

# East Aurora School District 131

## NEWS RELEASE

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*Making Choices for Excellence*

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## **EAST SENIORS EARN MILLIONS IN SCHOLARSHIPS**

(Aurora) - The school colors of red and black were shaded with green as scholarships were announced for the Class of 2009 during the annual Senior Honors and Awards Ceremony held at East Aurora High School last week.

East Aurora High School Class of 2009 Seniors amassed over \$ 3million dollars in scholarships and grants including many full-ride offers to universities throughout the country and the United States Marine Corps.

In addition to monetary awards, seniors received a number of other school and community honors and recognitions. A list of the 2009 Senior Honors includes:

### **Valedictorian Honors**

Grace Gerhard

### **Salutatorian Honors**

Carolina Hernandez

### **Academic Letters**

Thalia Abric, Cesar Alfaro, Rosa Ayala, Cassandra Baez, Mauricio Barrales, Christina Barron, Yakelin Becerra, Allan Bowen, Sandy Cabadas, Amparo Cabrera, Ivan DeSantiago, Yanil Delgado, Emmanuel Denton, Arnel Durakovic, Blanca Fabela, Garrun Gaddini, Andres Garcia, Jaime Garcia, Luis Garcia, Grace

**Gerhard, Carolina Hernandez, Deanna Hernandez, Ricardo Hernandez, Destiny Herron, Alejandra Jaso, Yesenia Magana, Daniel Mancilla, Laura Martin, Daniela Martinez, Elena McNair, Yesenia Melendez, Guadalupe Mendez, Crystal Moncrief, Joehle Mora, Ana Morataya, Jessica Navar, Emilio Ortiz, Beatrice Padilla, Pablo Pena, Charles Phillips, Eva Plazola, Mayra Rangel, Samantha Reddoch, Janesa Roman, Jesus Ruiz, Christian Salinas, Tela Shelton, Jonathan Shore, Marisela Soto, Chelsie Taylor, Jessica Torres, Lorena Torres, Maricruz Valtierra, Rashante Zackery, and Maridalia Zamudia,**

### **Al and Pauline Wallo Memorial Scholarship**

**Andres Garcia, Yesenia Mendoza, Afshan Nadeem, and Marisela Soto**

### **Army Reserve Athletic Awards**

**Alejandra Jaso and Rashante Zackery**

### **Art Court Award**

**Daniela Martinez and Emilio Ortiz**

### **Aurora Rotary Sunshine Scholarship**

**Garren Gaddini and Andres Garcia**

### **Aurora Women's Club**

**Yesenia Mendoza**

### **Citizenship Awards**

**Thalia Abrica, Cesar Alfaro, Paul Anacay, Cassandra Baez, Yakeline Becerra, Eliana Borjas, Sandy Cabadas, Jessica Chanthi, Antoneio Clash-Johnson, Ivan De Santiago, Yanil Delgado, Andres Garcia, Carolina Hernandez, Yesenia Magana, Katherine Hunley, Alejandra Jaso, Yesenia Magana, Yesenia Melendez, Yesenia Mendoza, Joehle Mora, Jessica Navar, Luz Orozco, Tommie Perry, Jose Quintanilla, Roberto Saenz, Chelsie Taylor, Resha Thomas, Lorena Torres, Marlen Torres, and Tesia Wilcox**

## Cliff Pensyl Award

Emilio Ortiz

## Cliff Roberts Memorial Award

Jamario Taylor and Sandy Cabadas

## Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley Scholarships

Thalia Abrica, Cassandra Baez, Yakeline Becerra, Thandeka Dumas, Alejandra Jaso, Yesenia Magana, Daniela Martinez, Alejandro Morales, Luz Orozco, Emilio Ortiz, Janesa Roman, Carolina Soria, Lisette Soto, Marisela Soto, and Resha Thomas

## Daughters of American Revolution Award

Michelle Gaffney

## Department Awards

- **Braulia Ramirez and Job Vizcarra** (Bilingual Dept.)
- **Jessica Navar** (Business Dept.)
- **Yesenia Magana and Ivan De Santiago** (English Dept.)
- **Pammara Vorabouth and Melina Najera** (Family and Consumer Sciences Dept.)
- **Emilio Ortiz** (Foreign Language Dept. - German)
- **Alejandro Jaso** (Foreign Language Dept. – Spanish)
- **Yesenia Magana and Andres Garcia** (Math Dept.)
- **Carolina Hernandez** (NJROTC)
- **Alejandro Jaso and Jhoele Mora** (Physical Education Dept.)
- **Alejandro Jaso and Maricela Soto** (Social Studies Dept.)
- **Jhoele Mora** (Science Dept.)
- **Esteban Miranda and Brennan Mallard** (Technology Dept.)

