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SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS' STUDENTS WILL BE THE FIRST CHARTER GRADUATES IN WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY

One hundred percent of Summit Public Schools' students graduate prepared for college

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. -- Summit Public Schools (Summit) celebrates its first graduating classes in Washington state at Summit Sierra and Summit Olympus. These students are the first charter school graduates in Washington state history. Summit, a leading public school network with schools in California and Washington, graduates all of its students prepared for college.

"At Summit, we believe that every student should be equipped to lead a fulfilled life. Nowhere is the opportunity for a fulfilled life more pronounced than in college and career readiness," said Summit Public Schools Superintendent Anson Jackson. "We have high hopes for our first class of Washington charter graduates, many of whom recognize the historic moment not just in their personal lives, but its effect throughout the state."

Summit's Washington students were accepted to every public university in the state. Across Summit schools, students were accepted to nearly 200 unique four-year colleges and universities, including some of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the country: Stanford University, New York University, Duke University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Washington and Gonzaga University.

In Washington, 98 percent of students across both Summit schools were accepted to a four-year college. Noah Matisse, a Summit Sierra graduate from Seattle, will attend Western Washington University in the fall. Matisse recently spoke at Ignite Education Lab 2019 where he shared about his experience as a student at Seattle's first charter high school.

"In my four years at Summit Sierra, I developed an ability to lead conversations regarding social identity and how it impacts lives," said Matisse. "Before my freshman year, I wasn't too confident in speaking up and raising awareness about social equality. However, Summit reminded me of my potential, which led me to help make change."

Skyler Ramirez is a Summit Olympus graduate who will be attending Pacific Lutheran University on a scholarship. Ramirez, who served as student body president at Summit Olympus, will go on to study political science.

At Summit schools, each student has their own mentor, a teacher or school leader that provides guidance to a student. The majority of the Summit Sierra seniors will graduate high school with the same mentor that they began high school with.

Thirty-four percent of Summit's graduating seniors will be first-generation college students. Among them is Christine Nguyen, who is graduating from Summit Tahoma in San Jose. She will attend the University of Southern California in the fall to study biochemistry. Her interest in science was furthered through her role as a teacher assistant at Summit and an internship at a local hospital.

"Summit helped me prepare for life after graduation," said Nguyen. "Once I came to understand my interests better, I became a more goal-oriented student. Through Summit, I secured an internship in the medical field, which helped me choose my major. Thanks to this school, I was able to grow in unique ways."

All of Summit's eligible high schools were recently ranked in the top 200 best high schools in California by U.S. News & World Report.

About Summit Public Schools

Summit Public Schools is a leading public school system that equips all students to lead the life they want to live. It operates 15 public college-prep schools that serve diverse communities throughout California and Washington. Summit schools are consistently ranked among the best in the nation. All Summit students graduate prepared for college and its graduates complete college at double the national average. To learn more, please visit www.summitps.org.

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