

Fifty-Sixth Annual

Academic Achievement Recognition



Santa Ana Unified School District

May 21, 2015

SAUSD Board of Education



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56th Annual Class of 2015 Top 100 Scholars May 21, 2015

Welcome

Dawn Miller Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education

Musical Selections

Segerstrom High School Chamber Singers *"Heart and Soul" by Frank Loesser "Lucky" by Jason Mraz "L.O.V.E." by Nat King Cole "Can't Help Falling In Love" by George David Weiss* Grace Han, Director

Segerstrom High School Jazz Band

"A Night in Tunisia" by John "Dizzy" Gillespie and Frank Paparelli Arranged by Michael Sweeney "Birdland" by Josef Zawinul Arranged by Michael Sweeney Raul Garcia, Director

> Presentation of Colors Santa Ana High School NJROTC

Pledge of Allegiance Jasmine Camero, Senior Class President Segerstrom High School

National Anthem

Alejandra Morales, 12th Grade Chamber Singer Segerstrom High School

> **Congratulatory Remarks** Members, Board of Education Rick Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent

Student Remarks Nnamdi Jogwe, Segerstrom High School Stephanie Filsinger, Segerstrom High School

Presentation of Top 100 Scholars

Members, Board of Education Rick Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent

> Closing Dawn Miller



Selection Criteria

he selection process identifies and ranks students according to their weighted Academic Grade Point Average in grades 9 through 12 earned in semester and year-long courses.

In the event that there is a tie, the next criteria is Total Credits Earned and then AP Credits Earned. If there is still a tie, the Academic Grade Point Average from grades 10-12 will be the deciding factor.



Century High School



Bianka Aguilar UC Berkeley Psychology

I am delighted and greatly honored to be in the Top 100. I plan to pursue a career as a forensic psychologist. I would like to thank all the teachers I've had up to this point and all of my fellow peers.



Leticia Charco UC Davis Science

I am very honored and grateful to have been selected to participate in the Top 100 Seniors Ceremony. I hope to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Thank You to my teachers and friends who have shown me the path to success.



Ingrid Contreras Orange Coast College Nursing

I am very honored for being selected as one of the Top 100 students for SAUSD. After graduation I plan to study to become a nurse. I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me, and I want to thank my teachers.



Humberto De Dios UC Irvine

Biological Sciences I am very pleased and thankful for being honored with an award for the Top 100. I want to thank my mom for always supporting me to be successful. Thanks to Ms. Do for making science fascinating for me and encouraging me to pursue a career in biology.



Erica Duran UC San Diego Digital Animation I am humbled and grateful for my position in the Top 100. I plan to pursue a career in Digital Media

Animation. I am appreciative to all my teachers. I believe that with confidence and skills, I will be successful in my career goals.



Dulce Loza UC Irvine Business Information/ Psychology

Being honored at the Top 100 affirms my hard work over these past four years. I want to thank my brother, my counselor and my academy teachers for all of their support.



Xomara Navarrete UC Irvine

Biomedical Engineering I am honored for being recognized as one of the Top 100 students. I give thanks to Mr. Gersten, Mr. Lee and Ms. Vazquez. During my four-year experience at Century High School, they helped me prepare for a successful future.



Gina N. Garcia UC Irvine Nursing

I appreciate being honored tonight. My goal in life is to become a trauma nurse. I am very grateful for my parents and counselors for supporting me throughout my high school experience and helping me build my perseverance.



Erika Montano UC Irvine Psychology

It is an honor to be a part of the Top 100 seniors. I want to thank my family, especially my parents for giving me everything I needed to get a good education. I also want to thank my teachers and counselors for always motivating me to succeed.



Chayanne Ramirez UC Irvine

Mechanical Engineering I am honored to be selected for the Top 100. I want to thank my family, coach Beatriz, and Mrs. Herrera for motivating me to succeed. Throughout my four years in high school, I learned to stay determined regardless of the obstacles.



Joseluis Hernandez UC Davis

Environmental Science It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Top 100 students in the district. I plan to major in animal science and agricultural and environmental science. I would like to thank my school faculty and family members for their support.



Aileen Navarrete Harvard University Environmental Science/ History

It is an incredible honor to be recognized among the Top 100 in the district. Thank you to my parents, counselors and thoughtful teachers who motivated me to pursue my aspirations.



Alexis Ulloa Santa Ana College Nursing/Medicine

I am honored to receive this recognition of success. I would like to thank my mother and teachers for teaching me that anything is possible with hard work and dedication.

Chavez High School



Santa Ana College Liberal Arts It's an honor to be a Top 100 student. I want the staff and faculty at Chávez to know that I love all of them for helping me to develop and learn how to share my gift of singing. For that I will always be thankful.



