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Metro Congratulates 145 Graduates That Make Up the Class of 2009

- [The List:](#) Complete list of Metro graduates

By Laura Kloth
Staff Writer

Hats off to the 145-plus graduates – Metro employees and relatives – who have successfully completed programs at high schools, colleges, graduate schools and academic and vocational programs across the country.

This year, Metro salutes a team of stellar graduates that includes three valedictorians, one salutatorian, a West Point appointee, an inductee into the Orange County National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame, a future Los Angeles Police officer, an obstetrician, a new attorney, and a few pairs of brothers and sisters who are graduating the same year.

On his last day at the Metro Store, Administrative Intern Ivan Moreno, 22, said he is eager to attend the Los Angeles Police Academy to serve and protect the nation's second largest city.



Ivan Moreno was around 11 when he began visiting Metro with his dad, Scheduling System Project Leader Agustin Moreno. Now at 22, Ivan is off to the Los Angeles Police Academy.

"I'm definitely looking forward to it. It's a new step in my life. It's a challenge. I know it's going to be somewhat tough but I'm definitely ready to take it on. I mean that's what I've been waiting for all these years," he said.

Moreno's dad is Scheduling System Project Leader Agustin Moreno, who first began bringing young Ivan to Metro as a pre-teenager during the "Take Your Child to Work Day."

After two years as an intern, Ivan says, "I'm definitely going to miss it. I've made a lot of acquaintances here." Judith Moreno, Ivan's younger sister, is graduating from Sacred Heart High School in Los Angeles with First Honors.

Transit Operations Supervisor Michael Harris is proud to say that his daughter, Dr. Audra Harris, has completed her residency in obstetrics at Cedars-Sinai, and plans to specialize in cancer research wherever she decides to work.

"I use to think it was a joke when kids said they wanted to grow up to be president or a



Dr. Audra L. Harris, daughter of TOS Michael B. Harris, completed her residency at Cedars-Sinai and plans to go into cancer research.

doctor. But for me, it was true," Harris says noting that his daughter has received three job offers out of state.

Assistant Administrative Analyst Lisa Kough was elated to learn that her son, Bobby Kough will be receiving an appointment to West Point for his efforts in football. Kough graduated from Colony High School in Ontario.

Valedictorians this year are: Kara Rotunno, daughter of Electronic Communications Tech Russell Rotunno; Sara Melinda Villanueva, daughter of Bus Operator Bennie Villanueva;

and Amanda Ngo, daughter of Div. 8 Mechanic Leader En Thai Ngo.

Deborah Alexis Price, daughter of Sr. Communications Officer, Marketing Yvonne Price, was named salutatorian of her graduating class at Los Alamitos High School, while Employee Labor Relations Rep Myrtle Shott is proud to note that her grandson, Ryan Shott, was named "Cougar of the Year" for his "sportsmanship, academics and leadership" at Capistrano Valley High School in Mission Viejo. He was named the "All Around Athlete of the Year" for his achievements in football, basketball and track. Ryan was also named Scholar Athlete of the Orange County National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame, and will be playing for UCLA in the fall – "Go Bruins!"

Transit Operations Sup. Odell Ross and Assistant Transportation Manager Margo Ross added a pair of graduates to the list.

Their daughter, Blanch D. Ross graduated from Cal State University-Northridge with an MA in Public Administration, while their son, Deuel Ross, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School with a Juris Doctorate.

"My husband and I are very proud of both of them," says Margo Ross.



Employee Labor Relations Rep Myrtle Shott's grandson, Ryan Shott is joined by his little brother, Michael for the National Anthem. Ryan was named "All Around Athlete of the Year" for his achievements in football, basketball and track at Capistrano Valley High School, and will be playing for UCLA in the fall – "Go Bruins!"

The time has come to celebrate and prepare to take on that new job, experience that new school, shoulder new responsibilities and explore new possibilities, so to the sons, daughters and all other graduates – hearty congratulations, best wishes and lots of luck.

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