



June 26, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins



Granite Hills Senior
Advisors Rachel Valenzuela
and Leah Grisafi



Board Members Priscilla Schreiber
and Jim Kelly congratulate Granite
Graduate Molly McClellan



Granite Hills Principal Georgette
Torres hugs Senior Class
Treasurer Chelsea Collins



Mount Miguel teachers proudly line
the rows at graduation

IMAGES FROM GRADUATION AT GRANITE HILLS AND MOUNT MIGUEL HIGH SCHOOLS AND THROUGHOUT GUHSD

Both school districts and schools are ultimately defined by their graduates. East County should be very proud of the young men, women and adult school students who graduated earlier this month. There is no question that each student carries with them an individual story and has a future that begins now.



Heather Hargett, Choir Director at
Mount Miguel High School leads
the choir

Graduates Acknowledge Those Who Made a Difference

The line of teachers captured in the photo above at Mount Miguel High School reflects teachers throughout the Grossmont District: educators dedicated to the success of each student. Graduate after graduate thanked them and acknowledged the difference they made in their lives. As I watched the teachers I thought of how proud they were of their students. The photo of Heather Hargett, choral teacher at Mount Miguel, leading her award-winning choir in front of the graduates, also defined that dedication I have observed throughout our District this past year. Each principal and teacher celebrated their students' accomplishments. Steve Coover at Mount Miguel and Georgette Torres at Granite Hills hugged each student, and I heard again and again, "I'll miss you so much," and "thank you for all you have done, I wouldn't be here without you." **Although I was unable to be present at every graduation, I trust those same words were repeated over and over again.**

Many Students Find Different Pathways to Graduation

I also heard the impressive college acceptances: Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, SDSU, UCSD and so on. There were also those students who were headed for a career in the military, while others were anxiously awaiting training for their career choice. At Chaparral, I observed another set of students who found a different route to graduation by overcoming barriers and obstacles. As I told the adult school graduates at their ceremony, ***"This isn't about how you got here, it's about you being here."***

The above images were repeated throughout the Grossmont Union High School District. Long lines of graduates, speeches, awards and very proud teachers, administrators and parents who shared in the success of each of these students. As we look ahead to next year, let's keep the end in mind. Graduation, who graduates, what colleges they attend, their opportunity to follow the career of their choice, the pride of their parents – these issues and more – rest in our hands. As we shared in the accomplishments of every graduate this year, we know we do have the power to make a difference. That's certainly what I heard from every student and parent at graduation.



Manager of School Facilities Sylvia
Sposato, Board President Larry
Urdahl and Steve Coover, Mount
Miguel Principal

GUHSD Board Members were present at every graduation, signifying a strong commitment to our students, parents and community.