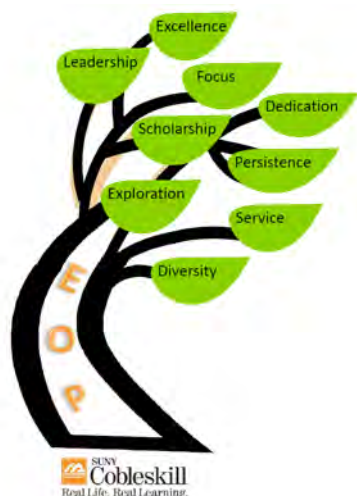


EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Developed by: Jennifer Walrath

SUMMER PROGRAM 2013



The SUNY Cobleskill Educational Opportunity Program held its annual Summer Study Skills program from July 7th-August 2nd, 2013. Fifty-nine incoming freshman each participated in both a college English and math course along with a daily orientation seminar that included such topics/presentations regarding; academic advisement, an introduction to “Degree Works” and Banner Web, financial literacy, an overview of the services provided by both the student success and wellness centers, and judicial affairs. Students, peer counselors and staff also participated in an overnight camping / decision making / leadership retreat at Camp Hide-A-Way in Central Bridge, and completed a service learning project aiding in the flood clean-up efforts in the village of Fort Plain. The Educational Opportunity Program summer participants, peer counselors, staff, and faculty attended the production of Camelot at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival in Cooperstown, NY on Saturday, July 27th culminated by an evening Gala which included a dining etiquette presentation and formal dinner. For the first time in program history, we had nine students successfully complete and receive credit for Math 112, and nine others earned credit in Math 111. Eighteen students earned credit for English 101. We anticipate continued academic success from this incoming class as well as the development of new campus leaders.



Arrival Day



The Summer 2013 Peer Counselors became affectionately known as the “highlighters” on arrival day (because of their bright orange shirts). Standing from left to right are: Talehia McCants, Jordan Cross and Jennifer Payano. Sitting left to right: Nyiboul Akol, Marlene Pinales and Samantha Barone.

Jallah and Cody checking-in at the registration table. (photo below)

Peer Counselor Jennifer, and English Professors Mr. Barnes and Ms. Hallenbeck help carry luggage in.



Jasmine signs in at the registration table (below) while Ashley carries her belongings to Porter Resident Hall. (photo at right) Peer Counselor Jordan assists Victoria with her luggage. (photo above right)



Mrs. Walrath is pictured below with the “highlighters”.



Sunday July 7th, 2013



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Our first "family" meeting!



Saying goodbye to family for a couple of weeks is always a little difficult, but we quickly developed into a new EOP family!





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LEADERSHIP RETREAT



The EOP office applied for and was honored to receive a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation and Facility # 2135 through the Local Community Contribution

Program in the amount of \$1,000.00. We utilized the funds to purchase camping supplies in order to provide a very unique experience to our incoming students. In the grant award notification that we received from the foundation it stated “We believe that your organization is doing important work in the communities you serve, and we are proud that we are able to support you in your efforts.”



So on Friday, July 12th we loaded all our gear and students into a bus and 3 vans, and headed out on the first ever EOP camping trip! Out of our entire group, only 3 of the students had ever camped before, and all were quite nervous about embarking on this adventure. We all got to know each other quickly, and worked well together pitching tents, set up our camp, and then participated in leadership activities. We enjoyed an evening bbq with some special guests, a wagon ride, and a huge bonfire followed by some delicious s'mores!



CAMP HIDE-A-WAY



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“What’s it gonna take? Team work!”





LEADERSHIP RETREAT



Everyone seemed to enjoy participating in the “Gifts of Friendship” activity. Individual personalities emerged, and leaders became evident all while new friendships and “family” bonds were made!



Victoria ended up with a beautiful bouquet of flowers after receiving gifts from several of her EOP family members.



CAMP HIDE-A-WAY



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After setting up camp and participating in a couple of group activities, we had time to enjoy some athletic games. Before dinner, 2 different groups of students along with several college faculty, staff and administrators including President Dr. Thatcher, and Vice President Dr. Zimmerman, all went out on a scenic wagon ride around the campground property.



