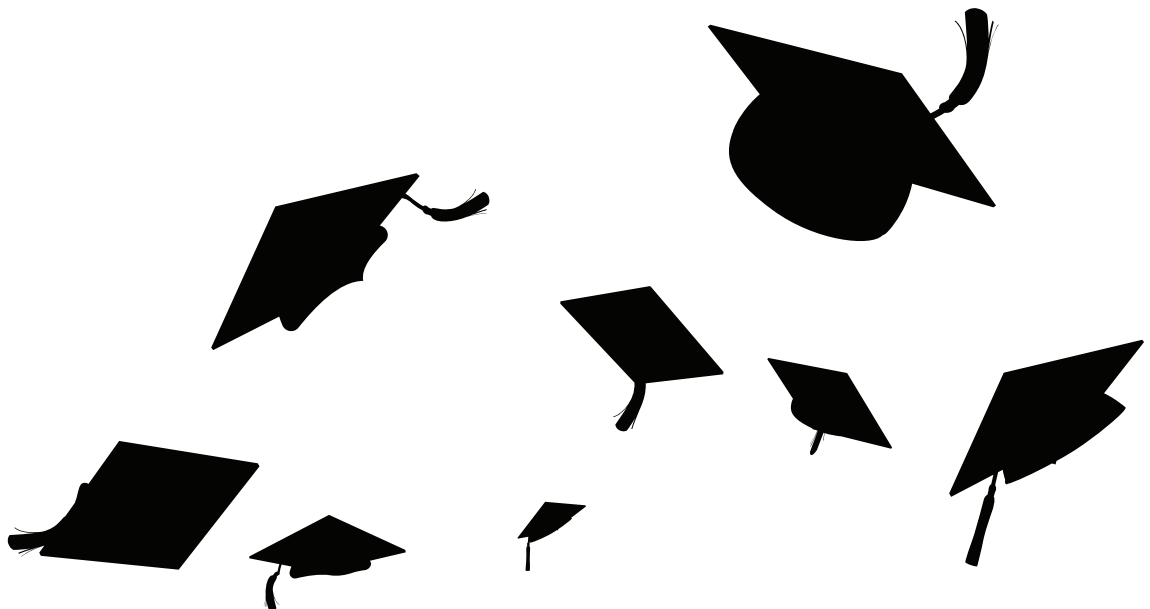




SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**65<sup>th</sup> TOP SENIORS**  
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

MAY 16, 2024



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65th ANNUAL

# CLASS OF 2024 TOP SENIORS

*A Celebration hosted by Century High School*

*May 16, 2024*

## WELCOME

Jerry Almendarez, Superintendent of Schools

## PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Santa Ana Unified NJROTC

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Julian Garcia

## CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Members, Board of Education

## STUDENT REMARKS

Julian Garcia

## Band Performance

Century High School's Mariachi Real de Siglo under the direction of Roberto Ontiveros

## TOP Seniors RECOGNITION

Nata Shin, Century High School

Trucker Clark, Ed.D., César E. Chávez High School

Amy Scruton, Círculos High School at ALA

Jesse Church, Hector Godinez Fundamental High School

Michael A. Parra, Lorin Grisette Academy

Damon Voight, Middle College High School

Edward Bustamante, Saddleback High School

Elizabeth Enloe, Santa Ana High School

David Casper, Segerstrom High School

Katherine Berger, Valley High School

## CLOSING

Jerry Almendarez, Superintendent of Schools





# CLASS OF 2024 TOP SENIORS SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process identifies and ranks students according to their weighted Academic Grade Point Average in grades 9 through 12 earned in semester and year-long courses.

In the event that there is a tie, the next criteria is Total Credits Earned and then AP Credits Earned. If there is still a tie, the Academic Grade Point Average from grades 10–12 will be the deciding factor.







# CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL



**Natalia Sanchez**

**Biology and Neuroscience, UCLA**

Being in the SAUSD Top Scholars to me is a great privilege. It has come with hard work, resilience, and perseverance. I am extremely grateful for the support I have had these past 4 years by my mentor, Mr. Payan, as well as various teachers and staff.



**Nicolas Beltran**

**Business Administration, UC Irvine**

It means a lot to me as I did not think I would be in this situation. I did not have the best grades during middle school and often thought I was going to do worse in high school. Younger me would be astonished at what I accomplished.



**Daniel Arroyo**

**Biology/Pre-Engineering, Davidson College**

I feel very proud to be able to represent my family with this award. My family is constantly supporting me and motivating me to do my best. I feel content with my academic journey and hope to continue to succeed in the future.



