

New Futures Graduation 2017

Guest Speakers

David Peercy – Board of Education

Barbara Petersen – Board of Education

Paul Romero – Chief Technology Officer

Lucinda Sanchez – Associate Superintendent, Special Education

Valedictorian & Salutatorian

Valedictorian – Iyanla Moreno

Salutatorian – Alondra Barron

Speakers

Jinx Baskerville, Principal

Erica Davis-Crump, Youth Advocate

Cristin Calhoun, Dean of Students

Iyanla Moreno, Valedictorian

Alondra Barron, Salutatorian

Justin Cook, Senior Speaker

Dominique Luera, Senior Speaker

Mary Rafferty, Teacher

Speeches

Jinx Baskerville's Speech

I would like to welcome the family members, friends and guests who are gathered here this afternoon to honor and celebrate the successful journey of our seniors. My name is Jinx Baskerville, Principal of New Futures School. I would like to begin our celebration this afternoon by recognizing some special guests.

We are honored to have with us:

- David Peercy, Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education Representative
- Barbara Peterson, Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education Representative
- Lucinda Sanchez, Associate Superintendent, Special Education
- Paul Romero, Chief Technology Officer

Also on stage I would like to recognize 2 people who are always available to assist the students and help keep them on track:

- Cristin Calhoun, New Futures Dean of Students
- Jasmin Arzate, College and Career Counselor

I would like to thank the New Futures staff that is here today, as well as the others who are back at school teaching.

And we have a special guest speaker today that I would like to welcome

- Erica Davis-Crump- Youth Advocate

Wow, here we are you guys! The journey has been long and not without tears, sacrifice, drive, joy, laughter, and lots and lots of testing, But... you sit here on stage today with your heads held high knowing that you made it! Ahead of you is a new path that will be full of hope, promise, and new beginnings. It's a clean slate to paint whatever picture you want that captures who you are and what you want to be in life. You don't have to decide right away. Take your time to explore and make your mark. Like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, you don't have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step. With that said, Congratulations to all of you!

This is a time for family and friends to stand up and celebrate the joy of seeing their daughter, son, grand-daughter, grand-son, sister, brother, niece, nephew, girlfriend, or boyfriend accomplish a dream that might not have happened without your love and support; *I would like at this time to have family members and friends of our graduates stand and be recognized...*

Erica Davis-Crump's Speech

Graduation is just one of the many victories you will achieve during your life's journey. It is not going to be easy... You will see others with the look and mask of success. Please never measure yourself against anyone else. You have the duty to now define victory differently. Treasure your peace of mind, guard yourself, let some friends and people go, it will be necessary for you to continue to elevate and get to the next level of your life. Hurts and pains and misunderstandings will come but they are only temporary. The set backs, and adversity that will come your way- will be the mirror to show your strength, tenacity, and value that has always been there. You will get knocked down, but you have to know and trust you will bounce back- and be better than before.

You are all a gift, you are more than degrees, money you earn on the job, or the plaques you'll receive. You are a gift and you need to be at your best at all times. The peers you see knocking out their studies, making fast and big money... That's not your concern. Comparison distracts you from your path and purpose. Comparison drains your own potential... Anything that threatens your solitude, safety, or attempts to deplete your self worth and value will never lead to success. There will be people that do everything in their power to talk others out of their hopes and dreams. For instance say one of your friends is doing 12 hours at CNM or UNM but you have valid reason to go part time or less than that... **THAT IS FINE... THAT IS YOUR LANE...** I have told you all before- you **MUST** know yourself so you can be your own support and know where to draw lines to be your best at all times... That starts **NOW...** You have to be true to you! The finish line is there, but make sure you enjoy the journey, milestones, the little and huge triumphs that occur in *your* life, before you get to that finish line.

