Greetings!

Last weekend hundreds of students from all four LPS schools walked across the stage to not only receive their diplomas and accolades from faculty and peers, but to embark on the beginning of their college journeys.

All of us at LPS are immensely proud of the outstanding efforts of our students, faculty, and parents--together we are working to prepare all of our graduating students for success in college and beyond.

While we celebrate our 97% college acceptance rate, we also understand the reality that our students will face many hurdles as they move past college acceptance to college enrollment and persistence. In order to help ensure the successful completion of each students’ college goals, we are developing innovative curricula, technology resources, and partnerships with outside organizations that can offer LPS students and graduates the personalized support, guidance, and motivation they will need to persist in a college environment.

We invite you to read about some of the highlights of the year in the newsletter below. Thank you to all of our supporters who are helping to make the LPS dream a reality!

Congratulations, Class of 2012!

Sincerely,

Louise Waters
Leadership Public Schools

LPS Class of 2012

While graduations may be over, we at LPS continue to celebrate the wonderful opportunities ahead for the 97 percent of students who have been accepted to college--the majority to four-year institutions, including:
We are tremendously proud of all of our LPS students and look forward to hearing about their successes in college and beyond!

**LPS In the News**

Over the last few months LPS has been the grateful recipient of several awards and media mentions:

- **LPS Hayward ranked number 2 Charter School in California** by the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education ([read release](#)).

- **LPS Hayward ranked 83rd nationwide among charter schools** in *U.S. News & World Report's "Best High Schools" 2012*.

- **LPS Richmond and LPS Hayward receive 2012 Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) award** ([read more](#)).

- **LPS was honored to be named one of five national Next Generation Learning Challenges grantees** for its new LPS Oakland R&D Campus, slated to open in fall 2012 ([read release](#)).

While we ultimately measure our success one student at a time, external awards and recognition for our schools serve to validate the hard work of our students, teachers, administrators, and staff.

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**Cheryl Zhu-LPS Hayward Class of '12**

**Future UCLA Class of 2016**

Cheryl Zhu, graduate of the LPS Hayward Class of 2012, has a busy summer ahead of her as she prepares to enter UCLA in the fall.

"I was in the movie theater with my friends when I received the email from UCLA informing me that I had been accepted. I was so excited-I wanted to celebrate right then and there, but had to wait before I could tell everyone the good news."

Cheryl's acceptance into her top school marks the culmination of four years of hard work, dedication, and a little convincing.

When deciding on which area high school would be the best fit, Cheryl's parents Ray and Jenny were not exactly in agreement. Jenny, who is originally from a "town" of six million in Southern China, was skeptical about a small school environment being able to provide enough academic and social stimulation for her very bright, but admittedly shy daughter. Ray, on the other hand, convinced his wife to attend an informational pre-registration meeting at LPS Hayward; almost immediately, Jenny and Ray knew they had found the right school and enrolled Cheryl as an entering Freshman.
"I could tell during the meeting that this school was special," recalls Jenny. "It was obvious that the teachers and staff went above and beyond to take care of the students, and perhaps just as importantly, keep parents in the loop about their child's progress throughout."

For Jenny, her LPS experience has helped her to engage and expand socially and academically.

"My native language is Chinese, so I wanted to learn how to excel in English. My teachers pushed me to do my best, and with a lot of hard work and guidance I was able to successfully complete an AP English course."

In addition to pushing herself to academically, Cheryl also challenged herself to try new extra-curricular activities, such as serving as Student Government Treasurer.

"I've seen a huge change in Cheryl's personality since she began LPS," notes Ray. "LPS has really helped Cheryl transform into an outgoing confident young woman."

"One of my best memories at LPS was the east coast college trip we took last year. Just being on a college campus made me believe that I could and will make college a reality for myself," recalls Cheryl. "Now, thanks to LPS, I know I have the skills to succeed."

Cheryl plans on majoring in economics at UCLA.