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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



Dinner and some dancing kicked-off the evening activities.





CAMP HIDE-A-WAY



Dr. Thatcher got to know Ashley (photo at left) while Professor Thompson enjoyed visiting and sharing stories with Arielle. (photo at right)



What a beautiful night for a bonfire and perfect weather for our first EOP camping experience!

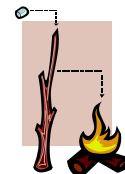


Ready to roast marshmallows!

The fire was quite intense and made roasting an entertaining challenge!



Vice-President Steve Ackerknecht was happy to demonstrate his marshmallow roasting technique.





EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



Mr. Bennett's tent.



After some light early morning rain, we enjoyed a continental breakfast then began working in our small groups again on the final team building exercise.



And just like that, our first camping trip is over, and not only did we survive, but we all enjoyed it too! Time to clean and pack up our campsite, then return to campus.



Campus Candid's



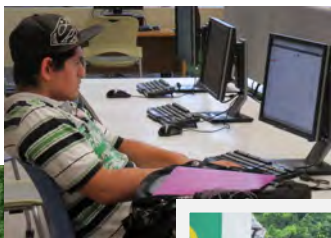
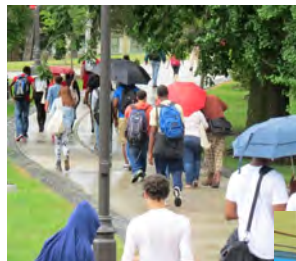
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Pajama Day!



Summer program math teacher Elizabeth Agen assists students during study hall.