Your future starts now. And it is so promising. Not because you have earned your high school diploma but simply because you can stare challenges in the eye and win (even if you are scared, in spite of the drama you deal with, and in spite of what others say) You are the object of our celebration today. So today remember that **YOU** carry all of the tools you need to see the next goal come to life... You are enough, you are capable, you are deserving. When challenges come, rest yes... But never give up. Never stay down... The best experiences, and defining moments of character happen when you show up in spite of.

We salute you all today... We can't wait to see what goal you tackle next!

Cristin Calhoun's Speech

I now have the privilege of introducing the New Futures 2017 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. These young ladies have achieved high grade point averages and excelled as students.

Iyanla Moreno is the New Futures 2017 Valedictorian.

Iyanla started at New Futures in 2014, she has worked diligently to complete her graduation requirements on time.

Iyanla will be attending CNM in the Fall and after she completes 2 years at CNM she will transfer to UNM and Iyana is interested in pursuing a career in social work.

Iyanla please join me at the podium.

Alondra Barron is the New Futures 2017 Salutatorian.

Alondra worked hard and finished her graduation requirements in 3 ½ years, a semester earlier than her graduation date.

She is currently attending CNM and will transfer to UNM to complete her Bachelors Degree. She is interested in becoming a Physical Therapist.

Alondra, please join me at the podium.

Alondra Barron's Speech

Good evening honored guests, friends, families, teachers and New Futures staff. My name is Alondra Barron and I would like to congratulate the class of 2017! We did it!

This is the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. We worked hard to be here, and we have shown perseverance. Not only did we make it through high school, but we made it through high school with our beautiful children by our side. Everything we did, everything we do, is for them.

My son has been my biggest motivation to continue my education.

I have come to learn that even though I had my son at a young age, it is possible to accomplish anything that you set your mind to.

I wouldn't be up here if it wasn't for the love and support of my family. Mom, Dad, thank you. Thank you for always pushing me to do my best. Thank you for being there for me, and for your grandson. I couldn't have done it without you.

As I stand here today, I know that anything can be possible. I worked hard, and I showed myself I could do it.

We are not just any ordinary high school graduates we are much more than that.

Iyanla Moreno's Speech

In my family graduating was never a question. There was no if, ands, or buts, it was "we are going to do it no matter if it takes more time to do so". When I first told my mom I was pregnant right away she told me "I hope you are not planning to move out, not until you turn 18 or graduate whichever comes first." This is why I believe that the support from family and friends plus the motivational drive to want to graduate is why most of us are here right now.

Although this won't be the most difficult step in our lives because I feel becoming parents comes before anything else, it's still an important one because this is only the beginning for what is to come next. As we sit here and look around at our peers it's always exciting to think who will become the next doctor, the next civil rights leader, or even the next comedian. I know I will not only be known for being a teen parent and Crystal's mom.

I have had the opportunity to see most of my class go through their own share of hard times, like the glorious symptoms of pregnancy, late nights studying or up with their child, having to stay out of school for weeks because of a sick child, and hard family times only to grow into the strong individuals and great parents you see here today. It might have taken longer for some of us to get here and for all the times we may have wanted to give up and jokingly say "were gonna drop out and follow other career choices". I am proud to say we've made it. What we will do next with our lives WILL have an impact on the world even if you're a stay at home parent because our options are unlimited to what we can become.

I myself, have changed my career plans at least 5 times this week because I have so many visions of how I want to leave my mark on the world.

Finally, I'm not going to say I'll miss homework or procrastinating to finish assignments that were assigned a month ago. I am going to miss all of the people who have encouraged me to keep going especially the staff that continued to call my mom after missing a couple days of school. First to make sure my daughter and I were ok, then to tell me to get my butt back in the next day even though I didn't have their class.

This school was the first school my mom loved instantly after only meeting Karin at the front desk. The love most of the staff show for our children and the students is endless. Showing me that the strangers you meet could become your greatest advocates, has been encouraging to me. So with that, congratulations to the class of 2017.

