

**EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services
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Rosa Garcia	VISTA

YouthBuild Charter School of California - Compton Site

Roberto Rodriguez	Social Studies/Civic Engagement
Sylvana DeSantis	Math/Science/STEM/Health
Janitiza Villalobos	English/Life Skills/Art
Chef Orlando Hutcherson	Culinary Arts/Hospitality
Candelaria Renteria	Program Assistant

YouthBuild Charter School of CA – Administration

Phil Matero	Founder & CEO
Dr. Rudy Cuevas	Principal
Sonia Hernandez	Assistant Principal

YouthBuild Charter School of CA - Board of Directors

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Inyo County Office of Education

Dr. Lisa Fontana	Superintendent of Schools
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*Achievement and Commencement
Ceremony*

Class of 2017



*Thursday, June 22, 2017 @ 5:00pm
Douglas Dollarhide Community Center
301 North Tamarind Avenue
Compton, CA 90221*

YouthBuild
CHARTER SCHOOL OF CALIFORNIA

Class of 2017 - The Graduates

<i>Oscar Alvarez</i>	<i>Emilie Ramos**</i>
<i>Jessica Camacho***</i>	<i>Emmanuel Ramos</i>
<i>Jesse Chaj</i>	<i>Stephanie Razo</i>
<i>Christine Clouden</i>	<i>Fernando Rios</i>
<i>Virginia Cordova</i>	<i>Denise Rivera</i>
<i>Arkeala Farmer</i>	<i>Israel Romano</i>
<i>Guadalupe Figueroa</i>	<i>Ivan Sanchez</i>
<i>Gabriel Genera</i>	<i>Nelly Sanchez</i>
<i>Vicente Guillen</i>	<i>Stefanny Silva****</i>
<i>Iyanah Johnson****</i>	<i>Kamaka Smith</i>
<i>Steve Lares</i>	<i>Naree Taylor****</i>
<i>Juan Carlos Lizaola-Cruz****</i>	<i>Michael Toro</i>
<i>Estefania Martinez</i>	<i>Pablo Vicente</i>
<i>Jonathan Melano**</i>	<i>LaKayla Williams*</i>
<i>Tyion Milton***</i>	<i>Javontae Wilson</i>
<i>Antonio Ocampo</i>	<i>Summer Wilson*</i>
<i>Joey Ochoa</i>	<i>Sergio Zambrano</i>
<i>Sylvia Jennifer Orellana- Perez</i>	<i>*Academic Achievement</i>
<i>Adam Orona</i>	<i>**Outstanding Transformation</i>
<i>Jenifer Palma</i>	<i>***Leadership Award</i>
<i>Mikelle Pennington</i>	<i>****Class Speaker</i>

Special Thanks & Acknowledgments

Compton YouthBuild is thankful for the amazing support our members receive from friends, colleagues and partner organizations. Special thanks to:

The amazing young people of Compton YouthBuild
 The teachers & staff of YouthBuild Charter School of California
 The entire team at Compton YouthBuild
 The Board of Directors and staff of EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services

Mayor Aja Brown	Assemblyman Mike Gipson
Senator Steven Bradford	Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas
Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan	William Alamo
Frank Alvarez	Dr. Corina Benavides
Dore Burry	Ruben Caputo
Judith Carey-Fisher	Dr. Marisela Chavez
Michelle Chambers	Carlos Delgado
Suzanne Fitzgerald	Officer Triston Frazier
Melissa Freeny	Isabel Galvez Lara
Ben Garcia	Lupita Garcia
Rosa Garcia	Crystal Gonzalez
Oscar Grant	Benjamin Holifield
Frank Hughes	Kyron Kopanos
Gabriela Lopez Rodriguez	Armando Loza
Heather Mazzei	Kimberly McKenzie
Jeudy Mom	Sergio Ocheita
Lela Pompey	Reyna Rauda-Trout
Aubrey Relf	Dr. Kofi Sefa-Boakye
Victor Silva	Christina Simmons
Tiffani Thomas	Lenin Torres
Elizabeth Urena	Alberto Uribe
Helen Whitcher	The American Red Cross
Eat Sleep Work	Field of Dreams Learning
Habitat for Humanity Greater LA	LA Sheriff's Department, Compton
Los Angeles Transportation Club	RUTH YouthBuild
Saint Gobain/SolarGard	St. John's Medical Clinic
UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic	Volunteers of America Los Angeles,
YouthBuild USA and Staff	Monica Mooring

