



Celebrating the Graduating Class of 2013



We are graduating a record number of 14 Seniors—all of whom have worked incredibly hard to earn their high school diplomas. These youth are a perfect representation of the population we love and serve at Eastside Academy: dedicated single parents, visionary first-generation graduates, youth who have overcome and put dangerous pasts behind them, teens who have accepted a community of help to manage an addiction, and students who once struggled in public school but have found new ways to learn and are headed to college!

Graduation is one of the most emotional and joyful celebrations at Eastside Academy as we witness the amazing redemptive work of our God. As these students receive their diplomas, they are met with cheers from their family, tears from our staff, and outpouring of love from our community. It is their day to celebrate and realize the future that God intends for them.

Thank you for making this day possible—we wouldn't be here without you, and we ask that you continue to support Eastside Academy as we continue to help at-risk youth turn their lives around.

Sincerely,

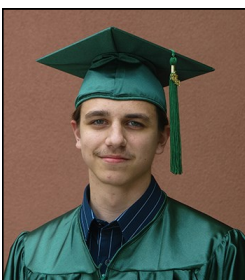
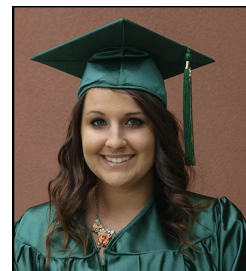
Executive Director

Thank you to our photographer Ted Cook



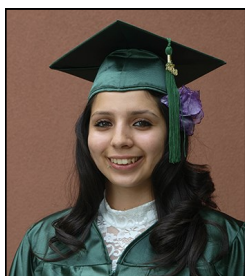
Adrian Daniel Aron: “Before I came to Eastside Academy, my life was going downhill fast. Stealing and doing drugs was all I did. But since coming to this school, I have learned responsibility and accountability. This is the first place I ever took school seriously, and for the first time I am getting good grades and passing my classes. After graduation, I plan to attend Bellevue College to study IT and Computer Science.”

Shelby Nicole Basile: “In my time here at Eastside Academy, I have learned how to change my attitude and outlook on life. This school helped lead me to God. This past year I am most proud of my sobriety, getting my first job, getting my license, staying in school, and graduating. I start Bellevue College in the fall to study Early Childhood Development and hope to always work with children.”



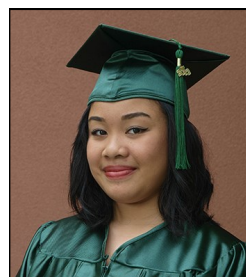
Christian George Craven: “High school used to be the least important thing to me. I didn’t believe I was capable of being successful. Looking back on the last four years at Eastside Academy, I’ve learned that my past doesn’t determine who I will be years from now. I finally see a future for myself that I’m actively pursuing in the Aviation industry. Today, I am most proud of maintaining and graduating with a 3.7 GPA.”

Mayte Jocelyn Flores: “Before I came to Eastside Academy I was a teenager without hope, without goals, and didn’t see myself graduating. I was not interested in finishing high school. I was basically lost. Now, I am here graduating! This last year, I have been working hard to finish all of my credits for graduation, while raising my beautiful daughter as a single mother. Today is the beginning of a new start for Lylah and me.”



Ruby Red Mata: “My life lacked motivation and any hope for a good future before coming to Eastside Academy. Now, I have better attendance and better grades. There were times when I wanted to give up, but I kept pushing myself while getting the support I needed from this school. After graduation, I plan to attend Bellevue College. My goal for the future is to become a nurse at Children’s Hospital.”

Linda Nguyen: “Over this past year, I have been attending Running Start at Bellevue College. After graduation, I plan to finish my AA at Bellevue College before transferring to the University of Washington. In my time here at Eastside Academy, I have learned to care about my education. I didn’t care about school, or what my future would bring, but today I am graduating and strive for financial stability.”

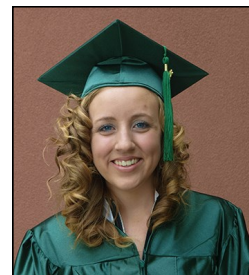


Nina Regina Justine Pate: “Engaged and alive is the best way I can describe my life since becoming a student at Eastside Academy. I have learned what I am capable of and how strong I am. This school has shown me that I have worth and value. Knowing that has made all the difference as I move toward the next chapter in my life. I plan to go to college and study Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology.”



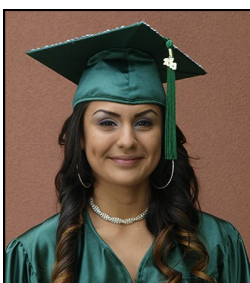
Roberto Misael Pérez: “Coming to Eastside Academy has been a life-changing experience. I’ve gained hope for a better future and learned how to be a leader. Being Student Body President gave me confidence and the opportunity to help others. My dream is to graduate college and to travel the world. I hope to start a camp for kids to give them the same hope and second chance at life that Eastside Academy has given me.”

Cherimee Nicole Peterson: “I have become closer to God since coming to Eastside Academy. I have learned to show respect to others and my relationship with my family has improved. I now have nearly 2 years clean, and my dream is to someday become a social worker to work with families and children. After graduation, I hope to spend my time volunteering while going to Bellevue College.”



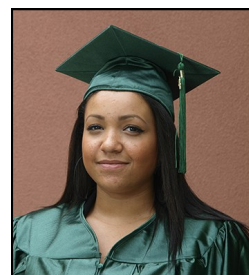
Samuel Matthias Smith: “Very welcomed and loved is the best way to describe my life since being a student at Eastside Academy. Before coming here, my life was full of regret, pain, and very meaningless. Today I am graduating with a 3.6 GPA. After graduation, my plan is to join the military and eventually have a family. EA has opened up my mind and heart, and I now have a different point of view on life.”

Kevin Alexander Torres: “My life was once dysfunctional as I was mixed up with the wrong people. It led me down a path of substance abuse and time in juvenile detention. Since coming here, I have learned accountability and communication while gaining close friends and a strong support system. My goals for after high school include going to graduate school and being a loving father and husband.”



Karla Samantha Willcuts: “Learning to love others and letting people help and love me are things that have been the most helpful in my life since coming to Eastside Academy. The staff members have my best interests at heart and want me to succeed. I plan to go to college to become a probation officer someday. I want to be a good influence on kids dealing with drug addictions and be able to help them in some way.”

Joan Carole Wright: “My goals and dreams for the future are completing beauty school and becoming successful in that field. Eastside Academy helped get me an internship at a hair salon this year, and after my internship I plan to enroll at Evergreen Beauty College. I have found a community of people that support me at this school, who have helped and loved me in my time here.”



John Bunyamin Yazici: “My life before Eastside Academy had no structure. I was dishonest, disrespectful, and I had no goals for myself or plans for further education. But the staff have kept me accountable since coming here, and my relationship with God has grown. My future goals and dreams now include getting a college degree, finding a job that I enjoy, and being a good, supportive, honest father someday.”