José Rosas Vincennes University Psychology

I'm honored to be a Top 100 student. I want to thank my counselor, Mr. Reta, and all of my teachers who have helped me to achieve a lifetime dream. Chávez High School helped me to find my path to success.

Godinez Fundamental High School



Ashley Atilano George Washington Communications

I have never seen myself as the "smart kid." If anything I find myself responsible. Being in the Top 100 is humbling. I would like to say "Thank You," to my family, teachers, friends, and supporters.



Raul Cazares UC Irvine

Business Administration To me being selected as one of

the Top 100 is an honor and all my hard work has finally paid off. I may have overcome high school ,but I have yet to face my biggest challenge on my road to success. I'll see all of you at the top.



Elizabeth Ceja UC Irvine English

My childhood dream was to go to an amazing college and study writing. Knowing that I am one of the Top 100 makes me overjoyed that all my hard work has paid off. Thanks to my family, teachers, and counselors for helping me.



Lesly Cruz UC Los Angeles Business/Economics It is a pleasure to be honored today with the brightest students in the district. Regardless of the different paths we take, we all share the same drive to succeed. I'm thrilled for what our futures entail



Vanessa Estrada UC Santa Barbara Mathematics

Being in the Top 100 means that all my hard work in high school has paid off. It is an honor to be in this group of amazing students. I'd like to thank my parents and my counselors for helping me get through high school.



Marisol Garcia USC Sociology

I never thought I would be recognized for the countless nights dedicated to homework, for the effort put into each assignment, and for the knowledge I have worked hard to acquire. It is a joy to receive this recognition.



Juan Gonzalez Columbia University Biological Sciences

Being one of the Top 100 is very humbling and is a testament to years of hard work and unwavering perseverance. I am honored to stand with such talent and am excited to see what a change we will make on the world!



Luis Gonzalez Georgetown University Education Policy

Being a Top 100 scholar means that my appreciation for language, literature, history, and culture, and my desire to be a more proficient and intelligent reader and writer has not been in vain. My hard work is finally paying off!

Godinez Fundamental High School



Venecia Gonzalez UC Irvine Mathematics

Being selected as a Top 100 student means that all those years of sacrifice and hard work have paid off. All that time I dedicated to school was definitely worth it.



Megan Le UC Los Angeles Communications

It's an honor to be recognized as part of the Top 100 in SAUSD because it serves as a reminder to me that hard work does pay off and it doesn't go unnoticed. Thanks to all who have helped me along my journey.



Lisset Magdaleno Vassar College Sociology

Being selected as a Top 100 student is such an honor because it shows that my hard work did not go in vain. I am proud to be recognized along with other talented students.



Nancy Mateo Colby College Business Administration

As a first generation student of Mexican descent, being honored as a Top 100 student makes me proud because all my effort and hard work have been recognized. I am also an example for my siblings in their educational futures.



Susanna Mejia UC Santa Barbara Psychology Being a part of the Top 100 is my most rewarding achievement. It demonstrates that these four years of high school were worth the late homework nights and the early morning study sessions.



Jimmy Nguyen UC Irvine Chemistry

To be selected as a Top 100 student means that I have been successful in my pursuit of a strong standing in life. To be selected means that I have performed at my best ability and kept my ability up for as long as I did.



Gabriela Panduro George Washington Political Science

It means so much to be selected as a Top 100 student and I'm so proud because it made me see the potential I have as a student. I would like to thank my parents for always supporting me and my friends for motivating me.



Jose Ramos Georgetown University Business Management It is truly an honor to be selected as a Top 100 student. It feels amazing knowing that all my hard work and dedication have paid off. I thank my family, friends, and school for all the support.



Leonardo Sanchez UC San Diego Computer Engineering Knowing that I'm in the Top 100 students in SAUSD serves as a

students in SAUSD serves as a huge accomplishment to me. Being in the Top 100 now lets me know that if I continue my hard work, I'll reach a bright future that my family and I will be proud of.



Omar Sanchez Tufts University Engineering

Overcoming family adversity throughout high school, being in the Top 100 means all that I faced and surpassed was worth it. Also it means that the dedication to my family is stronger than any challenge I could face.

Lorin Griset Academy



Jose J. Jimenez Santa Ana College Undeclared

Being in the Top 100 is an unexpected surprise. I cannot believe I am among the Top 100 Scholars in our district. Being in this group is really an honor and I want to thank all of you for selecting me.



Vianca Sanchez Santa Ana College Registered Nurse Being in the Top 100 is an honor. All my hard work is finally being recognized. I am extremely thankful to be in the Top 100.

