

Our Gateway to College Story



In 2000, Portland Community College developed the Gateway to College program to reconnect young people with their education. Through the GtC program students were able to complete their high school diplomas while simultaneously earning college credits toward a degree or certificate.

This innovative and successful approach captured the attention of the Gates Foundation and other funders whose donations have made it possible for this single-site to evolve into a network of college-based programs across the nation. Holistic student support, innovative teaching and learning, and intentional collaboration are guiding principles found throughout the Gateway to College National Network.

In the spring of 2012, Shasta College, in partnership with the Shasta Union High School District, applied for a Gateway to College replication grant. After a thorough review and site visits from the funders, Shasta College received notification that they had been selected for a grant to begin a Gateway to College program on the Shasta College campus for the 2013-2014 school year.

After hiring staff and receiving training on the Gateway model, the program enrolled the first cohort of 23 students and began classes on August 19, 2013. Since that time, the program has enjoyed steady growth. To date there have been 300 graduates.

For the past seven years the Shasta College Gateway to College program has been honored to receive the Gateway to College National Network's Program Excellence Award for exemplary performance, including the highest graduation rate of the Gateway programs across the nation.

The Gateway to College team is excited about completing the thirteenth year of service to our community and continuing the mission of offering a second chance to students seeking an opportunity to reengage with their education.

Gateway to College

The 13th Annual GRADUATION CEREMONY



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

AT FOUR O'CLOCK

SHASTA COLLEGE THEATRE

REDDING, CALIFORNIA

Congratulations Graduates!

Fall 2025

ADAO BAGAFORO
RYAN HALLETT
HUNTER MCCOVEY
ADDELYNN MORRIS
AIDEN RIERA-VANDRE
BRENDJAH WASHINGTON
AUDREY WISHARD

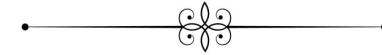
Spring 2026

MALIA ANDERSON	MALIYA MARTIN-HEARD
NOAH BAILEY	MAX MASLIN
SAMANTHA BELL *	NOAH MCCOY *
GAELYN BRYANT *	LAYNEE MCLEAN *
IZABELLA CARDENAS	KENZI NAVA *
ZAYNE DWYER	LOGAN ORTIZ
CANYON ECKERT *	FANTASIA PLOTKIN
RUBY ESCOBEDO	RILEY RICHARDSON
ELLIOT LEROY *	SYRUS ROBERTS *
ELYSZE MARTIN	MORGAN SLOAN

* Notates students who have completed Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Acknowledgements

Throughout the year, countless individuals, departments, and organizations have assisted and supported the Gateway students and staff. As a result, each of them share in the success of today's graduates. Our warmest thanks goes out to each of you for the many ways, both large and small, you have helped make this day possible!



SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

OWEN CROSBY - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
LEO PEREZ - ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT
TIM CALKINS - PRINCIPAL, PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL
JON EATON - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL
JENNIFER REED, AMANDA SMITH, & DAN VOORHES - PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL
SUHSD COUNSELORS & TECHNOLOGY

SHASTA COLLEGE

DR. FRANK NIGRO - DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT
DR. TIMOTHY JOHNSTON - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT/VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES
SANDRA HAMILTON - DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES
DR. KATE MAHAR - DEAN OF INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVE
DENISE AXTELL & THE FOOD SERVICES TEAM
JEREMY WICKENHEISER & THE TRIO PROGRAM
ADMISSIONS & REGISTRATION, FINANCIAL AID, PACE,
STARBUCKS, ACSS DIVISION, LIBRARY SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY,
THE BASIC NEEDS RESOURCE CENTER, PHYSICAL PLANT, HEALTH AND WELLNESS OFFICE,
MARKETING & OUTREACH, SCI*FI FOSTER YOUTH PROGRAM, EOPS, PRINT SHOP,
TECHNOLOGY TEAM, DAPS DIVISION, SHASTA COLLEGE FACULTY,
NORTH STATE TOGETHER, CAMPUS SAFETY, BUSINESS SERVICES, PAYROLL,
HUMAN RESOURCES, AND THE SHASTA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

THE GATEWAY TO COLLEGE NATIONAL NETWORK

...and the many others who have supported and generously contributed to the Gateway to College program throughout the year!