**Cristian Garcia**

**Education/Liberal Studies, Chapman University**

To me, being a Top SAUSD Scholar means that I have reached a level where my family has not gone yet. To me it means that Jesus Christ has heard my cries of bringing my family out of poverty. Even if I did not get this prestigious recognition, I do acknowledge and reflect that I went from being the poor little boy to now someone who is just waiting to go to college and then law school so that one day I may help those in need and give them a second chance in life, too.



**Julian Garcia**

**Political Science, UCLA**

Being an SAUSD Top Scholar serves as an example that the Hispanic community is hardworking and able to do anything. I'm able to demonstrate that the sacrifices of my parents were not in vain. In any educational institution, a student is able to strive along with the help of the amazing faculty and staff that surround them.



**Eduardo Heredia**

**Medical, Army**

Being in the SAUSD Top Scholars means that I am a hard worker. It means that I gave my all and more when I do my work. It means I overcame challenging obstacles that some others couldn't.



# CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL



**Daniel Navarro**

**Computer Science, CSU Long Beach**

I am honored to be among the SAUSD Top Scholars. It's a recognition of hard work and dedication. It feels like a surreal experience to be a part of.



**Saumot Ngam**

**Business, Irvine Valley College**

I am extremely happy to be one of SAUSDs Top Scholars because I have lived in Santa Ana for most of my life. I was introduced to new cultures, new traditions, and more importantly new people. I am grateful for the support from my family and Century High, and I will continue to focus on this chapter of my life.



**Alexander Nova**

**Sociology, Chapman University**

To be a top scholar means to keep working harder. To continue and push through the difficulties and challenges that come with education, even after recognition. Pushing through allows me to motivate my peers to surpass their own challenges and beyond.



**Juanita Nunez Ortiz**

**Civil Engineering, UC Davis**

Knowing that my hard work and dedication in pursuing my academic goals have paid off is incredibly fulfilling. This is such a gratifying moment for my family and me. I feel proud of myself for achieving this unanticipated success.



**Christopher Ortega**

**Game Design & Interactive Media & Software Engineering, UC Irvine**

To be a SAUSD Top Scholar is an achievement that shows my accomplishments over the years since it displays my overachieving personality and dedication to continuing my education after high school. It is a testament to my devotion to my parents as I want to ensure the sacrifices they made throughout the years to provide me with an education were worthwhile. Being a SAUSD Top Scholar is a privilege and honor and demonstrates my hard work as I hope to continue this fruit of ambition for years to come.



**Alan Ramirez Leal**

**Engineering/Aerospace Engineering, CSU Long Beach**

It means a lot to me to be in the SAUSD Top Scholars. I never expected to be one of the top students here at Century or a Top Scholar by the end of high school because I was simply just trying to get good grades. I never would've thought I'd be in this position, but here we are.



**Jessy Rojas**

**Computer Engineering, CSU Fullerton**

Being part of the SAUSD Top Scholars makes me so proud of myself. I was able to accomplish a goal that I put so much work into and in the end I achieve.



**Badriyah Sann**

**Neuroscience, UCLA**

A huge relief. Knowing that I persevered despite repeated failures.



**Jessica So**

**Computer Science, UC Irvine**

Being a top scholar honors the years of work that I've put into showing my best self in an academic setting. Although there have been many rough times and regrets throughout my academic years, being a scholar proves to me that I am capable of persevering, no matter the challenge. I'm by no means a perfect student, but I certainly am not one to back down.



# CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ HIGH SCHOOL



**Sophia Dalilah Loera**

**Automotive, Cypress College**

I am beyond grateful and astonished to be recognized as a Top Senior student this year! I would not have been able to graduate early, attend college and accomplish all my goals without the support and love from Mr. Delgado, Mr. Garcia and most of all my resilient mother. I hope to continue to grow and make my dreams a reality! Anything is possible!



**Stephanie Medina**

**Engineering, Santa Ana College**

I am very honored to be part of the Top Senior students and thankful to be presented as a Top Scholar for SAUSD. I am very proud of my hard work and dedication and being recognized for my hard work has been an honor. I would like to thank my parents, family, the teachers who would always help by giving me advice, and to my friends who wanted to see me succeed.



# CÍRCULOS HIGH SCHOOL AT ADVANCED LEARNING ACADEMY



**Angel Sanchez**

**Civil Engineering, UC Irvine**

Being recognized as a SAUSD Top Senior scholar is a major accomplishment and privilege that I am thankful for. It's an honor to be acknowledged for my academic success, and I am proud of my achievement. I am extremely grateful for the support, encouragement, and positivity from my family, friends, teachers, and counselor.



