



SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

# DIGEST

## Celebrating Success IN SMITHTOWN



The members of the Class of 2018 celebrated the completion of their academic journeys at High School East and High School West during the 103rd commencement exercises on the football field on June 21. The graduates were joined by members of the Board of Education, administration, family, friends, faculty and invited guests.

At High School East, Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Grossane, in his address to graduates, referenced the Robert Fulghum poem, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

"No matter how old you are, when you go into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together," he said.

High School East Principal Dr. Kevin Simmons reminded the graduates to stay true to themselves and take advantage of the opportunities they will be presented with in the future.

"The future is in your capable hands, and we know our future is bright," Dr. Simmons said.

At High School West, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Jennifer Bradshaw, student-elected honor speaker Kevin Camson and senior class president Jenna Curcio delivered speeches filled with hopes, dreams and sage advice that assured

the graduates they were prepared to begin the next stage of their lives.

Sharing wisdom she learned reading Adam Grant's book "Give and Take," Ms. Bradshaw told the graduates that Grant's research finds that those who give come out ahead in both business and in life.

"Givers build larger, broader, more supportive networks of friends and colleagues. And they gain greater knowledge and experience through the broad network of people they are helping," she noted.

Kevin shared his personal story of overcoming obstacles. "There may be hurdles in your path; you may stumble," he said. "If you're anything like me, you will stumble but keep going. There may be hurdles you can't clear at all. Go around them. If you do, success will come down to two things: guidance and hard work."

Jenna used her time behind the podium to honor those who helped the seniors get to where they are today. "Our thank-you to those who have helped us is only beginning. Show them how thankful you are by making use of the precious gift of time which we all possess. Show our mentors that their time devoted to us was not in vain. They have all made a difference in our lives so that we can make a difference in the future."

Joining the High School West Class of 2018 in receiving a diploma was 87-year-old special guest Mordechai Miller. Mr. Miller, a native of Poland and a Holocaust survivor, was presented an honorary diploma from High School West Principal John Coady.

High School East's honor speaker, Matthew Timmel, recounted their journey from freshmen to senior year and the memories created along the way. He said that graduation was the recognition of an adventure that started 13 years ago, and no matter where they end up in life, Smithtown will remain their roots.

High School East's senior class president, Nicole Cahill, told her fellow graduates to strive for excellence in every task, no matter how large or small. She said that if everyone in the Class of 2018 lives up to their full potential, "just imagine the effect on the world we can have."

Following the conferring of diplomas, both the High School West and East Class of 2018 tossed their caps and celebrated their accomplishments with family and friends.

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**Accomplishments:**  
 National Merit Letters of Commendation: 7  
 National Merit Winner: 1  
 National Merit Finalists: 3  
 NYS Awards of Academic Excellence: 11  
 Regeneron STS Semifinalist Scholars: 3  
 Intel ISEF Finalists: 2

**Accomplishments:**  
 National Merit Letters of Commendation: 8  
 National Merit Finalist: 1  
 NYS Awards of Academic Excellence: 17  
 National Hispanic Scholar: 1  
 Regeneron STS Semifinalist Scholar: 1  
 Intel ISEF Winner: 1



**Class Statistics:**  
 Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: 72%  
 Regents Diploma: 25%  
 Total Regents Diplomas: 97%  
 Local Diploma: 3%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math: 0.25%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science: 13.43%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math & Science: 10.7%  
 Cohort Graduation Rate: 99%



**Class Statistics:**  
 Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation: 69%  
 Regents Diploma: 26%  
 Total Regents Diplomas: 95%  
 Local Diploma: 5%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math: 1.4%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Science: 12.79%  
 Regents with Advanced Designation with Mastery in Math & Science: 14.88%  
 Cohort Graduation Rate: 96%

# 2018 CLASS OF

## CONGRATS graduates!



**Top Colleges:**  
 Binghamton University  
 Brown University  
 Fordham University  
 George Washington University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 New York University  
 Providence College  
 Stony Brook University  
 Swathmore College  
 Temple University  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Rhode Island  
 Vassar College

**Top Colleges:**  
 Binghamton University  
 Drew University  
 Forest University  
 Georgetown University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Northeastern University  
 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Stony Brook University  
 United States Military Academy  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Notre Dame  
 University of South Carolina  
 Washington University  
 Yale University



# IT'S AN *Honor*

In lieu of a valedictorian and salutatorian, both of Smithtown's two high schools select an honor speaker to address the audience during the commencement exercises. This year's speakers, chosen by their classmates, were Matthew Timmel from HSE and Kevin Camson from HSW.



## Kevin Camson

With a weighted cumulative grade point average of 4.08, HSW's Kevin Camson served as founder and president of a club he established, Student Pipeline, which connects students to administrators who then collaborate to initiate change. He also served as the first student liaison to the Smithtown Central School District's Board of Education and was a student member on the School Start Times Steering Committee, a member of the Robin Hood Foundation's Teen Council in New York City and a co-chairperson of the Smithtown Youth Advisory Board's Planning and Projects Committee.

Kevin also spent all four years of high school on the track and field team. He will be attending the University of Notre Dame in the fall with a political science major.

## Matthew Timmel

Matthew Timmel possesses a cumulative grade point average of 4.13. Throughout high school, he has participated in clubs and activities that served to enhance his educational experience. Matthew has served as facilitator and senior leader of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. He was director of school store operations and president of DECA. Matthew was also a member of the Interact Club, and numerous honor societies including Math, National, New York State Business, Social Studies and Spanish.

Matthew will be attending Florida State University, majoring in business finance and computer science.

*Smithtown Central School District would like to thank the following retirees for their years of service and dedication:*

## *Retirees*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Elizabeth Braunreuther, food service worker, 20 years       | Diane McGuire, clerk typist, 14 years                        |
| Debra Canning, clerk typist, 19 years                       | Jeffrey Netter, elementary teacher, 31 years                 |
| Georgiana Colino, duplicating machine operator, 35 years    | Joan Pisano, senior office applications specialist, 17 years |
| Paul Cornwell, chief custodian, 23 years                    | Louise Prescott, librarian/school media specialist, 18 years |
| Barbara Delach, senior clerk typist, 22 years               | Debra Pymm, computer lab assistant, 20 years                 |
| Helene Suarez Doheny, music teacher, 44 years               | Gregory Rivera Jr., maintenance mechanic, 31 years           |
| Kim Emery, elementary teacher, 19 years                     | Ann Marie Scholz, principal clerk, 22 years                  |
| Claire Heatley-Mueller, reading teacher, 34 years           | Alice Serio, senior clerk typist, 20 years                   |
| Ingrid Hrvatin, administrator of guidance, 16 years         | Dolores Seyffert, tutor, 16 years                            |
| Jane Jordan, special education aide, 18 years               | Ellen Smith, senior clerk typist, 19 years                   |
| Hester Kanakaris, computer lab aide, 25 years               | Linda Stackow, reading teacher, 19 years                     |
| Elaine Kruk, senior clerk typist, 17 years                  | William Stockmann, head custodian, 18 years                  |
| Rosanne Lazarus, foreign language teacher, 40 years         | Laurie Sweeney, elementary teacher, 21 years                 |
| Amy Mannarino, guidance/school counselor, 18 years          | Antonio Tardio, custodial worker, 20 years                   |
| James Markey, preventative maintenance supervisor, 37 years | Margaret Wilkey, special education aide, 32 years            |
| Vincent Mazza, custodial worker, 15 years                   | Debra Zaleski, registered nurse, 23 years                    |

## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY DIGEST

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