Williamson College

passions in the trades or technical fields. Whether you're stepping onto a college campus, entering military service, or learning a skilled trade, know that you carry the spirit of Esperanza with you. You are proof that hope, when fueled by dedication, can transform lives.

As you embark on your next chapter, remember: Esperanza will always be your home. We are proud of you, we believe in you, and we can't wait to see how you change the world. ¡Adelante, Class of 2025!

Valedictorian: Mariangeliz Medina
Salutatorian: Shaina Garcia-Jimenez

Valedictorian Mariangeliz Medina

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduating from EA in the class of 2025 I plan to continue higher education in the University of Pennsylvania, with a major in criminology. I hope to pursue a deeper level of understanding when it comes to our government and law enforcement with the intent of contributing to a better future.

What are you most excited about as you take this next step? What are you most looking forward to in life after high school?

As I take this next step forward, I am excited for the journey of learning new things and adapting to new environments. I look forward to meeting great minds that challenge me and push me towards a better version of myself. I believe that the freedom that I will have in college will not change who I am but fortify my discipline and accountability towards myself.

How do you think your time at EACS helped prepare you for what's next?

My time at EACS has encouraged me to yearn for knowledge and what is ben-

eficial, not because someone told me to, but because such things should be what I want for myself. I've learned to take responsibility for how I lead my life, knowing that it will be what I choose to make of it.

I have also learned that leaning on a community, on friends for help and support is a beautiful thing. Not to be cliché or overly optimistic, but when situations get tough and confusing, having people around you that will navigate the fog with you pushes you in a way that will leave you feeling stronger and accompanied.

A strong foundation is one that has proper support.

Who or what has inspired you most on your journey so far?

The mere essence of what learning is has been my motivator, my passion. I find inspiration in knowing that I can never know enough, knowing that there is still so much I do not know. I find inspiration in every person I meet, I am moved to understand, to know the things they know and I do not.



What advice would you give to younger students who are still figuring out their path?

To those who are still figuring out their paths, don't overthink it. It is not as easy as it sounds but I find that simply trying new things and putting yourself out there, in the open, and living in the moment will get you to finding what you really enjoy quicker. Overthinking puts you in a spiral of confusion and frustration. It is when you have fun and realize it after that you are truly able to identify the joy in what you participated in. Once you realize it, recall the things you were good at, reflect on the things you need to work on and take it from there.

I also say, nothing will ever happen if you do not make the effort to make it happen. Motivation does not always come out of the blue, sometimes you have to push yourself through the rough patches until you find yourself back on your feet.

Darlene Jimenez

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to attend Swarthmore College and major in Engineering.

What are you most excited about as you take this next step? What are you most looking forward to in life after high school?

I am most excited about what I can do now that I am in college. The possibilities that lie ahead of me, whether that be the biomedical way or the pre-med way. For four years, I knew that college was the main goal. Everything I did outside of school, I tried my best to be calculated in order to

possibility that I can be anything I want is incredibly enticing, just as terrifying. It's okay to lose a little of the control that I have tried so hard to gain about my career. I like the uncertainty because no matter what, I am proud of myself right now. I can't wait to see who I become.

How do you think your time at EACS helped prepare you for what's next?

The teachers at EACS have definitely helped me to prepare for what lies ahead of me. A teacher like Mr. Roberts has had an impact on me by introducing me to the unknown. He helped me understand that even if I don't know what lies ahead, I shouldn't be afraid, because as long as I surround myself with good people, I will always have a good support system. Another teacher, Ms. Gonzalez, helped me understand how college classes are shaped, and it's definitely been an incredible help. Overall, the support system that EACS and the incredible present and past teachers have taught me is that even if something doesn't go my way, I know I am going to be okay.

Who or what has inspired you most on your journey so far?

My mother has inspired me the most in my journey so far. Every single day, I am reminded of all the sacrifices my mother

has made for me. She came to a country where she didn't know the language, just for me to have the opportunity of a better future. A future she never had. Anytime that I felt like giving up or letting doubt come over me, I remember everything that was done to get me where I am today. I may not have accomplished anything just yet, but getting into a top college is all because of my mother. I owe everything that I have and will have to my mother. Every single thing I want to do in life, I know is possible because my mother made it possible.

My mother is the only person who truly knows everything I have done to get where I am, and she has supported me day by day, whether it was waking up at 3 a.m. next to me to do homework and go to work afterwards or helping me control my stress when it came to where I was going to college.

What advice would you give to younger students who are still figuring out their path?

Relax. Learn to take things day by day. Live in the present, but don't let people talk you into something that will deprive you of your path. If you know what you want, fight as hard as you can for the future, but don't let that desire blind you from what is right in front of you. It's okay to be a kid. If you are not sure if you want to go to college/university, make sure you still care about your grades enough to not regret anything when you get to your senior year. You don't need to have it figured out at 17/18. I beg of you, take it day by day.



benefit my chances of getting into a top school. Now that my main goal of four years has been completed, I am excited about the unknown. Being able to complete such a big goal made me realize that maybe it's okay not to know the future. I like the uncertainty that my life holds. The