

CLASS OF  
2016

*It's  
Good  
TO BE  
Alive*

we are  
**evit**

2016 Completion & Awards Ceremony  
Special Edition

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While graduations tend to be pretty similar from school to school, there is much that sets the annual EVIT Completion Ceremony a part from the milestone event in which students receive their diploma.

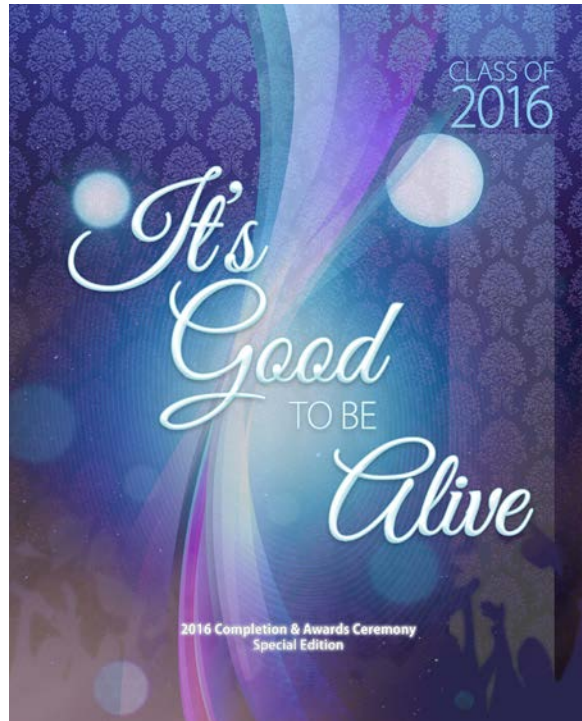
Caps and gowns are in many different colors representing the 30 to 40 high schools that send students to EVIT. Students and faculty march behind banners that say "Fashion, Interiors & Textiles" or "Aviation" or "Culinary Arts" or any of approximately 40 career training programs. When the students turn their tassels before tossing their caps in the air, it's to symbolize their transition from student to skilled program completer ready to enter the workforce.

But the emotions the EVIT Completion Ceremony evokes are very much like what you find at a graduation: Pride, a sense of accomplishment and the bittersweet of something beginning as something is ending.

We are proud of our EVIT students who sacrificed so much to get a jump-start on their career. We are gratified to see each one cross the stage and receive their professional credential. We are sad to see them leave but filled with hope about their future.

We are the students, the teachers, the staff, the parents, and the business partners who each have a reason to celebrate the culmination of another successful school year at the East Valley Institute of Technology.

We are EVIT.



we are  
**evit**

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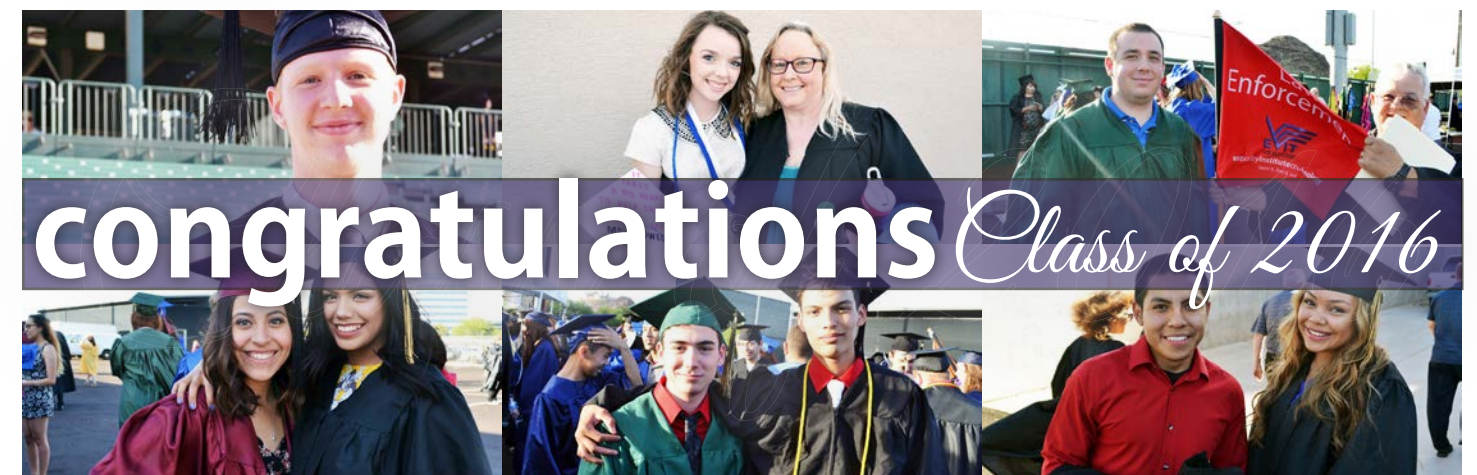
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we are  
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# Class of 2016

**EVIT**

More than 9,000 people filled Tempe Diablo Stadium on May 20 to watch as about 1,500 high school students and young adults celebrated the completion of their career training at the East Valley Institute of Technology.