Middle College High School



Alejandro Islas UC Irvine Engineering I am proud to be recognized as a student in the Top 100. It is an amazing feeling to be honored for all of my hard work, which I would not have done without the help of my friends and family.



Vi Do CSU Long Beach Business Finance I am honored to be in the Top 100, and I would like to

full, and I would like to acknowledge and thank my family, friends, and mentors who have supported me throughout the years.

Saddleback High School



Brenda Bermudez UC San Diego Neuroscience

It is an honor and truly rewarding to receive this recognition. I am proud to represent my school, my family and myself with this accomplishment.



Ana Carrillo Whittier College Teaching To me, being an SAUSD Top Scholar means that my hard work and effort was not in vain. I worked hard and am proud to be recognized for it.



Graciela Castrejon Chapman University Political Science

Being recognized is truly an honor. This recognition serves as a representation of the hard work and the motivation to strive for academic excellence.



Teresa Chavez UC San Diego Bioengineering

Being recognized as a Top Scholar, to me, means that hard work does eventually pay off and portrays my potential and determination to succeed in life despite obstacles.

Saddleback High School



Alonso De La Torre UC Santa Barbara Computer Engineering

I feel very honored to be recognized as an SAUSD Top 100 Scholar. This award demonstrates all my hard work and my platform for all my future successes.



Jesse Gil UC Berkeley History

This recognition means that dedication and sacrifice can lead to unexpected accomplishments. I'd like to thank my counselors, friends and family for pushing me.



Luis Mejia UC Irvine Engineering

Being recognized as a Top Scholar is a great achievement. This shows that the teachers have lead me on the road to success. Being recognized is my motivation for college.



Demmi Mejia UC Irvine Criminal Psychology Being recognized means a lot to me and my family. It is a great achievement! I am proud to see that my hard work has paid off.



Jenny Nguyen Cal State Long Beach Nursing

Knowing that my accomplishments have been deemed worthy of such merit motivates me to continue to strive for excellence in my scholastic and professional pursuits. Mom, you're raising me right.



Jennifer Perez USC Business

Being recognized means that I have accomplished my goal of being a top student. My determination and sacrifices have thus far been worthwhile. I will continue to strive for my success.



Laura Perez Santa Ana College Accounting

Being recognized as an SAUSD Top 100 Scholar means pride, happiness, effort and courage. It is a privilege and I am immensely proud of all my effort.



Vanessa Praguedes UC Riverside Sociology

I feel honored and proud. It's a great accomplishment. I strive to become someone successful in the future and this proves to me that I am going in the right path.



Valerie Quiroz Cal Poly Pomona Engineering

Being recognized as an SAUSD Top 100 Scholar gives me a sense of accomplishment. It makes me feel relieved to know that all my hard work and sleepless nights were all worth it.

Santa Ana High School



Emanuel Arambula UC Los Angeles Chemistry

As part of the Top 100, I am a proud representative of my school. I will be attending UCLA and as a career, I aspire to be a Biomedical Engineer.

Alfredo Leal

USC

Mathematics

have prepared me since kindergar-

ten and for myself. I am working up

to the engineering field, specifically

in aerospace. Until then my educa-

tion endeavors do not stop.

Top 100 is a reflection of my

educational commitment. It is a

validation for both the staff that



Maria Garcia UC Los Angeles Psychobiology

It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Top 100. My plans include majoring in biology, minoring in psychology and then attending medical school. I owe a lot of my success to the support I have gained from my family, friends, and community.



Paloma Gomez UC Berkeley Communications I've been fortunate to have family, friends, and staff who want to see me succeed. Being a Top 100 Scholar is an honor and a way to thank all the people who have



Alpha Hernandez Santa Ana College Accounting

Making the Top 100 in Santa Ana means that I have succeeded in accomplishing more than the last generation in my family. It also means that I am capable of moving further.



Jennifer Leal USC

Mathematics/Business My academics are important, and being part of the Top 100 shows all my hard work. I am proud of my accomplishments and have a dream of opening my own nonprofit. I am determined to succeed, and accomplish all of my goals.



helped me grow.

Jhovany Lopez UC Los Angeles Mechanical Engineering To be a part of SAUSD's Top 100 is an honor and it makes me feel as though I have done my job as a scholar. I am planning on pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering.



Sonia Lopez Cal Poly Pomona Animal Science

Being in the Top 100 is such an honor. I plan to continue my education at a four year university to discover the right career path for me. My inspiration is my mom because she has worked hard her whole life and has pushed me to do better than she did.