**David Hernandez**

**Astronomy, UC Irvine**

If I were ever told that I would make it to a top list in anything academic related, I would've laughed and thought it was a joke. Now that I have actually received the honor of being a SAUSD Top Senior, I am speechless. I am truly honored to have reached this milestone, and I feel touched that my hard work is being noticed. Of course none of this would be possible without the help of my parents who not only pushed me to be a better student, but also pushed me to become a man. I also want to thank my teachers and school counselor for giving me such a great educational experience and the motivation to push myself to be who I am now, for without them I would not have achieved being one of SAUSD's Top Seniors.





# GODINEZ FUNDAMENTAL HIGH SCHOOL



**Estrella Castro**

**Aerospace Engineering, UC Berkeley**

It is an honor to be recognized as a Top Scholar. These past 4 years have been a testament to the hard work and dedication that I have applied to my academics. I would like to thank all of the teachers who have touched my academic journey and my counselor Mr. Hall for being my greatest source of support.



**Diego Arroyo Chavez**

**Mechanical Engineering, Notre Dame**

It is with great honor and privilege to be part of the SAUSD Top Scholars. It is satisfying to know that after four years of hard work and dedication, I can show my academic success in a way that recognizes my achievements. I want to thank all my friends and family who have supported me along the way!



**Edwin Vidal**

**Economics, Notre Dame**

It is especially an honor to be selected as one of the Top Seniors. The success I have found throughout high school is not just through the fruit of my labor but, as well as the massive support I would receive from my family, friends, and the Godinez staff. I hope to further continue along my journey and reach for greater heights.



**Arman Sangar**

**Data Science, UC Davis**

It is an honor to be a part of SAUSD's Top Seniors. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication I have put into academics. I would like to thank my family, friends, and especially my counselor, Mr Hall, for all the help and support they have given me these past four years. I look forward to seeing what comes next.



**Rachel Solano**

**Biochemistry, UC Irvine**

Receiving recognition as one of the Top Seniors in the district is a grand accomplishment and honorable mention. I demonstrated determination and perseverance toward obtaining an education the past four years, excelling in my academics and becoming an admirable individual. I want to thank my mother for believing in me when I did not believe in myself, my friends for supporting me through challenging moments, and myself for not letting the opinions of others discourage me from pursuing my goals.



**Katie Segura**

**Art, UC Davis**

It is a great pleasure to be recognized as part of Top Scholars. The guidance from the staff at Godinez and the support from friends and family have pushed me to reach great heights. As such, I would like to thank everyone and I hope to continue being a high-achieving student.



**Jaydon Hsia**

**Computer Science, UC Irvine**

It is an honor to have been selected as one of the Top Seniors in SAUSD. I am grateful that my hard work and effort over the past four years have paid off. I could not have done it without the help of my friends, family, counselors, and teachers. I am excited to continue my educational career at UCI.



**Valeria Godinez**

**Sociology, UC Irvine**

It is with great honor that I am part of SAUSD's Top Seniors. I am immensely grateful for my counselors, teachers, family, and friends for supporting and believing in me throughout the past four years. I will strive to continue growing, both academically and personally, to achieve my long-term goals and succeed in future endeavors.



**Katherine Gomez**

**Psychology, Chapman University**

To graduate with this honor is a privilege. Being selected as one of the Top Scholars comes to show how all my hard work and extra effort and time I've put has been worth it. I would like to thank my ultimate supporter, my mother for "Cuando me veas volar recuerda que tu me pintaste las alas."



# GODINEZ FUNDAMENTAL HIGH SCHOOL



**Xanthi Montes Lopez**  
Civil Engineering, UC Irvine

I am profoundly honored and grateful to be recognized as being part of SAUSD's Top Senior students this year. It fills me with great pride knowing that my hard work and dedication to my rigorous classes led to me being noticed for all my efforts, and I will only work harder going forward. I want to thank my counselor Mr. Hall for being a massive source of help during confusion, as well as my teachers for aiding me to succeed, but most importantly my friends and family for believing in me through and through.



**Arturo Magana-Colin**  
Biology, Tufts

It is an honor to have been part of this year's SAUSD Top Seniors. I have grown a lot mentally these past four years and cannot wait to do so at college. I would like to thank my counselor and parents for supporting me in tough situations.



**Cristine Pedraza**  
Cellular and Molecular Biology, UC Berkeley

It is an incredible honor to be part of SAUSD's Top Scholars. I am filled with immense gratitude at having been recognized for my successes these past few years. Although this is an individual recognition, my success is a result of the hard work and dedication of multiple people, and I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, and counselors who have all made this possible.



