



2015 First in Family Graduate Reception

May 6, 2015 • 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Solomon P. Ortiz Convention Center

6:05 p.m. - WELCOME & GREETING

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Good evening, and welcome to the 2015 CCISD First in Family Graduate Ceremony, hosted by the Corpus Christi Education Foundation.
- Before we begin, please stand and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Texas Pledge.

The United States Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

And to the Republic, for which it stands,

One nation, under God, indivisible,

With liberty and justice for all.

The Texas Pledge of Allegiance

Honor the Texas flag;

I pledge allegiance to thee,

Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

- Thank you.

- I am very excited be here this evening with you because we are here to honor some of our most outstanding young people who will finish high school in just a few weeks.
- Many of us remember our own high school graduation.
- We were probably excited, maybe a little nervous ... we knew how hard we had worked, and the memories of high school along with anticipation for the years ahead made that day something special.
- Well, for the honorees with us this evening, "that day" will mean something even more.
- ... because when these graduates walk the stage, they won't walk alone.
- When the graduates here tonight take the stage in just one month, they will represent not only themselves, but each of their families ... as the **very first** in their households to earn a high school diploma.
- It is our daily pursuit, and ultimately our hope as educators, administrators and employees in our school district, that every one of our students graduate from high school.
- These young people with us tonight are not only accomplishing that goal, but setting an even greater example for all of us that, with hard work and perseverance, anything can be achieved ... and anything is possible.
- ... and so, we are here tonight to make sure they realize how much their school district, community and families appreciate them ... admire them ... and celebrate their incredible achievement as a First in Family Graduate.

- At this time, I like to welcome Mr. John Marez, Vice-President of the CCISD Board of Trustees, to bring greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Board.

6:15 p.m. – Greetings from the Board of Trustees

John Marez

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- First, I'd like introduce some individuals who give an incredible amount of time in service to our school district: our Board of Trustees.
- President John Longoria was unable to attend tonight's event, however there are some of my fellow board members here with us ... and I would ask that you please stand when I call your name.
 - Dr. Tony C. Diaz, Secretary – *and* –
 - Mrs. Janie Bell, Assistant Secretary
 - Mr. Tony Elizondo
 - Mr. Hector Salinas, Jr.
 - Mrs. Catherine Susser
- Thank you for the many contributions you make in support of CCISD students.
- Now, I'd like to invite all other elected officials who are in attendance today to please stand and be recognized.
- Thank you all for being here, and for everything you do to ensure a brighter future for Corpus Christi – which, in turn, means a brighter future for our young people.

- At this time of year, we are always delighted to celebrate the once-in-a-lifetime achievements of thousands of CCISD graduates.
- Among the long list of reasons to honor those in the Class of 2015, there is one that stands out from all the rest – and that is the reason we are here tonight.
- On behalf the Board of Trustees and CCISD, I would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the graduates in this room who have earned the distinct honor of being the first in your family to earn a high school diploma.
- **First, to the parents and family members of these outstanding young people: THANK YOU** for your commitment to their education, and for the countless sacrifices that you have made to see them through to high school graduation.
- Each of you are very much a part of this achievement, and when we honor these students, we also honor each of you.
- If you are the parent, grandparent or guardian of a First in Family graduate, **please stand** and let us give **you** a round of applause.

<<Applause/Recognition>>

- Thank you all.
- **To Our 2015 First in Family Graduates: You** are the future of our community. Your dedication and resolve to complete high school is a monumental achievement ... one that, without doubt, took a great deal of commitment, and at times, tested your ability to persevere through challenges and setbacks.