Arely Macedo UC Irvine Biomedical Engineering

I feel honored being in the Top 100. Since I was in kindergarten, my dedication for school was extreme. I plan to attend UCI and eventually earn a masters degree in biomedical engineering. I know I can but I also have a feeling I will.



Juan Pacheco UC Santa Barbara Computer Science

plan on attending the University of California, Santa Barbara with the plan of majoring in Computer Science. My goal in the future is to be a software engineer in a wellestablished company.



Jazmin Morales UC Irvine Social Ecology

I will study to pursue a career as a social worker. The Top 100 is a great honor; it means that I have accomplished 4 years of being dedicated to school. My greatest motivations have been my parents who always encourage me to do my best.



Carlos Ruiz Cal State Fullerton Education

I have decided to major in education and pursue a career as a music teacher, because I want to share my passion for music with future generations. The Top 100 is important to me because it demonstrates that hard work does get rewarded.



Jazmin Navarro UC Santa Barbara Biochemistry

I will be majoring in biochemistry. My career goal is to become a physician. Being in the Top 100 is a great accomplishment; it proves that hard work really does pay off. I would like to thank my family, friends and teachers for always being supportive throughout high school.



Anali Sanchez Cal Poly Pomona Mechanical Engineering Education is important to me; therefore, I am proud to be part of the Top 100 because I feel accomplished.

Santa Ana High School



Raymond Sanchez UC Santa Barbara Biochemistry

My major is biochemistry. My goal in life is to travel the world and the seven seas on my Honda cbr600. My career is to work on the advancement of stem cell research. I will be attending a four year university.



Berenice Serna UC Irvine Psychology Being Top 100 is a big accomplishment and honor because it shows how hard I worked my four years of high school. My major is psychology and I want to be a marriage and family counselor. I intend to accomplish this by attending a four year university.



Itzel Velasco UC Berkeley Criminal Justice It is a privilege to be a part of the top students in the district. I am proud to know that I am on the right track to achieving my goals.

Segerstrom High School



Melissa Arias UC Los Angeles English

I am incredibly honored to be receiving this award. I'd like to thank my family and friends who always gave me their full support in order for me to reach my full potential.



Kenari Drayton Brown University Biomedical Engineering It is such an honor and a blessing to receive such a prestigious academic award and to be recognized amongst other extremely intelligent students.



Annie Duong UC Irvine Biological Sciences

I am greatly honored by this award and am proud to be part of a great community that has helped further my education. I would like to thank my family and friends in helping me realize my future endeavors.



Stephanie Filsinger Azusa Pacific Applied Exercise Science I am so honored and blessed to be named part of the Top 100. It's encouraging to know that hard work and dedication have paid off, and I eagerly await whatever the future holds.



Nnamdi Jogwe Brown University Ethnic Studies I am so proud to call Santa Ana, the hub for intellectually vibrant people, home. The friendships and cultural knowledge I acquired here made me who I am today.



Christine Le UC Berkeley Media Studies

It is truly an honor to be amongst such bright, motivated, and inspiring individuals. I want to thank my family, friends, teachers, club advisors, and administrators for believing in me these past four challenging years.



Ivan Lomeli Swarthmore College Engineering

This is an accomplishment evident to the successes that youth in our city and school district can achieve. I feel more than prepared for college, and I have SAUSD to thank for that, Thank You."

Segerstrom High School



Sidney Luong UC Irvine Biology

High school surely consisted of stressful nights followed by exhausting mornings; however, it has gotten me where I am today. For this, I have to thank my family, peers, and teachers for their support these past four years.



Nga Mai UC Los Angeles Biology

It's an honor to be receiving this award, making those strenuous nights worthwhile. I'm grateful for the guidance and encouragement I have received from my family and friends as I could not have made the journey here alone.



Jorge Molina UC San Diego Engineering

It's an honor for my peers and I to receive this astonishing award. It's great that our work, efforts, and sacrifices paid off with this recognition.



Leslie Nguyen CSUF

Entertainment Art I feel very honored to receive this

award from the district. I'm glad all the effort I have put into my high school classes is being recognized. I feel thankful to wonder teachers at Segerstrom, my loving parents, and caring sister.



Vivian Pham UC San Diego Computer Science It's both an honor and a great pleasure to be recognized for this award after working so hard these four years. I'm sure all of us are grateful that the hard work was worth all those sleepless nights.



Sandibel Ramirez UC Berkeley Political Science I am both honored and grateful to be recognized as one of the district's top students. Segerstrom and Santa Ana have prepared me for the obstacles and opportunities that lie ahead.