**Kendyl Pola**  
Political Science, UC San Diego

I am extremely honored to be a part of SAUSD's Top Scholars. I would like to thank and express gratitude towards my family and all the faculty who have helped me succeed over these past 4 years. Most importantly, I want to give a huge thank you to my sisters and my niece who have been my support system through everything!



**David Escobedo**  
History, Tufts

I feel blessed to be selected as a Top Seniors student. I truly appreciate all of my mentors and teachers in the past four years. I want to thank Mr. Hall, my counselor, for the insane amount of time he dedicated to helping me figure out college preparation. I also want to thank my parents for supporting me throughout these past four years. I am proud of the hard work I put in and can't wait to see how my educational journey continues in the future.



**Nazanin Shkula**  
Computer Science, CSU Fullerton

I would like to thank my parents for putting in so much effort to get me to where I am now. I would also like to thank my siblings who have guided me whenever I felt stuck. My success is theirs and I would not be who I am without them.



# LORIN GRISET ACADEMY



**Melani Melendez**

**Nursing, Santa Ana College**

Being Top Senior to me means being an attentive, dedicated, and motivated student that wants the best future possible. I want to thank my parents and my sisters for always pushing me to be the best version of myself. My plan after high school is to attend college and become a labor and delivery nurse.



**Jenny Rocha**

**Child Development, Santa Ana College**

Being a Top Senior means so much to me because all the hard work I have done is finally paying off. First, I would like to thank my parents for always supporting me in my education, and secondly, I would like to thank all my teachers and my counselor at Lorin Griset Academy for helping me reach my goals and always being there for me. My plan for the future is to go to college to study Child Development to become a preschool teacher.



# MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL



**Katherine Alderete**

**Computer Science, Harvard**

Being honored as a Top Scholar is truly a blessing. I am grateful for my friends, family, and mentors who endlessly supported me throughout four years of personal growth. Beyond high school, I hope to continue honoring my culture and pursuing my goals.



**Guadalupe Vargas-Gomez**

**Nursing, CSU Long Beach**

I am honored to represent the Top Senior students in SAUSD. During my four years at MCHS, I have been presented with numerous opportunities and have received valuable guidance along my journey, all of which have led me to this moment. This acknowledgement is dedicated to my family, my biggest source of motivation.



**Aracely Iturbide**

**Psychology, CSU Fullerton**

Being recognized as a Top Senior student in SAUSD is truly an honor. It is with the endless love and support from my family that I have garnered perseverance and ambition to pursue my passions and goals. For that, I dedicate this achievement to them and strive to make them proud as I continue my educational journey.



**Keyla Bautista Ponce**

**Pre-Med, UCLA**

I am honored to receive this recognition, and beyond grateful to my family, friends, and teachers. These four years have been full of different lessons that I will cherish and carry with me. I am excited to see what the future awaits.





# SADDLEBACK HIGH SCHOOL



**Jeanelle Ayala**  
**Biology, UCLA**

It is my most incredible honor to be recognized as one of the Top Seniors in the district, as it demonstrates that my arduous work and dedication have truly paid off. As a first-generation college student and daughter of immigrants, a recognition like this one ignites a flame within me to reach my fullest potential. I will forever be grateful for my family, friends, and teachers who have supported and believed in me throughout all my years in high school.



**Angel Brisenio**  
**Mechanical Engineering, UCLA**

Being a Top Senior shows all the hard work done these past 4 years is finally paying off and was worth it. I want to thank all of the teachers who have helped and guided me, and to the IB class of 2024, both teachers and students, for the support over the years. Finally, I want to thank my family for being there from the start, and sacrificing their time to help me on this journey, as without them I would not have been able to complete it.



**Marleni Hernandez Ruiz**  
**Political Science, UCLA**

Becoming a Top Senior is an honor and a testament to my hard work and dedication to my education. Thanks to my family, friends, and teachers, I can achieve the career of my dreams. I hope to continue excelling and use this recognition to motivate myself.



**Frank Ocampo**  
**Computer Engineering/Computer Science, UC Irvine**

Being a part of the Top Seniors has showed me that commitment and hard work can pay off. Commitment to my work has allowed me to continue it and not give up in the face of adversity. Hard work has allowed me to realize that sometimes there are no shortcuts, and sometimes problems have been solved the long way or no way.