Justin Cook's Speech

Ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, children of all ages, you're about to witness the greatest magic trick of all time; graduating high school. Though the greatest trick graduating high school is by far not the hardest of them all. The hardest trick comes after graduation. It starts when all of the class of 2017 goes off into the world and goes to college or into the work force. Some like me do something bigger and join something bigger like the military.

No matter where you go in life success will follow. It is kind of exciting to think that a person in this room might be the president one day or even a Nobel Prize winner. In life there is mystery, which makes life worthwhile. One thing that's not a mystery is how much work and effort we all put into getting where we are right now. Countless hours spent at school just to get to where we are, at this very moment. The late nights trying to catch up on work or do homework that is due the next day even though we had a week to do it. All the hard work we did is now finally paying off and through the experience we gained something greater; friendship.

All throughout high school we make friends and sometimes we lose friends. Though we lose some friends, the ones that stay become the ones that last forever. I have had a lot of great experiences but I was one of the lucky ones. I'm standing up here not as an original member of the class of 2017 but through hard work and dedication I earned the ability to graduate early and officially become part of the class of 2017. Best of luck to my fellow graduates.

Dominique Luera's Speech

I would like to welcome everyone on this special day. We all have had our struggles but we made it. I would like to share some of the struggles I went through.

My struggles came from the bad choices I made during my Junior year. I was not living a healthy life style I was not making good decisions. This left me with no hope or interest for my future. I found myself thinking I could live and do things on my own at a very young age but I soon found out that life was not easy.

At 17 years of age I found out I was pregnant. My life with my boyfriend changed forever. I thought I was ready to become a mom. I was working a minimum wage job. I was a high school dropout and it made me realize I didn't have any of the skills and resources I needed to succeed in this life. In January 2016 I made a choice to return to high school. I felt I didn't belong and I was unmotivated. It was a traumatic change for me to come back to school. But my teachers and the staff made me feel right at home by giving me the help and support I needed. On April 28, 2016 my daughter was born. Everyday when I see her, she gives me the motivation to be an achiever in this world. She is my biggest blessing and she is the reason why I never give up. Despite waking up early everyday, sleepless nights, homework, and living on our own, I didn't give up even though sometimes I did feel like quitting, and when the negative thoughts were telling me that I couldn't do it. I still continued to push myself forward.

I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for my family. They have always been there for me and have helped me become the woman I am today. I want to say, Thank you to my Mom, my Mama, and my Papo for never giving up on me. Thank you Carlos for never leaving my side.

Thank you to my Daughter, Izabella, for being the best thing that has ever happened in my life. As we stand here today as a class we have beat the odds of what the world thinks of us as teen parents. We have proven ourselves, that it is possible to continue our education while being full time parents. My fellow students you have struggled with your own trials and storms. It wasn't easy for any of us but WE MADE IT!!

Congratulations Class of 2017!

2017 New Futures Graduates

Alexzandria Aragon
Dominica Aranda
Lanier Atkins
Maranda Bachicha
Alondra Barron
Alexis Candelaria

Kimberly Chavez
Janeth Chora
Justin Cook
Destiny Diccio
Hayley Dumas
Brianna Dutchover
Alicia Fout
Esmeralda Garcia
Karen Gonzalez-Sotelo
Gissell Hernandez Baeza
Alexis Hernandez Garcia
Ambriana Hungate
Margarita Jaramillo
Mya Jiron
Kiara Jones
Seth Julian
Giselle Leo
Mystica Lovato
Dominique Luera
Sicladis Marquez
Evelin Martinez
Priscila Molina Franco
Philecia Monroe
Iyanla Moreno
Alexys Morgan-Silver
Victoria Muro-Moreno
Jasmyn Poncho
Alejandra Rios
Destiny Romilly
Victoria Saenz
Chanel Trujeque
Delilah Trujillo
Karen Vega
Briza Villalba
Rayven White
Mariah Willis