Genesis Rodriguez UC Irvine Undeclared I thank God for allowing me to receive this award. I hope that I am able to expand my education and experiences and to give back to my community. I am thankful God has given me strength to persevere.



Omar Tena Carnegie Mellon University Engineering

Thank you, Segerstrom for molding me into a resourceful and patient student. I couldn't have learned what I learned at Segerstrom anywhere else.



Ashley Vu UC San Diego Applied Mathematics

I am so honored and humbled to be recognized among my accomplished peers. This reward serves as not only validation of my hard work these past four years but also as motivation to achieve even greater feats.



Katie Wong UC Los Angeles Neuroscience

I am humbled to receive this honor among peers who share the same passion for education. Thank you to my family for their endless support, teachers for their unwavering mentorship, and friends for making my high school experience.

Valley High School



Francisco Arellano UC Berkeley Undeclared

Top 100 means a lot to me. It shows how much I have improved since coming to the U.S. from Mexico and it proves to people that I can excel beyond their expectations. It is a privilege to be among the best students in SAUSD.



Chi "Jadyn" Duong UC Los Angeles Biology It means that everything I have done so far is worth it. It means

done so far is worth it. It means that I have made my family proud. It means that I am on the right path and should keep going.



Damary Ayala Cal Poly Pomona Mechanical Engineering To me, Top 100 means that

throughout my entire high school career, I have achieved my main goals. I have succeeded in making all my teachers, family members, and friends proud.



Vianca Benitez UC Berkeley Education

To be in the Top 100 means a lot to me because it is proof that all my hard work has paid off. I can now say I have accomplished one of my personal goals.



Dulce Gonzalez UC Davis

Undeclared—Science Being in the Top 100 portrays all the hard work and time I've dedicated to school. It feels like the effort invested in school and the sleepless nights were worth it all in the end.



Mayra Hernandez Cal Poly Pomona Biology Being the Top 100 students of

Santa Ana means I will get recognized for all my hard work, sleepless nights, and moments I lost time with my family. It also means IT WAS WORTH IT!



Miguel Duarte San Diego State Mechanical Engineering Being in the Top 100 students in Santa Ana is a great achievement. It wasn't something that was easy to get. I take great pride in being one of the best students in the district.



Cesar Ibarra Columbia University Computer Engineering Being part of the Top 100 of Santa Ana Unified was a personal expectation since the first day I walked onto Valley's campus. My endeavors have paid off, and it means that I must translate this success into the next step of my life.



Eritssel Rodriguez UC San Diego Civil Engineering

Being in the Top 100 makes me really proud of myself. It means a lot to me because I have worked really hard throughout high school and it feels like it is paying off.



Maggie Zheng Cal State Fullerton Business

Being the Top 100 student means that my hard work the past four years of high school have paid off. It is definitely one of my motivators to keep trying in the future because I find myself to have so much potential.



Javier Martinez Cal Poly Pomona Aerospace Engineering

It means that I and ninety-nine other outstanding students are representing Santa Ana in a positive way. We are changing the stereotypical perspectives of the community.



Carlos Salas UC Merced Electrical Engineering

Being in the Top 100 is a great sense of achievement for me because it puts into perspective the hard work and commitment I have invested in school.



Giselle Monreal UC Los Angeles Undeclared

The Top 100 means everything to me because it reflects all the hard work and dedication I have put into school over the past four years. It is something I never believed I was able to achieve and makes me proud to hold such a title.



Yvette Sanchez UC Los Angeles Undeclared—Science

It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Top 100 students. This shows that all my hard work has paid off. I am proud to be among other SAUSD students who have put in countless hours to achieve this recognition.



Carlos Ramirez UC Irvine Computer Engineering

Top 100 means all of my efforts and struggles have paid off. I have always believed that success comes from hard work and it proves to me that anything is possible as long as you are ambitious.



Keila Villegas UC Santa Barbara Environmental Studies Being in the Top 100 means a lot to me. It shows that all my hard work that has driven me to become the best student I can be has finally paid off.

Our Thanks

Our sincere thanks to all of those who have worked to make this program possible:

Jesse Church, Moises De La Mora, Velina Espinosa, Dan Granite, Cynthia Peronto, Jeffrey Rozema, Kevin Tonai

> Michael Parra Principal Century High School

Matthew Cruz Principal Cesar Chavez High School

Cindy Landsiedel Principal Godinez Fundamental High School

> Patrick Cornforth Principal Lorin Griset Academy

Kathy Apps, Ed.D. Principal Middle College High School

Robert Laxton, Ed.D. Principal Saddleback High School

Julie Infante Principal Santa Ana High School

Duncan McCulloch Principal Segerstrom High School

David Richey Principal Valley High School





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