## Dick Schindel Tomcat Spirit Award

Carla Villasenor

## East Aurora Band Awards

- **Grace Gerhard and Carolina Hernandez** (G. Edward Nelson Band Scholarship)
- **Jacob Arreola** (Louis Armstrong Jazz Award/Tripp Scholarship)
- **Ivan DeSantiago** (Patrick Gilmore Band Award)

- **Pedro Hernandez** (Audra Cramer Memorial Band Scholarship)
- **Jacqueline Soto** (John Philip Sousa Band Award)
- **Roberto Saenz** (Charles Ponquinette Leadership Scholarship)
- **Marco Barron** (Band Directors Award)
- **Cesar Alfaro** (Woody Herman Jazz Award)

### **East Aurora Business Co-op Employee of the Year**

**Ana Vasquez**

### **East Aurora Chapter of the AFT Scholarship**

**Ivan De Santiago**

### **East Aurora Choral Awards**

- **Thandeka Dumas and Jorge Valdibia** (Music Club Scholarship)
- **Briahna Esquivel** (Leadership Award)
- **Samantha Reddoch** (Service Award)
- **Edith Nevarez** (Spirit Award)
- **Thalia Abrica** (Outstanding Choral Student)
- **Destiny Herron** (Choral Director's Award)

### **Eric and Shari Maier Badminton Scholarship**

**Janesa Roman**

### **Exchange Club Scholarships**

**Priscilla Garcia, Heidi Humiston, Miss-Ally Nya, and Jaqueline Salgado**

### **Guidance Department Scholarships**

**Cesar Alfaro, Andres Garcia, Yvette Palomo, and Maridalia Zamudio**

### **Heartland Red Cord Awards**

**Adrianna Arredondo, Jorge Nino, Vanessa Montano, Melvin Moore, and Alexander Rodriguez**

### **Henry Cowherd Scholars/African-American Heritage Advisory Board Scholarship**

**Jamario Taylor**

### **Illinois State Scholars**

**Ivan De Santiago, Grace Gerhard, Carolina Hernandez, Alejandra Jaso, Yesenia Magana, Daniela Martinez, Yesenia Melendez, Yesenia Mendoza, Luz Orozco, Emilio Ortiz, Charles Phillips, Janesa Roman, Jesus Ruiz, Christian Salinas, Tela Shelton, Carolina Soria, and Marisela Soto**

### **Jerry Hart Scholarship**

**Thalia Abrica**

### **Jerry Sondgeroth Memorial Scholarship**

**Yvette Palomo**

### **Link Awards**

**Rosa Ayala, Crystal Moncrief, Blanca Zepeda, Jhoele Mora, Yesenia Magana, Elisa Quintana, Thandeka Dumas, and Lorena Torres**

### **National Vocational-Technical Honor Society**

**Shelby Herron, Daniel Mancilla, Betty Millhouse, Jessica Navar, Adriana Nicasio, Pablo Pena, Charlie Phillips, Kim Rivera, Juan Torres, and Miguel Zamudio**

### **Navy ROTC Scholarships**

**Antoneio Clash-Johnson, Luz Orozco, and Emilio Ortiz,**

### **Nursing (Abel) Scholarship**

**Alejandro Morales**

### **Prairie State Achievement Awards**

**Ivan De Santiago, Grace Gerhard, Christian Honn, Alejandra Jaso, Jessica Larson, Melissa Martinez, Charles Phillips, Christian Salinas, Tela Shelton, Carolina Soria, and Edgar Zavala**

## **Sons of the American Revolution Award**

**Jamario Taylor**

## **State Representative Linda Chapa Lavia General Assembly Scholarships**

**Crystal Moncrief, T'Keyah Stewart, and Rashante Zackery**

## **Top Ten Percent of the Class of 2009 Awards**

**Thalia Abrica, Gabriel Aguirre, Cesar Alfaro, Michael Amaro, Paul Anacay, Jacob Arreola, Rosa Ayala, Cassandra Baez, Ivette Barragan, Mauricio Barrales, Yakeline Becerra, Eliana Borjas, Allan Bowen, Amparo Cabrera, Ivan De Santiago, Carolina Dooley, Arnel Durakovic, Blanca Fabela, Andres Garcia, Jaime Garcia, Luis Garcia, Grace Gerhard, Jonathan Heavin, Carina Heredia, Carolina Hernandez, Ricardo Hernandez, Deanna Hernandez, Destiny Herron, Katherine Hunley, Alejandra Jaso, Yesenia Magana, Daniela Martinez, Laura Martinez, Elena McNair, Yesenia Melendez, Yesenia Mendoza, Crystal Moncrief, Ana Morataya, Jhoele Morataya, Alejandro Morlaes, Jessica Navar, Luz Orozco, Emilio Ortiz, Charles Phillips, Mayra Rangel, Yesenia Renteria, Janesa Roman, Jesus Ruiz, Roberto Saenz, Christian Salinas, Carolina Soria, Marisela Soto, Jaqueline Soto, T'Keyah Stewart, Chelsie Taylor, Lorena Torres, and Jessica Torres.**

## **United States Marine Corps Awards**

- **Andres Garcia and Daniela Martinez** (Athletics)
- **Ivan DeSantiago and Caroline Hernandez** (Academics)
- **Marco Barron and Jaqueline Soto** (Musical)

## **VNA Scholarship**

**Luz Orozco**

## **Waubensee Community College**

**Thandeka Dumas, Katherine Hunley, Yvette Palomo, Luis Garcia, Laura Martin, and Mayra Rangel**