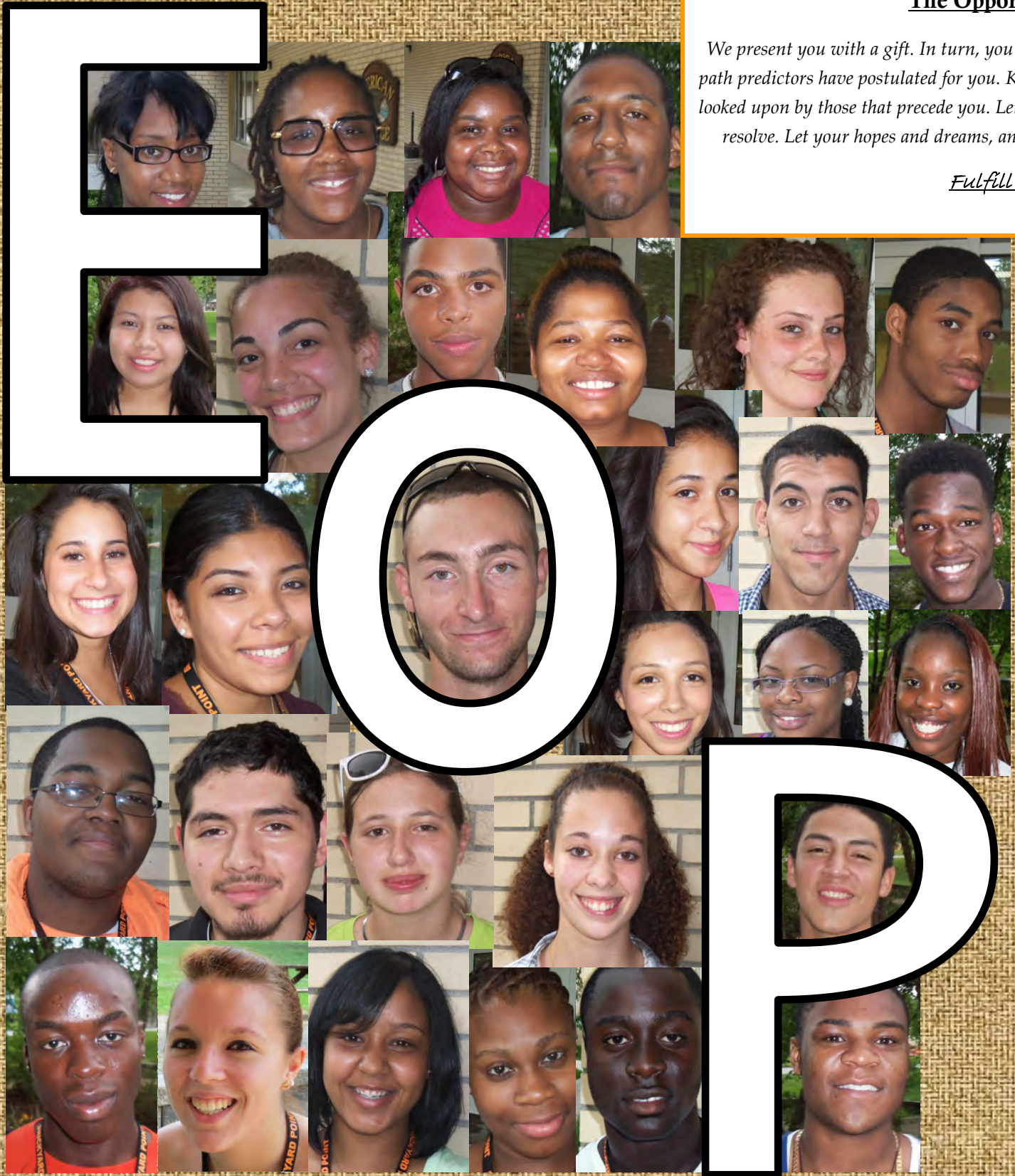


EOP students were the first to experience walking down "Unity Way".

The Opportunity to

We present you with a gift. In turn, you are charged with the responsibility of making the most of the path predictors have postulated for you. Know that you are looked upon by those that precede you. Let your efforts resolve. Let your hopes and dreams, and those of your family, be fulfilled.

Fulfill Your Potential



**WORLD
CLASS
LEARNING**

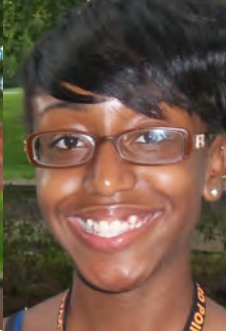
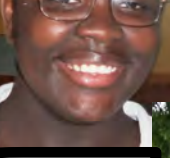
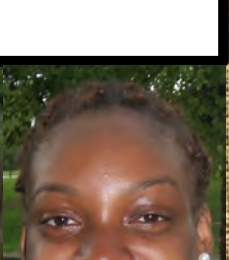
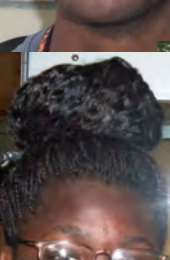
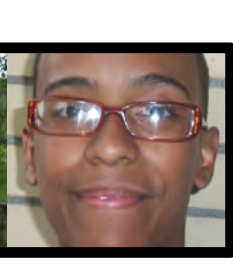
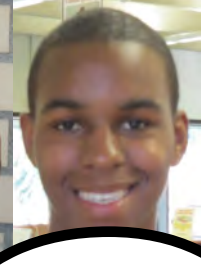
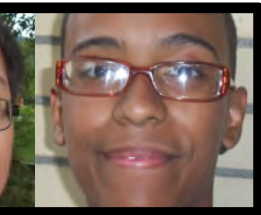
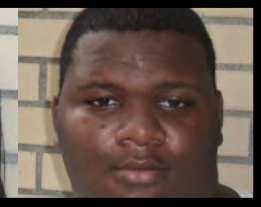
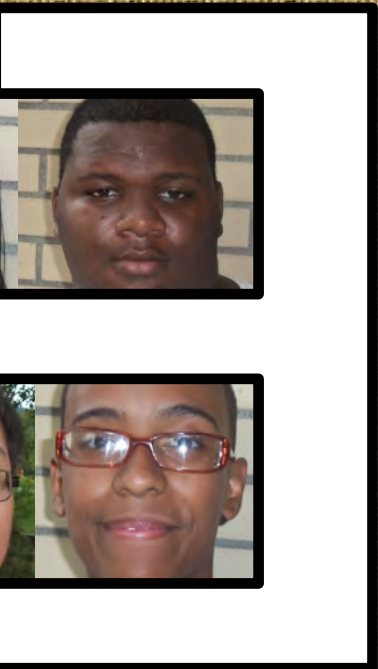
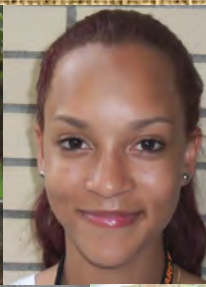


Fall 2

to Achieve

and with creating a path, transposing the path you map out for yourself will be your voice and persistence be your family, be realized through you.

promise!