**Jahaira Zavala**  
**Chemistry, CSU Long Beach**

I've learned many things throughout high school; for me, perseverance was the biggest lesson I learned as I know it led me to success. Being a Top Senior reminds me that my hard work wasn't for nothing, as it is a stepping stone to my future. I'm thankful to all those who supported me, and most of all thankful to my family as they continue to be my support for the coming future.



**Ital Ulloa Espino**  
**Aerospace Engineering, UC Irvine**

Being a part of the Top Seniors is a great accomplishment for all of us. It shows our dedication and hard work all throughout high school. I'm very grateful to my teachers friends and family. They have helped me all throughout high school.



**Miryam Lopez**  
**Nursing, UC Irvine**

It is a great honor being a Top Senior as to me, it shows that all my hard work throughout the years has paid off. I am beyond proud of how much I've grown and how far I have gotten throughout my years attending Saddleback as a part of the IB program. It has been a challenge, but I accomplished it and I would like to thank all those who have supported me along this journey, pushing me to do my best and bringing out the best in me.



**Giang Trinh**  
**Biomedical Engineering, UC Berkeley**

Being a part of the district's Top Seniors is an honor that reminds me my hard work and dedication paid off. Throughout my years of school, I have learned to appreciate the opportunity my parents and community gave me to pursue education and realize my academic potential. I'm grateful to my family, teachers, coaches and friends who have inspired me with their strong work ethic and were there to cheer for me. Even though life is unpredictable, I can't wait to see what the future holds.



**Marvin Flores**  
**Chemistry, CSU Fullerton**

Being a Top Senior is the greatest honor I have ever received in my life as it shows how much I have dedicated myself to being one of the top students in Santa Ana Unified School District. The resilience I have displayed my four years in high school is clearly shown through my grades and the way I am as a person as both my family and my school have pushed me to do my best for every challenge that I have faced. All of my struggles and accomplishments that I had over these four years show that I will do well enough in the future as life continues to get harder and harder.



# SADDLEBACK HIGH SCHOOL



**Zakorah Jenkins**

**Atmospheric Science, UC Davis**

Having the honor of being a part of the Top Seniors is proof that my hardships and trials I've endured as a scholar are not in vain. I'm gracious to my fellow teachers and classmates that have stuck by my side through my rise and falls. I hope to one day to change the world for the better through my determination and be a role-model for aspiring Black girls like I once was.



**Alejandro Noyola**

**Aerospace Engineering, Santa Ana College**

Bring part of the district's Top Seniors is a testament to the hard work and dedication I've put in to my education over the years. I hope to keep on being successful with my life and education after high school. I would like to thank my parents for encouraging me and pushing me to be better each day.



**Amos Alas Yac**

**Biology, UC Santa Barbara**

Being a part of the district's Top Seniors represents all of the hard work and dedication that was put forth into my education. The journey wasn't easy, but it has taught me a lot of important things that I believe I will be able to apply in my future like managing my time, being responsible, and holding myself accountable. I definitely look forward to my journey in the future and I want to thank my mom for being able to be of guidance in my life as well as all of my teachers and friends.



**Dulce (Lilac) Salazar**

**Robotic/Mechanical Engineering, Cal Poly Pomona**

Coming from a low-income family with so little to offer, it is a great honor to have received this award as being one of the Top Seniors in the Santa Ana District. These past 4 years haven't been the easiest for me, but having to work hard academically has paid off and was worth every minute of it. I will forever be grateful for all the people and programs who have supported me throughout my academic years and I look forward to what else the future has prepared for me.



**Jocelyn Cisneros**

**Pre-Health Care, CSU Long Beach**

I am thankful to be one of the Top Seniors in my class, where all my hard work and challenges in pursuing a higher education paid off. I appreciate my parents' support and sacrifices for me to obtain an education. This accomplishment motivates me to continue moving forward.



**Izabel Esperides**

**Animal Science, CSU Fresno**

Being a Top Senior represents all of my hard work and sacrifices that I have had to go through my high school years. I'd like to thank all my parents, my teachers, and my friends for believing me and supporting me since the beginning. I look forward to continue excelling and to be able to achieve my career dreams.



# SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL



**Mia Gonzalez**

**Biology, Columbia**

Being acknowledged as a Top Senior scholar of SAUSD is truly a privilege. I take great pride in being a member of such an incredible community, and I am forever thankful for the knowledge I have gained. I extend my gratitude to my teachers, friends, family, and most importantly, my parents, Alvaro and Mayte, for their unwavering support.



**Betsy Perez**

**Business Administration, Marist College**

Being recognized as one of the Top Senior students in SAUSD is truly a privilege. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my friends and family for their unwavering support throughout this journey. Additionally, I am grateful for my commitment to surpassing expectations and continually challenging myself to evolve and grow as an individual.