The students were honored as Arizona's future workforce in nearly 40 different career fields in health care, cosmetology and aesthetics, transportation, family and consumer services, building trades, public safety, communications and media, and information technology and engineering.

About one-third of EVIT program completers will go immediately into the workforce. Two out of three will continue on to college. The EVIT Class of 2016 was awarded well over \$2.5 million in college and post-secondary scholarships. EVIT's annual Completion Ceremony is always a colorful event as the students wear the caps and gowns from their East Valley high schools in Chandler, Higley, Queen Creek, Fountain Hills, Apache Junction, Scottsdale, Tempe, Gilbert, J.O. Combs and Mesa districts, as well as charter schools.

At this year's ceremony, guest speaker Rep. Rusty Bowers, who teaches welding at EVIT, told the students to not only build their futures with the technical skills they have learned, but also with courage and kindness.

Superintendent Dr. Sally Downey presented Joey Liberatore, an EVIT Radio/Audio Production completer and Perry High School senior, with the EVIT Student of the Year Award. Joey began pursuing a sports broadcasting career after an injury ended his dream of playing baseball. He has already worked with the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals, and will be attending the Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University on an approximate \$80,000 scholarship.

Joey told his fellow program completers that each of them has his or her own personal story of what they've overcome and why they came to EVIT. Now, he said, it's up to each of them to take the skills they've learned and become successful in their chosen careers and life.

In addition to the Student of the Year winner and finalists, eight students were honored with awards for Americanism, community service, work they've already done in their career field, and for putting in extra effort.

Also during the ceremony, Craig Pearson, principal of the EVIT East Campus, presented an honorary Aviation completion certificate to Medical Assistant completer Ceaira Sierra on behalf of her friend, Alex Tamborski. Alex and Ceaira's mother were killed in a double homicide in Gilbert last fall. Ceaira and Alex had both attended Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, as well as EVIT.



# student



**Joey Liberatore was named EVIT Student of the Year during the 2016 East Valley Institute of Technology Completion and Awards Ceremony at Tempe Diablo Stadium. Joey, a senior at Perry High School in the Chandler Unified School District, completed the Radio/Audio Production program, where he maintained a 4.0 GPA for two years and became a regular broadcaster on 88.7FM The Pulse, EVIT's student-operated radio station.**

Radio/Audio Production instructor Steve Grosz called Joey "a star student who represents EVIT and the radio program very well." Joey became involved in the EVIT radio program after an injury ended his participation in baseball. He discovered that by being a broadcaster he could still pursue his passion for sports.

In his junior year, Joey started hosting a sports radio show called The Sports Mafia on The Pulse. He also obtained an internship reporting high school football games on AZ Sports 98.7FM. Later that year, he worked with the Chicago Cubs as a spring training play-by-play announcer on MLB.com, and then last July served as the announcer of the Chicago Cubs AA Baseball Club. Joey and his Sports Show co-host won the state gold medal in audio/radio production and scored among the highest in the country at the national SkillsUSA championships.

Joey's senior year at EVIT has been even more amazing: Color and play by play for high school football games, play-by-play announcer for the Division III High School Championship Football Game alongside former NFL Quarterback Dan Manucci, and a recap and preview show for the national champion Alabama Crimson Tide. Joey also worked as a color commentator for high school basketball games and play-by-play announcer for high school softball and baseball championship games. He has continued his work with the Chicago Cubs in spring training, and was hired as the official media director for the St. Louis Cardinals AA Baseball Club where he will be doing play by play from June through August.

Joey was heavily recruited by Alabama to attend college there, but decided to take advantage of a \$20,000-per-year scholarship to attend Arizona State University's Cronkite School this fall.

Joey was among six finalists who Superintendent Dr. Sally Downey interviewed before making her choice for EVIT Student of the Year. She said Joey has shown not only that he has the skills to succeed in the broadcasting industry, but also the resilience and persistence to overcome obstacles and take charge of his education and career.

"With all of the incredible kids we have at EVIT, it's extraordinary that just one would be named Student of the Year, but in Joey's case, it's very appropriate," Downey said. "Joey is just extra focused, competent and mature. I can't wait to see what he does in the future."