YouthBuild USA

The purpose and mission of YouthBuild USA is to unleash the positive energy of low-income young adults to rebuild their communities and their lives, breaking the cycle of poverty with a commitment to work, education, community, and family.

YouthBuild USA was founded in 1978 with an emphasis on leadership development, community service, and the creation of a positive community of adults and youth committed to each other's success. Compton YouthBuild is a licensed affiliate of YouthBuild USA and proudly partners to bring rigorous and meaningful opportunities to the young people of Compton and surrounding communities.



YouthBuild Charter School of CA (YCSC)

The mission of the YCSC is to offer youth ages 16-24, in California YouthBuild programs, a unique educational opportunity that results in a high school diploma and well-rounded preparation for success in careers, post-secondary education, and life. YCSC operates eighteen sites with over 1600 students. YCSC is a fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges.



YouthBuild Graduates

The following members have successfully completed a 9 month Construction Training program that was partially funded by the U.S. Department of Labor – Employment and Training Administration and received their Multi-Craft Core Curriculum certification.

Oscar Arellano
Virginia Cordova
Joshua Fitzhugh-Moore
Gabriel Genera
Joe Gomez
Juan Guerrero
Austin Huffman
Dimitri Hunt
Frank Lomeli
Javier Marquina
Tyion Milton
Candelario Miranda
Onix Moreno
Esteban Munoz
Billy Ramos
Emmanuel Ramos
Matthew Tickle
Pablo Vicente

“Graduation is not the end, it is the beginning!” ~Orrin Hatch

Congratulations Class of 2017!

Program

Processional	Graduates
Pledge of Allegiance	Kamaka Smith
Spiritual Reflection	LaKayla Williams
Welcome	Judy Carey-Fisher
Compton YouthBuild Pledge	Virginia Cordova
Commencement Address	Sylvana DeSantis, Orlando Hutcherson, Roberto Rodriguez, Janitzia Villalobos
Member’s Journey	Iyanah Johnson, Juan Carlos Lizaola-Cruz, Stefanny Silva, Naree Taylor
Graduation Remarks	Kim Hughes
Presentation of Diplomas	YouthBuild Charter School
Closing Remarks	Sara A. M. Silva
Recessional	Graduates

Compton YouthBuild



Compton YouthBuild’s mission is to provide rigorous educational and occupational opportunities for at-risk people who are invested in creating a sustainable future for themselves, their families and communities. Compton YouthBuild seeks to build economic sustainability for traditionally marginalized youth, families and communities by providing no-cost education, occupational programs, resources, and guidance.

Compton YouthBuild is sponsored by EntreNous Youth Empowerment Services, Inc. and provides a comprehensive approach to youth development that enables young people ages 16-24 to secure their high school diploma while learning occupational skills by obtaining training in a variety of vocational fields and by participating in leadership development activities in their communities.



Pablo Vicente

I'm glad and thankful I found a place like YouthBuild. I was really struggling in moving on because of my High School diploma. I was fortunate enough to join the Construction Cohort. Due to this I haven't really struggled economically. My cohort certificate will really help me someday. I feel like dedicating this to everybody that has showed support towards me because they've helped me get to where I am now. I'm really happy because my supporters know now that all they did for me wasn't in vain. I appreciate the staff

members; they've always carried a positive attitude that kept me motivated. Now that I passed this obstacle I can move on to the military and keep on improving my future. I am really thankful for all of you.