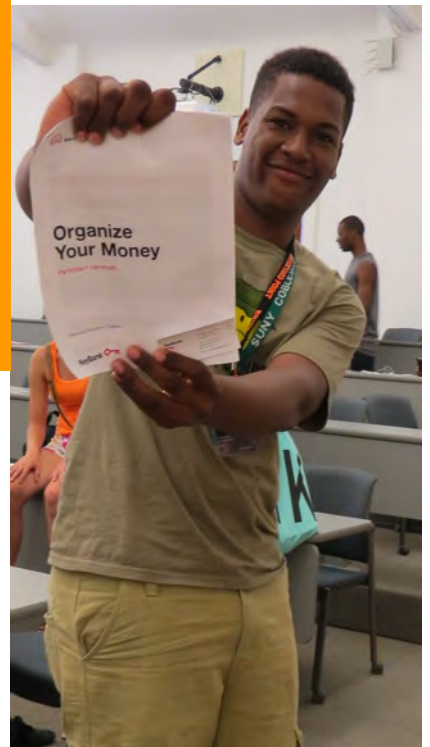


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Orientation Seminar Series



Our peer counselors did a great job leading a panel discussion about student leadership and college "survival" skills. The freshman listened, and hopefully learned from the life lessons that were shared.



Donna Pesta introduced the students to the services provided by the Student Success Center.



Kathy Diamond from KeyBank came in to discuss the topic of Financial Literacy.



2013 Summer Program



SUNY Cobleskill



Professors and Master Advisors; Dave Thompson and Christina Trees present to the incoming freshman class regarding academic advisement.



Jeri Usatch talks about the campus bookstore and shares her personal EOP story.



Rebecca Burton and Louise Biron from the Financial Aid office, assisted our students in making sure their aid packages were complete. Matt LaLonde spoke about Judicial Affairs and Residential Life.





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SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT



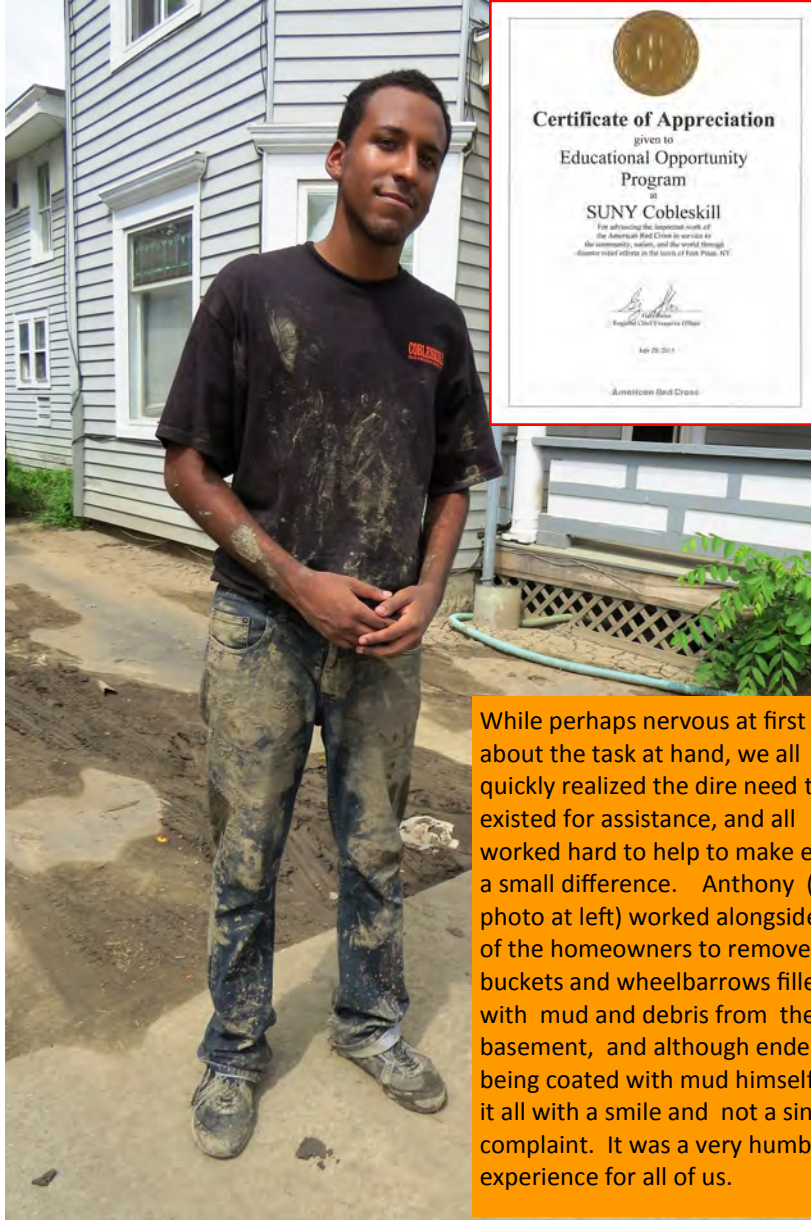
During the 2nd weekend of our Summer Program, we spent a couple of hours on a Saturday morning volunteering with the American Red Cross helping with flood recovery efforts in the nearby village of Fort Plain.