# meet the students of the year finalists

While all of our EVIT students are remarkable, there were six in 2015-16 who especially distinguished themselves. These students were selected as finalists for Superintendent Dr. Sally Downey's EVIT Student of the Year Award.

**Morgan Binnie** – Morgan, a senior at Mesa's Red Mountain High School, completed the EVIT Medical Assistant program. Morgan ran the medical assisting clinics as director, stayed on task, and maintained good grades and high standards. She also worked with a family practice in Mesa as an extern and won a \$5,000 scholarship to attend Mesa Community College.

**Destiney Hernandez** – Destiney, a senior at Gilbert district's Desert Ridge High School, completed the Nursing Assistant program in May. She started out in EVIT's Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers program last year. In both programs, Destiney maintained straight A's. She also led EVIT's state champion HOSA Bowl team for two years in a row, and the team will compete in nationals this summer.

**Kelsey Nelson** -- Kelsey, a senior at Combs High School, completed the Cosmetology program, where she maintained a 100.3 percent average and was only absent once. Kelsey gave up orchestra at her school so she could attend EVIT and commit to a cosmetology career.

**Sierra Richards** -- Sierra, a senior at Mesa's Skyline High School, completed the Culinary Arts program while working at EVIT's Bistro 13 restaurant. She won second place as Best Waitress in Mesa in a competition voted on by readers of the East Valley Tribune. Sierra also won the title of Miss EVIT and has had perfect attendance at EVIT for two years. She will attend Mesa Community College in the fall and wants to own her own restaurant, possibly a steakhouse, someday. In addition to her work at Bistro13, Sierra also works more than 30 hours a week at Matta's restaurant in Mesa.

**Albert Vargas** – Albert, a senior at Mesa High School, completed the Human Anatomy & Physiology for Medical Careers program and plans to attend Grand Canyon University, working toward his pre-med degree. His career path is not an easy one, but Albert knows how to overcome obstacles and adversity. A ward of the state since age 12, Albert lives in a foster care group home. He is the first of seven siblings to graduate from high school. At EVIT, he has earned straight A's while putting in over 100 hours of volunteer work at Banner Baywood Hospital. He also earned membership in the National Technical Honor Society and will receive national service award recognition at the HOSA international conference in June.



# Award Winners

Every year, EVIT recognizes students who go above and beyond in their classes and community. These students are nominated for awards by their teachers and the winners are chosen by school administration.



The "Extra Effort" Award honors students who exceeded the normal requirements for his or her class.

Winners: Storm Miller, Main Campus Culinary Arts (Young Graduate)(not pictured), and Lauryn Cluff, East Campus Cosmetology (American Leadership Academy).



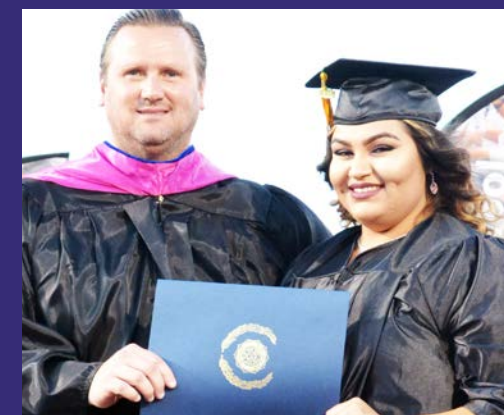
The "On the Road to Success" Award honors students who are already working in their field or have received a scholarship for continued education in their career field.

Winners: Reygan Taylor, Main Campus Cosmetology (Global Academy), and Brooke Sherrod, East Campus Nursing Assistant (Williams Field).



The "Community Service" Award honors EVIT students who have dedicated themselves to serving others during the year.

Winners: Hunter Hill, Main Campus Graphic Design (Young Graduate), and Megan Whittard, East Campus Aviation (Corona del Sol).

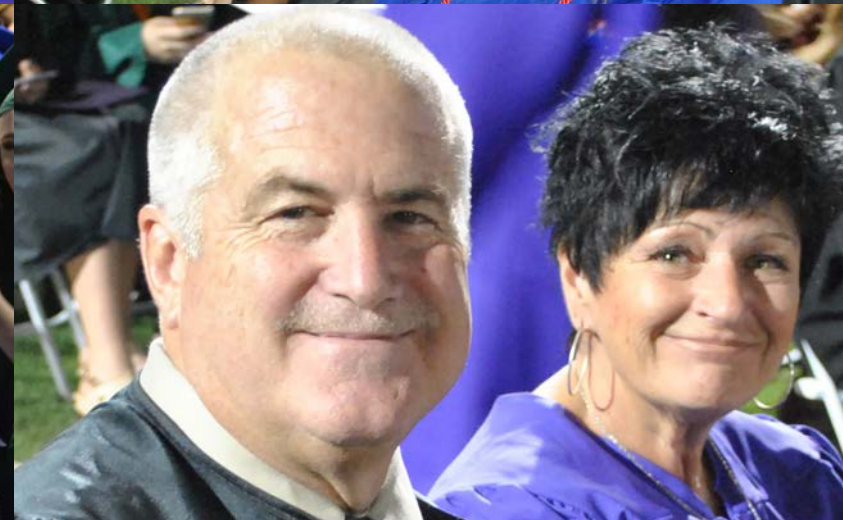


Mesa American Legion Post 26 presents awards of distinguished achievement to EVIT students who have shown courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service to the community.