Sergio Zambrano

I just wanna take the time to thank my mom, grandma, aunts, and YouthBuild for never giving up on me on my worst days, they helped me to get where I am now without them, I would've been in a different situation or probably even worse. I'm proud of myself because I wouldn't have thought I would graduate from YouthBuild. YouthBuild has helped me in so many different ways. I could say I am honestly not the same person that I was when I first started YouthBuild, also it has helped me grow and

develop into the person I am today. I'm thankful for Ms. V, Ms. D, Mr. R and all the staff that has helped me become a better person.

Compton YouthBuild Pledge

Good leadership is taking responsibility to make sure things go right for your life, for your family, for the program and for the community. We recite the Compton YouthBuild Pledge to take ownership over our choices and decisions.

We are Compton YouthBuild Leaders!

We take complete responsibility for our health, happiness and success in life.

We motivate and encourage each other.

We do not blame others for our problems or predicaments.

Low self-esteem, self-limiting beliefs or the negativity of others will not interfere with progress towards our goals.

We will transform ourselves, families and communities through leadership development and education.

We do make a difference!

We are ready for the "What After"!

We are Compton YouthBuild!



Oscar Alvarez

This dedication goes out to my family for supporting me through all the difficult moments. I would also like to appreciate Sara Silva and Mrs. Hughes for welcoming me into their program when other schools closed their doors in my face. This experience was the best, I honestly thought I wasn't going to get my high school diploma, but when I stepped into YouthBuild I felt something different I knew good things were coming my way. I always say to myself, if I had to do everything all over again just to get to YouthBuild, I

would do everything the same exact way just to end up in YouthBuild again. One last thing, I would like to appreciate Ms. Villalobos, Ms. Desantis, and last but not least, the teacher that stressed me out the most but made me think and realize how the world is run, Mr. Rodriguez. Thank you for all your support. Oh, and Chef for always being on my back and always feeding me, that's what I'm going to miss more about you Chef, is your cooking. Never give up guys we made it this far and I know we can make it even further.

EVERYTHING IS HARD BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE!!!!!!!



Virginia Cordova

"Getting knocked down in life is a given, getting up and moving forward is a choice." I never thought I'd see this day when I actually walking the stage and receiving my High School Diploma. I'd like to appreciate everyone that pushed me to get my Diploma even though there were challenges along the way. I'd also like to thank my YouthBuild Classmates/Staff/Therapists, my Therapists from Star View, my Family, Staff and residents from Stepping

Stones. I'd also like to appreciate my Little Sister Jasmine, no matter what we went through, she is always there to push me to go to school. I'd also like to say thanks to Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Silva for not giving up on me and helping me get through my struggles. YouthBuild is a family, a second chance at life, and Program that believes in you! I just would like to say I Love You all and keep moving forward in life no matter what! God Bless.



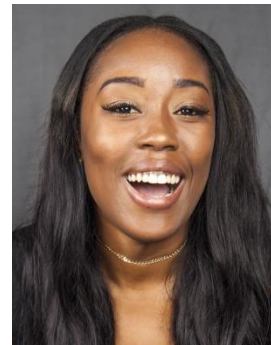
Stefanny Silva

I want to thank everyone that welcomed me on my first day at Compton YouthBuild. I feel like I just started attending YouthBuild and I'm already leaving it. It wasn't much time but I got to know lots of people and went to a lot of places and discovered new opportunities. I want to thank my teachers for being there for me, helping me make me feel like I can become what I want to be in life. "Keep moving forward". I want to also appreciate my friends for helping me take the right path in life and make better choices about my future.



Kamaka Smith

I want to dedicate my graduation to my family because you all keep me going. To all my teachers, thank you for believing in me and pushing me. Thank you for taking the time out to help me. To Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Silva, thank you for giving me a second chance to be here.