- Those moments of trial ultimately reveal what we're made of ... and tonight we acknowledge that YOU, our First in Family Graduates, have shown that you are: Committed. Driven. Persistent. ... and Successful.
- Your presence here tonight is proof that you have what it takes not only to graduate from high school, but to succeed in life above and beyond any expectations.
- You are the beginning of a great future ... not only for yourselves, but the future generations in your families, among your siblings and friends who look to your examples, and among all of us who aspire to achieve regardless of the challenges we face.
- You are the start of a legacy in your family and in our community.
- So ... **Congratulations to each of you: CCISD's "Class of 2015" First in Family Graduates.**
- We look forward to seeing you accomplish many more outstanding achievements in the future, and we are incredibly proud of you.
- Now, I would like to introduce a young man who knows exactly how it feels to be a first in family graduate ... because he is one of you.
- Here to present this year's "First in Family Graduate Address," please welcome Jose Puente from W.B. Ray High School.

6:30 p.m. – Keynote Presentation

Jose Puente

<<Presentation>>

6:55 p.m. – Graduate Recognition

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Thank you, Jose, for making that presentation on behalf of your fellow honorees.
- Now, I'd like to invite our Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Maria Luisa Guerra, to announce the names of year's First in Family Graduates from each CCISD high school.
- I'd also like to invite our attending CCISD Board of Trustees to join me in awarding these students.

7:00 p.m. – Graduate Recognition

Dr. Maria Luisa Guerra

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.
- It is truly an honor to be part of this very special celebration.
- Tonight, these honorees are receiving t-shirts donated by Cup Graphics, Certificates of Recognition from their school district, and also a very special Certificate of Recognition from the United States Congress, provided by U.S. Representative Blake Farenthold.
- They will also receive a Gold Graduation Medal that acknowledges their achievement as a CCISD First in Family Graduate.
- These medals have been generously donated by our friends at H-E-B, and they are to be worn with the honorees' caps and gowns when they "walk the stage" at each of the CCISD graduation ceremonies.
- **Also, after receiving their awards, the graduates will proceed to the risers at my right, where a group photo will be taken of honorees from each high school.**

- **Principals, please join your students for a group photo when all have crossed the stage.**
- Now, I am privileged and honored to announce the names of our 2015 CCISD First in Family Graduates.
- From Reverend Harold T. Branch Academy:
 - Justine A. P. Gomez
 - Manuel Jonathan Monajaras
 - Jesse Ortega
 - Alyssa Starr Salinas
 - Angelica Leticia Saucedo
 - Jorge Talamantes **and**
 - Angel Alizae Williams
- Now we will honor one (1) First in Family Graduate from Mary Carroll High School:
 - Nathaniel Luis James Longoria
- This year, we have several graduating from Solomon T. Coles High School:
 - Trinidad Alvarado

- Angelica Maria Castro
- Ashley Nichole Coronado
- Josefa Reyna Davila
- Briana Renee Deleon
- Sonia Maribel Diaz
- Gilbert Anthony Estrada
- Juan Carlos Estrada
- Jacob Anthony Farias
- Sara Margret Figueroa
- Anthony Flores
- Augustina Haley-Ann Galindo
- Ana Karen Garcia
- Javier S. Garcia
- Ariel Marie Garza
- Nadia Carmila Hernandez
- Helesteo Hernandez Merida
- Mario Lee Linares
- Zackary S. Mares
- Jonathan Martinez
- Chelsea Renee Ortiz

- Korina Lizbeth Ortiz
 - Amber Mary Pierce
 - Chris T. Ramirez
 - Edgar Ivan Moyeda Rodriguez
 - Samuel Brandon Silva
 - Lacy L. Simerly
 - Mirian Marie Soliz
 - Jordan Rene Soto
 - Leonard Suarez II
 - Yasmine Noemi Villamar
 - Jennavie Mandi Winterroth **and**
 - Melanie Ann Ybarra
-
- **Now from Collegiate High School:**
 - Raven Sarene Ayala
 - Janell LeeAnn Escatiola
 - Bianca Annette Flores
 - Rynda Vae Garcia
 - Joe Albert Gomez
 - Maria Jasmine Hernandez

- Jose Francisco Villa Hernandez
- Norma Margoth Kehoe **and**
- Viviana Berenice Vivero

