

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2020 Weston High School alumni attend in-person graduation ceremony after COVID delay

ARLINGTON- In June 2020, all schools in Washington state were shut down due to COVID-19, which also impacted school activities like graduation. Weston High School seniors at the time said they didn't want a virtual ceremony and said they would wait for an in-person graduation.

"We promised the seniors that we would hold an in-person graduation ceremony and that's what we did last Friday, Sept. 24," said Weston High School Principal, Andrea Dixon-Hundredmark.

Having kept in touch with the school by sending reminder emails and phone calls, nine out of the 38 students attended the ceremony at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center in Arlington. Although safety restrictions like masking and social distancing were in place, students were happy to finally attend their graduation ceremony in-person.

Julianne Aultman-Hugi drove over from Nampa, ID to attend the commencement. She has had to overcome a lot during the pandemic. Both of Aultman-Hugi's parents died in a car accident in March and she has taken over as caregiver for her brother.

"The Weston community is very supportive," said Aultman-Hugi. "Attending this ceremony is a really big deal and I know my parents are watching."

"The one thing I can say about these Weston graduates is that they're determined and resilient," said Dixon-Hundredmark. "Many of these students have overcome insurmountable odds to have gotten to this point in their lives, so to celebrate their graduation with them is truly a milestone."

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