Naree Taylor

I would like to dedicate my graduation to myself, although it might sound cliché. The reason for this is that it was not easy getting off work at 6 a.m. and having to be at school at 8 a.m., but I still dragged myself here even if it meant I was going to be late. It was hard I'm not going to lie, but I was focused on my goal, which in the end was to graduate. My motivation and determination is what got me through it. I felt as if during my journey, I've gained self confidence in myself, learned patience and how to deal with multiple personalities that were younger

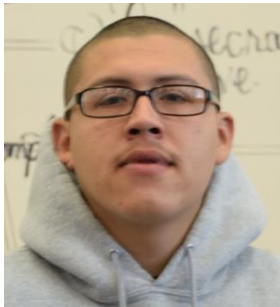
than me. Although everyone kept nagging me saying "why won't you just pay to get your GED?" I went to school every day because I felt like paying for that was the easy way out. Sure, it might have taken me longer than others, but my will to succeed this time around trumps the negativity that was thrown at me. So I would like to thank myself for being my own person that was willing to put behind statistics and graduate with my high school diploma.



Denise Rivera

This dedication goes out to all my family, friends, and my Compton YouthBuild family. I'm truly blessed to have gone down this beautiful road with you. I couldn't have done it without you all. This isn't only my accomplishment, it's ours, but most importantly, this is dedicated to the ones who said I couldn't make it. Struggles are required in order to survive in life because in order to stand up you have

got to know what falling down is like, just because the past didn't turn out like you wanted, doesn't mean the future can't be better than you imagined. The best teacher in life is your own experience, none of us know who we are until we fail, so whatever you do give your heart to it and stay strong. Congrats we made it; thanks to my supporters you are truly appreciated. Congrats class of 2017.



Ivan Sanchez

I want to dedicate this achievement to my parents, because they are the ones who were with me through thick and thin. Also because my parents never let me down in anything, they always have faith in me that I'll get my diploma. And now that I did, they are happy and I'm happy as well that I made it.



Nelly Sanchez

Nowadays a high school diploma means nothing, but to me it means so much because so many people have doubted me and because of that I doubted myself and here I am typing this because I made it, I am receiving a high school diploma. I've heard and read many graduation speeches and they always deal with thank you to my family! In this case, in my case, I want to thank my mom and my big brother.

Yes I have many other family members who have dealt with taking me to school, continue to push me to finish, but I dedicate this diploma to my mom my viejita linda y corajuda and my big brother a.k.a best friend Toto, I know I may not make you proud all the time, but this is to you and I'm blessed to have you guys in my life, I promised you guys once I came out of military camp I would graduate high school and here I am, I love you guys.



Jesse Chaj

I'd like to thank Mr. Rodriguez for supporting me in doing my classwork. I had taken his class and he made me see school differently.



Arkeala Farmer

I appreciate my family and friends for always being on my head, but also pushing me to stay focused. Three simple rules in my life that kept me motivated were 1) If you do not go after what you want, you will never have it; 2) If you don't ask, the answer will always be no; 3) If you do not step forward, you'll always be in the same place. Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. I turned my cants into cans and my dreams into plans.



Guadalupe Figueroa

I want to thank my family for always being there for me throughout the good and bad times. I have been through so much and they have never left me alone, I want to, in particular, thank my Grandmother for always dealing with me in the good and bad times. She has not ever given up on me and she always pushed me to do my best and better. I want to also thank all my lovely aunties that I have for giving me their advice about life and from their life experiences they always told me to do better and they always came out of their way to help me. I want to also thank my auntie Maria Figueroa for always thinking about me, she was the person who found this program for me and told me about it. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have been here, where I am now. I want to say to my entire family members that I love them and thank you all for everything.