Message from our Instructors

Congratulations Class of 2026! As you embark on this new adventure, discovering and pursuing your dreams, remember all that you have navigated and overcome to reach this significant milestone. May you continue to invest in yourself and others, contributing toward deepening the goodness, truth and beauty within and around you – even in the moments when it may be difficult to see. It has been an absolute privilege walking this leg of the journey with you all, and I look forward to seeing what is next!

Dr. Jennifer Costillo, College Instructor

STU50: GETTING CONNECTED, STU1: COLLEGE SUCCESS, STU92: WORKSITE READINESS

Congratulations, Graduates!

Think about the times when it seemed like this milestone was never going to happen. Some of you were dealing with struggles that your classmates and instructors might not fully understand, such as issues around health, money loss, anxiety, or just trying to believe in yourself. You stand here today because you kept going anyway.

This graduation is not only about finishing high school. It is about how you kept going, and how you were willing to keep trying when things got tough. Being successful does not always mean everything is perfect. It does not always happen as others expect. A lot of you showed how strong you are by persevering and finding your way.

You've proven you can handle challenges. You now know how to communicate with clarity, manage conflict with grace, and lead with intellect and empathy. So, what is next?

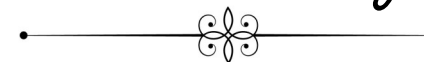
Let this milestone be a new beginning. Lead with purpose. Listen actively. Act wisely. And go forward with honesty and kindness. Look for opportunities to make a positive difference.

Wishing you all the best!

Desirée Lesicko, College Instructor

CALS 262: MODES OF EXPRESSION, CALS 260: MONEY MATTERS

The Ceremony



PROCESSIONAL

"POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR

INTRODUCTION OF GRADUATES

CORRIE DUFFY, ADMIN PROFESSIONAL—GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

WELCOME ADDRESS & PRESENTATION OF CLASS

CAT MORTON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR—GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

OPENING WORDS

DR. FRANK NIGRO, SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT—SHASTA COLLEGE

TIM CALKINS, PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—SUHSD

STUDENT SPEAKERS

MALIA ANDERSON

KENZI NAVA

CANYON ECKERT

ADDELYNN MORRIS

GAELYN BRYANT

ELYSZE MARTIN

SPECIAL AWARDS

HOLLY EDWARDS, STUDENT SERVICES SPECIALIST—GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

MATT ROGERS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR—GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

READING OF NAMES & AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

SCOTT YEAGER, HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

DR. FRANK NIGRO, SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT—SHASTA COLLEGE

JAMES CROCKET, HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

DR. OWEN CROSBY, SUPERINTENDENT—SHASTA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

CAT MORTON

Fall 2025 Graduates



*"To accomplish great things,
we must not only act, but also dream,
not only plan, but also believe."* —ANATOLE FRANCE

ADAO WOULD LIKE TO START A RESTAURANT OR HOME RENOVATION BUSINESS WITH HIS FATHER. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE PUSHED HIM TO BE A BETTER INDIVIDUAL FOR THE FUTURE. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO WALKING ACROSS THE STAGE AT GRADUATION.

Adao Michael-Afi Bagaforo



RYAN HAS LEARNED A LOT ABOUT DISCIPLINE AND STAYING CONSISTENT EVEN WHEN HE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT. HE HAS BECOME MORE CONFIDENT IN HIMSELF AND HIS DECISIONS AND HAS GROWN MENTALLY. HE PLANS ON GETTING INTO HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND IS EXCITED TO FINANCE HIS DREAM CAR WITHIN A YEAR.

Ryan Hallett

Hunter McCovey



Message from our Instructors

Remember that when life doesn't deal you the best hand, you still have what it takes to be successful. Keep believing in yourself and know that you are capable of making the decisions in life to get where you want. You got here, enjoy this moment and own it! As you move forward in life, no matter what comes, remember you are worth it and you have what it takes to succeed.

James Crockett, High School Instructor

ECONOMICS, MATH & CREDIT RECOVERY

It's that time, *"that fabtabulous magic carpet ride of a time."* You have earned this moment through all you have accomplished. You have persevered through the difficult and the sometimes tedious. You did the doings that needed to be done. As we say farewell, may you use the tools you have gained, think logically and compassionately, and recognize nuance. Your actions have helped you achieve your place on the graduation stage today. You still have many choices to make. Your future awaits you.

