

West Point High School graduates earn more than \$950,000 in scholarships

A student shakes school board chairman Paul Diggs' hand as she accepts her diploma. (Kassie Simmons)

By **Kassie Simmons**

Daily Press

JUNE 15, 2018, 1:30 PM

West Point High School's Class of 2018 graduated on Friday with a total of \$969,684 in scholarships, grants and awards.

School Board Chairman Paul Diggs opened the ceremony with a speech recognizing the achievements of the graduating class.

A third of graduating seniors earned an associate's degree or career certificate before receiving their diplomas.

Diggs thanked the supporters of the school, comparing the community to a "secret sauce" needed to lead the students to success. He thanked the government body and students' families.

The chorus sang “A Million Dreams,” from the popular motion picture “The Greatest Showman.”

Student council association president Kyndal Johnson delivered the first student speech. She encouraged others to treat others as they would like to be treated.

“A ripple of kindness will last forever,” Johnson said. “All it takes is just one act of kindness.”

Class president and valedictorian Katherine Michos followed with a speech to remind her classmates of the memories they made throughout their time at WPHS.

Michos closed with a heartfelt “thank you” to the teachers and staff for their patience, time and effort, describing them as “dedicated individuals who survived to see us graduate.”

Principal Mark Dorsey recognized Michos and salutatorian Kyra Attridge, presenting both with \$500 scholarships.

Dorsey delivered a final message before awarding honors and diplomas. He told his now former students that as they left the ceremony at the end of the night to take with them the lessons they have learned about character and dignity.

Diggs returned to the podium once again for a closing speech to “lecture the class of 2018 one last time.” He said he shared a special bond with this class, as his son was among the graduates.

Diggs told students to be wary of people who know they are right, remember every human deserves respect and compassion, remember that nothing worth having comes without hard work and do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

In total, 68 students graduated, 25 with either an associate’s degree or general education certificate from Rappahannock Community College.

Three graduates will enter the military and 55 will attend either a 2- or 4-year college. One graduate plans to study abroad with Seamester Global Programs. Four will attend a vocational school and two are planning to enter the world of work.

WPHS Class of 2018

Evita Christina Acuña

Reed Dedy Bohon Atkinson

Kyra Autumn Attridge

Alexander Dee Austin

Julia Elizabeth Bailey

Estelle Bonevich Brockwell

Zoie Marie Browder

Zachary Tyler Bunch

Lopear Vorice Burrell Jr.

Cristin Hope Cade

Tyler James Clair

Taylor May Davenport

Michael Gene Davidson Jr.

Rhianna Elaine Davis

Bennett Paul Diggs

Kelsey Grace Duke

Caroline Juliet Fuccella

Marshall Tayvon Gill Jr.

Daniela De Los Angeles Gonzalez

Joshua James Graves

Benjamin Philips Guerrant

Cameron James Hager

Mykel Zackary Hamm

Ethan Wayne Hatcher

Derek Anthony Haviland

Shannon Gabriel Hayden

Derek Wayne Healy

Marshall Thorton Hoar

Katie Laura Hodges

Lauren Elizabeth Howard

Jonathan Tyler Inge

John Franklin Jena

Joshua Ryan Jenks

Kyndal Alexandria Johnson

Dylan Guy Jones

Connor Billings Jorgensen

Landon Alan Kelly

Camden Macrae Kirby

Hunter Blake Krout

Jared Denton Lawson

Halie Madison Loranger

Delonne Lamont McCray Jr.

Brandon Taylor Melton

Katherine Anne Michos

Molly Christine Morgan

Elizabeth Maude Morris

Jordan Michael Murphy

Cuong Quoc Nguyen

Duyen Thuy Phan

Annabelle Lorraine Porter

Samantha Michelle Reid

Adyan Seyer Reyes

Deanna Alicia Robinson

Mary Savannah Sandelin

Christopher Robert Shanks

David Allen Smith Jr.

Damara Lisette Sparks

Christopher James Stamper

SarahBelle Montgomery Lee Stoneham

James Alexander Stout III

Kylee Sweedo

Malike T. Thompson

Nicole Reann Wade

JaNay Elizabeth Wallace

Robert James Walsh III

Kelsey Lee West

Miranda Lynn West

Carder Renae Zentner

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