Gabriel Genera

My dedication goes for those who have stuck by me through all my ups and downs in life. I'm not perfect but I always try my best. With every mistake I make I manage to put myself back together feeling a little bit more confident in my decisions that I make in life. Never would I have thought that I would learn more things about myself as I grow as a father of three kids. Knowing that I'm trying my best as a father for my boys gives me the motivation to give it my all in everything I do. I do my best to give them

as much as I can and to make sure they'll never be confused about life by teaching them and guiding them so they know how not to make the same mistakes I've done in life. I'm teaching them everything I know in order for them to be aware of all the danger, trouble, and surprises life has to offer them. I want them to grow up and be proud of the person I've become. I want them to be aware of all the obstacles I've had to endure just to get to where I'm at now, all to give them a better future.



Juan Guerrero

I'm appreciative for all 9 months of training because I wouldn't be where I am now and also wouldn't be ready for the "What After". I hope to see you soon, when my son gets bigger. I'll hopefully get a career after this 9 month program. Also, thank you for letting me join cohort because I barely made it in when I was 24 years old and within a few months of turning 25. Thank you.



Vicente Guillen

I want to dedicate this to my family and friends for believing in me and never giving up on me, and for motivating me to finish when I wanted to quit and give up everything and I'd like to let you all know this is the beginning of a long journey for me.



Emilie Ramos

I want to dedicate this accomplishment to the people who gave me the strength to achieve it.



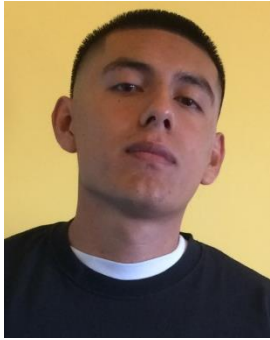
Stephanie Razo

I want to dedicate my journey of accomplishments to all the people who believed in me. Thank you to my family and friends who stayed positive throughout the whole burdens I carried on my back. A special dedication to Selena Melgarejo and family, this one is for the times you encouraged me each step of the way to graduate and to actually believe I can be someone in life or just someone important. Thank you, to Compton YouthBuild, for being a wonderful program that encourages youth to have a better

lifestyle and mentality. Thank you to all the teachers who gave me knowledge and potential, and for being a positive energy in my space and life. Last but not least I also dedicate my accomplishment on receiving my high school diploma by the help of God.

"Anybody who has ever struggled to plant his feet onto the floor in the morning knows that life can be hard; it can be stressful; it can be overwhelming. But each of those negative, less than optimal feelings immediately takes a back seat to the inspirational power of hope.

"Shawn L. Anderson, A Better Life: An Inspiring Story About Starting Over"



Antonio Ocampo

I would like to thank GOD. I want to give my mom and my family thanks for always supporting me and not giving up on me even when I put them in bad situations. I can't forget about my girlfriend though, that has been my right hand the whole time.



Joey Ochoa

First and foremost I want to thank my dad for not giving up on me, he made sure I reached my accomplishments and my mom for believing in me, knowing I can do it. They are my biggest supporters in my life and I just want to let them know that I appreciate them a lot more than they can ever imagine.



Silvia Jennifer Orellana Perez

...And here ends a stage that began as something impossible. I am aware of all the sacrifices that have been made for many years to get here. It has cost me difficult moments, I have left important things aside, but in the end all my effort had its reward. I feel proud of myself, I feel blessed by the support my parents gave me and especially thanks to my teachers for their patience and dedication. Without doubt they are the best teachers that anyone can have. I knew it was difficult, I felt many feelings, I felt anger against myself, I felt incapable, but at the

same time I wanted to show everyone that I could and here I am fulfilling one of my goals for which I have worked a lot ♥.



Dimitri Hunt

First, I would like to thank my mother for finding the Compton YouthBuild program. Secondly, I would like to thank the staff for believing in me for my will to overcome my failures, effort, and dedication during these last 9-10 months. There were things I learned here more beneficial to life than my attendance at my traditional high school. I wish traditional could have been this enjoyable. It was truly a blessing to be in the cohort, if it was possible I'd want to live it all over again.