Scott Yeager, High School Instructor

ENGLISH, SCIENCE, & CREDIT RECOVERY

Message to our Graduates

To our Gateway to College Graduates -

YOU DID IT!! Today marks an important day as we are here to celebrate and honor your transition from high school to the next phase of your life. Everyone here acknowledges with pride how much you have accomplished. When you first began at Gateway to College, you were seeking an alternate path and a way to change the trajectory of your high school experience. You rose to the challenge here at GtC and by being willing to grow and be accountable for your choices, you demonstrated how resilient you truly are.

We know that it wasn't easy! You showed courage in making the necessary changes and we hope you can see how much your hard work and commitment has paid off.

Graduating high school is a significant achievement and one that you all fought hard to earn. Even though you had difficult times and days you wanted to give up, you never did and **we are so very proud of you.**

Digging deep and pushing through when things get tough is an incredible life skill and one you all possess. **Don't ever forget how strong and capable you are!** The next time you face a struggle, you will be able to get through it because you know you have done it before! As you move forward, please remember that you now have the chance to create the life you want for yourself. We know that might seem scary, but we also know that you are ready for this! Fear is a normal part of life, but don't let it stop you from being who you want to be. Thank you for letting us be a part of your story. It's been an honor and a privilege.

This is just the beginning and we can't wait to see where you'll go next.

Live big! Live brave! Live to the fullest! You've got this!

Congratulations Class of 2026!!

Cat Morton, Program Director

Matt Rogers, Assistant Program Director

Holly Edwards, Student Services Specialist

Corrie Duffy, Program Assistant



ADDIE IS MOST PROUD OF THE EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE SHE HAS GAINED AND IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND GtC AND GRADUATE WITH MORE KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE. SHE WANTS TO START HER OWN BUSINESS IN REAL ESTATE AND IS EXCITED FOR HER FUTURE.

Addelynn Morris



AIDEN APPRECIATES THAT HE WAS ABLE TO FAST-TRACK HIS WAY TO SUCCESS IN LIFE AND GRADUATE EARLY. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM THE GtC STAFF, AND IS EXCITED FOR WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR HIM.

Aiden Christopher Riera-Vandre



BRENDEJAH HAS LEARNED THAT WILLINGNESS ISN'T WEAKNESS AND PLANS ON GETTING A MASTERS IN BUSINESS IN THE FUTURE. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR HER TEACHERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY PUSHING HER TO BECOME GREAT.

Brendejah Ariana Washington

THE CHANGE AUDREY IS MOST PROUD OF IS HER ABILITY TO MOTIVATE HERSELF TOWARD HARD-TO-REACH GOALS. SHE IS THANKFUL FOR THE HELP AND SUPPORT SHE RECEIVED FROM THE GtC STAFF TOWARD IMPROVING HERSELF AND GRADES. AUDREY PLANS ON GOING TO SCHOOL TO BECOME A PHLEBOTOMIST.

Audrey Elizabeth Wishard



Spring 2026 Graduates



"The only person you are destined to become
is the person you *decide* to be." ~ RALPH WALDO EMERSON

MALIA PLANS TO CONTINUE IN COLLEGE TO
EARN A CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE AND WANTS
TO BE A DETECTIVE. SHE HAS LEARNED TO KEEP
GOING DURING HARD TIMES AND IS GRATEFUL
FOR HER FAMILY.

Malia Anderson



NOAH PLANS TO ATTEND SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN BUSINESS
FINANCE. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO
LOVE HIM AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
FREEDOM TO BE ON HIS OWN.

Noah Bailey

SAM HAS LEARNED THAT SHE HAS MORE
POTENTIAL THAN SHE THOUGHT AND IS
THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT GtC
HAS PROVIDED. HER FUTURE GOALS REVOLVE
AROUND FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY AND GETTING A
JOB THAT SHE ENJOYS.

Samantha Rene Bell



SYRUS HAS LEARNED THAT WHEN TIMES ARE
TOUGH, HE CAN BE AN INCREDIBLY HARD
WORKER. HE PLANS ON BEING A CIVIL ENGINEER
AND LOOKS FORWARD TO EARNING MONEY. HE IS
GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES GtC HAS
GIVEN HIM.

Syrus Hunter Roberts



MORGAN IS PROUD OF MAKING IT THROUGH THE
YEAR WITH PASSING GRADES AND IS GRATEFUL
FOR THE MEMORIES SHE HAS MADE AT GtC. SHE
PLANS ON GOING TO COSMETOLOGY SCHOOL AND
GET HER NAIL LICENSE.

Morgan Tse Yi Nii Sloan

"What you get by *achieving your goals* is not as important as
what you become by achieving your goals."