**Brenda Duran-Velazco**

**Occupational Therapy/Nursing/Biology, USC**

It is an honor to be one of the Top Senior students in SAUSD. I would like to thank my family, teachers, mentors, and my counselor who has guided me through this journey. I am excited to further embark on this journey and pursue a higher education to later give back to my community.



**Daniela Ignacio Aguilar**

**Studio Art, CSU Fullerton**

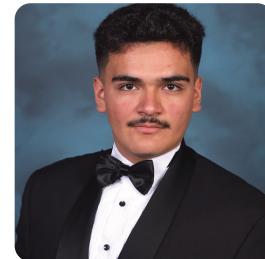
Being part of the Top Senior students in SAUSD is a true honor, and it's incredibly fulfilling to see my efforts acknowledged. I'm immensely thankful for the unwavering support of my family, friends, and teachers throughout this journey.



**Brianna Cerna**

**Biology/Biomedical/Engineering/Political Science, USC**

I am grateful for the honor to be part of the Top Senior students of SAUSD. I thank my parents, family, community, and God for supplying everything I needed to make this possible. This recognition serves to prove my ability, and potential I plan to continue to demonstrate. As a representation of my Hispanic community, I will take my ambition, determination, and culture wherever I continue my educational pursuits. This will not be the last of my achievements, and I can't wait to continue my path to discover my capabilities. Thank you!



**Manuel Ruelas**

**Mechanical Engineering, UC Berkeley**

It is an honor to be recognized as one of the Top Seniors students in the district. I am thankful for my family, especially as they have supported me to the best of their ability. I also thank my teachers for playing a role model in my life. I am extremely grateful to be involved in this ceremony and want to thank everyone for believing in me.



**Anthony Aparicio**

**Computer Science, UC Berkeley**

I accept this award with honor, representing the Top Senior students in SAUSD. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity. I have found love at SAHS and hope to gear this knowledge towards my future aspirations. I would like to dedicate this achievement to my family and closest friends and hopefully many more acknowledgments in the future.



**Angie Regalado**

**Business Administration, Notre Dame**

I am filled with gratitude for this recognition as one of the Top Senior students in my district. Having my hard work and dedication be recognized has been an honor. I am grateful to my family, teachers, and friends for the endless support.



**Reyli Santamaria**

**Computer Science, CSU Fullerton**

To be recognized as one of the Top Senior students in the district is truly an honor and privilege. This gave me a great feeling of accomplishment, knowing that my efforts were able to be acknowledged. I am deeply grateful to my teachers, friends, and family for their love and encouragement for my education because it was what pushed me to get this far. Being a part of this incredible recognition inspires me even more to keep growing.





# SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL



**Guadalupe Vazquez Perez**  
**Undeclared, UCLA**

I am honored to be recognized as one of the Top Senior students in SAUSD. As I graduate from Santa Ana High School, I look forward to continuing my education in college and all the new things I'll experience in life. I would like to thank my family, friends, teachers, and myself for always pushing me to reach for more. Thank you for this opportunity.



**Patricia Jane Garcia**  
**Nursing, CSU Long Beach**

I'm honored to be part of the Top Seniors, and I'm honored that my efforts have been recognized. I couldn't have done it without the help of my family, teachers, and friends. Here is to more years of success!



**Monica Lam**  
**Biology, UC Irvine**

It is an honor to be part of the Top Senior awards because it shows the hard work and dedication I've put in and being recognized for it. I am grateful for my teachers and friends who helped and pushed me throughout my high school years. I will forever cherish the memories that were made with the people I've met.



**Esmeralda Quezada**  
**Business Accounting, CSU Fullerton**

It is an honor and privilege to be recognized as one of the district's Top Seniors. I am truly honored and grateful to everyone who has helped me along the way to reach this incredible achievement. I wish to earn a degree in Accounting and Business Finance. The recognition for this achievement gives me great pleasure and honor and pushes me to do more for my own progress. I am extremely grateful first to God, my family, and my teachers and friends who have supported me along the way these past years.



**Jack Rivera**  
**Mathematics in Education, Chapman**

I am very pleased and honored to receive SAUSD Top Senior recognition. I am extremely excited to see what the future has in store for me and my family as we get ready to prepare for life after high school. I am extremely blessed that God has put our family in this position to succeed and once again I am honored to be Top Senior.