Iyanah Johnson

"My favorite animal is the turtle. The reason is that in order for the turtle to move, it has to stick its neck out. There are going to be times in your life when you're going to have to stick your neck out. There will be challenges and instead of hiding in a shell, you have to go out and meet them."

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

-William Arthur Ward



Steve Lares

I would like to dedicate this achievement to my teachers, family & my partner for giving me motivation and support. I would like to dedicate this to these special people for not giving up on me for whatever reasons it would be that led me to this bumpy road that eventually led to success in achieving my high school diploma. I would like to appreciate my teachers for giving me inspiration and motivation and the best thing a teacher can give to their students, attention and the knowledge that

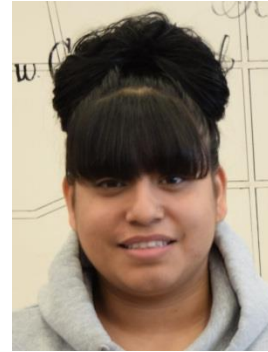
comes with this support, and the friendship. This dedication is for each and every one of these individuals that came into my life that were really supportive and never let me down what so ever. This dedication is for all of you because you guys came into my life that affected me in a good way. I would not have gotten this far if it wasn't for my partner, family, and teachers that would always be there to lend a hand in assignments that would seem stressful, and family for giving me a roof and love. Also to my partner for being very supportive, and being the best girl-friend a guy can ask for and bringing me to school and led me to this place called Compton YouthBuild Charter School of California, that led me to meet all these people and teachers and staff. I would like to say thank you for having this impact in my life. Dedications and Appreciations 2 all!



Juan Carlos Lizaola-Cruz

First I want to start by saying that I want to thank God. God has been there since day one, every time I felt like giving up I always thought about God and how I promised him I was going to stop taking steps back and start moving forward. I'm a big believer of the Law of Attraction; basically you attract what you put out to the world. If you stay positive then you will have a positive life. Whatever you think will get manifested into reality, everybody is destined for greatness, and you are the creator of your own destiny. You are what you set yourself to be. I want to end this

by thanking all staff and teachers from Compton YouthBuild. They have been nothing but great to me, each and every one of them. All teachers have been there when I need them. Chef, Ms. V, Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. D, and Mrs. Silva, they are the best, I thank them for being great to me, last but not least I want to thank my three younger sisters, they have been in my mind throughout all this process and I did this for them.



Estefania Martinez

My dedication goes out to Compton YouthBuild. Compton YouthBuild has motivated me to become a better person in life. Compton YouthBuild has many opportunities in life to move on in your "what after". Compton YouthBuild makes you feel welcome, like if it's your second home. Compton YouthBuild is a place you won't regret. ♥



Jonathan Melano

I want to first give a big thank you to Ms. V, Ms. D, and Mr. Rodriguez for all their support and the motivation they gave me to push through when I wanted to give up, and a very big THANK YOU to Ms. V because she's been there since day one and has seen me grow into a better person and shaped me into who I am today. And also I want to give my mom, dad, and my daughter a huge thank you, all this wouldn't have happened without your guys' support, thanks for everything. I love and appreciate all you guys.



Tyion Milton

To all that have guided me throughout this journey in my life, I am beyond thankful I wouldn't have made it without you. It's been a long and hard road to finish high school but I'm finished. I have great motivators that inspire me to keep going when it gets rough. I never thought I'd see the day I would walk and receive my high school diploma. Teachers, students, football coaches, and even some of the closest people in my life doubted me. To my mom, thank you for pushing me when I didn't want to go, and even crying at times because I knew I would experience the same things over and over in school, but you never doubted me. To Mr. Hoppes, my woodshop teacher, thank you for staying those long hours and reading to clarify things when I didn't get it, you were the one person who took time to teach me things about school and life as a young man. This is only the beginning of my story. I'm glad I met great people in the course of these years, but it's time for me to move on in my life and accomplish bigger and better things, so thank you and I love you all, may peace be with you.