- First in Family Graduates from Richard King High School:
 - Danielle Taylor Aguilar
 - Miranda Christina Bolanos
 - Frank Damien Casares
 - Luis Mario Cisneros
 - Kearsten Ann Dunham
 - Deisy Guadalupe Elicea
 - Meranda Ann Favata
 - Aryanna Michelle Gil
 - Joshua Daniel Gil
 - Robert Anthony Gomez
 - Brittany Nicole Iruegas
 - Linda Nguyen
 - Bianca Celine Ortega
 - Jose Luis Pagan-Rodriguez
 - Kirsten Anne Parker

- Joseph Andrew Quijas
 - Kimberly Ann Ramirez
 - Latayana Kashed Reed
 - Jesus Romero
 - Leobardo Daniel Romero
 - Danielle Harley Sharpe
 - Ariel Claudette Soliz
 - Samantha Jeans Sparks **and**
 - Maria Isabel Vargas
-
- First in Family Graduates from Roy Miller High School:
 - Jose Carmen Balboa
 - Jorge Emmanuel Botello
 - Daniela Miroslava Castro
 - Ana Luisa Corpus
 - Ariel Dominique Davila Garcia
 - Jadany Delgado
 - Diego Gallegos
 - Myrtha Elena Garcia
 - Gabrielle Karynna Garza

- Onny Eduardo Gomez
- Israel Gonzales
- Michael Lee Harris
- Kimberly Rodriguez Hernandez
- Anthony Ray Limon
- Ramiro Anthony Lopez
- Ruben Lee Lopez
- Daniel Lewis Martinez
- Ronaldo Conrado Martinez
- Genesis M. Mason
- Tionne Elaine Massey
- Ashley Lynn Moya
- Breon S. Muckelroy
- Amanda Michelle Newkirk
- Pedro Pena
- Stephanie Aileene Ramirez
- Eliseo Rodriguez
- Brittany Lee Ann Trevino
- Cecilia Colchado Vazquez
- Leann Marie Vera **and**

- D'mon D'Ondrique Williams
- First in Family Graduates from Foy H. Moody High School:
 - Miguel Angel Alfaro
 - Sofia Ann Bayder
 - John Anthony Castillo
 - Ruben Castro
 - Nora Lucia Rodriguez Cruz
 - Ashlie A. Garcia
 - Thalia Berenguer Hernandez
 - Jacob Lozano
 - Jacqueline Rodriguez
 - Michael Isaiah Salomon **and**
 - Tatum M. Trevino
- And, last but not least, First in Family Graduates from W.B. Ray High School:
 - Gloria Noemi Aguilar
 - Michelle Bernal
 - Jeressa Modesta Bazan

- Abraham Betancour
 - Andres Angel Casares
 - Edna Jazmin Cerda
 - Andrea Stephanie Duran
 - Vanessa Llanas
 - Clarissa Ann Lopez
 - Esmeralda Meraz
 - Jose Angel Puente
 - Aprill America Rocha **and**
 - Jezavelle Angelic Vallejo
- Congratulations to ALL of our 2015 First in Family Graduates!
 - Thank you.

7:30 p.m. – CITGO First in Family Sch. Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Thank you, Dr. Guerra, and congratulations again to each of our graduates.
- At this time, I'd like to invite Mrs. Christina Cisneros-Guzman, Board Chair for the Corpus Christi Education Foundation, to begin our scholarship presentation.

7:35 p.m. – CITGO First in Family Sch. Christina Guzman

- Thank you, Dr. Hernandez.

- I'm very excited to be here this evening on behalf of the Corpus Christi Education Foundation. I'd also like to ask the board members who are here tonight to please stand and be recognized.
- Thank you.
- Our education foundation is glad to host this recognition event every year so that we as a community can recognize and honor those who are the very first in their families to earn a high school diploma.
- This event would not be possible without the help of some very important people – so at this time I would like to recognize our sponsors.
- If you are an employee from **CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery, the Port of Corpus Christi, Cup Graphics Screenprinting** or **H-E-B** ... would you please stand so we that we can recognize you.
- Thank you – and many thanks for helping us provide this event and everything that our graduates have received tonight.
- For the past 21 years, the education foundation has been working to support CCISD students and educators through providing funds for educational programs in our classrooms; recognition for CCISD teachers; and scholarships for CCISD students.
- Our board members, as well as several community volunteers, review and score hundreds of scholarship applications each year. Winners are selected through a blinded scoring process ... and tonight, 15 of our honorees will be surprised with the news that they are receiving a CITGO First in Family Scholarship.