**Luis Tlachi**  
**Architecture/Computer Science, UC Berkeley**

It is a great pleasure to be recognized as one of the Top Seniors in the district. My ambition has led me to achieve my academic goals despite the obstacles I encountered. I give glory to God for the love and blessings he gives me. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to my family for their support.



# SEGERSTROM HIGH SCHOOL



**Jordan Bergmann**

**Aeronautics/Astronautics, MIT**

I am proud to be in good company with the brightest of our community. I wouldn't be here without the guidance of my teachers, mentors, and family; who nurtured my passion and curiosity so that I could pursue my dreams. No words are enough to thank them, and I am forever indebted for the knowledge they have shared with me.



**Brandy Figueroa**

**Political Science/Pre-Law, Harvard**

I am honored to be celebrated with this distinction and extremely grateful to everyone who has helped me get where I am. Being a Top Senior is a testament to what I can accomplish and a reminder that there's always more to be done for myself, my community, and the world. More than anything, this milestone serves as a promise to myself and others that I will dedicate my life to hard work and servitude, paying back all that I have been given and more.



**Brandon Vu**

**Biochemistry/Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC Irvine**

Graduating as a Top Senior is the culmination of years of hard work from not just myself, but all the people supporting me. I would not have made it this far without my parents, and I am sure I will go far with their continued support. This recognition is a great stepping stone into college and into my future career.



**Eric Hong**

**Business Economics, UCLA**

Being chosen as a Top Senior is truly an honor. I am grateful for the support of my family and friends throughout this challenging journey. Despite its difficulties, this path has allowed me to create numerous cherished memories, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be in this position. Cảm ơn.



**Toan Vu**

**Biology/Pre-Med, UC Irvine**

It is a great honor to be recognized as a Top Senior in the Santa Ana Unified School District. It is rewarding to see my hard work culminate as I approach the completion of high school. I am grateful to my family for their unwavering support in my academic endeavors and to my friends for keeping me grounded through my high school years. I look forward to the next chapter in my life.



**Andrew Fuentes**

**Physics, UCLA**

I am humbled to be recognized as one of SAUSD's Top Seniors. This achievement symbolizes the culmination of my dedication, effort, and achievements during my high school years. I am grateful to the Segerstrom staff, my friends, and my family for their support and guidance throughout this remarkable experience.



**Alina De Allende**

**Aerospace Engineering, Notre Dame**

I am thankful to be recognized as one of SAUSD's Top Seniors; graduating with this recognition is an honor. These past four years have taught me that perseverance and dedication will always help me achieve my goals. Additionally, I am forever grateful for the constant love and support that my family has given me. Thank you mom, dad, and brother.



**Kylie Wong**

**Mathematics, UC Irvine**

I am honored to be recognized as one of the Top Seniors in SAUSD. I am thankful to God, my family, as well as the Segerstrom staff for their unwavering support during my high school journey. Thank you mom, dad and sister for your love and guidance, you have shaped the values that have brought me to where I stand today.



**Isabella Alaniz**

**Art/Animation, UC Santa Barbara**

I am grateful to be recognized as one of the Top Seniors in the district. I express my deepest thanks to all who supported me in achieving this milestone, especially my family, without whom this achievement would not have been possible. Looking forward to the future, I am thrilled about the opportunities that lie ahead.



# SEGERSTROM HIGH SCHOOL



**Minh Nguyen**

**Nursing, CSU Long Beach**

I am truly honored to have been selected as a SAUSD Top Senior. I extend my deepest gratitude to my family for their support and encouragement, which has been instrumental in guiding me to this point. Achieving the title of Top Senior fills me with immense joy and pride.



**Dev Vasu**

**Aerospace Engineering, USC**

A Top Senior to me is a person who constantly strives to improve and grow. I am greatly honored to be a Top Senior within the Santa Ana Unified School District. A heartfelt thank you to my family, mentors, and friends. Your patience during challenging times, wise counsel in difficult situations, and constant support mean the world to me.



**Joshua Vu**

**Psychology, UC Irvine**

I am overjoyed that my dedication and effort are allowing me to stand alongside other enthusiastic scholars. Graduating as one of SAUSD's Top Seniors is a significant accomplishment. I owe this moment to the wonderful individuals at Segerstrom HS and my family, who have supported me, guided me, and helped create fond high school memories.



**Nadia Castaneda**

**International Business, UC San Diego**

To be acknowledged as a Top Senior validates the fruits of my labor and the unwavering support of my mother. From Kindergarten to 12th grade, my mother has stood by my side cheering me on, providing endless encouragement. I am filled with a sense of achievement, excellence, and appreciation for the educators who have cultivated my academic development, and for my mother, who has nurtured my personal growth.