~ HENRY DAVID THOREAU

LOGAN WANTS TO GET A DEGREE IN ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND BECOME A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. HE HAS LEARNED TO BE PATIENT WITH HIMSELF AND ENJOY HIS TIME WHILE AT GtC. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FAMILY.

Logan Ortiz



GAELEN IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND THE MEMORIES HE HAS MADE. HE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO WORK AT HIS FAMILY'S BUSINESS, BRYANT AUTOMOTIVE. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS FUTURE AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A HOUSE, WIFE, AND KIDS.

Gaelen Thevest Bryant



FANTASIA IS MOST PROUD OF GETTING A'S IN HER CLASSES HERE AT GtC. SHE PLANS TO BECOME AN ASL INTERPRETER AND WANTS TO CONTINUE TAKING CLASSES AT SHASTA COLLEGE. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR HER FAMILY AND GOD.

Fantasia Chevelle Plotkin

IZZY PLANS ON BECOMING A NURSE. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE RELATIONSHIPS SHE HAS BUILT AT GtC AND CONSIDERS THE TEACHERS HER FRIENDS. SHE HAS LEARNED THAT SHE CAN BE WHO SHE ASPIRES TO BE IF SHE PUTS HER MIND TO IT.

Izabella Cardenas



RILEY IS PROUD OF LEARNING TO HANDLE SOCIAL SITUATIONS BETTER. HE PLANS TO TAKE A GAP YEAR TO FIGURE OUT WHAT DIRECTION HE WANTS TO GO IN. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES HE HAS HAD AT GtC AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO NOT BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL ANYMORE.

Riley Zarrin Richardson



ZAYNE'S FUTURE PLANS ARE TO FIND SOMETHING HE LOVES TO DO AND STICK WITH IT. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME TO GtC AND MAKE A CHANGE, AND HAS LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO USE HIS TIME WISELY.

Zayne King Dwyer

CANYON PLANS ON BECOMING A REGISTERED NURSE AND LOOKS FORWARD TO BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT HIMSELF FINANCIALLY. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND PARTNER.

Canyon Edward Ramos Eckert



RUBY IS EXCITED TO EXPERIENCE LIFE AS AN ADULT. SHE PLANS ON GETTING WORK EXPERIENCE AFTER GRADUATION AND CONTINUING COLLEGE AFTER TAKING A BREAK FROM SCHOOL. SHE WOULD LIKE A JOB THAT WILL ALLOW HER TO HELP PEOPLE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

Ruby Renee Escobedo



MAX IS THANKFUL FOR THE NEW FRIENDS HE HAS MADE AT GTC. HE PLANS TO CONTINUE SCHOOL AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING RICH. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FRIENDS & FAMILY.

Max Maslin



ELLIOT IS PROUD OF HOW CONFIDENT HE HAS BECOME AND IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND PARTNER. HE PLANS ON RETURNING TO SHASTA COLLEGE AFTER TAKING A GAP YEAR.

Elliot LeRoy



NOAH IS GRATEFUL FOR HIS FAMILY. HE IS UNDECIDED ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, BUT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING FINISHED WITH HIGH SCHOOL.

Noah Kimo McCoy

ELYSZE IS PROUD OF MAKING THE DAUNTING TRANSITION FROM HOMESCHOOLING TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AT THE AGE OF 15. THE SUPPORT FROM GTC STAFF AND THE STRENGTH WITHIN HELPED HER TO UNDERSTAND THAT SHE IS MORE THAN CAPABLE. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE WISDOM FROM DR. COSTILLO AND MR. YEAGER, WHO HAVE MADE A SINCERE IMPACT ON HER LIFE.

Elysze Martin



LAYNEE IS THANKFUL THAT SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXPERIENCE COLLEGE CLASSES AND HAS LEARNED THAT SHE ENJOYS THE FAST-PACED LEARNING. SHE PLANS TO TRANSFER TO A UNIVERSITY TO WORK TOWARD BEING AN ATTORNEY.

Laynee McLean



MALIYA IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HER FUTURE AND PLANS TO TRAVEL AFTER GRADUATION. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR HER FAMILY & FRIENDS.

Maliya Ann Martin-Heard



KENZI IS LOOKING FORWARD TO GRADUATING AND PLANS ON WORKING IN FORENSICS. SHE IS GRATEFUL FOR THE FRIENDS SHE HAS MADE AND THE EXPERIENCES SHE HAS HAD.

Kenzi Solaris Nava