CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATES EARN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS, LEAVE PGCPS TO PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

Seniors from Potomac High School's Class of 2010 will kick off the graduation season with commencement exercises tomorrow, May 26, at 9:30 a.m. at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro. From May 26 through June 4, seniors from Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) will graduate from 22 high schools and two vocational high schools, and special graduation ceremonies will be held for students attending evening high school, summer school, special centers, and the Community Based Classroom program.

Many students have overcome tremendous odds to see their graduation day, and many have inspirational stories to tell of their incredible academic achievements.

Oxon Hill High School Student Earns Multiple Awards and Straight A’s for 48 Consecutive Quarters

Kelvin Moncera of Oxon Hill High School has earned straight “A's” for the past 48 consecutive quarters of his public school career. During his senior year, Kelvin received a number of awards, including: the Dr. Howard B. Owens Science Award in the Regional Science Fair; the Washington Post High Achiever Award; a listing in American Who's Who Registry of Academic Excellence; a Distinguished Scholar Honorable Mention by the Maryland Higher Education Commission; and a UMBC Heritage Award (a four-year, $10,000 per year scholarship) from the University of Maryland-Baltimore County for his academic achievements. To date, Kelvin has received $489,000 in scholarship awards, was accepted into 10 universities and 10 Honors Living-Learning Programs, and plans to attend the University of Maryland-College Park in the fall on a full scholarship to pursue a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.

Parkdale High School Student Earns More Than $220K in Scholarship Awards

A first generation college-bound student, Sam Yirenky is a leader at Parkdale High School. He was the recipient of the Superintendent’s Certificate in 2010 and a member
of the National Honor Society. He has been the captain of Parkdale’s Varsity Wrestling Team for the past three years, and also ran varsity cross-country. Sam has been an exemplary student, not just for his athleticism (a two-time Wrestling County Champion and State Qualifier), but for academics, as well. He will graduate in the top 5-percent of his class, took AP English and AP Calculus during the past semester, and holds a 3.56 GPA. Sam’s academic industriousness and dedication to his education has earned him over $220,000 in scholarship awards. He will be attending the University of Maryland-College Park in the fall by means of a University Incentive Award Scholarship worth over $150,000.

Gwynn Park Senior Receives Kidney Transplant in Time to Graduate

Tiffany Brown is a senior who despite her health conditions has maintained Honor Roll status throughout all four quarters this school year. Tiffany has been waiting for a kidney donor for several years, and has been frequently hospitalized for dialysis. On May 3, she received great news of a donor who was a kidney match for her, and has been recovering from the transplant in the hospital. Her school family is excited to learn that she will be able to attend the graduation ceremony on May 28.

Bladensburg Career and Technical Education Student Graduates With Honors

Yasmine Moss, who is graduating from Bladensburg High School on June 2, has endured grave hardships in her life, losing both parents to cancer in 2009. Yasmin has shown tremendous courage in the face of tragedy, and in spite of her grief, continued to maintain honor roll status at school and membership in the National Honor Roll Society. Yasmin took part in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Cosmetology program at Bladensburg, where she has excelled and received her professional license. She is now employed with a local salon and plans to attend North Carolina Central University in the fall. Yasmin attributes some of her success to the quotes her mother told her, and holds them very dear to her heart: “God never gives you more than you can handle,” and “What doesn’t kill you always makes you stronger.”

Diabetes Diagnosis Doesn’t Keep Largo Leader and Star Track Athlete Down

After being recently diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, Largo senior Ben McKenzie Jr. made a promise to himself to achieve in this world, whether in the classroom, on the track, or in life outside of school. Ben will graduate on June 1 with a long list of achievements during his high school career: SGA President for 2009-2010 school year, after acting as SGA Vice President the previous year; member of the Principal’s Leadership Team; Number 3 in the country in the 500-meter dash and Number 1 in the state 300-meter and 500-meter for the 2009-2010 school year; and Number 3 in the country in the 400-meter dash in the Junior Olympics 2008. Ben plans to attend East Carolina University and major in Computer Science.

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