



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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GRADUATION CEREMONIES HELD AT KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Twelve high school seniors at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) were awarded diplomas in a ceremony held today at the school in Danville.

The graduates, along with their home county or town, include:

- Cassandra Blake Arnold, Montgomery County
- Ericka Jade Bell, Marion County
- Jeffery Ray Carter, Somerset
- Jeffrey Daniel Couch, Nancy
- Dallas McKinley Daech, Russellville
- Jonathan Coleman Demaree, Frankfort
- Cody Wayne Downey, Jamestown
- Bruce Dale Gemmer, Covington
- Brianna Frances Jones, Rockcastle County
- Ryan Andrew Mayes, Dawson Springs
- Quanchen Yang Warmack, Lexington
- Bethany Autumn Yance, Danville

Bethany Yance, the school's valedictorian, and Quanchen Warmack, the salutatorian, each addressed their classmates during the ceremony. Both Yance and Warmack plan to attend Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Yance plans to major in political science and become a politician, while Warmack plans to major in education and become a teacher. Two other graduates, Ryan Mayes and Cassandra Arnold, also plan to attend Gallaudet.

In all, eight of the graduates plan to continue their education at two- or four-year colleges, three plan to immediately enter the workforce and one graduate remains undecided.

(more)

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“These students have worked hard to earn the diplomas they received here today,” said Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt. “I am proud of their accomplishments and I believe that the education they received at the Kentucky School for the Deaf will serve as a solid foundation for their continued success in college, career and in life.”

In addition to the students, Alex Abenchuchan, deaf host of the “Daily Moth” – an online newscast that delivers news and entertainment using American Sign Language – addressed the graduates and their guests.

Abenchuchan attended the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind before graduating from Gallaudet University with a degree in religious studies. His online show not only covers news, but also includes trending stories and deaf topics – all with a twist of humor and deaf culture.

Also attending today’s ceremony were Kentucky Board of Education Chair Roger L. Marcum, board member Nawanna Privett and several Department of Education staff members.

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