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## **Class of 2014 earns distinctions, scholarships and Ivy League acceptance**

*Graduates to attend prestigious universities, offer words of wisdom*

Clark County School District's (CCSD) Class of 2014 has earned many distinctions that deserve to be celebrated. While many of the outlying and rural schools held graduation ceremonies last week, the remaining schools are preparing to take over the Orleans Arena and the UNLV Thomas and Mack Center for the next five days to celebrate milestones and enjoy the special moment of being together one last time before entering the adult world and blazing their own paths.

"All students are capable of achieving at high levels," said CCSD Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky. "Through dedication, commitment and determination, CCSD students are beating the odds and creating amazing opportunities for themselves. The parents and teachers who have supported these students deserve just as much credit. Educating our students is a community effort, we can all make a difference in the lives of young people."

### **CCSD Class of 2014 accolades, scholarships and distinctions:**

196 Valedictorians  
61 Salutatorians  
505 Advanced Placement (AP) Recognitions  
304 AP Scholars  
117 AP Scholars with Honors  
81 AP Scholars with Distinction  
3 National AP Scholars  
60 National Merit Finalists  
30 National Merit Scholars (to date)  
19 Service Academy Appointments  
3 Gates Millennium Scholarship Recipients

**CCSD 2014 graduates have been awarded approximately \$255 million in scholarships**

*The above information is pending final verification.*

**CCSD graduates accepted to the nation's top colleges and universities emphasize goal setting and perseverance:**

Graduating June 10, West Career and Technical Academy's Stelio Ropokis took advantage of a non-profit program called QuestBridge that connects high-achieving low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities. Through the program, Ropokis became a College Prep Scholar and got the chance to visit and apply to universities like Stanford University, his dream school. Earlier this year, Ropokis received acceptance letters from three of the nation's Ivy League universities: Princeton, Yale and Columbia. In the end, Ropokis followed his heart and committed to attend his dream school, Stanford.

*"For me, applying to these schools had seemed like a long-shot, but I persevered and could not be happier with the results," said Ropokis. "I want to show people that it is possible, no matter where you come from, to attend the nation's best colleges."*

Centennial High School valedictorian William Loucks will take the stage June 10. Along with being accepted into Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Loucks had a successful senior year as a part of the school's baseball team that won the regional title and placed second at the state championship. In addition, he made the 2014 Nevada All-State baseball team.

*"What graduation comes down to is desire and passion," said Loucks. "If I can encourage future graduates to do anything, it would be to follow their passion."*

Emily Tran, who will be graduating from Rancho High School on June 10, is prepared for the next phase of her journey at Harvard University. A part of Rancho High School's Academy of Pre-Medicine, Tran aspired to become a neurosurgeon since she was a child, due to her curiosity about the human brain.

*"Being a part of Rancho High School's Pre-Medicine program helped me figure out my ultimate goal for the future by the time I was a senior," said Tran. "My own doctor graduated from Harvard and inspired me to choose that school and pursue my interest."*

The 2014 graduation schedule is available at <http://ccsd.net/students/graduation-schedule>.

The Class of 2014 has much to celebrate. The district encourages students to share their future plans by using the hashtag #CCSDgoes2 followed by the college they will attend or their next step. The district invites the community to applaud the hard work of these graduates.

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