Winners: Martha Salinas, Main Campus Cosmetology (Young Graduate), and Allison Reid, East Campus Cosmetology (Primavera) (not pictured).

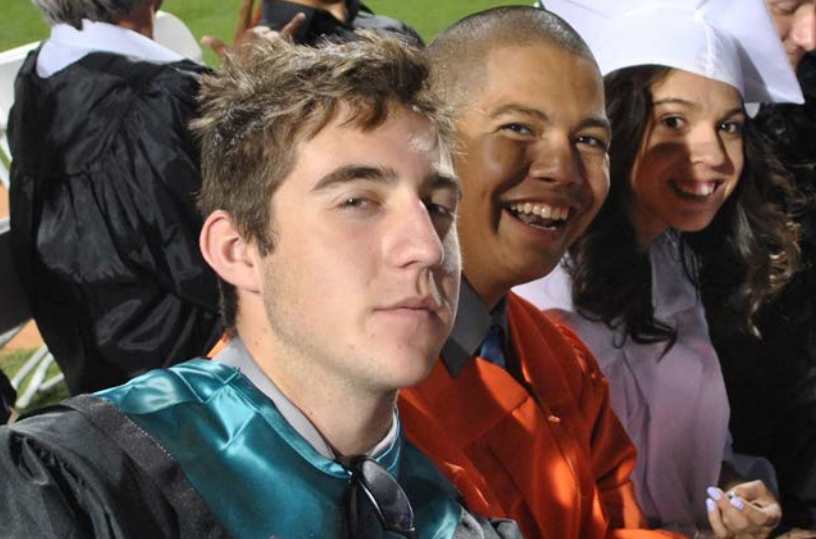












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2016

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#### EVIT Administration

Sally Downey, Ed.D, Superintendent  
David Schapira, Assistant Superintendent  
Mark Yockus, Main Campus Principal  
Craig Pearson, East Campus Principal  
Denise Kruckenburg, Health Director  
Pauline Acosta, Career Advancement Director  
John Cosaro, Assistant Principal  
Dana Kuhn, Assistant Principal

#### EVIT Governing Board

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Dolores M. Watkins, Clerk  
James M. Candland  
Robert T. Covington  
Carolyn N. Crandell  
Erwin C. Heimback  
Monty C. Hogle  
Wayne H. Taysom  
Matthew W. Wright

#### Why are the graduation gowns all different colors?

EVIT students graduate from schools across the East Valley. Each student is invited to wear his or her home school graduation gown. That's why there is a beautiful rainbow of gowns for EVIT's Completion Ceremony.

#### What do the colored cords represent?

Each program has a cord of a different color representing its career field. Students who are wearing a purple cord are members of the National Technical Honor Society.

3D ANIMATION  
AESTHETICS  
AUTOMOTIVE  
AVIATION  
CISCO NETWORKING  
ACADEMY  
COLLISION REPAIR  
COMMERCIAL BAKING  
COMPUTER  
PROGRAMMING &  
MOBILE APP DESIGN  
CONSTRUCTION  
COSMETOLOGY  
CULINARY ARTS  
DENTAL CAREERS  
DEVICE DIAGNOSTIC &  
REPAIR  
DIESEL  
DIGITAL ROBOTIC DESIGN  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TECHNICIAN  
FASHION, INTERIORS &  
TEXTILES  
FIRE SCIENCE  
FUTURE ENGINEERS  
GRAPHIC DESIGN  
HEATING, VENTILATION &  
AIR CONDITIONING  
HUMAN ANATOMY &  
PHYSIOLOGY  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY &  
ENGINEERING CAREERS  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
MACHINING TECHNOLOGY  
MASSAGE THERAPY  
MEDICAL ASSISTANT  
MULTIMEDIA  
NURSING ASSISTANT  
PHARMACY TECHNICIAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
PHYSICAL THERAPY  
TECHNICIAN  
RADIO/AUDIO  
PRODUCTION  
VETERINARY ASSISTANT  
VIDEO PRODUCTION  
WEB DESIGN  
WELDING