- As you might have guessed, it is our good friends at CITGO Corpus Christi Refinery who fund this particular scholarship – they have generously donated **\$15,000** this year, and have been funding these awards since this recognition ceremony began four years ago.
- Now, I'd like to invite **Mr. Larry Elizondo** from CITGO to join me on stage and announce this year's award winners.

7:35 p.m. – CITGO First in Family Sch.

Mr. Larry Elizondo

- Thank you, Mrs. Guzman.

<<Add any personal comments.>>

- CITGO is very proud of the achievement that each of these graduates are making as the very first in their families to earn a high school diploma.
- Therefore, we were very pleased to establish the **CITGO First in Family Scholarship** awards to honor you and support your ongoing endeavors to pursue higher education and a successful career in the future.
- Every one of tonight's honorees had an opportunity to apply, and recipients have been selected based on criteria including academic achievement, school and community involvement, and financial need.
- In addition, each applicant wrote an essay explaining what it means to them to be a First in Family Graduate, and describing their future plans for success in higher education.
- Every award winner is receiving a \$1,000 **CITGO First in Family Scholarship**.

- After receiving your awards, we'd like to ask the winners to gather for a group photo of all scholarship recipients.
- Now, to announce this year's award recipients:
 - From Harold T. Branch Academy:
 - **Jesse Ortega**
 - From Carroll High School:
 - **Nathaniel Longoria**
 - From Solomon Coles High School:
 - **Jennavie Mandi Winterroth**
 - From Collegiate High School:
 - **Bianca A. Flores**
 - **Jose Francisco Villa Hernandez; and**
 - **Viviana Bernice Vivero**
 - From King High School:
 - **Luis Mario Cisneros; and**
 - **Aryanna Michelle Gil**
 - From Miller High School:
 - **Jorge Botello**
 - **Daniel Lewis Martinez; and**
 - **LeAnn Marie Vera**

- From Moody High School:
 - **Nora Lucia Rodriguez-Cruz; and**
 - **Jacqueline Rodriguez**
- ... and from Ray High School:
 - **Esmeralda Meraz; and**
 - **Jose Angel Puente**
- Congratulations to each of these graduates, recipients of the 2015 **CITGO First in Family Scholarships** ... and congratulations to each and every one of tonight's graduates for their outstanding achievements.
- Thank you.

7:45 p.m. – Special Thanks & Recognition

Dr. Roland Hernandez

- Thank you, Mr. Elizondo and Mrs. Guzman, and congratulations to these scholarship recipients.
- I would also like to extend our thanks on behalf of CCISD to the Corpus Christi Education Foundation Board of Directors, and all of their sponsors for this event.
- Without the support of these leaders in our community, this recognition ceremony would not have been possible ... so thank you, again.
- Also, I'd like to thank all of our **High School Principals**, and designated **First in Family Coordinators** from each high school, who helped prepare these students for graduation and for recognition as a First in Family graduate.

- **Would all of our High School Principals, Assistant Principals, and First in Family Coordinators please stand for recognition?**

<<Applause/Recognition>>

- Thank you so much for everything you do for our students.
- In conclusion, I want to express once again how very proud we are of each of tonight's honorees – our CCISD First in Family Graduates.
- You truly are building a legacy for your families and in our community.
- We applaud and admire you for your personal commitment to finish high school.
- I look forward to shaking your hand one more time as you receive the diploma that each of you have worked so hard to earn ... and that each of you so greatly deserve.
- **CONGRATULATIONS, FIRST IN FAMILY GRADUATES!**
... and good night!

- END -