**Rebecca Ventura**

**Human Biology, UC San Diego**

Being selected as one of SAUSD's Top Seniors is truly an honor! A big THANK YOU to my amazing parents, for their many sacrifices so that I could have access to an educational environment where I could thrive. Despite the challenges, the unwavering support from my inner circle has fueled my determination to achieve greatness and succeed.



**Cristhian Orozco**

**Aerospace Engineering, UC Irvine**

Graduating as a distinguished senior signifies the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance, and diligent effort. I want to express my utmost appreciation to my family, my friends, and the SAUSD staff whose unwavering support has been my essential foundation throughout this journey. Being acknowledged as a Top Senior fills me with immense pride and gratitude, knowing that my endeavors have been recognized and celebrated by my peers and mentors alike.





# VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



**Andres Badillo**  
**Neuroscience, UCLA**

Receiving the SAUSD Top Seniors Recognition is a notable achievement throughout my high school journey. This achievement will demonstrate the consistent work ethic and achievement I have completed over the years. Si se puede, as my parents emphasize consistently.



**Briza Contreras**  
**Business, UCLA**

Being recognized for this achievement brings me with immense gratitude. This accomplishment wouldn't have been possible without the support and guidance from God and my loving family. Their unwavering encouragement and belief in me have been the driving force behind my success.



**Jazmin Rodriguez**  
**Business Management, Notre Dame**

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**Jorge Hernandez**  
**Biochemistry, Notre Dame**

Being a Top Scholar is a great honor that goes to validate my tireless work throughout high school. I am eternally grateful for all the support throughout the years. With special thanks to my parents.



**Annie Huynh**  
**Biochemistry, UCLA**

Being recognized as a Top Scholar symbolizes that all of my efforts from the past 4 years of high school have paid off and have been acknowledged. I am truly grateful for all of the support from my family, friends and my mentors through my high school and college process.



**Brandon Pham**  
**Pharmaceutical Sciences, UC Irvine**

Achieving SAUSD Top Scholar is but the first step in a long journey of success. Life is a marathon and this start sends me sprinting toward a bright future. My efforts have rang true and will hopefully echo throughout my life.



**Edith Hernandez**  
**Environmental Science, UC Santa Cruz**

I am honored to be SAUSD's Top Scholars. It means so much to me because it shows that all my hard work paid off. I want to thank my family for always supporting me with all their words of encouragement.



**Mist Guzman**  
**Business Management, Chapman**

Taking part in SAUSD's Top Scholars is an incredible privilege. My endeavors are being showcased in a meaningful manner due to my amazing support system. I would especially like to thank myself for always striving beyond what's expected.



**Gisselle Avina**  
**Undecided, UC Berkeley**

Graduating with the honor of being a Top Scholar feels unbelievable. I want to thank my family and friends for always believing in me and I'm grateful for all the support I've had. I'm proud to be one of the Top Seniors students, and I'll keep doing my best in everything I do in the future.



# VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



**America Agustiniano**  
**Psychology & Law, Pepperdine/NYU**

It is an honor to be a part of the TOP Scholars. Receiving this honor means a lot to me. All the hard work and dedication throughout my years have led me to this opportunity. I would like to thank my family, friends, and the Valley staff who have helped me.



**Destiny Diaz**  
**Undeclared, UCLA**

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**Angel Benitez**  
**Computer Science, Notre Dame**

To be able to graduate with this recognition is an honor and I feel proud of myself for being able to achieve such an accomplishment. Graduating as a Top Scholar feels like reassurance that all my hard work and determination has value.



**Gabriel Carrada**  
**Atmospheric Science/Meteorology, Stanford**

Being selected as one of SAUSD's Top Scholars is an honor that shows my dedication and hard work have paid off. Thank you to my friends, family, teachers, and mentors for supporting me through my academic journey.



**Ashley Calderon-Herrera**  
**Undecided, Orange Coast College**

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**Ruby Aguilar**  
**Plant Biology, UC Davis**

It is an honor to be recognized as a Top Scholar. This achievement confirms that my hard work paid off. I am grateful to my family, friends, the NAC staff, and the Valley staff for the support they have given me.



# CLASS OF 2024 TOP SENIORS OUR THANKS

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**Century High School**  
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**Godinez Fundamental High School**  
Jesse Church, Principal

**Lorin Griset Academy**  
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**Middle College High School**  
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David Casper, Principal

**Valley High School**  
Katherine Berger, Principal

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**Century High  
School**







**CONGRATULATIONS,  
SAUSD CLASS OF  
2024!**