FORT PLAIN, NY July 20th, 2013



SUNNY Cobleskill



While perhaps nervous at first about the task at hand, we all quickly realized the dire need that existed for assistance, and all worked hard to help to make even a small difference. Anthony (in photo at left) worked alongside one of the homeowners to remove buckets and wheelbarrows filled with mud and debris from the basement, and although ended up being coated with mud himself, did it all with a smile and not a single complaint. It was a very humbling experience for all of us.





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EOP Goes to the Opera! July 27th, 2013

2013 Camelot		Glimmerglass FESTIVAL
Section: Balcony Center	Row: E	Seat: 101
Saturday, July 27, 1:30pm		
Alice Busch Opera Theater (Main Stage Event)		Paul Dunn Youth (18 and younger)
ITEM-000137753	Price: \$15.00	



All dressed up and ready to go!



Camelot at the Glimmerglass Festival



SUNNY Cobleskill



On Saturday, July 27th we dressed to impress and traveled to Cooperstown to attend the performance of Camelot. Before the show, we enjoyed a guided backstage tour of the theatre, grounds and costume shop, followed by a picnic lunch and sneak preview of the performance. We were thrilled to be personally welcomed on stage by the Director before the Opera began. What an amazing experience for all of us!





EOP GALA

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After enjoying the production of Camelot, we returned to campus for the first ever EOP Gala which included a dining etiquette presentation by Travis Whitmore from Cobleskill Auxiliary Services , followed by a delicious dinner. Wonderful conversations were had reflecting on the Opera experience amongst the students, faculty and staff in attendance. Our linen covered tables were decorated with beautiful floral centerpieces made by staff from our Plant Science Department. What an amazing day!



Cheers to EOP!





EOP TALENT SHOW- July 28th, 2013



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On Sunday night after study hall, the many talents of our students were displayed for the enjoyment and entertainment of all our EOP family members. What a talented group of students we have! We heard poetry readings, instrumental duets, soloists, vocal duets, and everybody joined in for a karaoke style rendition of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough".





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The Last Day..... August 2nd, 2013



Even after knowing each other for just 4 weeks, it's hard to say goodbye to "family" members. Students returned their text books, finished final projects, then said their tearful goodbyes when the first to depart Summer Program left on the early bus.

Closing Ceremony



SUNY Cobleskill



Most of our summer faculty members and even a couple of parents attended the closing ceremony and cheered for the students receiving their certificates of completion.



Peer Counselor Jennifer Payano leads the students in reciting the "Promise to Myself". (In photos below) After the oath was taken, it was time for more celebratory hugs and goodbye tears.





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